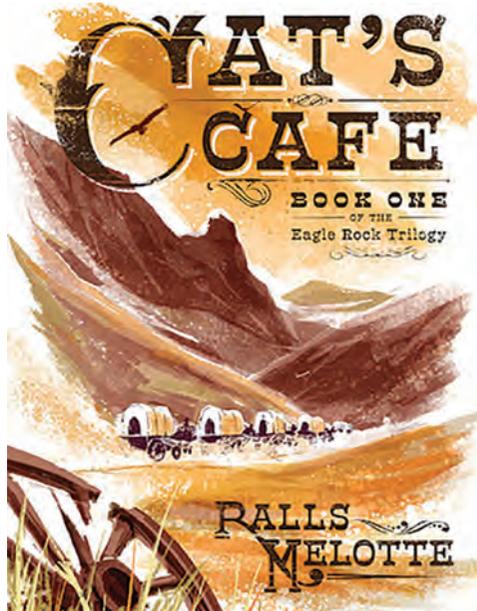




18 MUSIC | Jack White



16 BOOKS | First novel



17 DRINK | Illinois bubbly

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Sweeping crime law in the spotlight

With cash bail scheduled to end Jan. 1, confusion and concern remain

13 CRIMINAL JUSTICE | Dean Olsen

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Predatory lending or practical solution?

General Assembly considering legislation to cap pawn shop interest rates

PAWN SHOPS | Scott Reeder

For decades, Edwin Pierce's Springfield business has flourished by helping cash-strapped people borrow money, but he fears he will soon be shutting down if legislation before the Illinois General Assembly passes.

The legislation would cap interest rates that pawn shops can charge at a 36% annual percentage rate.

"Pawnbrokers are not shy about exploiting a loophole that allows them to make predatory loans to our veterans as well as all other Illinoisans," state Sen. Jacqueline Collins, D-Chicago, said in a prepared statement. "I'm asking my colleagues in the legislature to close this loophole by voting for my bill."

The legislation she is sponsoring is Senate Bill 4241.

But Pierce, who owns Monster Pawn locations in Springfield, Bloomington, Normal and Peoria, said lawmakers just don't understand the economics of the industry or who pawn shops serve.

"People come to us when they have an emergency. They may have tapped out their relatives and have nowhere else to turn," he said.

The loans his shop offers are usually for a one-month period.

A person will offer an item, such as a piece of jewelry or a television, as collateral on the loan. They will bring the item into the shop where it will be stored until the loan is repaid. If the loan is not repaid, the broker can keep the item and sell it to pay off the debt.

"We're not giving people money based on their future earnings or a paycheck they haven't even gotten yet," Kelly Swisher, president of the Illinois Pawnbrokers Association, said. "We're giving them money



Edwin Pierce, left, with his son, Everson Pierce. Monster Pawn recently acquired the former House of Music property on North Grand Avenue with plans to convert it into a second Springfield location, but Edwin Pierce fears his business will be in danger of closing if legislation capping interest rates passes the General Assembly. PHOTO BY SCOTT REEDER

based on something they already own. It's their property. They can do whatever they choose with it. And they can choose to use it to receive some money. And all that a pawn does is give them an option to get that item back by simply repaying what we give them, plus a service fee."

The service fees are the heart of the dispute between some lawmakers and the pawn industry.

Steven Mileham, a business partner of Pierce's, noted that the pawn industry is already regulated by the state.

"Basically, the pawn law is written so that

we can't charge an interest rate of more than 3% (per month). But we're mandated by law to insure (the pawned item), store it in a clean, dry spot, and we're allowed to charge for all those costs," he said. "It's sort of like a loan initiation fee, and that comes out to about 17% – if we charge the full amount – we cannot go above that rate by law."

Pierce noted that banks and other financial institutions rarely give loans under \$1,000. "It's just not worth the cost of the paperwork to do the loan," he said.

But a typical pawn loan is under \$100.

"People say folks who come to pawnshops for loans are not financially sophisticated. I think they are very sophisticated," Pierce said. "They know if they don't pay their utility bill, they will have to pay a large fee to get it reconnected, but if they take out a pawn loan they will pay less. People come to us because they have nowhere else to go."

In 2020, the average income of a payday loan borrower was \$37,582, according to data published by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

Swisher said if interest rates, including fees, are capped at an annual rate of 36% as the legislation calls for, virtually all of the state's pawnshops will close.

Pierce said that is the case for his business. He owns Monster Pawn at 2324 MacArthur

Blvd. and is creating a second location at 222 N. Grand Ave. in the building that was once the House of Music.

Swisher noted that unlike payday or title loans, a pawn shop loan does not hurt a person's credit rating if it is not repaid. Pierce added that the items that are pawned are almost always luxury items such as consumer electronics or jewelry.

State Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield, said he hasn't decided how he will vote on the legislation, which may be voted on in the January lame-duck session.

"I really haven't heard much from my constituents on this. I've had a few calls from pawnshop owners saying it's a bad idea and from others saying the interest rate should be capped. I don't like the idea of anyone being exploited. At this point, I just want to listen to what people have to say."

