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ARTS AND CULTURE | Rachel Otwell
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Springfield is one of the most racially segregated cities in the United States, according to experts. Citizens Club of Springfield hosted a panel discussion last week that focused on the structural challenges that make homeownership, especially for people of color in Springfield, so difficult to achieve.

As part of its third installment in a series of public forums about confronting inequalities in Springfield, Citizens Club welcomed Tyrone Dooley, head of the school of Public Management and Policy at University of Illinois Springfield, Valeria Cueto of the Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network (SIAN), Jackie Newman of the Springfield Housing Authority and Polly Poskin of the Harvard Park Neighborhood Association to speak on various aspects of a problem they all said is readily apparent: For many families, affording, remaining in and maintaining a home is becoming increasingly difficult, with results that are harmful to the community as a whole.

Springfield’s stark divide in white homeownership versus Black homeownership looks a lot like the story in the rest of the country, Dooley said.

“For far too long, communities of color have been impacted by past policies and conventions, and have had some difficult issues that make it virtually impossible to access a piece of the American dream,” he said. “None of the 100 cities with the highest Black populations have a Black home ownership rate close to their white home ownership rate.”

Dooley cited 2018 household income figures that show Black families in Sangamon County have a median annual income of $27,000, whereas the same figure for white families is $66,000. The result is concentrated poverty in Springfield, Poskin said, rather than structures that show Black families in Sangamon County in who is impacting the conditions where we live. In this city, there is no easy way to access information about who owns property that is deteriorating.”

Ultimately, Dooley said, homeownership is one of the primary means of transferring wealth from one generation to the next. In that light, a barrier to homeownership is a barrier to wealth.

“From an African American perspective, we’re looking at homeownership rates that are 30% less than white homeownership, and the number one way to garner wealth is homeownership and to pass it on to the family,” Dooley said. “Renting doesn’t get us out of that.”

Kenneth Lowe is a staff writer for Illinois Times. Contact him at klowe@illinoistimes.com.
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Witness the beauty of Oak Ridge Cemetery at the eighth annual tree tour on Saturday, Oct. 16, and discover how trees help make it such a special place. The cemetery is a picturesque final resting place for more than 75,000 people, many who contributed prominently to Springfield’s rich history. Established in 1865, Oak Ridge is Illinois’ largest municipal cemetery. It is appropriately named because the oaks and other tree species are integral to the cemetery’s beauty and significance.

Oak Ridge Cemetery is a recognized National Living Memorial Site, a designation created in the aftermath of 9/11 by the U.S. Forest Service to “invoke the resonating power of trees to bring people together and create lasting, living memorials to the victims of terrorism, their families, communities and the nation.” Oak Ridge, the site of the Lincoln Tomb and thousands of conifers and hardwoods throughout the 365-acre area, deserves this designation. It is the only site in Illinois included in the National Living Memorials Project.

Each annual tree tour focuses on a different area of the cemetery and features beautiful, historic and rare trees. This year’s tour on Oct. 16 from 1-4 p.m. is in the Wishing Well section. Visitors will see and learn about several rare oak hybrids, some of the oldest conifers in the city, and oaks and hickories dating to before the Civil War. Some of the trees at Oak Ridge Cemetery are nearly two centuries old. Many others have been systematically planted over the last several decades, thanks to the dedicated work of passionate and knowledgeable volunteers.

One of the trees on the tour is an oak hybrid, Quercus shumardii, propagated from trees native to different continents. It has no common name and is unknown in nature. It serves as the logo tree for the International Oak Society. Another tree on the tour is a giant white oak, Quercus alba (Illinois’ state tree), which shades the grave of labor pioneer John L. Lewis (1880 – 1969). It is thought to be one of the original saplings present when Oak Ridge Cemetery was founded, and is estimated to date back to 1844.

Guy Sternberg is an internationally renowned oak expert, co-owner of Starhill Forest, which is now the largest Oak Society and a driving force behind the tree tour and protecting and expanding trees at the cemetery. Since 1992, Starhill Forest has planted more than 700 trees at Oak Ridge Cemetery from sources around the world.

More than 30 trained volunteer tree guides will assist visitors during the upcoming tour. Volunteers will explain the biology and history of the trees and some of the nearby graves and guide visitors in collecting some seeds to take home to plant. This is a family-friendly and free event. The popular kids’ table will be located in the center of the cemetery next to the start table, where visitors will receive programs and get their questions answered. Signs will be prominently posted pointing to the area of the tour. Parking will be available by the GAR Mound. The tour will be held rain or shine.

The Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation’s tree committee sponsors the tour. Information about current and past tree tours is on the website https://oakridgecemeterytrees.com/, along with other information. Links to previous tours identify the trees that were highlighted, which can be used to take your own self-guided tour. There is also a comprehensive database of the cemetery’s historic trees, complete with GPS locations. For a $75 donation, you can adopt a tree and help protect the oldest, rarest spontaneous or planted trees and trees started from seeds from special international trees. Nearly 100 trees are available for adoption.

The tree project committee of the Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation is a remarkable group of volunteers dedicated to ensuring that trees are as much a part of Oak Ridge Cemetery as are graves. They are also dedicated to sharing their knowledge and love of trees with the public. This year the group received a $500 grant from the Sangamon County Historical Society which is being used to further identify trees. Small plaques at the base of the trees identify the species and other information. Considerable planning goes into developing these tours; planning is already underway for the 2022 tree tour.

Karen Ackerman Witter started freelance writing after retiring from a 35-year career in Illinois state government. She has long admired Guy Sternberg, who was a landscape architect with the state of Illinois for 32 years. She started her career in state government at the Department of Conservation which is where she first met Sternberg.

Guy Sternberg’s life with trees

Guy Sternberg has been working to protect, expand and diversify the trees at Oak Ridge Cemetery for more than half a century. He first began exploring the cemetery in 1970 as the newly hired landscape architect for the state’s historic sites, including the Lincoln Tomb. He combed the archival records, learning more about the cemetery’s history. He recalls the serenity of winter hikes in deep snow when no one else was present.

In the early 1990s, 20 years after his first introduction to the trees at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Sternberg signed a pro bono contract with the city of Springfield. He agreed to donate special trees and help establish the cemetery’s tree nursery in exchange for the sole right to propagate any interesting tree he might find on the grounds. In the ensuing years, more than 700 trees were processed through that nursery and planted on the grounds. Most are duplicates from his own oak collection at Starhill Forest, which is now the largest collection of oaks in North America.

Oak Ridge Cemetery is a recognized “quercetum” – a collection of living oaks. And, it goes well beyond that with its diversity of tree species. “Oak Ridge became my second arboretum and one of the finest tree collections in the Midwest,” said Sternberg. “I don’t regret a minute of the lifetime I have devoted to it.” –Karen Witter
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Springfield transportation hub to relieve rail congestion

Part of $122 million project to reroute trains

TRANSPORTATION | Peter Hancock, Capitol News Illinois

A railway improvement project intended to improve traffic congestion between St. Louis and Chicago reached a milestone Tuesday, Oct. 12, as work began on a multimodal transportation hub in the capital city.

Gov. JB Pritzker was joined at a groundbreaking ceremony by U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, along with several state lawmakers and local government officials, both Republicans and Democrats, to break ground on the Springfield-Sangamon County Transportation Center, or what local officials have come to call “The Hub.”

“When this multimodal facility is completed, public mass transit will make the communities of Chatham and Sherman, Springfield, Rochester and Riverton as well as adjacent communities, more accessible to each other, and to St. Louis and Chicago and beyond,” Pritzker said during the ceremony.

Sangamon County Board Chairman Andy Van Meter said the $86 million Hub is just one part of a massive, $122 million project to upgrade the entire six-mile stretch of line that passes through the city that includes rerouting the line away from the city's downtown.

For decades, the major rail line carrying both passenger and freight trains from St. Louis to Chicago has passed through the center of Springfield's downtown.

As part of the state's $45 billion capital improvements program passed in 2019, that traffic will be diverted several blocks to the east.

