HIGH-STAKES REMATCH

A quiet but expensive campaign

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October 1-7, 2020 | Vol. 46, No. 11
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Police and politics
City council calls for change

No one in Springfield, likely, has heard of Brian Eggleston, a bartender who sold dime bags of weed to make ends meet. I covered his first trial in Washington state, back in 1997.

The cops did what drug warriors do. Knowing Eggleston owned guns, they came to his house early in the morning, expecting to catch him by surprise. They certainly did that. Eggleston, who slept with earplugs because he worked late and didn't want to be wakened by kids at a nearby school playground, emerged from his bedroom naked save for a 9 mm in his hand. The cop on the other end of the dim hallway fired first, with the bullet striking Eggleston in the groin and performing a colostomy as it exited his back side.

Eggleston, who had no criminal history, survived several gunshot wounds. The cop did not – the officer was as much a victim of the drug war as his killer, who had no reason to shoot anyone over an offense that would have been rejected.

A few years later, I wrote about Annette Green, a nickel-and-dime crack dealer gunned down during a 2001 drug raid by a St. Louis area cop who mistook a carriage bolt she held for a gun. The cop was back on duty within a couple weeks. As with Eggleston, police found no drugs worth mentioning. Years later, Green's son protested the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, but he told the New York Times he wasn't sure why. "It's like, I believe we wasting our time out there," he said. "They not doing nothing. They not going to do nothing. I know that off experience."

Now, we have Breonna Taylor, killed during a botched drug raid in Kentucky. It's cases like hers, plus fallout from George Floyd and other events far from here, that have Springfield city council members vowing to protect people from bad cops. Green's son was right: Throughout the nation, too much of the same bad stuff has gone on for too long, and we haven't done enough to stop it.

It's hard to see how an ordinance proposed by Ward 3 Ald. Doris Turner would solve anything. She wants to put into city code what's already police department policy: Don't use chokeholds or rubber bullets or deadly force unless necessary. Cops could ask judges for no-knock warrants only under "limited circumstances."

This is all good, but, also, it already is being done, according to Chief Kenny Winslow, who often is praised by council members and civic leaders as an honest cop who doesn't brook bad ones. He's upset the police union to the point that officers in 2017 delivered a no-confidence vote. Would making police brutality an ordinance violation change anything?

Can police enforce the law without breaking down doors, which seems risky even if you knock? Todd Hodges, an alleged marijuana grower who's gotten busted twice, tells me that Springfield police both times broke down his door, the first time when he was in his living room, the second time when no one was home. Was there a better way, given pot gardens can't be flushed down toilets? We should ask whether forcible entry is Option A or a last resort, after safer alternatives such as arresting folks outside their homes, then searching premises, have been rejected.

Turner's ordinance also would require the police department to compile a public database of officer misconduct cases. Go for it, but there's no need for an ordinance. Already, anyone can get internal affairs files via public records requests and put the information on whatever webpage they like. That's what Chicago activists did years ago, thanks in part to lawsuits here in Springfield establishing that internal affairs files are public records – remember when the city paid $100,000 to settle the Shredgate fiasco spawned when cops destroyed disciplinary files rather than make them public? Cops should chase criminals before they should be paid to compile databases that already can be created.

The proposed ordinance, which is on next week's council consent agenda, also says that misconduct cases may be referred to the Police Community Review Commission, which can't subpoena witnesses or evidence. If the commission has no tools to conduct proper investigations, what's the point? Already, cases may be referred to the commission. Shouldn't we be talking about how to conduct fair, thorough investigations that enjoy public confidence? Turner says she'll propose changes to how the commission functions, but won't say what those changes might be.

It's not that we shouldn't be asking questions. As with any legislation, the question should be, will this change anything? If the answer is no, maybe we aren't trying hard enough.

Contact Bruce Rushton at brushton@illinoistimes.com.

What's at stake in this election

It probably feels like the 2020 elections have been going on for years, and in a sense they have. Ever since Donald Trump won the presidency in 2016, the political world has been girding for this moment.

But more Americans than you might expect have only just begun paying attention, now that we're in the final weeks of the campaigns. So, this seems an opportune time to look at where things stand – including some basic information that might have gotten lost in all the shouting.

For instance, most people know the fundamentals of the presidential election: Trump, the Republican, is running for a second term in office and is facing a stiff challenge from Democratic nominee Joe Biden, the former vice president. There are other candidates out there, like rapper Kanye West and Green Party candidate Howie Hawkins, but neither will be on the ballot in every state, and both are widely considered by political insiders to be spoiler candidates whose presence helps Trump.

There's more at stake than just the presidency, however. Congress has been split for the last two years, with Democrats controlling the House of Representatives with 232 seats to the Republicans’ 198 (there are also four vacancies and one Libertarian, former Republican Justin Amash), and the GOP holding the majority in the Senate, 53-45, with two independents who caucus with the Democrats. Although individual House seats may flip, there is little sense that the Democrats are in danger of losing their control of that chamber. The Senate, however, is very much in play. Republicans are defending 23 seats and several of their incumbents are trailing in polls, while Democrats hold just 12 of the seats up for election this year, with only one of them – Doug Jones’ seat in Alabama – in a deep-red state.

It's also worth remembering that of the 99 legislative chambers in the country (Nebraska’s is unicameral), 86 will be facing elections in November. Republicans control 61 in all, Democrats 37, and there’s a power-sharing arrangement in Alaska.

This is an especially consequential year for state legislative contests, because in most states the party in control next year will...
More fallout from Rep. Amy Grant call

POLITICS | Rich Miller

Another snippet has been leaked of a now-infamous recorded fundraising call made by Rep. Amy Grant (R-Wheaton) in late August. And it’s a doozy.

Grant is already reeling badly from the backlash to other comments she made during the call. She has insisted that she is neither a racist nor a homophobe and has tried to claim her words were taken out of context, without explaining how.

You may have seen the news about this. Grant is running against Ken Mejia-Beal, a gay Black Democrat. In the call, she dismissed Mejia-Beal to someone she believed to be a potential campaign contributor by saying “That’s all we need is another person in the Black Caucus.” She mocked “the way he talks,” saying “He’s all LGBTQ. He wants to work for the chronically ill. He just gives us, like crazy, and every week it’s a different reason for why he wants to get into the race.”

In the latest clip, Grant is heard telling the potential contributor how groups like Planned Parenthood would be attacking her for opposing abortion even in cases of rape and incest.

“Well, of course, you know, people don’t want to hear that,” Grant admitted about her position on the issue.

But Grant went on to explain why she continues to stick by her beliefs. “For starters, the percentage of incest,” she said. “Peter Breen, who said, Amy, don’t worry about that; the percentage of incest is so small it’s ridiculous. And in the case of rape it’s even smaller.”

Breen is a former Republican state Representative who is currently campaigning to regain the seat he lost in 2018 to Terra Costa Howard (D-Glen Ellyn). He’s also vice president and chief counsel at the staunchly anti-abortion Thomas More Society.

The House Republicans turned down an opportunity to respond.

Grant’s opponent, Ken Mejia-Beal, pointed to a series of recent Republican attack mailers that essentially accused him of helping cover up a rape. “It really is the height of hypocrisy,” he said of Grant’s recorded comments.

One other thing: Grant has some trouble explaining why she said, Amy, don’t worry about that; the percentage of incest is so small it’s ridiculous. And in the case of rape it’s even smaller.”

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Similar mailers have apparently been used against Democratic House candidates this cycle. The front of one of the mailers has the words (in all capital letters) “Rape, Cover-Up, Mike Madigan” and the candidate’s name. The headline on the other side was: “Ken Mejia-Beal: Silent When It Mattered.”

“When Mike Madigan’s political organization was implicated in a rape cover-up, top Democrats called for him to step down. What did Ken Mejia-Beal have to say? Nothing.”

The mailer referred to an emailed comment made by House Speaker Michael Madigan’s former consigliere Mike McClain, who was trying to protect a state worker’s job by claiming the guy had kept his mouth shut about “the rape in Champaign.” The explosive story broke in January of this year, less than two months after Mejia-Beal had filed his nominating petitions.

Mejia-Beal said the mailers were particularly hurtful because he’s been a mentor for sexual assault survivors. He issued a press release at the time saying he had no knowledge of the issue and called the attack “pathetic” because Grant was “using the unfortunate story of someone else’s abuse to earn political points for her own campaign.”

After the latest audio clip was leaked, Mejia-Beal issued a formal statement: “While millions of women in the U.S. have become pregnant as a result of rape or incest, Representative Grant’s heartless and disgusting remarks are a reminder of how out of touch she is with reality. These comments from Representative Grant also serve as a reflection of her extreme record against women’s health care and victims of abuse.”