The Predatory Loan Prevention Act, which passed in 2021, capped interest rates on short-term loans for auto title, installment payday and payday providers at 36%. Because of a Sangamon County Court injunction in 2021 favoring pawn brokers, the PLPA's 36% standard does not apply to them.

But IPA's Swisher said pawnbrokers differ from other short-term loan providers in that customers can walk away from the loan.

Brent Adams of the Woodstock Institute, a Chicago-based economic development agency, said his group conducted an investigation of pawnshops across Illinois.

"We did an investigation in that we sent researchers into pawn shops as a kind of a secret shopper to test pawn shops on what they're charging. One of the findings was that in 19 out of 20 visits, the pawn shops charge 248% APR or more. ... The rate on a payday loan before the 36% rate cap went into effect was 297%. So, pawn loans are in the same camp as far as predatory interest rates, from our perspective."

But Pierce said it is unfair to annualize the interest rate.

"If you walked into a hotel and saw the cost of a room was \$70,000, you would think that was outrageous. But people don't rent a hotel room for a year, they rent it one night at a time. Another way of saying \$70,000 (a year) is \$200 a night. In the same way, we don't make a loan for a year – we do it one month at a time." □

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

Editor's note

"On earth, peace" was the hope of the angels, but practical peacemakers must get the snowball started. Two efforts are noteworthy. Dr. Robert W. Smith, dean of the College of Public Affairs and Education at University of Illinois Springfield, has called for a National Conference on **Restoring Civility in American Politics**. He suggests the home of Lincoln is a good place to bring in eminent speakers on civility, and experts on political division. The role of academia and media in preserving dialogue and democracy could be considered. Smith asks for ideas to be sent to cpae@uis.edu. Another initiative is the call by 1,000 faith leaders around the globe for a **Christmas truce in the war in Ukraine**. "Negotiation is not a euphemism for capitulation, nor is it a rationalization of Putin's aggression," said Medea Benjamin, one of the movement's leaders. "It is simply a recognition that the end of this war cannot be achieved by more war." President Volodymyr Zelensky's historic visit to the United States in this season of hope will be a good occasion to begin planning for peace. —Fletcher Farrar, editor

Pandemic took a big toll on education

The impact of COVID-19 in Illinois

EDUCATION | Cinda Ackerman Klickna

“The Covid-19 pandemic, unprecedented in scale and impact, has disrupted every possible facet of education in Illinois,” according to the 2022 report issued by Advance Illinois, the leading education research group in Illinois. Robin Steans, president of Advance Illinois, introduced the findings to educators and community leaders in Springfield on Dec. 15. A panel then addressed concerns and future needs.

“There have been massive and deadly disruptions, and through the pandemic many made heroic efforts” Steans said. “The state took huge steps. People did their best when they got handed a situation with no warning and no playbook.”

Steans emphasized that the report is not meant to judge. “We must be open about the data and discuss with honest conversation.”

Advance Illinois usually issues a report every two years, the last issued in 2019, but with unreliable data during the pandemic, a report was held off until 2022. Data focuses on several areas: student enrollment, attendance, access to instruction, and students’ social-emotional development. All data looks at the school year 2020-2021 and is compared to 2019. The facts are sobering.

Student enrollment, whether students were in-person, hybrid or totally remote, declined across the state at almost every level, with early childhood seeing steep declines. Enrollment in the Child Care Assistance Program dropped 20% from 2019. Enrollment in the Preschool for All program dropped 22% – and this data was available to indicate a drop in just this past year. Those affected the most were the youngest children, children from the lowest-income households and Black and LatinX children. Sangamon County matched the state drop of 20% in enrollment during 2020-2021.

Enrollment also declined in K-12 education, with the elementary level seeing the biggest decline: kindergarten enrollment dropped 8% in 2021, while elementary grades dropped 4.4%. Middle school fared better with a drop of 2.4%, and high school basically remained steady with a slight drop at .8%. The areas with the largest enrollment declines were students in rural schools and English language learners. Springfield actually did better than the state average, experiencing a steady enrollment across the K-12 grades during the same time period.

Higher education saw the biggest enrollment decline in community colleges



The Dec. 15 panel included, from left, Robin Steans, president of Advance Illinois; state Senator Doris Turner of Springfield; Becca Lamon, superintendent of Ball-Chatham School District; and Brian Durham, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board. PHOTO COURTESY ADVANCE ILLINOIS

(13.8% drop) while four-year institutions actually gained enrollment in 2020-2021.

Inequities between districts, races and income levels have existed in education across Illinois for many years. The report states that the data, “has laid bare and exacerbated existing inequities across lines of race, income and educational need.” Access to high-quality instruction was made worse by the pandemic. Whether children had reliable – or even *any* – internet service and access to devices during the time schools shut down impacted learning.