That is just one part of a major upgrade to rail service along the entire St. Louis-to-Chicago line that is intended to improve the flow of traffic and ease rail congestion along the route.

Duckworth described it as a project that will have economic benefits for the entire state and the nation.

“In fact, you know, parts of the southeastern United States have been purchasing grains like soybeans from places like Brazil, because we can't get our goods and products to market fast enough from Illinois, compared to how fast they can send it from Brazil to the southeastern part of the United States,” she said. “That's why I wanted to focus on infrastructure and transportation when I went to the United States Senate.”

Durbin noted that the site of the new Hub, along what's known as the 10th Street Corridor in Springfield, is near the historic Great Western depot where Abraham Lincoln gave his famous “Farewell Address” before boarding a train to Washington for his inauguration.

“So there's a long connection in history between the place where we stand and the political past of America, and particularly with President Lincoln,” Durbin said. “But it's more than that. These trains and railroads are an integral part of our economy.”

According to the project's website, officials expect to complete design of the Hub by the end of this year. That will include determining what amenities and services will be located in and near the center. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2025.

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

NO POLITICS?
Years ago, the Springfield Tea Party was denied use of the historic Old State Capitol because political events were not permitted (“The Old State Capitol renovation,” Oct. 7). Obviously, Obama and Biden were having a bake sale.

Jerald Jacobs
Springfield

NO REPRESENTATION?
An editorial cartoon was recently published that was rather offensive in saying, “Soldier on” (Sept. 30). Does your staff know what that means? Your artist, your editor, your publisher?

What you decide to print and omit from the articles is a shame. Where is the bipartisan opinion? Where are the conservative or centrist portions? Why aren’t these represented anywhere but your “Letters to the editor”? Why is this section only a half-page long?

Do you know that people are easier to anger than smile? Do you how common the diffusion of responsibility is? How common is conformity? Do you have a sense to better humanity? Evoking anger and divisiveness are what perpetuate the reading of your paper.

Karen Peebles
Springfield

NO MORE STATUES
That money should be used to fix the problems of today, not glorifying people (“Political posturing: Some Statehouse statues don’t stand the test of time,” Sept. 30).

Mindy Lynch
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

NO REAGAN STATUE
Ronald Reagan did more to hurt old people than any president before or after. He always was the catalyst for democracy’s slide into fascism. Leave him in California.

Candy Anderson
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

SUBSIDIES? SURE.
Why would politicians send out of state one of the main things to distract the plebs from all the other misery, like low wages and crumbling infrastructure, that the plutocrats impose on Illinoisians (“Sports subsidies: Taxpayers foot the bill for wealthy teams’ demands,” Oct. 7)?

The fact of the matter is that the rich sports team owners are going to get money from the state either way. At least giving them money for stadiums means yokels will have a place to get drunk and scream into the void with 50,000 potential COVID-19 carriers.

Chris Miller
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

VACCINE? YES.
I’m excited to see churches jump on board to help people of color get vaccinated (“Sweetening the shot,” Oct. 7). It’s only a shot, but it saves lives every day.

Connie Kennedy
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

Letter from Jackie, May 1970

dad, I and the kids climbed the fence that kept their eyes peeled, and they spotted great birds circling over a distant woods. We spent two hours watching some 100 huge birds flying to and from their nests sometimes seven nests in a tree. They’d brake in for a landing, let down their long clumsy legs — at any one time we could count fifteen or twenty sitting in their nests.

We could look them right in the eye, the kids gathered egg shells — large smoky blue and feathers — the woods verdantly lovely. It was a perfect afternoon.

2021 Jacqueline Jackson
Redistricting leads to lawsuit from Latino group

POLITICS | Rich Miller

The Illinois House Redistricting Committee held its first hearing last week on new congressional and judicial subcircuit district maps at the Michael Bilandic Building in Chicago. Another half-dozen hearings were scheduled for the following seven days to redraw the maps, which have to be reconfigured after each decennial census.

The hearings aren’t likely to matter a whole lot when push actually comes to shove. After all, legislators paid next to no attention to public input during the General Assembly’s own remap process last spring and summer. A new map passed in the spring by super-majority Democrats was redrawn in the summer when more detailed data was released by the federal government.

But an updated lawsuit filed by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund could matter. MALDEF alleges that the revised legislative district map created fewer “opportunity districts” – where more than half the voting age population is Latino – than the state currently has. This despite the fact that the voting age population of Illinois went from 8% in the 2010 census to 11.2% in the most recent count.

This seems like a pretty straightforward argument to non-lawyers like me. But the Democrats have never seemed at all concerned that they will lose this or any court case. Even when given an opportunity to redraw the maps, not much changed. And not to mention that the chairs of both the House and Senate Redistricting Committees are Latinx.

Why the confidence?

We’ve seen a whole lot of news media coverage of the plaintiff’s case against the new maps. But the defendants have mostly stayed silent because the issue is under litigation, so their position is less understood. I decided to seek out a top source who could help me understand what the Democrats are thinking.

“Remember, you’re drawing a map for the next 10 years,” the Democratic attorney with years of experience dealing with redistricting explained to me. “You’re not only looking at what the district looks like now, but you’re looking at what the districts are going to look like in the next [10 years].”

There are several factors to consider when drawing maps in Latino areas, the lawyer explained, including voting age population (because Latinos tend to skew much younger than the population as a whole), the specific area’s citizenship rates (a statistic not measured by the Census, but can be generally estimated using American Community Survey data) and sometimes competing factions within the “Hispanic” umbrella (Mexicans and Puerto Ricans, for instance).

“If you want to ensure that Latinos can win a district,” the lawyer said, “you have to make sure that the citizen voting age population is high enough where they will continue to be able to elect their candidates of choice. So if you have an area with high non-citizenship rates, you want to have higher levels of citizen voting age population.”

And while several of the new districts’ voting age populations are low, that will change over time as the districts’ residents get older and eventually strengthen Latino candidate chances long before the next Census in 2030. The Democrats also have sophisticated arguments about population movement trends to buttress their cause.

The differing factions within the broad-brush of Latino voters means voters can sometimes be played off against one another, which has to be another consideration when drawing the maps. “Latinos don’t necessarily coalesce,” the attorney continued, pointing to traditional rivalries between Mexican and Puerto Rican voters.

Beyond regional origin differences, national political trends can also have a major impact. For instance, Asian-American Rep. Theresa Mah (D-Chicago) capitalized on the 2nd House District’s strong Latino support for Bernie Sanders in the 2016 primary to woo progressive Latino Democrats in her bid against a “regular” Latino Democrat.

And that brings us to something I’ve mentioned before in other places. The Democrats contend the evidence clearly shows white Illinois voters are willing to vote for candidates of color at multiple levels. This evidence, they say, is what helped them win the last legal challenge to their remap. And American University’s Allan Lichtman testified to just that evidence in his late May testimony to a joint redistricting committee hearing.

So, if the Democrats can prove up their reasoning behind their map-making decisions and show again that Illinois elections aren’t racially polarized by white Illinoisans only voting for white candidates, they believe they’ll walk away with a court win this time as well.

I guess we’ll see.
“Ma’am, I’ve got some good news for you. Your grandson is being released from prison.”

I made that phone call about 20 years ago after covering a session of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board and seeing the board members vote to parole a long-serving inmate.

The elated grandmother dropped the phone receiver and screamed, “Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus!” I could hear her feet thumping and relatives hollering with joy. Cheers roared across the phone line.

And then there was silence.

The grandmother came back on the phone and whispered, “Which one of my grandsons is getting out?”

Illinois abolished its parole system in 1978. In the decades since, most of the people sentenced under the old parole system have been released. Fewer than 50 of the 38,000 inmates in the state’s prison system are eligible for parole.

But there is a movement afoot in the legislature to bring parole back so inmates serving life sentences can have some hope of release.

During the last 33 years, I’ve learned a lot about parole and the pain that remains decades after a loved one is killed.

When I was a young reporter in Galveston, Texas, in 1988, I covered a shooting at a day care center. A gunman entered, shot and killed one teacher, and wounded another in front of 30 screaming kids.