Terry Cosgrove, who runs the pro-choice Personal PAC, also weighed in: “It’s the height of cruelty that Peter Breen and Amy Grant are so callous to victims of rape and incest... I would like to see Breen and Grant look into the eyes of a 15-year-old girl who has been victimized repeatedly by a relative or neighbor and tell her ‘it’s ridiculous.’”

One other thing: Grant has some trouble explaining why she said, Amy, don’t worry about that; the percentage of incest is so small it’s ridiculous. And in the case of rape it’s even smaller.”

Obviously, what she meant was pro-choice groups were coming after her for opposing abortion even in cases of incest and rape, because it wouldn’t make any sense otherwise.
VULGAR POEM #1

How about a little mild vulgarity?
I wrote this limerick when my dad
had prostate surgery I published it
in a family newsletter; my nephews
wrote a clever ballad on the subject
much more vulgar but here is mine;
I'll be glad to accept compliments:
"Our worthy progenitor, he
I'll be glad to accept compliments:
much more vulgar but here is mine;
wrote a clever ballad on the subject
in a family newsletter; my nephews
how about a little mild vulgarity?
vulgar poem #1

2020 Jacqueline Jackson
Student screen time

Learning from home means staring at computers

EDUCATION | Rachel Otwell

After school abruptly went remote in March, the state board of education recommended a maximum of 90 minutes of daily “engagement” for students in kindergarten through second grade. For third through fifth graders the max was two hours and rose incrementally to 270 minutes for high schoolers.

Much has changed since then. Springfield’s public school district has kept all classes online until at least Oct. 26. And now, students have five-hour-long school days, to varying degrees of success. While some parents appreciate the several hours of class as they work from home, others are stressed enough that they’ve considered options outside of District 186.

Casey Boatman has twins in first grade at a district school. He and his wife are nurses, both of whom work 12-hour shifts. He said his son in particular is finding it a challenge to sit through classes. The kids are six years old. “They’re just sitting still, staring at things,” said Boatman.

Further complicating the long periods of time staring at a screen, the tech issues can be complicated, with apps to be used while students are logged into Zoom. For their family, it’s not working. “I’m going to start travel nursing … so that we can afford private school,” where students have returned to the classroom, said Boatman.

Jason Curry is an elementary teacher at Iles School. Class starts at 8:30, when the students log into Zoom. He lets them greet each other for a while, then moves into an activity that addresses social and emotional needs. The kids go into smaller groups to work on assignments. They have class times with different teachers for special subjects, including P.E. And they do some assignments with paper, though being able to review homework done that way comes with its own challenges.

“It’s a lot of back and forth,” Curry said, between live sessions and more independent learning. Classes end at 2. He said parents have been grateful for the amount of engagement. It’s time they can focus on their own work.

His own child is in second grade and his mom helps her with classes. “Personally, I feel like it’s too much screen time,” he said of the current school day. “But I don’t know what a solution to that would be.” Curry said teachers are working harder than ever to prepare lessons and they miss seeing their students face-to-face.

Health experts warn that as the months of mitigation efforts for the pandemic go on, children’s mental health could take a toll. Dr. Douglas Carlson is the medical director of St. John’s Children’s Hospital. He said keeping kids physically active is one key component to overall health. “When you can, get the kids off the screen, and doing some physical activity,” he suggested. “The number of children suffering from anxiety and depression is going up. There’s some evidence of that already,” he said. Parents who notice symptoms in their kids should reach out to primary care physicians for help.

The Illinois State Board of Education sent updated guidelines for fall that now suggest a minimum of two and a half hours of “real-time” online learning for districts that chose to go remote. At the latest Springfield school board meeting, on Sept. 21, member Micah Miller questioned why classes in the city were five hours long, citing “a lot of dispute” over that amount of time.

A key question now is when those who choose to do so will be returning to the classroom. In summer, about half of students registered to go into schools on certain days for their district. It was later decided the school year would begin remotely for all, through at least the first quarter. At the recent meeting, the board approved metrics for returning. They include that the county positivity rate be at or less than 5%. The positivity rate for the county was 3.2% for the week of Sept. 13 through 19, according to the state health department.

Four metrics in all would need to be met for two weeks in a row before the hybrid model would be offered. Once those metrics are reached, teachers would need 10 days to prepare, said Supt. Jennifer Gill. Some families have already chosen to remain remote through the end of the calendar year.

Contact Rachel Otwell at rotwell@illinoistimes.com.

THE DESK OF A FIRST-GRADER WHO ATTENDS DISTRICT 186. PHOTO BY RACHEL OTWELL
The Illinois Senate Criminal Law Committee and Special Committee on Public Safety held the latest in a series of hearings related to the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus’ legislative agenda Sept. 29, focusing on reclassifying offenses, drug penalty reform and elderly parole.

“We must confront the vast disparities in how individuals throughout the state are sentenced,” said state Sen. Elgie Sims, a Chicago Democrat and chair of the Senate Criminal Law Committee. “We have to ensure that our justice system treats everyone fairly regardless of their race, religion and economic status. That often is not the case. These issues are important to achieve a more fair and equitable system.”

Witnesses testifying before the committee included Tanya Woods, executive director of the Westside Justice Center; Champaign County State’s Attorney Julia Rietz; White County State’s Attorney Denton Aud; Ben Ruddell, director of criminal justice policy for the Illinois ACLU; and representatives from Restore Justice Illinois.

Witnesses generally agreed that changes made to reduce penalties for crimes involving cannabis, along with the expungement of minor cannabis-related drug crimes following marijuana legalization last year, were positive steps forward.

Ruddell of the ACLU noted the war on drugs and drug crimes in general have harshly impacted Black Americans more than any other demographic.

“In 1980 our prison population was 11,768. Today it stands at more than 30,000. Despite a decades-long decline in the overall crime rate, data shows that increased drug arrests by the police and the enactment of punitive sentencing policies for drug offenses were major drivers in the spike in incarceration,” Ruddell said.

In 2018, Ruddell said, 60 percent of those arrested for a drug crime in Illinois were Black.

“While Black Illinoisans make up 14.5 percent of the state’s population, they make up 54.8 of those in prison and are imprisoned at 8.8 times the rate of whites, one of the worst disparities of any state,” he said.

Isolated to drug crimes, the disparities are larger. Between 2016 and 2018, Black Illinoisans made up 69 percent of drug offenders admitted to the Illinois Department of Corrections, and 59 percent of strictly cannabis offenders.

Ruddell suggested three reforms to combat these disparities: reduction of all drug crimes by one class, reclassification of felony possession to a misdemeanor, and elimination of mandatory minimums and sentence enhancements. Lawmakers discussed the third point in a previous joint hearing.

Wendell Robinson, from Restore Justice Illinois, said as a juvenile he was sentenced to life in prison for violent crimes. Robinson served more than 25 years before being released in 2018 after a 2012 Supreme Court decision that made mandatory life sentences without parole for juvenile offenders unconstitutional.

Robinson cited a Justice Policy Institute study of 200 elderly prisoners in Maryland who were jailed as juveniles and released as the result of a ruling by the Maryland Supreme Court. The median age of the individuals was 64 and they had served 34 years on average. Over a six-year period upon release, the group had a 3 percent recidivism rate. That was far lower than the national average of 43 percent of those released from prison being incarcerated again, according to a 2011 Pew research study.

“A lot of guys that we are talking about that could potentially be parolees are people that are near and dear to me like friends. These are individuals that helped shape and mold the man that I became today,” Robinson said. “I know a lot of elderly guys [in prison] I still keep in communication with about these guys, they are like extremely positive individuals, but they just need a second chance.”

The hearing was the fifth prompted by Black Caucus’ push to promote its agenda, which is based on four pillars: Criminal justice reform, violence and police accountability; education and workforce development; economic access, equity and opportunity; and health care and human services.

The caucus plans to advance legislation to address each pillar during the upcoming veto session, which is scheduled for Nov. 17-19 and Dec. 1-3.

Contact Raymon Troncoso at rtroncoso@capitolnewsillinois.com.
Body Language Can Matter in the Family Court

In any court date in the family court, there are a lot of moving parts. For example, if there is a trial or evidentiary hearing, parties are often worried about the case itself.

This might mean worrying about the witnesses who will be called, the evidence presented, and how the judge will rule. It also might involve the emotions and stress involved with having to be in court. For many, it took a long time to get a trial or court date.

Even if it is not a trial date, but merely a motion date, pretrial or settlement conference, these court dates can be stressful. Stress can cause parties to become nervous, anxious or even frustrated.

These feelings can sometimes bring out bad body language in the courtroom. The bad body language can culminate in frowning, being fidgety, slouching or even reacting negatively from a body language perspective based on what happens in court.

Some parties may moan or gasp. Others might throw up their hands or fidget in their chairs. In some instances, parties might furiously pass notes to their lawyers. Ultimately, the poor visuals can be damaging.

The bad body language can come when an individual simply sees the other party in a contentious case. But the wrong body language can begin when the opposing lawyer is speaking, when a witness is testifying or something happens that they feel is bad for their case. Worse yet, it can come when the judge says something or announces a ruling from the bench.