Chronic absenteeism, defined as students with absences that account for more than 10% of the school year, increased dramatically – from 18% to 30%. “Attending school has always been a powerful indicator of future success,” Steans said. “This data was consistent in all age ranges.”

Student emotional well-being has been affected in ways that teachers have never before witnessed. The disruption in the school setting has caused higher incidences of behavior problems since students were isolated from others for so long; they have lost social skills and appropriate interactions and ways to verbalize feelings.

The report outlines many staffing issues schools face. The report states, “Counselors, social workers and psychologists are in short supply.” That was true even before the pandemic, but with an increase in students’

social-emotional issues, the lack of staff has become more obvious. Recommended ratios compared to current averages show the picture. Recommended ratio of students to counselors should be 450:1 in grades K-5, and 250:1 in grades 6-12. But the statewide average is 569:1. Social worker ratios – recommended at 250:1, currently sits at 552:1. And psychologists should be at 1000:1 but is holding at 1191:1.

The report addresses the impact on teachers being “stretched too thin.” Quotes from focus groups and individuals are included in the report. One teacher writes, “This is the hardest year (2021-2022) I’ve had in 25-plus years ...behavior issues are way up, kids are emotionally fragile, immature, functionally behind, lacking independence – teachers are having to do so much more.”

With all of these impacts, it is easy to understand that student academic progress is affected. Declines have occurred in state assessments in reading and math.

After a look at the data, questions were asked of a panel including state Senator Doris Turner; Dr. Becca Lamon, superintendent of Ball-Chatham School District; and Brian Durham, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board. Both Lamon and Durham applauded the innovation and resilience of staff at all levels. Durham said, “Trying to teach some of the career and technical courses online, like automotive,

is hard when the students need to use their hands.”

Lamon said her biggest worry is the younger children who have been most impacted. “Some children came to kindergarten for the first time this fall, and the parents said they hadn’t been out of the home for three years. These children don’t know how to interact. This is going to create a 13-year impact, not just in their first year of schooling.”

Funding was addressed. “I feel there is a consensus among legislators that education is important and investing in education is needed,” Turner said. Steans addressed the upcoming funding challenges: “Some money that has been provided through the federal government, such as for counselors and social workers, will be ending. So how do we backfill that money?” Lamon said, “We have shortages across all areas – cafeteria workers, bus drivers, teachers, and support staff.”

The pandemic affected every aspect of education at every level. The impacts will be felt for many years. Lamon said, “The one thing we have to keep doing is building relationships with each other and establish a trusted adult for each child.” □

Cinda Ackerman Klickna is a former Springfield teacher and past president of the Illinois Education Association.

Making Springfield a research hub

MEDICAL | Carey Smith

“A lot of my background for this is very personal,” says Dr. Daniel Fox of his interest in clinical research. “I lost my daughter to a rare disease, and I’m a scientist. I know how things should be happening. I work to develop drugs, write patents, manufacture and ship to clinical research sites. I did my tour and toured the entire industry to learn it. I could not believe what’s happening.”

Fox recently resigned from Springfield Clinic, where he had worked since late 2018 as managing director of the clinical research lab. He switched his focus in order to serve his industry in a way that he hopes will revitalize and reinvigorate it.

“We’re in trouble,” relates Fox, noting that “the physician who does research is an endangered species.” Seventy percent of physicians who try out research manage only one trial before switching interests. “Most are over 70 years old and have a hard time attracting younger physicians to replace them,” says Fox. He believes part of the reason younger physicians are not attracted to the field is because of the treatment of clinical research sites by pharmaceutical companies and their middlemen, contract research organizations.

Always the innovator, Fox began the Clinical Research Payment Network to collect data in order to invent a credit score for pharmaceutical companies based on how they treat clinical sites, especially in terms of prompt payments. Fox says he has received good feedback from both clinical research sites and pharmaceutical companies as the credit score has evolved to “become a culture of accountability that we do not yet have in this industry.”

Although the major medical groups in Springfield all conduct research trials, the opportunities for individuals in the area to participate in a variety of trials is limited. Because of this, Fox recently created Land of Lincoln Clinical Research (LoLCR), an independent research group “dedicated to bringing innovative research opportunities into central Illinois that we do not otherwise have. There are so many patients who are qualified for research here who are not given that opportunity,” he says.

Fox explains that if someone has a rare condition, the closest place conducting trials is likely to be in St. Louis or Minnesota, but not everyone has the means or health to travel that distance. “It is a really big problem in the Midwest. It’s something that we need to fix and break down barriers of research so we can have access to this life-saving technology.”



Dr. Daniel Fox PHOTO BY JOSHUA CATALANO

Often these trials are the only way to access experimental, life-saving treatments that may not yet be approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Previously, these potentially life-saving treatments were not accessible to patients without the means or health to travel. LoLCR plans to provide clinicians to do the boots-on-the-ground work of drawing blood, taking vitals or whatever else the trial may need, without requiring the patient to travel. Fox notes that even if that patient’s life cannot be saved, the data from the research done could potentially save lives in the future.