For years, my wife pestered me to return to Galveston County and follow up on the story. She wanted to know how the trauma affected the kids and what the ramifications of the crime were for everyone involved. So, four years ago, I returned and wrote that story.

The killer, Clyde “Buddy” Spence, became eligible for parole after serving seven years of his 30-year sentence. For more than 20 years, brothers and sisters of the woman who was murdered wrote the Texas Parole Board asking that Spence not be released.

“It’s horrible,” said one of the sisters, Kim Barksdale. “I can’t think of a better word. It’s just horrible. It’s very emotional. Every year we’ve done it. … We wrote the letters and got petitions and got the newspaper to do an article on him. It was very emotional, stressful.

“You almost want to just give up and say, ‘Fine, just let him out.’ That way you don’t have to relive everything. You can’t just walk in and say, ‘Hey will you sign the petition?’ Everybody wants to know why. ‘What is it?’ And then they say, ‘Oh, I’m so sorry, I didn’t realize it was your sister.’ Everybody remembers.”

And there is the rub. Proponents of bringing back parole in Illinois see it as a compassionate move to give hope to inmates who have changed for the better. But the families of those killed often see it as dooming them to relive the crime at hearing after hearing for years to come.

When I visited Spence, the killer, in prison, he said that it was difficult to be denied parole year after year. Even though he participated in multiple programs to improve himself, he was resigned to being denied parole a final time before his 30-year sentence was complete. For him, the parole system fostered nothing but false hope.

But there are people in our prison system who don’t belong there. Some are wrongly convicted. Others were wrongly sentenced. And some folks have turned their lives around and become much better people than when they entered prison.

A perplexing phenomenon I’ve observed is that murder victims’ families often equate the value of their loved one’s life to the severity of the punishment their killer receives. All life is precious. And sadly, no matter how much punishment is meted out, the grief remains.

I’ve heard victims’ families talk about a need for “closure” and express hope that seeing a criminal punished would give them just that.

Perhaps closure is like a period at the end of a sentence or the “amen” at the end of a prayer.

It’s a signal to move on to something new. But here is the thing. I’ve never met a person who found closure from watching someone else suffer. But I did encounter a woman who found peace decades after her husband was murdered.

After getting off the phone with the grandma celebrating her grandson’s release, I called a nursing home to talk to the widow of the man he killed.

The widow came to the phone, and I explained that her husband’s killer was going free. There was a long pause and she said, “It’s time to forgive and move on.”

Scott Reeder is a staff writer for Illinois Times and can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.
What does it mean to be an American?

GUESTWORK | Lee H. Hamilton

I’ve been thinking a lot recently about what it means to be an American, to have a shared stake in this country and its fortunes. In some ways, I suppose the question is unanswerable: We are a vast, diverse country, and we each answer the question in our own way.

Yet I also think there are characteristics many of us would recognize – traits in common that resonate across communities and divisions, regardless of our age or political beliefs. You could start, for instance, with a belief in the promise and ideals of the United States, in its Constitution and laws, and perhaps above all in the freedom, independence and opportunity that many Americans consider their birthright.

Yet all along we’ve balanced this quest for liberty with a sense of responsibility to the community around us. As an American, you accept certain responsibilities: to cast an informed vote; to respect the laws and if you disagree with them to work through the system to change them; to defend the Constitution; and to respect the rights, beliefs and opinions of others, whether or not you agree with them.

This last characteristic is not a nice-to-have add-on. It’s baked into our system. The success of American democracy rests on all sorts of values: open-mindedness, an informed citizenry, honesty, competence. But one of the things I’ve also noticed wherever I’ve traveled in the country is a restless and impressive desire to make things better – to improve our communities and the lives of the people who live in them. On the whole, Americans possess a confident belief that change is possible – that as a nation, we make progress over time based on the efforts of ordinary people and political leaders alike. At its heart, the American system – our representative democracy – is about how we resolve our differences in order to move our towns and cities, states and the country as a whole forward.

What this means should be obvious: We solve our problems together, by working with all kinds of people, trying to forge common ground, build consensus and communicate our beliefs and ideas effectively. In the end, this means that the country depends on a set of common virtues in its citizens – mutual respect, tolerance, empathy, civility, humility, resolve, a willingness to step up to challenges and meet them square on – that underlie our ability to make progress together.

I realize that in this day of extreme political division, all of that may seem a bit starry-eyed. There are plenty of Americans who have no patience for those on the other side, and who have no desire to try to understand or sympathize with them. Yet the basic need we confront as Americans has not changed, and that is to use the political system to resolve our fundamental challenges.

There are all kinds of fault lines in American politics right now – between those who want to use the political system to expand individual opportunity and offer a fairer chance at the future and those who want government to protect their livelihoods and way of life, between those who want to make voting easier and those who want to restrict it, between those who embrace a diversifying country and those who worry about its implications in their own lives. Sorting through these differences and resolving them is an ongoing challenge. But being an American means confronting that task, doing our best to find solutions that most Americans can live with – and recognizing that the chance to do all this as ordinary citizens is one of the gifts that being an American bestows on us.

Lee Hamilton is a senior adviser for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.
It was a recent weekday afternoon in Springfield when Erin Washington was hanging crystal prisms from a neon-pink geodesic dome. The dome is outside of Springfield Art Association (SAA) in the Enos Park neighborhood. It is a bright pop of color that draws attention to the lawn, which includes a nearby mural and other displays of public sculpture and art. Washington was an artist resident who stayed on the SAA campus earlier this year to develop the work. As Washington hung up prisms to cast rainbow patterns from inside the dome, an art student went around with fresh neon paint to touch up the structure. Washington's work is part of this year's Terrain Biennial, an effort to make art more accessible to the general public and create community-based conversation and celebration. Every two years, artists partner with residents in neighborhoods and create artwork that can be seen outdoors. Often, that means the work hangs from a porch or a fence. Sometimes it takes a more sculptural form in the lawn. Sometimes it's participatory, such as a wishing well that is part of the showing this year. Current installations are up and ready to be viewed from now until Nov. 13.

While the dome looks like a bright and inviting piece of playground equipment, it's not for climbing, rather it's for pondering. “I'm super fascinated with Buckminster Fuller and utopias and dystopias,” explained Washington. Fuller, born in 1895, was a future-focused architect who lived and worked in Illinois.

Washington, of Chicago, applied for the residency “because I really respected Sabina Ott. She is someone that I had the privilege of being in a couple of group exhibitions with. Her passing away was hard for a lot of us in Chicago.” Washington said Ott's spirit of inspiration, kindness and generosity was something worth paying respect to.

Ott was a widely loved and accoladed artist, curator and educator based in Chicago who founded the Terrain Exhibitions project. Originally, artists were invited to display their works outside of Ott’s home in Oak Park, adjacent to Chicago. The effort grew from there. Terrain has taken place every other year, starting in 2013. While the hub of activity is still Chicago, satellite communities...
A work titled “Funfetti Geode” by E. Ainsley. Each site includes a stand of informational handouts about the artworks and artists. CREDIT: RACHEL OTWELL

have popped up in places like New York and India. Springfield has one of the most involved satellite locations. Ott, who had cancer, died in 2018. Part of her legacy is Terrain, which continues to expand its reach.

This is the third year Terrain has taken root in Springfield. Co-organizers and curators, Allison Lacher and Jeff Robinson, are artists themselves who often collaborate on projects. They are also co-vice presidents on the board of directors for Terrain. Several years ago, the pair founded an experimental, alternative art space on the SAA campus called DEMO Project. DEMO was active for about four years before the house that held the gallery was demolished, as planned, in 2018 as the SAA expanded its footprint with new studio space.

Together, Lacher, Robinson and others on the team hosted a number of contemporary artists who explored heady issues such as social justice and the environment. The works were perplexing at times, and often immersive. One outfit roasted a pig outside the DEMO and fed attendees.