Bad body language can damage a case. Judges have lots of discretion in divorce or family court cases in terms of what they do. Often, judges are weighing the credibility of witnesses not only based on what they say, but what they can see.

If the family court judge sees body language they do not like, it can be damaging. Ultimately, parties need to be careful that they are in control of their body language. They have to understand that this can make a difference.

Some useful tips include remaining stone-faced at all times. No matter what happens in a courtroom, most parties should not react to it in any way. Sitting in a chair with good posture can help. It can project confidence and a sense of calm.

Even with the stress of these court dates, parties have to go to their happy place emotionally. It might mean meditating or praying for peace. It might mean engaging in breathing techniques or trying to focus on something. Whatever helps a person display a positive demeanor, they should employ.

Parties have to avoid showing their anger, anxiety and frustration as best as possible. To the extent they are getting emotional, talking to their attorney in a private room to express their concerns can help. It might mean talking a walk or going to the water fountain or restroom when emotions are building up. But when a party is in the courtroom, they should realize that everything they do can impact the case.

Bad body language can even impact the ability to settle the case. If the opposing party and lawyer can see that a party is becoming unglauc, some may decide not to settle because they might believe that the other party will not make a good impression.

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Police reform and review

Town hall on policing issues includes mayor and chief

**COMMUNITY | Rachel Otwell**

Police reform is a nationally trending topic as demonstrators continue to protest killings of Black people. Meanwhile, activists are calling for changes they say would address concerns regarding the Springfield Police Department.

Community leaders continue to meet to explore potential police reform. Black Lives Matter Springfield has held a series of off-record conversations with police in recent months. On Sept. 22, the mayor and police chief joined the Faith Coalition for the Common Good and other advocacy organizations, including the local Black Lives Matter chapter, to talk openly about police misconduct review and residency requirements.

Roy Williams Jr., president of the faith-based social justice advocacy group, started the meeting by clarifying the meeting’s intent. “This is not an anti-police situation. This is not a ‘defund the police’ situation.” The mission was to work toward what advocates see as solutions to better community and police relations.

“With everything going on around the country right now, I think our country and our community is more divided than it’s ever been,” Springfield police chief Kenny Winslow said during opening remarks. “It’s each and every one of our responsibilities to bring that community together to form a better and improved profession and society.” Regular regulation within police practices is needed, he offered, but change must be evidence-based and balanced.

**Review**

Tyrese Thomas is co-founder of In Black Ink, a nonprofit based in Springfield and focused on equality. He told meeting attendees that the inactivity of the Police Community Review Commission was troubling. He questioned why the board was largely composed of those with a background in law enforcement. It appears the board was largely composed of those who benefitted from the funds; it falls under the responsibility to bring that community together to form a better and improved profession and society. Regular regulation within police practices is needed, he offered, but change must be evidence-based and balanced.

Mayor Jim Langfelder said there are two vacancies on the board. “We don’t look to stack the deck,” he said. He said those interested in applying or who want more information could email the city at: feedback@springfield.il.us.

Winslow said the review commission is not under the police department; it falls under the community relations department. He said there has been one case for review in the past three years, and cases where there is no internal finding of misconduct are the only ones to be considered through that process. When a case is deemed unfounded, the complainant gets the option to appeal the case to the commission.

Winslow said he would take suggestions, but, “I’m not going to negotiate this in public.” He said the police union had put him on notice, citing its right to bargain over any potential changes.

**Residency**

Emma Shafer, a Springfield activist and college student, said she was alarmed to learn that “Springfield police officers are not required to live in the city that they are meant to serve.” An ordinance passed in 2016 required newly hired municipal employees to live in city limits. “All of the city’s more than 20 unions agreed to this in their new contracts, except for the police union.”

“If you have someone driving an hour to work every day, they aren’t going to feel as connected to the community as someone who lives down the street,” she said.

Shafer asked, on behalf of the Faith Coalition for the Common Good, that the police chief and mayor make a statement to commit to reinstating the police residency requirement in the future, police union contract.

“I’ve always supported residency, I’ve lived in the city my entire career,” said Winslow. “But I want to make it crystal clear here that I have nothing bad to say about those officers who live outside the city.” Winslow said he’s not certain residency has an effect on performance.

Langfelder said he supports a residency requirement. “Pensions and retirement of public employees are paid by property taxes,” a key argument for why those who benefit from the funds should live in Springfield, he said.

While no decisions were made about both issues discussed, the police chief and mayor agreed to another meeting with the community groups, which also included Education and Action Together (EAT), by Oct. 31.

Contact Rachel Otwell at rotwell@illinoistimes.com.

**“He had a good shot at getting out”**

Prosecutor criticizes state in Schmitt case

**COURTS | Bruce Rushton**

Legislators should hold hearings in the wake of an assault at McFarland Mental Health Center allegedly committed by a resident the state deemed safe for release, says the prosecutor who fought to keep the man at McFarland.

“Luckily, it happened inside rather than out in the community,” says Effingham County State’s Attorney Bryan Kibler.

Twice since 2017, McFarland psychiatrists and other staff have said that Gary Schmitt, an admitted killer, should be discharged to West Lake Center, a residential mental health center run by Memorial Health System. On Sept. 18, Sangamon County prosecutors say, Schmitt assaulted a resident in her room at McFarland, choking her to the point that she lost consciousness.

Schmitt, 56, is charged with aggravated criminal sexual assault, aggravated battery and unlawful restraint, with bond set at $100,000.

At the time of the attack, Schmitt, who killed his father a decade ago, was appealing a 2019 decision by Effingham County Circuit Court Judge Kimberly Koester, who refused to release him from McFarland. In her ruling, Koester criticized the community conditional release program, saying she was concerned by testimony from Andrew Jolly, the program director who is employed by Memorial.

“Specifically, this court notes that the program seems to not take seriously the potential for danger that this individual possesses,” Koester wrote after hearing that six hours can pass before a West Lake resident is considered missing. “Mr. Jolly even seemed to be offended at points in his testimony when he was questioned regarding the time necessary to report an individual that may have elapsed from the program. The court did weigh this factor when considering the rehabilitation of the defendant and the safety of the public.”

Given testimony from McFarland staff who recommended release, Kibler says he figured that he had a 50-50 chance in the appeal of Koester’s ruling that will be withdrawn in light of new charges.

“Be honest, I thought he had a decent shot,” Kibler said. “He had a good chance of getting out within a year, and then this happened.”

Schmitt’s history of mental illness dates back decades. He once attempted suicide by driving his car into a bridge at 70 mph. He killed his father a decade ago, was appealing a 2019 decision by Effingham County Circuit Court Judge Kimberly Koester, who refused to release him from McFarland. In her ruling, Koester criticized the community conditional release program, saying she was concerned by testimony from Andrew Jolly, the program director who is employed by Memorial.

“Specifically, this court notes that the program seems to not take seriously the potential for danger that this individual possesses,” Koester wrote after hearing that six hours can pass before a West Lake resident is considered missing. “Mr. Jolly even seemed to be offended at points in his testimony when he was questioned regarding the time necessary to report an individual that may have elapsed from the program. The court did weigh this factor when considering the rehabilitation of the defendant and the safety of the public.”

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Schmitt’s history of mental illness dates back decades. He once attempted suicide by driving his car into a bridge at 70 mph. He killed his father by bludgeoning him with a rock on Father’s Day in 2010 but police initially didn’t realize it was a homicide. He confessed after attacking a woman and her 15-year-old daughter with a hunting knife several months later. He told police that God had wanted him to kill the woman.

Found not guilty by reason of insanity, Schmitt was sent to McFarland in 2013. Within two years, he was living in a minimum security unit and allowed to roam the 150-acre campus. When Schmitt requested release in 2017, a McFarland administrator testified that he could have walked away because the facility has no gate across its entrance.

Despite recommendations by McFarland psychiatrists and other staff who deemed Schmitt safe, Koester in 2017 and again in 2019 rejected requests for release to West Lake. She also rejected a 2016 request by McFarland to allow Schmitt to spend two weeks or more, unescorted, at St. John’s Hospital, where he received heart surgery.

Kibler said changes to statutes should be considered so that more attention is given to the underlying crime when people who’ve been found not guilty by reason of insanity request release from mental health facilities run by the state Department of Human Services.

“I think there needs to be more protections, or stronger weight given to why they’re in there in the first place,” the prosecutor said. “And you better be damn sure that the person is not going to commit any more violence if DHS wants to release you. Here, DHS was jumping up and down, adamant this guy was fine to release back to the community, and clearly he was not.”

Marisa Kolias, DHS spokeswoman, wrote in an email that the agency can’t comment on specific cases. “Although the behavior of individuals committed to our facilities cannot always be predicted, we strive to maintain a safe environment for our staff and patients,” she wrote.