Fox says another big challenge in research is convincing a physician to refer a patient to a doctor running a trial because “that physician doesn’t want to lose revenue or control of care for their patient.” Working with new vendors and innovating new practices, Fox hopes to be able to offer physicians the opportunity to put their patient into a trial without losing revenue. Physicians would not need to be researchers also, but rather could focus on being “proctors of care” to transition to what Fox calls the future of research: “a complete integration into health care so it’s seamless

for patient and doctor. They can go to their doctor’s office and have access to care.”

Fox hopes to have established the administrative offices of LoLCR and to have trials up and running by next year, though he says, “We still have a lot of infrastructure to grow. For this to succeed, it’s going to take community support. I know the community needs it, but I need support from doctors, and patients are most important part. If patients aren’t on board, we can’t do research.”

Fox notes the global clinical trials industry is expected to nearly double by 2030, and he hopes to collaborate with Springfield-area physicians and investors to see this project to fruition.

“If you were to travel to other places and you saw this infrastructure in action, you’d think, ‘Why can’t we have this?’ Springfield is already the hub for central Illinois, and to have this in the center of the state would be huge. It would be an absolute public health advantage if we can open up the research gates for our central Illinois citizens.” □

Carey Smith is a poet and gardener living in the Enos Park neighborhood.



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NEWS

Law enforcement officials push for assault weapons ban

GUN SAFETY | Peter Hancock, Capitol News Illinois

Some of the state's leading law enforcement officials on Tuesday, Dec. 20, urged lawmakers to pass a statewide ban on high-power, high-capacity weapons, which they say are growing in prevalence in Illinois.

"What the public asks members of the law enforcement community to do each and every day is stunning, knowing full well that the cars we're approaching, the houses we're entering, have some of the most lethal weapons you've ever seen, ever. And they keep getting worse," Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart told the House Judiciary-Criminal Committee during a third hearing on proposed legislation.

The committee is considering House Bill 5855, a proposal by Rep. Bob Morgan, D-Deerfield. It would ban the possession and sale of a long list of firearms that would be defined as "assault weapons" as well as high-capacity magazines and devices that make a semi-automatic gun fire like a fully automatic weapon.

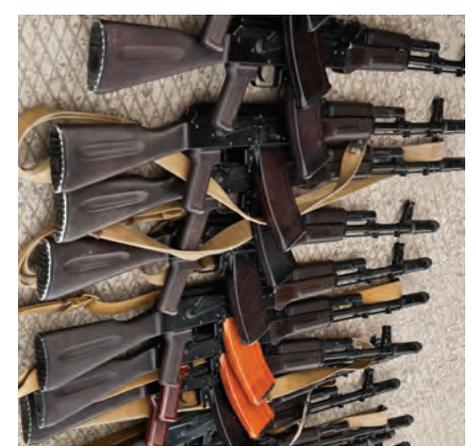
It would also delete a provision in current law that allows people between the ages of 18 and 21 to obtain a Firearm Owner's Identification, or FOID card, with the consent of their parent or guardian, effectively establishing a firm minimum age of 21. It would also require hunters younger than 21 to be under the supervision of an adult with a valid FOID card.

The bill was prompted in large part by a mass shooting at a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park earlier this year that left seven people dead and dozens more injured. The alleged gunman in that shooting used a Smith and Wesson M&P 15 semi-automatic rifle and three magazines containing 30 rounds of ammunition each.

"These weapons have entered our schools, our places of worship, our theaters, our parades and our peaceful community spaces with one objective – to create mass carnage," said Elena Gottreich, Chicago's deputy mayor for public safety. "Assault weapons are designed to inflict maximum tissue damage in the shortest amount of time."

Angel Novalez, chief of constitutional policing and reform for the Chicago Police Department, said that so far this year, his department has taken 1,156 assault-style weapons off the street, nearly a 13-percent increase over 2021. Since 2004, he said, the department has recovered more than 18,000 such weapons.

"We are up against an ever-growing threat



and it's making protecting our neighborhoods more difficult and dangerous for all our police officers," he said. "It's making residents feel more unsafe. They're living in the crosshairs of needless violence every day."

So far, the proposed legislation has received broad support from gun safety advocacy organizations as well as elected public officials, including Secretary of State Jesse White. But it faces strong opposition from gun rights organizations, including the National Rifle Association and the Illinois State Rifle Association, which argued the bill would likely be ruled unconstitutional.

"I'm here to tell you that the gun owners are tired of being blamed for every madman, every criminal, and every other depraved act that 2.5 million gun owners didn't do," former NRA lobbyist Todd Vandermyde said Tuesday. "And we're not here to negotiate. I'm here to tell you that if House Bill 5855 or anything remotely like it passes, we will see you in court."

Valinda Rowe, a spokeswoman for the gun rights advocacy group Illinois Carry, also said the law, if enacted, would be challenged in court and likely overturned, and she urged lawmakers to focus on the root causes of violent crime.