In 2017, Ott reached out to the duo and asked if they might be willing to host a Terrain site. That year, with the help of the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association and SAA, 16 sites were secured for the art installations. This year, there are 24 sites involved. “From the beginning, it was an event that brought artists from all over to Enos Park,” said Lacher. Most participating artists this year hail from Illinois but there are those from other states such as Iowa, Missouri and Ohio.

Walk and look
On Oct. 2, about 100 people braved the rainy weather to take part in the opening of Terrain in Enos Park. The sites, on display through mid-November, are located between Fourth and Eighth Streets in the blocks near but south of North Grand Avenue.

Hasani Cannon toured the neighborhood with a group of friends during the opening. The University of Illinois Springfield student helped put together one of the installations, which was curated by professor Shane Harris and executed by students. The exhibition is titled “The Ornaments of Material” and the students created pieces with unconventional items purchased at a dollar store.

“It was really interesting to experiment with different material,” said Cannon, who made a piece of art using fabric rugs. The result is a serpent-like structure. Cannon, who graduated from high school in the Chicago area in 2019, was part of the Oak Park Area Arts Council program that pairs young and established artists who in turn create mosaics and murals. “I definitely think this is the way the art world should be,” Cannon said about Terrain, which allows art to be “more integrated within people’s neighborhoods so that it is not so siphoned away.”

Cannon hit on the mission of Terrain which its website, terrainexhibitions.org, describes as “an act of radical
decentralization, taking art from privileged urban centers and bringing it into everyday spaces."

**Live with it**

For Andrew Heathwaite, art moving into an everyday space means his bedroom. “I’ve always been struck by walking down the street and seeing something different, something interesting,” he said about the past years of Terrain. “I wanted to be part of that.”

While most Terrain art exists outside a home, artist Christopher Tice of Lincoln wanted to create digital art that would originate from inside the house and be seen from outside. “It’s a clock without numbers, it uses colors,” Tice said about the digital art piece which uses a calculation to change color based on the time the sun sets and rises. “Every day, as the nights get longer, so too do the duration of colors.” The seven colors are based on the seven chakras, which are considered energy centers in the body in some Eastern faith traditions.

Heathwaite has made some accommodations in order to live with the lights. He has a curtain around his bed. “It’s good to have a change of pace – something different, it encourages me to take a look at my own habits and be more aware.”

**Sense of place**

At the recent opening, three artists who live and share a studio in Columbus, Ohio, were on the scene – Morgan Rose Free, Cory Mahoney and Britny Wainwright – each with their own installations at various sites.

Earlier this year, Mahoney was an artist resident in the Enos Park neighborhood and researched Springfield history – especially history that wasn’t related to Abraham Lincoln. One piece of architecture that caught his eye was Pillsbury Mills, the dilapidated former food-processing factory not far from the neighborhood. Learning of the public health hazards it poses struck him. “The past industry that’s present in the Midwest, in general, is really interesting to me,” he said.

Various bits of architecture from around Springfield were merged together in Mahoney’s contribution, a carved ceramic multidimensional piece that imagined a landscape free of Lincoln, the figure most tourists come to Springfield to learn about.

Free, also a former Springfield artist resident, created a colorful, eye-catching installation that rests on the balcony of one home. “I’ve been making these pieces that are wooden frames with these woven portals,” she explained. Titled “A Way In, A Way Out,” the work serves as a visual escape hatch. “A lot of the time, I’m thinking about climate anxiety, both in my life and in my artwork,” she said. “I wanted to make something aesthetically beautiful that could be an escape from that.”

Wainwright worked on upholstered and ceramic flower boxes. “I explore themes of the home, the domestic space, in my work.” Wainwright said the concept of home has meant something different to many people during the pandemic, and she wanted to create a sculpture that “acts like the fringe between private and public space.”

**Activating community**

Hanging from the fence of a home near the SAA is a colorful tapestry. It’s a banner, collectively put together by the Peoria Guild of Black Artists. The guild was created last year in the midst of civil rights uprising. Alexander Martin is a founding board member of the guild.

“It’s not just a meeting of common minds, it’s a group that supports each other,” said Martin about the guild. Members sewed in various pieces of fabric that held personal meaning. For the artists, sharing their voices and work outside of the confines of a regular gallery was a welcome idea, said Martin. “Information and expression should be accessible to everybody. So bringing it into neighborhoods, bringing it to the streets, bringing it to public spaces where these conversations can be engaged in is amazing.”
Cory Mahoney’s work titled “Honest Artifice” imagines fantastical landscapes featuring historical places in Springfield, past and present. "With guilds, historically, there are banners, guild emblems and crests. Black people in the U.S. do not get that history, ours was removed, so it is our time to make it now.” — CORY RACHEL OTWELL

Terrain has an activist undercurrent in that it aims to decenter “the institutions that typically dictate how we engage with art,” said Robinson, the co-organizer of the project in Springfield. And it is truly a communal affair. While it involves a global community of artists, in Springfield, the Enos Park neighborhood association and SAA are key partners. “It’s certainly resonating with the neighborhood,” said co-organizer Lacher. She said residents were reaching out to her before the planning started, eager to host a site.

The title of Terrain this year is “Keep in Touch” – a nod to the pandemic and the desire for connection even when distance is necessary.

Betsy Dollar, head of the SAA, has participated as an artist in past years. This year her own home has colorful banners by another artist on display with phrases like “all my love” and “we walk together.”

For some people in the neighborhood, Terrain and the strange and provocative sorts of art it welcomes might not be familiar. Helping people question the limits of what art can mean is a service to the community, said Dollar. “They’re expanding people’s horizons a lot by being able to experience things in their own yard as art.”

Maps of Terrain Exhibition sites are available at the Springfield Art Association – 700 N. Fourth St. – during normal business hours, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday.

Rachel Otwell is departing associate editor of Illinois Times.

As I approach my official retirement on October 31st, I want to again say THANK YOU to the loyal customers who made it possible for me to remain in business for 37 years!

Sincerely, Bill McGee
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ISO is back…and beautiful

MUSIC | Scott Faingold

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra made its triumphant return to the UIS Performing Arts Center stage this past Saturday, for the first time since February of 2020. Of course, the remaining two concerts of that seemingly long-ago season were canceled – along with pretty much everything else in the known world – due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 28-year-old musical institution, based in both Springfield and Bloomington/Normal, has hardly been idle during the enforced layoff from live concerts. Among other online offerings, the “Sunday at 6” recital series on the ISO’s YouTube channel (all still available for viewing at https://www.youtube.com/c/ilsymphonyorch/featured) provided homebound music enthusiasts with the privilege of access to intimate digital performances by some of the orchestra’s most accomplished instrumentalists.

Additionally, the ISO’s recently minted partnership with University of Illinois Springfield’s music department promises, in the words of the organization, to “enhance music education in the Springfield area and to extend the reach of both organizations into the community.”

Of course, nothing compares with live concert performance and it was a hungry and enthusiastic orchestra that took the stage on Saturday, led by a visibly fired-up ISO musical director Ken Lam. These musicians had been kept in check for almost two years and the outpouring of enthusiasm from the stage was palpable, belied only slightly by the somewhat sparse (but enraptured) opening night audience.

Things got off to a rousing start with the “Star-Spangled Banner” (not the only time the crowd would be brought to its feet this evening), including the disconcertingly mundane sight of the masked conductor and musicians (with the exception of the reeds and horns for obvious reasons). The patriotic flourish was quickly followed by the crackling, somewhat unexpected sonic burst of the percussively-driven “Circuits,” a jazzy, six-minute composition by St. Louis-based contemporary composer Cindy Mtec. A high-energy, almost Looney Tunes-evoking roller coaster of sound, this unorthodox opening set a tone of expectation and heightened adrenaline.

Improbably, the concert’s energy went up another notch with the appearance of the evening’s guest soloist, internationally acclaimed pianist Claire Huangci, who took the stage for an impassioned rendition of “Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 22” by Camille Saint-Saëns (whose 186th birthday was the same date as the concert). To say Huangci tore into the venerable 1868 composition would do a disservice to the delicacy of her playing, but there was an undeniable ferocity on display. Mind-blowingly precise storms of notes were punctuated with a heartbreaking lyricism, embodying Saint-Saëns’ shifts in rhythm and tone in a performance that felt somehow casual and spontaneous – in the clear ease between the soloist, her instrument and the composition – while simultaneously a consummate version of one of the great pieces in the classical canon.