“This includes observation and periodic evaluation to determine individual treatment needs.” In an email, Angie Muhs, Memorial spokeswoman, wrote that Memorial doesn’t recommend whether a person should be granted conditional release from McFarland. “Staff may be called upon to testify as to the structure of our program and details of our treatment,” she wrote. “In addition, being granted a conditional release does not guarantee a person will be accepted into our program.”

Kibler said DHS should answer to lawmakers. “I know they’re beyond capacity, and I get why they’re trying to release these people — they don’t have any more room for them, and their budget’s probably shot,” he said. “Hopefully, the General Assembly will at least call some of these DHS guys into committee hearings: Can you explain how you were all set to release this guy, and then he messed up so violently. What’s going on? What’s your criteria for releasing people?”

State Rep. Mike Murphy, R-Springfield, whose district includes McFarland, says he’s not sure a hearing is necessary.

“If this is something that’s happened before, it would definitely be something we would have to look into,” Murphy said. “If this is a one-time situation, I don’t know if it’s necessarily anything we need to look at. I’m just not sure if it’s a problem or a one-time situation.”

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Lower compulsory school age to 5?
Black Caucus equity agenda includes kindergarten for all

Illinois lawmakers may soon consider legislation to lower the state’s compulsory attendance law to include 5-year-olds, a measure advocates see as a way to expand access to early childhood education opportunities, especially among Black and low-income families.

That was just one of the issues discussed Sept. 24 during a virtual joint hearing of the Illinois Senate Education and Higher Education committees, and it’s one that has the strong backing of the Illinois State Board of Education.

“We firmly believe that lowering the compulsory school age to five will ensure that all children have a better opportunity to receive a strong foundation of literacy and reading skills that will set them up for success in all aspects of their lives,” Brenda Dixon, ISBE’s chief research and evaluation director, said during the hearing that was conducted via Zoom.

Currently, Illinois only requires children between the ages of 6 and 17 to attend school, which effectively makes kindergarten optional. Currently, Dixon said, about 130,000 children attend kindergarten in Illinois public schools, but lowering the compulsory attendance age to five could boost that number by as many as 3,000, or 2.3 percent.

“We believe lowering the compulsory school age to five will support more equitable educational opportunities for our youngest learners, and build on the state’s investment in early childhood education,” Dixon said. “Kindergarten for all will strengthen the learning continuum for Illinois students.”

The hearing was just one in a series of hearings that the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus has called to discuss issues surrounding racial inequities. Earlier, the ILBC said it was developing a legislative agenda for racial equity that would be based on four “pillars.”

Besides education and workforce development, which was the subject of last week’s hearing, the other pillars include criminal justice reform; economic access, equity and opportunity; and health care and human services.

Dixon noted that students who don’t start school until the first grade are at an immediate disadvantage with their peers who went to kindergarten, and they rarely get the opportunity to catch up.

“There is no catch-up time built into our school calendar for children who enter the public school system underprepared,” she said. “Once established, gaps in school readiness skills are difficult and costly to remedy, leading to pronounced gaps in achievement. We firmly believe that lowering the compulsory school age to 5 will ensure that all children have a better opportunity to receive a strong foundation of literacy and reading skills that will set them up for success in all aspects of their lives.”

Christopher Span, a researcher and associate dean at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s College of Education, said that for most of America’s history, Black children were specifically excluded from access to public education, even after the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education.

“One thing that I was able to kind of show in my research is that as schooling became more compulsory, you saw African Americans close the gap in what we call gaps of achievement in school communities,” he said. “And we also see it with regards to the closing of the gap in terms of educational attainment — so, gaining access to high school, gaining access to college degrees.”

While there appeared to be broad support among educators for lowering the mandatory school age in order to expand access to kindergarten, there was much less support for the one of the other proposals being considered — a requirement that students be held back in the third grade if, by the end of that year, they still are not meeting state standards for reading and math skills.

It is often said among educators that from kindergarten through third grade, students learn to read, and from fourth grade on, they read to learn. That means students who enter fourth grade without the reading skills needed for fourth-grade work are likely to fall further and further behind for the rest of their time in school.

But Dixon and others said mandatory retention policies have been shown to do more harm than good.

“In fact, studies have long shown that mandatory retention increases dropout risk,” Dixon said. “Now, while there are some recent studies that associate mandatory retention policies with short-term academic gains, those effects disappear by middle school, again suggesting that there are no lasting positive impacts of mandatory retention policies.”

Dixon said if that policy were in place today, based on the most recent state assessments, 85,000 to 90,000 third-graders, or 72 percent, would be held back from going on to fourth grade. Of those, roughly 80 percent are Black and brown students, and 85 percent are from low-income families.

“What is most important when it comes to the policy on third grade retention is what we do the years preceding third grade,” Dixon said.

Contact Peter Hancock at phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com.
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A political rematch two years in the making, with campaigns dictated by the COVID pandemic, will decide who represents a large swath of central Illinois in the nation’s capital. And when it’s over, whoever wins may not have a district in which to run for reelection in 2022.

The 13th Congressional District race is a repeat of the contest two years ago where political newcomer Betsy Dirksen Londrigan came close to unseating incumbent Rodney Davis. A mere 2,058 votes out of nearly 271,000 cast made Davis’ victory one of the tightest in the nation, and Dirksen Londrigan hopes the math works in her favor this time.

“We are ready to finish what we started and flip this seat,” said Dirksen Londrigan, a Democrat, who, like last time, has used Davis’ support of President Donald Trump as a key component of her campaign.

Davis, a fourth-term Republican, thinks his support of the president plays well in the 13th District.

“Donald Trump is a lot more popular in my district than Mike Madigan is,” Davis said. “I truly support President Trump.”

The two candidates have done very little in-person campaigning due to the pandemic, although the fundraising dollars are still coming at a brisk pace in a race that both political parties feel has national implications. But with Illinois facing the possibility of losing a congressional seat due to declining population, there may not be a 13th Congressional District when the next election rolls around.

A quiet but expensive campaign for the 13th Congressional District

POLITICS | David Blanchette
High-stakes rematch
continued from page 13

Pandemic politics
Prior to COVID-19, members of Congress typically spent three weeks out of the month in Washington, D.C., and came back for a week to travel around their districts, including campaign appearances.

“After mid-March our lives became endless conference calls,” Davis said. “So we are doing more virtual events. I think I’ve had three live fundraising events, but the majority of them over the summer have been virtual.”

Davis’ summer campaigning was interrupted when he tested positive for COVID-19 and had to quarantine for 10 days. He had an elevated fever and lost some sense of taste and smell, but has since fully recovered.

“There’s a lot less opportunity to go to different events to spread your message,” Davis said. “So you have to adapt, you have to do them virtually, but in the end the same messages are going to get out.

The police
Neither candidate supports defunding the police. Both advocate for additional law enforcement spending, but differ on the focus of that spending.

“Not every 911 call requires a law enforcement intervention. We need to add mental health and addiction professionals to the teams so that when somebody is suffering from a crisis, there is a professional on staff who can lead the interven-

tion,” Dirksen Londrigan said. “I’ve talked to sheriffs around the district and they have many people in their jails who are suffering from a mental health or addiction crisis, and that’s what they are trained to deal with.”

Dirksen Londrigan said police chokeholds need to be banned nationwide, like they are in Illinois, and additional de-escalation training provided for law enforcement officers. She also said the issue of racism must be addressed head-on.

“Racism has to be rooted out, but not just in law enforcement. What people recognized this summer is that systemic racism has tentacles in all of our sys-

tems,” Dirksen Londrigan said. “Yes, it is in our law enforcement system in the way we treat our Black and brown community members. But yes, it is in the health system as well, and in our education system, and we need to root it out there, too.”

Davis supports providing additional funding for law enforcement, both for staffing and training. He has deep respect for law enforcement personnel like the two Capitol Police officers, both Black, who “ran toward gunfire so me and my friends could run off of a baseball field” when a gunman opened fire on a congressional game in June 2017.

“Unfortunately police get painted with a broad brush when a member of the law enforcement community doesn’t follow the rules,” Davis said. “We have to make sure there is equal treatment. Here in Illinois we’ve done a great job, Republicans and Democrats, of implementing training standards for all law enforcement officials. Illinois has gone above and beyond what other states do regarding de-

escalation techniques and social justice issues.”

Where does Davis stand on the Black Lives Mat-
ter movement?
“I believe every single life matters, but groups can be hijacked by people who have their own agenda,” Davis said. “Again, painting with a broad brush — people who are bad actors, when really the goal should be that everybody is treated the same. That’s what we should all strive for.”

Davis pointed to his support for listing Spring-

field Race Riot sites with the National Park Service’s African American Civil Rights Network.

“We need to study what Abraham Lincoln has meant to race relations in this country,” Davis said. “Can we get better? Absolutely. But not at the expense of tearing down the greatest country in the history of the world.”