Tuesday's hearing was the third such hearing the committee has held since the bill was introduced Dec. 1, and committee chairman Justin Slaughter, D-Chicago, said there will be further hearings when lawmakers return to Springfield in January. The committee could take action on the bill during an upcoming lame duck session scheduled to begin Jan. 4.

Contact Peter Hancock at phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com.

“A Hanukkah miracle”

Springfield's Chabad Center purchases former Red Cross building

RELIGION | Scott Reeder

Rabbi Mendy Turen is calling it a Hanukkah miracle.

Chabad Jewish Center of Springfield has purchased a building at 1045 Outer Park Dr. to be its new home.

The edifice commonly known as the Red Cross building, since the main floor used to house the Springfield chapter of the American Red Cross, is undergoing renovations to become a worship center for the Hasidic group, which serves Jewish people of various traditions.

“The plan for the building is to have a Jewish center where Judaism is alive. It's going to be a little bit of a different setup than a traditional synagogue as we know it. Chabad is famous for not being a traditional synagogue,” said Turen.

The word “Chabad” is a Hebrew acronym for wisdom, understanding and knowledge. It's a movement that is dedicated to studying the Torah, living by the scriptures and reaching out and helping every Jew, Turen said.

Springfield's Chabad Center, which currently is located at 2467 S. MacArthur Blvd. in the Town and Country Shopping Center, will move to the new location in April, he said. The center is operated by Turen and his wife, Sara, and has been in Springfield for about six years. The first five years the center operated out of their home, and in June 2021 it moved to its current location.

“We got news that the entire Town and Country Shopping Center that we rented from was sold. We still have our lease and it's still in effect. But the fellow from Florida who purchased the place plans on redoing the entire center, which ... is definitely exciting. But we have to leave by the end of April.”

Turen said when they began their search for a property to buy, he “as a joke” sent a listing for the Outer Park building to a supporter assisting with the search. He said it was sent in good fun because it was much bigger than they had initially planned. The supporter said he would help with financing the acquisition of the three-story building, which sold for \$500,000.

“As it's the days of Hanukkah, this is a time that we celebrate miracles – miracles of the past – and also the miracles that God continues to do,” Turen said. “And we feel that purchasing this building in our current



Springfield's Chabad Center has purchased a building at 1045 Outer Park Dr. to be its new home.

PHOTO BY STACIE LEWIS

situation for this price is nothing less than a modern-day miracle. Or maybe you could say modern day mini-miracle.”

Turen said some supporters have provided interest-free financing and the building purchase was finalized on Dec. 19. The next step will be to begin a fundraising campaign within Springfield's Jewish community to repay the loans.

The first floor of the new building will include a worship center and other amenities highlighting Springfield's Jewish heritage. Some ideas being contemplated are to have a museum highlighting Jewish culture and a kosher market.

The upper two stories will be office space that the center will lease out. A current tenant is the Springfield Jewish Federation, which Turen said he hopes continues to rent.

Turen said the Chabad Center is working with architects to develop final plans for the building. A grand opening will take place when renovations are complete, he said. □

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

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OPINION



Rick Lawrence, the much-maligned original developer of the historic buildings at Sixth and Monroe streets in Springfield, is at the forefront of the project again, at least for now. A new developer was awarded \$3.15 million in TIF funds in 2020 after assuring the City Council that Lawrence would not be involved in the project, but that developer has withdrawn after failing to secure financing and the TIF agreement has now expired. PHOTO BY DEAN OLSEN.

Christmas Poem

Christmas is coming,
The goose is getting fat
Please put a penny in
The old man's hat
If you haven't got a penny
A ha'penny will do
If you haven't got a ha'penny
Then, God bless you!
(nursery rhyme)
And,
"God bless you, every one!" –
Tiny Tim

2022 Jacqueline Jackson

LETTERS

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

GET IT TOGETHER

I wish this city could get its act together. Of course, when only 1% of Springfield residents actually support the downtown area, this is what happens ("Work resumes on historic Ferguson building," Dec. 15). Meanwhile, there seems to be no obstacles to building on the west side while the rest of the city rots.

Dennis Sklenka
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

FINISH IT

Please take a fresh look at this project, and give Mr. Lawrence the resources to finish it.

Gary Seitz
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

MOVE FORWARD

Rick Lawrence deserves an apology. Many should know how politics and the media are connected. Many stories have been shared that were misleading and flat-out false. Mr. Lawrence does outstanding work and is a man of values

and honor. His work is second-to-none and should move forward.

Tracie Baker-Smith
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

NO NEED FOR ASSAULT WEAPONS

I am thankful the Illinois state legislature is representing my concerns about keeping Illinois citizens safer from gun violence by banning assault weapons and large-capacity magazines ("General Assembly to consider assault weapons ban," Dec. 15).

I am no stranger to firearms, and I support responsible gun ownership. The fact is, some weapons are simply not necessary, appropriate or responsible for the general citizenry to own, and we allow them at a terrible cost. Sure, it's possible to hunt with an AR-15, but that's not what it was designed for. The AR-15 is just a semiautomatic version of the M-16 – the weapon carried by American GIs during Vietnam. As a semiauto, the only limit to how fast a shooter can fire is how quickly they can pull the trigger. It was not made for killing deer; it was made for killing people.