Similarly, Huangci’s musical presence was entirely singular, while paradoxically deployed in service to the music of Saint-Saëns and simpatico with the ISO’s ensemble.

A well-earned standing ovation was followed by a brief, unaccompanied encore from Huangci. Oddly insouciant and aggressive, it was like watching a dazzling high-wire act by an artist so confident that even the riskiest moves appear to be preordained.

The second half of the concert was almost inevitably less intense – a good thing, as continuing at the same level would have likely left performers and audience utterly spent. Consisting of Beethoven’s bombastic, majestic and multilayered “Symphony No. 7 in A Major, op. 92,” Lam and the ISO magnificently brought the sweep and grandeur of Beethoven’s 1813 masterwork to life, perfectly setting the tone of renewed energy for a return to live music. Huzzah!

At 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17, the UIS Performing Arts Center in the Sangamon Auditorium will host “Franckenstein!,” the premier concert by the UIS Orchestra in partnership with both the Illinois Youth Symphony and Concert Orchestras. The concert is free and open to the public.

Scott Faingold can be reached at scottfaingold@gmail.com
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Something old, yet new

Evergreen *Arsenic and Old Lace* is still funny

**THEATER | Dennis Thread**

How is it that the theatrical comedies of the 1930s and ’40s have retained their potency? The evergreen *Arsenic and Old Lace* (1941), refreshed by the Springfield Theatre Centre, is keeping audiences of your friends and neighbors laughing – rolling in the aisle laughing – from beginning to end.

Do yourself a favor. Take a break from our age of anxiety and divisiveness and head down to the Hoogland. Two hours of nonstop mirth is good for anyone.

Our modern comedic sensibility was born in the transition from the Great Depression to the Great War. Playwrights of the time created a new kind of comedy that revered in the unexpected, a not-so-subtle subversion of conventional morality and a focus on characters with an edge of madness.

In *Arsenic*, Mortimer Brewster, a New York drama critic, questions his sanity when he discovers his Mayflower-descended family is full of reality-challenged murderers. One brother is an escapee from a prison for the criminally insane, and a doppelganger for horror movie icon Boris Karloff (who played the role on Broadway). Mortimer’s two maiden aunts’ favored act of charity is mercy killing, and then stashing their victims in the basement. Another brother believes he is Teddy Roosevelt disposing of yellow fever victims during the construction of the Panama Canal. *Arsenic* is a master class in comic storytelling, and perfect for Halloween.

It’s also been a staple in community and high school theater for decades. With a cast large enough to fill a Shakespearean tragedy or a smallish musical comedy, the reasons for its rarity on the professional stage are at least partly economic. If you know *Arsenic*, the 1944 Cary Grant film you’re missing something. It was eviscerated by Hollywood’s moralizing Production Code, which stated, among other things during the construction of the Panama Canal. *Arsenic* is an escapee from a prison for the criminally insane, and a doppelganger for horror movie icon Boris Karloff (who played the role on Broadway). Mortimer’s two maiden aunts’ favored act of charity is mercy killing, and then stashing their victims in the basement. Another brother believes he is Teddy Roosevelt disposing of yellow fever victims during the construction of the Panama Canal. *Arsenic* is a master class in comic storytelling, and perfect for Halloween.

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STC director Kim Shafer’s team obeys the strict theatrical rule of farce: no matter the madness or mayhem, play it straight. The adorable Laurie McCoy and Felicia Coulter as the aunts are perfect and perfectly oblivious to the fact that they could end up in Sing Sing. Chris Profitt as their criminal nephew is no slapstick thug but truly frightening. Al Gersh as Mortimer (Grant in the film) is the ultimate straight man, the one who makes the actors around him look good. Rachel Bridges delights as his fiancée, a wisecracking minister’s daughter who just wants to sneak off to Manhattan for a little fun with her sweetie. The theater, then supper, perhaps some dancing – then home by 3 a.m. – that’s the life for her.

The entire cast is up to their farcical mission. The priceless Joey McLaughlin as Teddy Roosevelt plays it so straight that you may actually believe he is president. Standouts include Dennis Killen as an absurdist cop/dramatist and Christopher Boyster as the police lieutenant who pulls the mysteries together while missing the forest for the trees.

Costumes by Laurabeth Allyn are fine, down to the rustiness in the sisters’ faded mourning dress. Looming over the proceedings hangs a portrait of the pater familias, a mad scientist who made a mint selling patent medicines. The “portrait” (an uncredited Tony Young) eerily reacts to the action on stage. STC’s upcoming season is varied and challenging. In the Director’s Notes, Shafer puts *Arsenic* in perspective. “This one is purely for entertainment.” That’s partly correct. It is great escapist entertainment.

But there is a reason you will love it. It’s old, yet familiar. Before the 1920s when movies took over, theater in America was “the road” – endless touring to big towns and smaller cities. Broadway was just another stop. The country was rural. “Will it play in Peoria?” meant comedy was tailored to 19th-century sensibilities. Then movies came to small towns, stole the audience and the road died. After that, professional theater meant New York theater.

Americans had begun flocking to big cities. Mid-century playwrights catered to the urban audiences with an entirely new brand of comedy: sophisticated, polished, jaded and naughty. This is a comedy that echoes in our ears today, still alive in sitcoms or TikTok jokes.

That this comic tradition was created by white men for a white audience must not remain unexamined. *Arsenic*’s drunken Doctor Einstein – Peter Loree in the film – represents a stereotypical 19th-century view of German immigrants. He’s a stand-in for “The Other.”

For better or worse, the comedy of the dominant American culture was created by works like *Arsenic*, and it remains an example of that brand of comedy, the kind that we’ve all been laughing at for decades.

But go, see for yourself. At 80 years young, *Arsenic and Old Lace* still makes ’em laugh, and it will make you laugh, too.

Dennis Thread is a freelance writer, director and producer experienced in theater, opera, immersive experiences, public ritual, film, TV and institutional and corporate communications. dthread@creativebread.com
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www.illinoistimes.com / October 14-20, 2021
Humans have likely been making stews for as long as they’ve had the ability to harness fire. By definition “to stew” simply means to cook something slowly in liquid. While similar to another culinary technique called braising, the difference lies in the amount of liquid used. In a braise, just enough liquid is added to create moisture (like a pot roast), whereas a stew involves submerging all the ingredients so that the liquid then becomes an integral part of the dish.

Aside from the gustatory satisfaction that comes with making and consuming a cozy bowl of stew, the dish is inherently economical. An ideal way to stretch a limited quantity of humble ingredients, a good stew is also a nourishing way to use up whatever is on hand. It can be tailored to align with practically any diet, be it keto or gluten-free or vegan. There are hundreds of great stew recipes floating around, but it’s also easy to whip up a delicious no-recipe concoction if you stick to this basic framework.

The base ingredients for your stew should be ones that hold up to long, slow cooking. If you're making a meat-based stew, opt for fatty cuts with lots of collagen, like ground pork or beef, chicken legs and thighs, beef chuck and pork shoulder, which will break down and become meltingly tender and flavorful the longer they cook. Avoid ingredients like tenderloin or chicken breast, which can become dry and tough. For vegetable stews, consider firm, sturdy vegetables like carrots, beets, parsnips, winter squash and beans. Delicate ingredients like fresh spinach and peas should be added at the end of cooking to maintain their bright color.

Meat-based stews can be made starting with raw meat or will happily make use of leftover cooked meat like roast chicken or steak. If starting with raw meat, it’s preferable to first sear the cubes of meat in hot fat such as bacon grease or olive oil. This gives the finished stew a lovely deep color and adds flavor. After the meat has been seared, remove it from the pot and set aside before adding the aromatic vegetables to the pot. For most stew and soup recipes this means adding a mixture of diced onion, carrot and celery – known as mirepoix. Sauté the mirepoix in the fat that remains from browning the meat, making sure to scrape up the little crusty bits on the bottom of the pan for maximum flavor. If using cooked meat, add it after the vegetables have been sautéed.