Health care
Congressman Davis thinks the Affordable Care Act is broken and needs to be replaced.

“I want to create a system that’s going to lower the cost of health care, because we have 60 million Americans that still don’t have coverage or they have coverage that they can’t afford to use if they are diagnosed,” Davis said.

Davis voted for the American Health Care Act, the unsuccessful legislation that would have repealed and replaced the Affordable Care Act.

“It’s a bill that clearly would have protected the preexisting condition coverage that I support,” Davis said. “Preexisting conditions exist in my own family.”

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office noted that the American Health Care Act would have altered the rules regarding coverage for pre-

existing conditions, and would have increased the number of uninsured people by 23 million over 10 years. But Davis said it would have been preferable to the status quo or to the alternative posited by the Democrats.

“The solution isn’t supporting a program like Medicare X or Medicare for All,” Davis said. “Medi-
care X would destroy rural health care in America.”

“If you take away the Affordable Care Act, that expansion money goes along with it,” Dirksen Lon-
drigan said. “We need to make sure rural hospitals have what they need, including the expansion of broadband so they can take more advantage of tele-

health.”

Dirksen Londrigan supports the Democratic proposal to allow Medicare to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical companies for lower drug prices. She said that the 282,000 people with preexisting health conditions in District 13 must be taken into account in any debate over health care coverage.

“We have to protect the Affordable Care Act and all of the essential health benefits that go along with it,” Dirksen Londrigan said. “We need to strengthen it and build on it. It was supposed to be a first step, and I know it doesn’t work for everyone. So fixing the parts that are broken is something that I can’t wait to do.”

COVID Response
Both candidates feel the United States’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic could have been better.

“The president, in his own words, admitted that he knew about this virus in early February, he knew it was deadly, he knew it was airborne, and then he stood in front of the American people and lied about it repeatedly,” Dirksen Londrigan said. “He didn’t even attempt to have a plan to address it. That is
shocking.”

Dirksen Londrigan pointed to the University of Illinois’ innovative saliva-based COVID testing as an example of using science and the nation’s best minds to address pandemic challenges. She said testing efforts need to be stepped up, unemployment insurance extended, Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan funds increased, and that some PPP loans should be converted to grants.

“We want those local businesses to come out on the other side of this,” Dirksen Londrigan said. “And if we want that, we have to support them through this.”

Davis characterized the initial U.S. COVID response as “a bipartisan failure to adapt that we can’t have happen again.”

“What we are doing right is fixing the problems that existed before COVID came on the scene,” Davis said. “So knowing what we did wrong in the beginning in a bipartisan way, not blaming one party or the other, is how we solve the problems of a future pandemic that we now know will hit us.”

Davis supports additional COVID antibody testing, which he feels is a more accurate way of determining who has had exposure to the virus and would better gauge which mitigation factors are working. Davis also pointed to an initiative he supported that may help debt-ridden college graduates during the pandemic, a program that allows employers to pay down, tax-free to the employee, a graduate’s student debt in the same way that employers now do for tuition reimbursement.

“This is a very big deal for students who are graduating with too much debt” especially during the pandemic, Davis said. “The employer is incentivized to do this by a tax credit.”

Voting by mail
Davis and Dirksen Londrigan both think Illinois is a model for voting by mail that other states would be wise to emulate in November.

“Here in Illinois, when we say vote by mail, we mean you are going to get an application mailed to you automatically to request a ballot,” Davis said. “But what many other states allow is mailing live ballots to every registered voter. That is a process that is ripe for corruption.”

“The Democrats I serve with argue that the percentage of fraud is miniscule,” Davis said. “But I won one race by 1,000 votes and another by 2,000 votes, so every vote counts.”

Dirksen Londrigan said voting by mail is a pandemic necessity.

“People should not have to risk their own personal safety to vote in person when they can vote by mail,” Dirksen Londrigan said. “It’s really disturbing that we have a president who is purposely trying to undermine voting by mail in the United States.”

No more 13th District?
The 13th Congressional District crosses 14 counties in both urban and rural areas of central and southwestern Illinois. Illinois’ declining population may determine if that district is recognizable, or will even exist, in 2022.

“We are probably going to lose a congressional seat in Illinois and it’s probably going to come out of downstate,” said Kent Redfield, professor emeritus of political science at University of Illinois Springfield. “The winner of the 13th might not have a district to run in two years from now.”

Redfield said the 13th District race is of national significance both in terms of the stakes and the money coming in for the candidates. The most recent campaign finance report available by press time was filed in early July, and Redfield said it showed more corporate donations on Davis’ side and more individual donations for Londrigan. The same race two years ago saw $13 million in spending, and Davis reported $2.89 million.

The Dirksen Londrigan campaign has gone to great lengths to link Davis to President Donald Trump, while Davis’ campaign seeks to align Dirksen Londrigan with Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, who is also the state Democratic Party chairman.

“If you’re a Republican you’re going to hope that Biden collapses and Trump looks really strong, and the anti-Madigan message and the progressive income tax referendum is going to drive turnout,” Redfield said. “If you’re Dirksen Londrigan you’re hoping the race will be indirectly about Trump.”

COVID may also greatly influence the outcome of the 13th District contest. The district includes universities in Normal, Urbana-Champaign, Springfield and Edwardsville, and the pandemic will determine

Both candidates say Illinois is a model for voting by mail that other states would be wise to emulate.

Champaign, taught middle school and built an alumni program at University of Illinois Springfield. She was self-employed as a writer, editor and graphic artist before she joined the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation in 2009 and worked there until announcing her congressional candidacy in 2017.

Dirksen Londrigan and her husband have two sons and a daughter.

“I’m not a first-time candidate, which helps. People know me, they know why I’m in this race, my whole life is invested here,” Dirksen Londrigan said. “Nationally, people have recognized our race in central Illinois as a number one opportunity to flip the seat from red to blue.”

What does Dirksen Londrigan admire most about her opponent, Davis? “He is a dedicated family man. He is devoted to his family and I admire that,” she said.

Davis admires Dirksen Londrigan’s “tenacity and desire to serve people in central Illinois by coming back from a loss in the last congressional election.”

Davis, 50, was born in Des Moines, Iowa, and has lived in Taylorville since age seven. He majored in political science at Millikin University and in 1996 joined Congressman John Shimkus’ staff. In 2012, Davis was elected to the first of his four terms
The magic of brown butter

Simple to make, exciting to taste

FOOD | Ashley Meyer

Brown butter is a magical thing. It’s devastatingly simple to make and transforms everything from cookies to chicken to boxed macaroni and cheese. It’s often thought of as a classic French ingredient, and indeed the late Julia Child, who helped to make French cooking accessible to American home cooks, was known for her love of beautifully browned butter. In her memoir, *My Life in France*, she recalls the first meal she had upon entering the country: Dover sole, served whole and “perfectly browned in a sputtering butter sauce,” and declared it “the most exciting meal of my life.”

Widespread as it is in Gallic cuisine, clarified brown butter, or ghee, is also a staple in Indian cooking. Preparing ghee is an ancient technique that makes perishable butter shelf-stable and some believe it’s more healthful than regular butter. Used as a general cooking fat, melted ghee is often served at the table as well to be drizzled over rice and chapatis (homemade whole wheat flatbread).

Browned butter is simple to make, but it does require attention and a bit of patience, especially if you’re making a large amount. Use a heavy-bottomed pan, ideally one with shorter sides like a skillet rather than a deep pot to help facilitate evaporation. Essentially you want to slowly cook the butter until the water content of the butter has bubbled away which then will allow the milk solids to caramelise. A lighter pan is preferable as it will allow you to more easily track the progress of the browning butter as it darkens. Be sure to have handy a heatproof spatula or spoon because it will get quite hot, and be prepared for the next step in your recipe when the butter is finished. The key to deeply flavored brown butter is to let the solid brown specks to get golden brown without burning them. When it is the perfect color of brown you need to act quickly and either transfer the butter to a heatproof container to cool (Metal is best. Tempered glass like Pyrex shouldn’t break but it happens,) or be ready to add your other ingredients to the pan to cool things down and keep the butter from scorching. Chefs call this *mis en place*, meaning everything in its place. It’s an important principle in good cooking.

Cut the butter into cubes and melt them in a pan over medium high heat, stirring occasionally. Once the butter has melted it will begin to sputter and pop as the water evaporates. Creamy foam will collect at the top, and then larger bubbles will form and push the foam away toward the sides of the pan. Use your heatproof spatula throughout this process to help scrape up the solids and let them brown evenly. Once the butter has stopped popping and sputtering, it will foam up again, and you should begin to see dark specks bubbling up from the bottom of the pan. At this point it’s up to you when it’s done. Browned butter can range from pale golden to deep mahogany, but it’s critical to pull it before the brown specks turn black and the pan starts smoking.