Illinois currently has no

law banning large-capacity magazines, and the largest made for the AR-15 holds 100 rounds. It has long been the weapon of choice for mass shooters for one simple reason: it's currently the most efficient, legal weapon to kill a lot of people in a short time frame.

Gun violence is a complex issue that requires layered solutions – comprehensive laws and education campaigns. HB 5855 a good start to save lives in our state.

Daniel N. Barham
Chatham

JUST A PLOY

So what exactly makes a gun an assault weapon? The AR-15 fires exactly the same rounds per trigger squeeze as any semi-automatic weapon. These make up a large majority of guns owned. This is the Democrats taking advantage of headlines to try their gun grabs they've always wanted.

Gary Nelson
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

FAT CHANCE

Can't wait to see the people lining up to register their weapons with the state police.

Wendell Holdman
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

Reflecting on changes to the SAFE-T Act

POLITICS | Rich Miller

Illinois House Deputy Majority Leader Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, headed up her chamber's efforts to amend the controversial SAFE-T Act this year. The day before the bill came up for a vote, I asked her what were, in her opinion, the largest misconceptions about the 2021 social justice reform law.

Gordon-Booth pointed to the trespassing issue. "I don't care if you live in rural, urban, suburban. The trespassing [issue] was one that just made a lot of folks incredibly uncomfortable."

Gordon-Booth got a taste for that last summer, she said, when she sat down with a young, millennial police officer who she described as a "cop's cop." She also met with her local Peoria police chief and the chief's top brass.

Their top concern was the perceived inability for police to make trespassing arrests under the existing provisions of the SAFE-T Act. Some of her fellow legislators also expressed that concern, so, Gordon-Booth decided, "we just needed to be far more clear about what our intent was." That intent, she said, "was obviously not as it was framed," by opponents. "We just had to be more clear about how we wanted the language to read so that it was interpreted the same way by everybody, by all parties."

So, changes were made that now make it explicitly clear that arrests can be made.

I also asked Gordon-Booth to reflect a bit on the opposition to the new law. She said she'd witnessed some major national backlashes throughout her life, so the fact that people would try to gin up another one on this law didn't surprise her.

She said she had no illusions "that the SAFE-T Act was going to be used as a tool to fear-monger, to try to get Illinoisans to believe that somehow those of us that are elected officials, many of us who live and represent communities that are also plagued by the violence that we all find abhorrent, many of us also being crime victims. I wasn't surprised that they used the fear tactic and used the SAFE-T Act as the tool to try to drive the fear." But, she said, "It still punches you in the gut when you see it play out."

Even so, Gordon-Booth said, "We knew that we put together a strong body of work that we could stand behind, stand on and not run from," adding, "it's a great feeling to know that those fear-mongering tactics did not work."

The tactics may not have worked

politically, but Rep. Maurice West, D-Rockford, wrote a powerful op-ed for the *Rockford Register Star* about how SAFE-T Act misinformation caused harm.

Rep. West, the "only Black legislator in the northern Illinois region," wrote in his op-ed that the misinformation spread about the legislation, "strategically led people down a path to think of dark-skinned people being let out of jail to destroy our community. Once that bell is rung," he wrote, "you can't un-ring it."

And that, he wrote, is why he is having trouble accepting an attempted walk-back from his local Republican State's Attorney J. Hanley, who was recently quoted as saying he regretted helping spread that misinformation, which West claimed, "led to confusion and anger in our community and threats to me and my family personally."

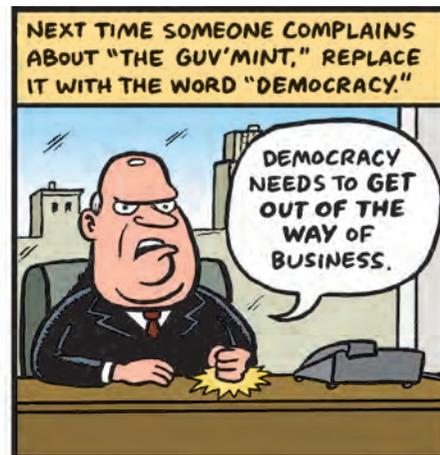
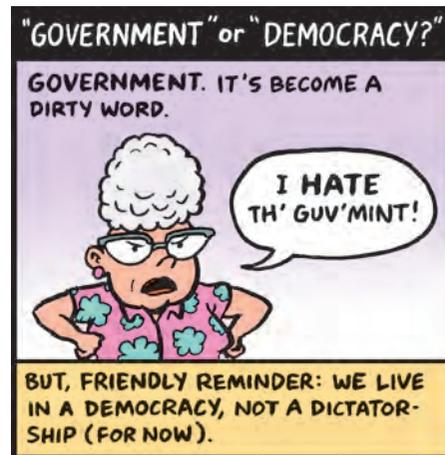
"Because of this misinformation," Rep. West, a church pastor, wrote, "my faith was questioned, my life threatened, and the N-word was used so expressively and easily by some. All while my fellow local elected

leaders, on both sides of the aisle, threw me under the bus for their political survival."