Once the aromatics are softened, the meat can be returned to the pan along with any other slow-cooking vegetables like cubed potatoes, parsnips, tomatoes or winter squash, dried beans that have been pre-soaked, as well as additional seasonings such as herbs, mustard, tomato paste or soy sauce. Finally, it’s time to add your liquid of choice (beer, wine, cider, broth or simply water are all good choices). For stews that will be simmered on the stove or in the oven, you’ll want enough liquid to cover the ingredients in the pot by about an inch. If preparing in a slow-cooker or multi-cooker, you can add less liquid since the tight seal on the lid reduces evaporation. The stew should then simmer on low heat for at least 90 minutes and up to several hours. Most slow-cookers take about 8-10 hours to adequately cook a stew on low heat, and a multi-cooker should be set for 45-60 minutes on high pressure.

Some stews, especially those made with beans or potatoes, do not require additional thickening, while others are often thickened with flour or cornstarch. Flour can be added towards the beginning of the recipe by mixing it in to the mirepoix as it is sautéed, or it can be added to the stew at the end of cooking. If adding at the end of cooking, the flour should be dissolved in cold water to make a slurry before whisking it into the bubbling stew. Cornstarch should also be added in this way.

A four-quart recipe of stew will take about ¼ cup flour or two tablespoons of cornstarch to properly thicken. For those looking to keep their stew grain-free, xanthan gum (available at natural food stores or online) is a natural ingredient that works well as a thickener. A little goes a long way, so start by whisking in just a quarter teaspoon and then add more if necessary. Stews are often even better the next day, when the flavors have been allowed to meld, and will keep in the fridge for five days and freeze well for several months.

**Pork and Apple Stew**

4 ounces diced bacon
3 pounds pork shoulder, cut into 1-inch cubes
1 teaspoon salt
1 large onions, diced
2 stalks celery, diced
1 carrot, diced
2 cloves garlic
1 teaspoon each dried mustard, sage and ginger
½ teaspoon each black pepper and nutmeg
1 pound sweet potatoes, peeled and diced
3 crisp-tart apples, like pink lady or Fuji, cored and diced
1 quart low sodium chicken broth
12 ounces hard cider
2 tablespoons stone-ground mustard
2 tablespoons cornstarch

**Preparation**

Fry the bacon in a heavy-bottomed soup pot over medium heat. Remove the crisp bacon and set aside. Increase heat and brown the cubed pork in the bacon fat. Remove the browned pork from the pan and set aside. Return the heat to medium and add the onion, carrot, celery and garlic and cook until softened and slightly browned. Add the browned pork, along with the herbs and spices, sweet potatoes, apples, chicken broth, cider and mustard. Bring to a simmer, then reduce the heat to low and cover. Cook two hours, stirring occasionally. Once the pork is tender, dissolve the cornstarch in ½ cup cold water to make a slurry then stir it into the stew. Bring up to a hearty simmer and cook for two minutes until thickened. Season to taste and serve, garnished with the crisp bacon and chopped parsley.
As we continue on into autumn, this time of year is most certainly right in the sweet spot. It’s pleasantly not too hot and not too cold, unless of course it rains, heats up or a cold snap rolls in, but otherwise, it’s perfect weather.

This week, musician and studio owner John Blockyou releases a heartfelt labor of love he calls the Central Illinois Musician’s CD Project. Inspired by a comment from the late Mike Webb during one of Mark Estill’s Guitar Town shows, Blockyou, over a span of some three-and-a-half years, invited several longtime local musicians and singers to his studio in Greenview to record classic, traditional country songs of their choice for posterity’s sake. The CDs are available to the public by contacting John at www.cimcdp.com with previews of the songs on the website, too. At least several hundred years-worth of music-making talent (and counting) are on the 23 songs that make up the 76 minutes on the CD. Some of the musicians have passed on since recording these songs, making the whole point of this project even more poignant and vital to preserving the musical heritage of our community. Special thanks to John for all his work getting the CD together and to all who shared their gifts on this recording and through years of performances.

For a genuine under-the-stars experience, Danenberger’s Family Vineyards has you covered, or uncovered, actually. The outdoor stage is a very neat place with the audience area in total open-air mode. This weekend, the DFV boasts a killer lineup all three days, starting with central Illinois native and country music artist Tim Neuman (now residing in Indiana) hauling his band back to the 217 for a home turf visit on Friday. Saturday marks a pre-Halloween show by national-touring, phenomenal funk band Here Come the Mummies, with special guests Astrofix (check out their 2021 CD, “A2trofix”) and Unchained (EP/CD coming next spring) with both local bands doing original music sets. On Sunday, The Shenanigans put on a show, featuring some of our best local musicians playing the top hits of the last several decades like nobody’s business.

And while we’re on Sunday, it’s just a crazy time with music going on all day long including Stuart Smith stirring it up at 3Sixteen in Chatham, Taylor June getting down at Locals in Pawnee, Johnnie Owens singing up a storm at The Alibi in Rochester, Jay & Kimberly duo-ing at Trails End in Curran, Buckhart Road passing through Hill Prairie Winery near Oakford, Lil’ Higgy & the House Wreckers rolling into Brookhills, Matt Combs serving up songs at It’s All About Wine, Jason McKenzie busting in at Buzz Bomb downtown and Brazil Cafe heading south (to South America, that is) at Harvest Market Coffee Bar.

Plus, on top of all that, those Sleeping Dogzz are creeping closer to their final gig with an SDzz alumni jam at Weebles. See specific times in our music listings at the various venues, but be forewarned the first one starts at 10 a.m. and the last one ends at 9:30 p.m.

Now don’t get so tired on your Sunday run that you won’t be up for the David Lumsden Blues + Band featuring segments with Tony Young and Kylan Davis at the Alamo Monday night. Dave comes in hot and stays that way, and it’d be cool if you could check out how he plays for keeps every time DLB+B does their thing.

Other than that, there’s nothing to do this weekend, except for all the other stuff listed in our music calendar.
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 14

Jeffrey Dallet
Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-10pm

Chris Camp and His Blues Ambassadors
Curve Inn, 6-10pm

Jackpot Karaoke with Debbie Cakes
Curve Inn, 7-11pm

J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke
La Fiesta Chatham, 7-11pm

Friday
Oct 15

The Stone Giants
The Blue Grouch Pub, 6:30-10:30pm

J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 8pm-1am

Bubbles Brown
Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-10pm

Brazill Cafe
Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-10pm

After Sunset
Curve Inn, 6-10pm

Tim Neuman
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 7pm

J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke
The Corkscrew, 5-7:30pm

Saturday
Oct 16

Justin Clyde Williams
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

Gabe Marshall
The Blue Grouch Pub, 6:30-10:30pm

The Guilty Boys
Bar’s Nest, Athens, 7:30-10:30pm

Joe Buck Yourself
Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-10pm

Captain Quirk
Crowl Mill Pub, 6:30-10:30pm

The Get Down
Curve Inn, 6-10pm

Here Come The Mummies
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 7pm

White Lightnin’
VFW 10302 Northenders, 7:30-10:30pm

Mississippi Leghousand
Weebles Bar & Grill, 6:30-10:30pm

Monday
Oct 18

Dave Lumsden Blues + Band
The Alamo, 7-10pm

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

Open mic
Whiskey Jack’s Sports Bar, 8-11pm

Tuesday
Oct 19

J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke
The Alibi, Rochester, 8pm-12am

Open mic with Sarah Schneider George Rank’s, 7:30-10pm

Songwriter open mic with Tom Irwin
It’s All About Wine, 6-9pm

Wednesday
Oct 20

Open mic
Boone’s, 6-10pm

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

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

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BULLETIN BOARD | Mid-America Horse Show Association
The Mid-America Horse Show Association is sponsoring its final show of the year in the Coliseum at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Incorporated in 1939, the nonprofit association is a charter member of the American Saddlebred Horse Association and is affiliated with the United States Equestrian Federation and the Horsemen’s Council of Illinois. It is committed to providing an environment for members to fully realize and enjoy their involvement with American Saddlebreds, Hackney ponies and roadsters through competitions, education and other equine-related activities. Over 100 classes are offered, such as fine harness, show pleasure driving and open-breed hunter pleasure. The show will also include the Good Hands National Finals, which is the first leg of the Triple Crown competition for junior exhibitors and completes the Triple Crown adult equitation rider’s competition. The show is free and open to the public.