Once the butter is done you can transfer it to another container to cool, or you can continue on with your recipe, taking advantage of the super hot fat to sear other ingredients, like chopped veggies or protein. My husband and I often enjoy date night at home and seared scallops in brown butter are one of our favorite indulgences. After a quick flash in a pan with sizzling brown butter, scallops require nothing more than a squeeze of lemon and shower of chopped parsley to finish. Illinois is one of the top winter squash producers in the nation, and there is arguably no better accompaniment to the myriad of varieties available on farm stands than browned butter and sage. And when it comes to autumn baking, nothing pairs better with crisp apples, juicy pears and warm spices than the flavor of nutty brown butter.

**Brown Butter Pumpkin Muffins**

For muffin batter:
- 1 cup butter (two sticks), divided
- 2 cups flour (white, whole wheat or gluten-free flours all work well)
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 ½ teaspoons kosher salt (1 teaspoon regular salt)
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground cardamom or nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated ginger, or use 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 15 oz can pumpkin purée *(not pumpkin pie filling)*
- 3 large eggs
- 1 ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup toasted pepitas or chopped nuts (optional)

For streusel topping:
- Remaining butter from above
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup brown sugar
- A pinch of salt
- ½ cup pepitas or chopped nuts (optional)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
Brown the butter in a pan over medium heat and set aside. Line muffin tins with papers or spray with cooking spray. This recipe makes 18 standard-size or 12 jumbo muffins.

In a medium bowl whisk together flour, baking powder and soda, salt and dry spices. In a mixing bowl combine the grated ginger, pumpkin, eggs and brown sugar and whisk together until smooth. Gently fold in dry ingredients followed by half of the brown butter (1/2 cup) and pepitas or nuts, if using. Divide the batter among the prepared pans.

Now make the streusel. Combine the dry ingredients with the remaining browned butter and mix well to create a crumbly mixture. Liberally sprinkle the streusel over the top of the muffin batter, patting it down very lightly. Bake for 20-25 minutes, depending on muffin size.

Ashley Meyer is a Springfield native who encourages everyone to keep buying local this fall. There is still loads of beautiful produce available at the Old Capitol Farmers Market through the end of October, and local farmstands like Suttill’s Garden, Jefferies Orchard and the Apple Barn are open through Thanksgiving.
Something is seriously wrong at Covington High School. Students are exploding. Yes, blowing up. There’s no rhyme or reason to it. It could be any of the teens who run the halls in the school. One second, you’re taking notes in World History, the next, your brains are splattered all over your best friend, blood is dripping from the ceiling and your classmates are in a panic.

Mara is a nervous wreck, and who can blame her? The only things she should be concerned about is getting a date for prom and figuring out where she wants to go to college. Instead, she spends her days on edge, wondering if one of her friends or her new crush may be the next to go “pop.” Even worse, if could be her. You never know…

Spontaneous, Brian Duffield’s adaptation of the novel by Aaron Starmer, is the most audacious, subversive piece of popular filmmaking of 2020, a movie that blindsides you with how intelligent it is as it sneaks its timely message of defiance into what appears to be a standard, albeit dark, teen comedy. Funny, shocking and bold, this feature ultimately reveals itself to be a primal scream uttered on behalf of Generation Z in response to the horrific world they’ve inherited.

Duffield masterfully manipulates the viewer throughout, lulling us into a false sense of security after seeing poor Caitlin explode in her science class. After recovering from the initial shock, the film adapts the typical beats of a teen comedy as we see our heroine Mara (Katherine Langford) attempt to deal with what passes today for teen angst. She discusses her ever-changing plans for the future with her best friend, Tess (Hayley Law), and tolerates her peers who aren’t nearly as smart as she is, yet amuse her all the same. And much to her surprise, she winds up with a boyfriend. Having come to the conclusion that life is too short for regrets after seeing one of his classmates blow up, Dylan (Charlie Plummer) tells Mara he’s been attracted to her for quite some time. They decide to see where it leads, make plans for prom and…then a few of their classmates explode at a party.

The chemistry between Langford and Plummer is seductive, as we become so completely wrapped up in their charming love affair that we forget the darkly comic way in which the film began. So, when their peers begin to randomly die it comes as a brutal shock, which is precisely the point. The very fact that we live in a world where the possibility, slim though it may be, exists that on any given morning when we send our kids to school, we may never see them again because a random madman may slaughter them, is a perverse proposition. That it is allowed to continue is obscene and immoral.

So it comes as no surprise that Mara loses direction as her friends randomly die, that she gives up on her studies, abandons her friends and begins to display self-destructive behavior. It’s a logical response to the insanity that surrounds her. Yet, what makes her a hero for these times and well worth emulating is that while she flirts with nihilism, ultimately, she looks the world in the face and defiantly declares she will live her life to the fullest, despite its violent, unjust nature. Mara is uncowed in the face of annihilation, a symbol of rebellion this lost generation deserves. Spontaneous is a vital work as it provides Generation Z with a playbook as to how to live in a mad world they never asked for and do it with sense of grace and purpose that puts us to shame. ☑
Welcome to October 2020 and all the fine, frivolous, fractious, fun, fantastic and phenomenal things it may or may not have to offer you and yours. But whatever the case, we’ve still got live music happening at outdoor venues as we await seasonal weather and the inevitable slowing down of music being made.

On the recorded side of things, there’s good news to report and congratulations to extend in the blues genre. Recently, as in a few weeks ago, the Mary Jo Curry Band garnered enough fan votes to receive the Sean Costello Rising Star Award for 2020 from Blues Blast Magazine, a nationally known and respected blues periodical. That’s a big deal, folks, and earlier in the year, Mary Jo’s latest release, Front Porch, landed high up on several blues charts, including the prestigious Roots Music Report.

Hurricane Ruth, the Beardstown native and lifelong, performing songwriter and entertainer, continues to take the blues world by storm. Her latest release, Good Life, just had a single, “What You Never Had,” placed on the Sirius XM, BB King’s Bluesville, Rack of Blues show last Saturday, sandwiched between an Elvin Bishop/Charlie Musselwhite collaboration and a Joe Bonamassa tune on the playlist. The album has also been hanging around on the Billboard blues charts for several weeks sitting pretty right there along with plenty of top shelf blues artists.

And while we’re at it with blues news, our resident, internationally acclaimed, touring (well, used to be and will be again, post-pandemic) blues artist extraordinaire, Mr. James Armstrong, plays the Curve Inn on Thursday, Oct. 1. James, normally out touring Europe and America for most of the year, has been busy producing a powerful song about our current cultural times called “Rise Up Resist,” released in August 2020. The politically potent tune, written by Bob Trenchard, found its way to Armstrong, who took over production duties and while adding his signature guitar, included top-notch Chicago musicians, plus vocalists Annika Chambers and Derrick Procell, to create the track. Deb Antoine, in making a video, synced in newsreel footage and other photos, current and historic, to fit the theme of the song, now available on YouTube by looking up Rise Up Resist or going to James’ Facebook page.

Our acoustic duo friends, Jim Chase and Kit Jones, perform in public as Jones & Chase and look to be in for a busy weekend of making music. Catch the two friends and music mates at Copperheads in Pawnee on Friday (7–10 p.m.) and again on Sunday at It’s All About Wine (3–6 p.m.) playing some songs you know and probably some you don’t, all done with finely tuned musicianship coming from decades of doing music in some form or another. Kit does double duty with a Sunday morning show (10 a.m.) at Motorheads to warm up for the afternoon gig. And speaking of Sunday, this one looks to be quite fortified with a fine selection of acoustic music choices happening all afternoon and into the evening. Gracia Harrison graces the patio stage at Long Bridge with her own style and grace (2–5 p.m.), while Wowie Zowie zooms into Locals in Pawnee (2-5 p.m.) with some classic 70s songs, just as Tom & Geoff drop into 3Sixteen in Chatham (4–7 p.m.) for some acoustic versions of Dylan, Petty and TB originals.

Heading into Monday, we get to go back to the blues with our longtime Champaign pals, the Blues Deacons, as Billy Galt and company roll into the Alamo for a Blue Monday. Be sure to check our Live Music listings for much more live music. See you next week. Please be careful and stay safe.
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Live music within 40 miles of Springfield.

Dates and times 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.