I reached out to West to talk to him directly about his experiences. He said much of the harassment involved calls to his legislative office, "with a quick hang-up after using racist remarks."

The one that really shook up West and his family was, "a guy who called our office looking to see if the 'N-word' was there," West said. "My office assistant tries to calm him down and tell him that I wasn't there, but she's willing to talk to him about the legislation. He calls her a lying c**t and said he doesn't believe her and he's coming to the office regardless." Rep. West said he shut the office down for the day.

Legislators' home addresses are easily accessible online, and because the harassment and threats cause his family so much angst and fear, West said he is now "working on legislation to hide the personal address of each candidate, and the only way to see it is to request copies of the petitions and leave your address as well." □



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OPINION

A collective problem

WEEKLY READER | Scott Reeder

When I read the Christmas story, I always wonder: How was it that Mary came to give birth in a barn? The Gospels say simply: "There was no room in the inn."

But could it be that the real reason was there wasn't enough room in people's hearts?

Ever since I was a boy participating in church Christmas pageants, I've wondered why didn't someone just say, "Hey, Mary and Joseph, just stay at our house?"

After all, what kind of person would refuse to help a woman in labor? I found out the answer to that question when I was a young man working in Iowa.

I had just taken a job with a newspaper and the staff was excited to soon be moving into a new building. One cold December night, a desperate woman called the newsroom. She was in labor, and in that era before cellphones, she couldn't get ahold of her husband, who was working construction in the building we were moving into.

It was past midnight, and she wanted to know if we could reach him. I told my boss that I was caught up with my work and could drive the three blocks to the construction site to get him.

The night city editor gave me a look of complete contempt. He ordered me to tell her we couldn't help. She was on her own.

At that point in my career, I'd worked at that newspaper for all of six weeks. No sooner had I taken the job than I was frightened that I would lose it.

I must have given him a look of dismay because he responded by shouting, "It's not our problem!"

My millennial friends like to talk about "trigger words" that resurrect past traumas. I'll be honest, I've long thought that was New Age nonsense. But whenever I hear the words, "It's not our problem," I'm triggered with indignation.

I wish I'd had the moral courage to stand up to that editor. But to my shame, I didn't.

I knew what the right thing to do was. I should have helped. I should have defied my boss, and walked out of the newsroom and told that husband that his wife needed him.

Instead, I picked up the phone and told the woman I just couldn't help her.

Thirty-three years have passed since I made that statement. I'm still ashamed.

That night, I sat at my desk until 1 a.m. knowing I had betrayed not only my own values, but those in which I had been reared. I grew up in a home where I never heard the phrase, "It's not our problem."

The most offensive part of that statement is "our." It identifies a person with a group, a clan, a race, an employer — that sets itself apart from

others. The inference in the statement is if the person was part of "our" group, they'd deserve help. But otherwise, "It's not 'our' problem." The Bible story about the Good Samaritan isn't just about helping others, it's about reaching across racial, cultural and economic boundaries to aid those from groups other than our own.

Today, I carry two gallons of gasoline, a jack and a host of tools in the back of my pickup to assist stranded motorists.

Sometimes I'm able to help change a tire or give someone enough gas to make it to a service station. One time, I just sat with a young man while his car was engulfed in flames alongside Interstate 55. I couldn't help him much, but at least he knew someone cared.

When I think back 33 years to that woman whom I didn't help, I'm haunted by my inaction. A sin of omission is as bad as one of commission.

Early on, my parents taught my siblings and me that we are our brother and sister's keeper.

I remember when I was a teenager, my dad was driving through a rough neighborhood in my hometown of Galesburg. He saw an older woman lying on a sidewalk. Cars were buzzing by her prone form. He stopped and found she had fallen and broken her hip.

He took five pairs of clean coveralls from his truck and created pillows for her to be comfortable and had someone call an ambulance. He stayed with her until the paramedics carried her — and the coveralls — away.

Helping others means making sacrifices and getting your hands dirty.

It would be easy for me to just shrug and say, "I was just following orders." That's the banality of evil. Hitler's henchmen pled that at Nuremberg. King Herod's soldiers could have made such a claim as they killed the male babies of Bethlehem.

Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "It's never the wrong time to do the right thing." He was right, of course. And he certainly paid a price for doing the right thing.

While we may disagree on how best to help someone, we should never delude ourselves that we don't have such an obligation.

Sometimes we have to say "No" to those in authority and pay the price. I should have done that decades ago, but I didn't.

How did things end for that woman in labor? I have no idea. That's what happens when you look away. You don't see how the story ends. As for the editor who said, "It's not our problem," he was out of journalism within a year.

So why do I mention this today? Those who don't learn from their past are condemned to repeat it. I don't want my children to grow up to ever hear me say, "It's not 'our' problem." □

Do better sidewalks make a better downtown?