THE CALENDAR
Send us your events! Deadline: 5pm Fri.
Submit online at: www.illinoistimes.com
For more information, call 217-206-8663.

Special Music Events
Premiere Partnership Performance
Sun., Oct. 17, 3pm.
“Frankenstein!” UIS Orchestra and the Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestra. Also offered online at uis.edu/music. Sangamon Auditorium, UIS, 1 University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Books & Authors
Author A.K. Fielding

To Address You As My Friend
Wed., Oct. 20, 6-7pm.
African Americans’ letters to Abraham Lincoln. Jonathan White, associate professor of American studies will present more than 120 letters from African Americans to Lincoln, most of which have never been published. Visit the Facebook page of the UIS Center for Lincoln Studies. Free. 217-206-8663.

Theater & Comedy

Mike Armstrong

Dance
Wizard of Oz: A Children’s Ballet
Sat., Oct. 16, 1-2, 3-4, 6-7pm. Dorothy’s Munchkin Mingle Pre-Party featuring free children’s activities takes place 30 minutes before each show. Audiences of all ages will delight in watching Dorothy, Toto and the rest of L. Frank Baum’s beloved characters as they journey down the yellow brick road on a quest of self-discovery. $10-15. Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, 1200 W. Washington, 217-553-4475.

Art & Architecture
Art and craft fair
Sat., Oct. 16, 8:30am-3pm. Jewelry, gifts, home and holiday decor, handcrafted items. St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Chatham, 700 E. Spruce St, 217-638-5671.

“Textures and Tones” opening
Thu., Oct. 14, 5-8pm. See the variety of ways in which texture and tone are part of contemporary visual arts. Lincoln Arts Institute, Lincoln, 112 S. McLean St., 309-287-3744.

The Art of George Collin
Sat., Oct. 16, 5pm. Special exhibit featuring the art of George Collin and guest Springfield author Mike Shepard. Hors d’oeuvres, beer, wine and other refreshments provided. David Bourland Gallery, 939 C Durkin Dr., 217-381-4735.

“National Park Project”

Botanical drawing and journaling
Third Saturday of every month, 3-5pm. Brush up on your botany skills and get inspired to draw with Davina Fouke. Hosted by Friends of the Sangamon Valley. For more information, visit the FOSV Nature Journaling Facebook group. Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary, Lewin, 9560 Withers Road.

Lincoln and Anti-Racism
Sat., Oct. 16, 6-9pm. Professors David Reynolds and James Oakes will discuss the long path to the abolition of slavery that has often been attributed to the equivocations and inconsistencies of anti-slavery leaders, including Lincoln himself. Part of the Mary and James Beaumont Endowed Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series. Free. Call for more information. 217-206-8663.

Lincoln and his Generals
Thu., Oct. 14, 7-8pm. Mark DePue and Christian McWhirter will discuss Lincoln’s generals and how he managed their various personalities. Audience questions will be welcome in tackling this fascinating topic. Hosted online by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, presidentlincoln.illinois.gov. Free. Call for more information. 217-558-8844.

Holiday Happenings
Boo Crew Haunted House
Open every Friday and Saturday night through October. Both the Trail of Lost Souls and the haunted house are back this year. Recommended for ages 10 and over. Box office opens at 6:30pm. Haunting begins around 7pm. Rain or shine. Admission $20 or $35 VIP. Boo Crew Haunted House, Mechanicsburg, 11083 Buckhart Road, 217-551-6969.

October 14, 2021 | Illinois Times | 25
Craft & Vendor Spectacular

*Illusions, Magic and Spirits*
Fridays, Saturdays, 7-8, 9-10pm. A unique haunting stage show presented by Terror on the Square. Set in an old, art deco theatre, expect a mix of illusions, magic and spirits to mystify all ages. $18.00. Salem on Seventh Theater, 119 S. Seventh St., 217-452-7068.

Oak Ridge Tree Tour
Sat., Oct. 16, 1-4pm. Some of the trees in the cemetery can be traced back to Lincoln's time and before, while others have been propagated from historic and rare trees from around the temperate world. Guides will talk about the stories. Includes kids activities. Oak Ridge Cemetery, 1441 Monument Ave., 217-789-2340.

Friends of Genealogy meeting
Sat., Oct. 16, 2-3:30pm. Get together quarterly with other genealogy enthusiasts. Start your family history research, share exciting finds, explore new sources and discuss topics of interest. Beginners are always welcome. Free. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce, 217-483-2713.

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

Mid-America Horse Show

Bits & Pieces
Fri., Oct. 15, 6-8:30pm. Training and a telescope viewing session provided by amateur astronomers from the Sangamon Astronomical Society. Saturn and Jupiter will be well placed for viewing. All ages. The event will take place on the library's south lawn. Free. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce, 217-483-2713.

**Lectures & Meetings**
Alcohols Anonymous meeting
Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30pm. A judgement-free, safe environment for those who have come to admit that alcohol has become unhealthy for them and those they love. 217-502-4494. Springfield Museum of Art, 217-789-2340.

Star Party
Fri., Oct. 15, 6-8:30pm. A unique evening of bidding on one-of-a-kind, original artwork while visiting and enjoying music and refreshments. Find gifts for birthdays, anniversaries or just because. Special thanks to Oak Ridge Cemetery for use of their Main Hall. The APL Pet Adoptions

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Illinois Times is looking for a staff writer

Are you someone who looks at the big picture but understands that details matter, too? Do you have the ability to crank out breaking news on deadline but also write in-depth long-form pieces that may require more than a week of research for a single article? Are you comfortable cultivating your own sources and asking the hard questions of local power brokers? Do you like the idea of working for a company where the decision-makers also live and work in the community? Illinois Times may be the right place for you.

Because we’re lean and strong, we’re not afraid to move quickly and try new things. There’s no large bureaucracy here, and no waiting weeks for decisions from corporate. We welcome your energy and ideas. We’re looking for a staff writer who is as passionate about local journalism as we are.

We have been publishing local independent journalism for 45 years. Over that time, we’ve gained the trust of our readers and made a name for ourselves in this advertising market. In a metro area of 200,000 people, we print 20,000 copies a week of our case publication (and never stopped printing, even during the pandemic), while we also grow our online presence with additional digital content.

As we publish in the state capital, experience in government and political reporting is a plus. But we will consider a recent graduate if you can demonstrate that you have what it takes.

We have begun on a path toward anti-racism in all aspects of our company. Inclusion and diversity are valued here. Our readers come from all walks of life and so does our staff. We hire people from a variety of backgrounds, just because it’s the right thing to do, but because it makes our company stronger. If you share our values and our enthusiasm for strong journalism, please let Illinois Times hear from you.