**Friday Oct 2**

- JJ Bradley
  - Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-10pm
- James Armstrong
  - The Curve Inn, 6pm

**Thursday Oct 1**

- 3’s Company
  - Locals Bar, Pawnee, 6-9pm
- Beverley, Correll and Ryan
  - Main Gate Bar & Grill, 7-10pm
- TULO+EADS
  - Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill and Museum, 6:30-9:30pm
- Avery Kern
  - Slaughterhouse Brewing Co., Auburn, 6-9pm
- Wowie Zowie
  - Springfield Carriage Company, 6-8pm
- Brandy Kristin and the Revival
  - Weebles Bar & Grill, 6:30pm

**Saturday Oct 3**

- The Holdouts
  - Boar's Nest, Athens, 6-9pm
- Jambalaya Jazz with Frank Parker
  - Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-10pm
- Blacktop South
  - Crows Mill Pub, 6:30-10:30pm
- Lick Creek
  - The Curve Inn, 6pm
- Harmony Deep
  - Lime Street Cafe, 8-11:30pm
- Ben Morgan
  - Locals Bar, Pawnee, 5-8pm
- Gabe Marshall
  - Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill and Museum, 7-10pm
- Broken Stone
  - The Stadium Bar and Grill, 6-10pm
- RockHouse
  - Third Base Sports Bar, 9pm-1am

**Sunday Oct 4**

- Wowie Zowie
  - Locals Bar, Pawnee, 2-5pm
- Tom Beverly and Geoff Ryan
  - Sixteen Wine Bar, Chatham, 4-7pm
- Jones and Chase
  - It's All About Wine, 3-6pm
- Gracia Harrison
  - Long Bridge Golf Course, 2-5pm
- Kit Jones Acoustic
  - Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill and Museum, 10am
- Mike Burnett and the After Suns
  - Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill and Museum, 2-5pm

**Monday Oct 5**

- Blues Deacons
  - The Alamo, 7pm

**Tuesday Oct 6**

- Tom’s Turtle Tank Tuesdays
  - Facebook with Tom Irwin, 8:30pm
- Open jam with Geoff Ryan
  - George Rank’s, 7:30-10pm

**Wednesday Oct 7**

- Rick and Tom
  - Facebook with Tom Irwin, 7:30pm

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**BAND SPOTLIGHT | Gabe Marshall**

This Jacksonville native takes his music work seriously, whether writing songs, performing live, promoting his career or doing whatever it takes to make it in the business. Gabe Marshall composes material, plays guitar and sings, does solo and duo shows, plus brings out the full band when the time and place is right. He packed up and moved to Nashville, Tennessee, back in 2012 after years of performing in the Midwest and releasing his first album, *Where I’ve Been*. Working with his dad, writing and playing, they did lots of good stuff to get Gabe headed to the town where big deals happen. During his Nashville time, the hard-working musician plays writers’ nights, hits the honky-tongs, does a regular 5 p.m. Wednesday Facebook Live show and almost always plays his popular song *Fireball*, adding his husky, countryside, growling, emotive voice to each song he sings. Gabe continues to work the ways of getting there with *Do My Thang*, released in January 2020 and the *Fireball* EP set to come out this November.

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**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 Oct 1**

- JJ Bradley
  - Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-10pm
- James Armstrong
  - The Curve Inn, 6pm

**Friday Oct 2**

- Sunshine Daydream
  - The Blue Grouch Pub, 7-10:30pm
- Johnnie Owens
  - Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7:30-10pm
- Jones and Chase
  - Copperheads, Pawnee, 7-10pm
- Gracia Harrison
  - Crows Mill Pub, 6:30-10:30pm
- Shenanigans
  - The Curve Inn, 6-10pm
- Harmony Deep
  - Lime Street Cafe, 8-11:30pm
- 3’s Company
  - Locals Bar, Pawnee, 6-9pm
- Beverley, Correll and Ryan
  - Main Gate Bar & Grill, 7-10pm
- TULO+EADS
  - Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill and Museum, 6:30-9:30pm
- Avery Kern
  - Slaughterhouse Brewing Co., Auburn, 6-9pm
- Wowie Zowie
  - Springfield Carriage Company, 6-8pm
- Brandy Kristin and the Revival
  - Weebles Bar & Grill, 6:30pm
Shop Local

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Pumpkin Carving Contest
Prizes Awarded

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Chocolate Milk
Official Drink of Halloween

Prairie Farms

October 1-7, 2020

www.illinoistimes.com

20
THE CALENDAR

HISTORY! Pre-history to the 21st century
The 22nd annual Conference on Illinois History, hosted by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM), will be online this year. Jacob K. Friefeld, Illinois and Midwest studies historian at the ALPLM, will open the conference. Scholars from across the U.S. will present 20 sessions on some fascinating subjects, such as the culture and legacy of Native Americans, the politics of art and performance and antebellum Illinois. The conference includes plenary sessions led by Cinnamon Catin-Legutko, director of the Illinois State Museum, and Kristin Hoganson, author of The Heartland: An American History. Multiple sessions offering professional development credits for teachers are also scheduled. The conference is free, however donations are welcome. To register for the Zoom link and to get the full conference schedule, call or visit www2.illinois.gov/alplm/library and click on Programs and Exhibits.

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

Special Music Events
Something Old, Something New - trombone recital
Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30pm. UIS low brass instructor and band director Bill Mitchell kicks off the virtual UIS Faculty Recital Series with a tenor trombone recital. Visit uis.edu/music for the event link. 217-206-6240.

Sunday at Six Recital Series

Theater & Comedy
Donnie B’s Comedy Open Mic Night
Wed., Oct. 7, 6:30pm. Sign up between 6:30-7 p.m. for your five-minute shot at comedy fame. VFV Post #755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Rd., 217-546-9515.

Art & Architecture
Canvas & Cocktails
Fridays, 6-8pm. This week’s theme is Breakfast. Led by Erin Svendsen and Ashlynn Frey. Class size will be limited and socially distanced. Masks are required for the duration of the class. Advance registration is required. springfieldart.org. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Sangamon Watercolor Society Member Exhibition

Conference on Illinois History
Oct. 5-9. Multiple sessions including archaeology at Cahokia Mounds, the experiences of WWI Jewish military personnel, racist white mob violence and recent reconciliation efforts and the Illinois monument at the Vicksburg battle site. Call for more information. Free and open to the public. 217-588-0128.

Lincoln Tales, Tall and True
Wed., Oct. 7, 7pm. This story traces Lincoln’s rise from prairie state rail-splitter to America’s favorite president, with a blend of history and humor. A live broadcast on the Looking for Lincoln Facebook page and Youtube channel. 217-725-2396.

Tales from the Vault: Rare Books
Thu., Oct. 1, 7-8pm. Join the library’s reference librarian. Meghan Harmon, as she highlights some of her favorite treasures from the library’s rare book collection. Find the event on the Facebook page. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-588-8644.

Faith & Philosophy
The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder and Reorder
Thursdays, 2pm. This book study group will meet for several weeks to try to make sense of the age we are living in, consider our institutions and how we can individually and collectively find transformation. Get the Zoom link by emailing info@chilibrarian.org. 217-523-0109.

Holiday Happenings
Haunted Woods of Creek Hill
Saturdays, 7-11pm. Spread out over almost 10 acres of wooded landscape that are beautiful by day, but take a turn for the worse at nightfall. Are these woods safe? Get tickets online at illinoistimestix.com. $5-$10. Haunted Woods, Mt. Auburn, 3078 N. 1550 East Road, 217-816-7348.

Fairs & Festivals
Boo Bark Party
Sat., Oct. 3, 11am-1pm. Pet-related vendors, kid’s activities, pumpkin painting, demonstrations and a canine costume contest. The event is subject to change due to public health guidelines. apl-shelter.org. Stuart Park, Winch Lane (north of Jefferson), 217-644-7387.

Lectures & Meetings
What I Learned Teaching in a Prison
Assistant professor Magic Wade reflects upon her experiences teaching in a prison and shares her thoughts on expanding educational opportunities to incarcerated individuals. Part of the UIS ECCE Speaker Series. Available on demand at uis.edu/speakerseries. 217-206-8404.

Fundraisers
Empower through the Ballot
A virtual fundraiser for the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. For more information, visit the website at spiahm.org or call 217-638-5755 or 217-726-5498.

Outdoor Fall Market
Sat., Oct. 3, 8am-4pm. Everything from art and craft items made by local artisans to standard flea market treasures. Social distancing is required at all times as is wearing a face covering with the mouth and nose fully covered. Free admission. Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 745 Woodside Road, 217-585-9550.

Sanga-Run 45-Mile Challenge
Walk or run 45 miles in October to support the Junior League’s mission of addressing food insecurity in Springfield. This virtual event encourages you to walk or run at least 1.5 miles per day during the month of October. Registration ends Sept. 25. 217-544-5557.

Children’s Corner
Meet the Candy-Dates: An election event for kids
Sat., Oct. 3, 10am-1pm. Kids will get to sample two types of nut-free candy, then go into a kid-sized voting booth to cast their ballots for their favorite. Participants will take home a craft kit to make their own I Voted! badge. chathamlib.org. Free. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce, 217-483-2713.

October Online Super Saturday
Oct. 2-4. Monthly themed activities for children and their families. Check out the activities from past events and reserve a kit for our next online program. Visit the Illinois State Museum’s Facebook page for more info. Free. 706-207-7836.

Legal assistance for seniors
The first Wednesday of every month seniors can get assistance with a will, power of attorney and other legal needs. Libre McNeese of Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance is taking appointments that last about 30 minutes. COVID guidelines will be followed. Donations are appreciated. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-528-4035.