Send a cover letter, resume and 5-6 writing samples reflective of your work to via email or snail mail to: Fletcher Farnos, editor and CEO, 1240 S. Sixth St., Springfield, IL 62703 flfarnos@illinoistimes.com

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admonished to check the Court file to
The property will NOT be open for
of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser
the purchaser shall receive a Certificate
Upon payment in full of the amount bid,
the Mortgagee’s attorney.
claims against the Estate may be filed
at public auction to the highest bidder
as set forth below, the following described real estate:
$1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof
of Sangamon, State of Illinois, or so much
of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of
SURE ACT
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE
PRACTICES ACT, THE PLANTIFF’S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT
COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
R. Nudo, Deceased
that set forth in this notice of sale.
interest as shall be sufficient to satisfy
The law is the same as that set forth in this notice of
and legal fees due under The Condominium Property
remains in possession for 30 days
that set forth in this notice of sale.
and any claim not filed within that period is barred.
he of the real estate at the rate of $1 for each
real estate taxes, special assessments, or other lienors against said real estate
is subject to confirmation by the court.
Deeds, 2019 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois
These notices shall remain in force
in accordance with Section 15-1701(C) of The Illinois Mortgage
http://ilforeclosuresales.mrtlc.com
between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only
Mail: 850 N. Dearborn St., 21st Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60602
This same notice will be published for six (6) months from the date of the first
the notice of sale.
claim has been filed.
MORTGAGEE
VENTURED, and shall remain in force
is subject to confirmation by the court.
FILED, or with the Co-Executors, or both,
Percentage of improvements upon which the Taxes or Special Assessments were paid
of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by
The Condemnation Property Act, 765 ICS 605/18(G-1).
any creditor attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
if this property is a condominium unit.
which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at
purposes under the Condemnation Property Act, 765 ICS 605/18(E), (G-1) and (G-4).
15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW
For information: Visit our website at
IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
Notices and claims not filed within the six (6) months of publication of this notice and
In connection with the sale of the following described real estate:
Managing Director of the Judicial Sales Corporation.
Where Real Estate Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For Information: Visit our website at
http://ilforeclosuresales.mrtlc.com
claim has been filed.
The Assessments due under the Condominium Property Act and/or Special Assessments due
of the Owner’s equity of the mortgaged property.
that it is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than
mortgagor will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property
Act, 765 ICS 605/89j(1)(a).
the property is in a condominium and the foreclosure
be mailed or delivered to the Executor and
and any claim not filed within that period is barred.
that Letters of Administration were issued
of Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois
the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
PM on November 5, 2021, at the Do Re Mi Sales Center, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois
The lowest successful bid by certified funds at the close of
as that set forth in this notice of sale.
the same identification for sale held at other county
Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to
Public Notice is given of the death of Patrick R. Nudo. Notice is given to all creditors
be paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds, is $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof
Purchaser at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by
The Condemnation Property Act, 765 ICS 605/18(G-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-
be required to pay any assessment
of the Owner’s equity of the mortgaged property.
be posted on the Property. Prospective bidders are
representation as to the condition of the
resulting from the sale.
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
In the county venues where The Judicial Sales
be stored in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois
in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois
that Letters Testimonialory were issued on
will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees required by The Condemnation Property
Act, 765 ICS 605/89j(1)(a) and (G-4).
which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure
purposes under the Condemnation Property Act, 765 ICS 605/18(E), (G-1) and (G-4).
being posted on the Property. Prospective bidders are
representation as to the condition of
be required to check the Court file
foreclosure sale.
NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale
entered in the above cause on December 4, 2019, Sheriff of Sangamon County will
on or before 4:00 PM on November 5, 2021, and in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois
or Special Assessments due
the assessments required by
The law is the same as that set forth in this notice of
consolidated for purposes under The Condemnation Property Act, 765 ICS 605/89j(1)(a)
be stored in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois
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that Letters Testimonialory were issued on
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Act, 765 ICS 605/18(E), (G-1) and (G-4).
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Purchaser at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments
which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure
purposes under the Condemnation Property Act, 765 ICS 605/89j(1)(a)
be posted on the Property. Prospective bidders are
representation as to the condition of the
be required to check the Court file
foreclosure sale.
be required to pay any assessment and legal fees required by The Condemnation Property
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representation as to the condition of the
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Act, 765 ICS 605/89j(1)(a) and (G-4).
be posted on the Property. Prospective bidders are
representation as to the condition of the
be required to check the Court file
foreclosure sale.
be required to pay any assessment and legal fees required by The Condemnation Property
Act, 765 ICS 605/89j(1)(a) and (G-4).
be posted on the Property. Prospective bidders are
representation as to the condition of the
be required to check the Court file
foreclosure sale.
of Sangamon and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Parcel No. 2020CH00039, Situated in Sangamon County, State of Illinois, described as follows: All of Lot 19 in Block 1 of the SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. EXCEPT ALL COAL AND MERRILL HILL, SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. RANG 5 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, Township 13 North Range 4 West of the Third Principal Meridian, Section 7, Township 13 North Range 4 West of the Third Principal Meridian.

The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale. The subject property is described as TOPOGRAPHIC PARCEL 037439175220. Removal of any structure or property arising prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILS 605/605-I(1) and (g)(4).

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenancy, removing any improvements or property in possession of the premises.

The property will be sold "AS IS" with no representation or warranty as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the information contained herein own all information.

If YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSIO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff’s attorney: Codilis & SONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sale held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For Information, The clients, LEGAL GROUP LLC to: lakeviewattorneys.com, 2129 WilsesRd., Suite 301, Bannockburn, Illinois 60015 (847) 291-1717 For information call behlmann.com, The Judicial Sales Corporation, 200 S 6th St, Springfield, IL 62707, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Parcel No. 2020CH00039, Situated in Sangamon County, State of Illinois, described as follows: All of Lot 60 OF MILDRED PARK SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTH 369 FEET OF THE WEST HALF OF THAT PARCEL OF LAND AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED AS Lot 19 IN BLOCK 1 OF THE TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. COMMONLY KNOWN AS 524 SALOME Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702 Description of Improvements: Gray vinyl siding, two story single family home, no garage.

The successful purchaser must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance due at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted.

Sangamon, State of Illinois.

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

30  |  www.illinoistimes.com  |  October 14, 2021
Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week.

Office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth St., Room 405, Springfield, Illinois, on or before November 4, 2021, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.

Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court

Date: Sept. 30, 2021

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

Michael Gottschalk, Petitioner vs.
Tyler Schultz, Respondent
Case No: 2021-OP-1128
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Tyler Schultz, 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 by October 28, 2021, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.
Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court

Date: Oct. 7, 2021

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

Michelle Noel, Petitioner vs.
Jevon Waddy, III, Respondent
Case No: 2021-OP-1017
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Jevon Waddy, III, 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 by November 4, 2021, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.
Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court

Date: Sept. 30, 2021

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

Nicole Yates, Petitioner vs.
Percy Crawford, Respondent
Case No: 2021-OP-1128
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Percy Crawford, 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 by October 28, 2021, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.
Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court

Date: Sept. 30, 2021

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

Steve DeFreitas Sr., Petitioner vs.
Steve DeFreitas Jr, Respondent
Case No: 2021-OP-1381
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Steve DeFreitas Jr, 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 by November 4, 2021, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.
Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court

Date: Sept. 30, 2021

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Pairs
Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 709

Across
1. Parentheses, e.g.
2. Baking sheet
3. First king of Israel
4. Nile Valley region
5. Digging, so to speak
6. Not reliable
7. Egg container
8. Film worker
10. Clear (of)
11. Fed. property manager
12. "Yes, ___"
13. Lion
14. Chip dip
15. Wise men
16. French novelist Pierre
17. Tortuous, perhaps
18. Hot spot
19. Nicholas II, for one
20. Jottings
21. Card carrier
22. Disorder
23. Beast of burden
24. Maid's cloth
25. Tick's off
26. Computer shortcut
27. Edit
28. Strip
29. Everywhere
30. Big story
31. It may be at your fingertips
32. Needle case
33. Allocate, with "our"
34. Bungle, with "up"
35. "Nuts!"
36. 1975 Wimbledon champ
37. Busts
38. Adorable one
39. List of candidates
40. Painter ___ del Sarto
41. Rum ___ Tugger ("Cats" cat)
42. Passing notice
43. Scrooge
44. Discovery
45. The loneliest number
46. "Show time!"
47. Auction offering
48. Headache helper
49. Routine
50. Altar vow
51. Curves
52. Seed coverings
53. Female, formally
54. Admically
55. Pronunciation symbol
56. Bristles
57. Environs
58. Slow times
59. Unload, as stock
60. Masters

JoshJosh
Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 709

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

Sudoku
No. 709
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains each digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

Difficulty easy

Difficulty medium