Understanding and responding to dementia-related behavior
Tue., Oct. 6, 10:30am-12pm. Learn to decode behavioral messages, identify common behavior triggers and learn strategies to help intervene with some of the most common behavioral challenges of Alzheimer’s disease. alz.org. Free. Registration required online or by phone. 1-800-272-3900.

Health
Walk to end Alzheimer’s
Sat., Oct. 3, 9:30am. Watch the Opening and Promise Garden Ceremony, then take a walk in your neighborhood. You can also download an app to track your steps. Hosted by the Alzheimer’s Association. alz.org. 217-801-9352.

Sports & Fitness
Full Moon Trail Run
Oct. 2-4, 7-8pm. A semi-virtual running and walking event. The 3.0-mile route will be marked and available anytime throughout the weekend. No entry fee but donations are accepted to help with park expenses. Registration and more information are available at GetMeRegistered.com. Lewis Memorial Acres, 399 S. Koke Mill Road, 217-341-1785.

Let’s Get Fit
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9-10am. Online exercise classes for individuals 50+ hosted by Senior Services of Central Illinois. Via Zoom. Contact Justin Yuroff at 217-528-4035 for more information and to register for the Zoom link.
MARKETPLACE

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW
Faculty Trombone Recital, William Mitchell
Saturday, October 3, 7:30 p.m.

BLACK CLASSICAL COMPOSERS
Lecture by Violinist Chenoa Alainu
Thursday, October 22, 6 p.m.

OPTIONS FOR THE 21ST-CENTURY MUSICIAN
Lecture by Maestro Logan Campbell
Thursday, October 8, 6 p.m.

THE UNACCOMPANIED CLARINET
Faculty Clarinet Recital, Evelyn Maria Tunison
Saturday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL FLUTE MASTERCLASS
UIS Faculty Flutist, Amanda Pond
Open to UIS and Community Flutists
Sunday, November 1, 3 p.m.

VIRTUAL CELLO MASTERCLASS
UIS Cello Faculty, Jun Seo
Open to UIS and Community Cellists
Sunday, November 7, 3 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY MUSICIANS
UIS Community Music School
Virtual & On-Ground Lessons
Strings, Winds, Drums, Guitar, Voice
uis.edu/music/cms

8th Annual UIS Music Solo Competition
Video Audition Due Friday, November 13
uis.edu/music/competition/

FREE and open to the public. For event link and further information:
217-206-6240 • uis.edu/music • music@uis.edu

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22 | www.illinoistimes.com | October 1-7, 2020
IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF SANGAMON, STATE OF ILLINOIS

NOTICE OF SALE

OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE FORECLOSED-
SURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment herefore entered by said Court in the above entitled cause, the Sheriff of Sangamon County, Illinois, will on October 13, 2020, at the hour of 9:00 AM, at the COUNTY BOARD CHAMBER, 2ND FLOOR, SANGAMON COUNTY COM-
PLEX, 200 S. 9TH STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703, sell for public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described premises and real estate in the said judgment mentioned, situated in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment, to wit:

Commonly known as 1907 N. 10TH ST., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Commonly known as 1907 N. 10TH ST., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703, sell at a public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

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

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

NOTICE OF SALE

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PLEX, 200 S. 9TH STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703, sell for public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described premises and real estate in the said judgment mentioned, situated in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment, to wit:

Commonly known as 1907 N. 10TH ST., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Commonly known as 1907 N. 10TH ST., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703, sell at a public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
Plaintiff vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF WILBUR LEE SMITH, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WILBUR LEE SMITH, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF WILBUR LEE SMITH, DECEASED, DIED, and herein called the Defendant, ROGER LEE SMITH, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VILLAGE OF CHATHAM and WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL RE- \n
PRODUCT ADDRESS: 533 CUMBERLAND DR, CHATHAM, IL 62629

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on September 16, 2020, the following described real estate, to-wit: Land Situated in the County of Sangamon in the State of Illinois.

Lot 48 in SOUTH WINDS PLAT 2 Situated in SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS: Permanent Index Number: 28-12.0- 

The Judgment amount is $34,902.98. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Sheriff of Sangamon County.

No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calcu- lated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $500, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the real estate whose rights are conveyed to and the mortgagee real estate prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assess- ments or special taxes levied against said real estate; and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to the Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The Sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.

The Order is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled case on September 16, 2020, the following described real estate, to-wit:

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

For information contact Plaintiff's At- torney: Veronika J. Miles (#631361),(3) 217-422-1719 (or fax 422-1754, or email mmiles@batts.com) Telephone: (217) 422-1719 Facsimile: (217) 422-1754 1920274

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 10-20-15(e) of the Probate Act, 755 ILCS 5/10-20-15(e), any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of the Court at the address above. Dated October 1-7, 2020.


The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 10-20-15(e) of the Probate Act, 755 ILCS 5/10-20-15(e), any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of the Court at the address above. Dated October 1, 2020.


The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 10-20-15(e) of the Probate Act, 755 ILCS 5/10-20-15(e), any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of the Court at the address above. Dated October 1, 2020.
The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser to a debt collector for attempted debt collection, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

TOWNSEND COUNTRY BANK, Plaintiff,
Vera J. Miles (#6313161), Its Attorney
Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC,
111 East Main Street, Decatur, IL 62523,
(217) 422-1779
Facsimile: (217) 422-1719
E-mail: VeraJ.Miles@tbchb.com

NOTE OF SALE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
-9-,
JASON D. VOYLES, CHRISTINA M. VOYLES, Defendants,
519 CH 358
NOTICE OF SALE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
-9-,
"THE SOUTH 42 FEET OF LOT 1 BLOCK 5 IN ROBERT ALLEN'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, Situated in SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS; EXCEPT ANY INTEREST IN THE COAL, OIL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE LAND WHICH HAVE BEEN HERETOFORE COVENED OR RESERVED IN PRIOR CONVEYANCES, AND ALL EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE REAL ESTATE OF SAID COAL, OIL AND OTHER MINERALS, IF ANY; ALSO ANY INTEREST IN THE LAND OR EASEMENTS situate in SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS."

The plaintiff is hereby given notice that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure of the mortgagor (homeowner) in the above entitled cause, an agent for the Bankruptcy Court will sell at public auction on the 15th day of May, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois, common knowledge as to the property to be sold, and which may be more fully described in the PNC Bank's records, as follows:

The purchaser of a condominium unit at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, who takes possession of a condominium unit pursuant to a court order or a purchaser who acquires title from a mortgagee shall have the duty to pay the proportionate share, if any, of the common expenses for the unit which would have become due in the absence of any assessment acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding acceleration. The purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title to the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser to a debt collector for attempted debt collection, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

TOWNSEND COUNTRY BANK, Plaintiff,
Vera J. Miles (#6313161), Its Attorney
Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC,
111 East Main Street, Decatur, IL 62523,
(217) 422-1779
Facsimile: (217) 422-1719
E-mail: VeraJ.Miles@tbchb.com

NOTE OF SALE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
-9-,
"THE SOUTH 42 FEET OF LOT 1 BLOCK 5 IN ROBERT ALLEN'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, Situated in SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS; EXCEPT ANY INTEREST IN THE COAL, OIL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE LAND WHICH HAVE BEEN HERETOFORE COVENED OR RESERVED IN PRIOR CONVEYANCES, AND ALL EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE REAL ESTATE OF SAID COAL, OIL AND OTHER MINERALS, IF ANY; ALSO ANY INTEREST IN THE LAND OR EASEMENTS situate in SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS."

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The purchaser of a condominium unit at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, who takes possession of a condominium unit pursuant to a court order or a purchaser who acquires title from a mortgagee shall have the duty to pay the proportionate share, if any, of the common expenses for the unit which would have become due in the absence of any assessment acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding acceleration. The purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title to the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser to a debt collector for attempted debt collection, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other person acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate annul prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate 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 is further subject to confirmation 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 sale.

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.

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
John Kinyer, Petitioner vs.
Colton Brown, Respondent
Case No: 2020-OP-1174

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Colton Brown, 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 22, 2020, 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: September 17, 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Latrice Appleton, Petitioner vs.
Michael D. Dixon, Respondent
Case No: 2020-OP-1265

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Michael D. Dixon, 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 29, 2020, 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: September 24, 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Dominique Johnson, Petitioner vs.
Tristan Rodgers, Respondent
Case No: 2020-OP-1245

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Tristan Rodgers, 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 29, 2020, 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: September 24, 2020

SUDOKU
No. 656

JoshJosh
by J. Reynolds - No. 656

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 blank grid will use 1-6.

JoshJosh answers from #655

Sudoku answers from #655

Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week

JoshJosh answers from #656

Sudoku No. 656

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

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