GUESTWORK | Mike Jackson

Gov. JB Pritzker recently announced the recipients of grants for the Rebuild Illinois Downtowns and Main Street Capital Program. More than \$106 million in grants will fund 45 projects across the state. The original program announcement in 2021 allocated \$50 million. The subsequent allocation of \$106 million shows the generous spending available to states because of the federal funding that came out of the COVID incentives.

Illinois likes to fund big, but the real question is whether this funding will be effective at downtown revitalization. Unfortunately, the program mostly funds streetscape improvements, which means sidewalks and other public infrastructure improvements that provide little benefit to downtown economic growth. Fancy new sidewalks do almost nothing to improve the overall economic development of older downtowns. The actual construction of streetscape projects is often detrimental to the small businesses that occupy many downtown properties.

Public works projects received a disproportionate amount of funding, despite the fact that the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has a separate infrastructure program. These projects create far fewer workers per dollar than building rehab projects, and rarely result in any increase to the local tax base. Politicians and policy makers are equally deceived by the jobs question. This quote from House Speaker Chris Welch is typical: “We have proven that we can be fiscally responsible and make these groundbreaking investments in communities.” Similarly, state Rep Katie Stuart is quoted saying “I couldn’t think of a better use of grant dollars than investing them in high-traffic areas...”. There are far better ways to be fiscally



responsible and invest in our older downtowns. Real investment builds the community tax base and the small businesses that keep downtowns alive. It is fiscally irresponsible to fund sidewalks when you haven’t done the basic work of putting together a local economic team that knows the difference between construction dollars and economic development.

The use of post-pandemic federal funding for Main Streets and downtowns is showing up in other states, and there are much better examples of how to be fiscally responsible, create jobs and make better communities. One of the best of these comes from Iowa, where the state put \$20 million into a downtown housing program aimed at putting housing into underutilized old schools and half-empty downtown buildings. The program will create almost 500 housing units in existing underutilized buildings at a typical public

subsidy of \$43,000 per unit. Every dollar of public investment will leverage a greater amount of private investment, all to properties that will increase the real estate tax base of these towns. This program will create affordable housing at a fraction of the cost of public programs that come at a price tag of \$200,000 or more for a unit of subsidized housing. The program also had a scoring bias for smaller communities that are generally overlooked in the large construction projects. There are only a few projects on the Illinois list that would result in any increase in the community tax base. One noteworthy project is the city of Champaign, where the city will receive the funds and do smaller redevelopment grants to multiple buildings. This is a great way for these grant dollars to leverage private funding and be strategic in its investment. This does require a well-funded and professional city

planning department, another thing missing in Springfield.

It is noteworthy that only four of the twenty Illinois Main Street communities received funding from the Rebuild Illinois Downtowns and Main Street Capital Program. Most of these 20 communities have been working at downtown revitalization for years and many have completed streetscape projects, but only after they have done the hard work of planning and organizing for a comprehensive downtown approach that balances economic development with true community needs. Illinois’ political and economic development leaders are unfortunately deluded into believing that construction dollars is the only measure of community development. When it comes to downtowns, the era of urban renewal has largely been replaced by the new panacea of “public infrastructure,” which can include sidewalks, lighting and traffic signals. Illinois needs to get real about community development, particularly for our downtowns.

The Illinois Main Street program has been underfunded for years but is a proven economic development strategy. Most of these grants will just be another example of creating a few construction jobs that won’t advance downtown economic development. Gov. Pritzker, you need to learn how to “build back better.” □

Mike Jackson of Springfield, FAIA, has spent his professional career in historic preservation and downtown revitalization. He was the Deputy State Historic Preservation Office in Illinois from 2009-2013. He was part of the state’s team that activated the Illinois Main Street program in the mid-1990s. He continues his work across the U.S. through his consulting with Upstairs Downtown, a housing revitalization program.



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Sweeping crime law in the spotlight

With cash bail scheduled to end Jan. 1, confusion and concern remain

CRIMINAL JUSTICE | Dean Olsen

Derrick Davis would like to thank the state lawmakers who passed a comprehensive crime bill in 2021 – and tweaked the law three times since then, most recently this month – that on Jan. 1 will make Illinois the first state to completely eliminate cash bail.

“Thank you for giving us a chance to get out and prove that we’re not all the same,” he said.

Davis, 34, a Jacksonville resident who formerly lived in Springfield, said his recovery from substance-use disorder was delayed by several years because of stints in the Sangamon and Morgan County jails when he couldn’t afford to make bail and enter treatment while the nonviolent criminal cases connected with his substance use proceeded in court.

Those delays resulted in more crimes, convictions and a total of nine years in state and federal prison, he said.

“I just don’t think it’s a fair system,” he said.

Despite spending time in prison for crimes ranging from burglary and home invasion to possession of methamphetamines, after his parents posted \$2,500 bail in September 2020 for his most recent case, Davis used the time outside jail well. He took part in a vocational education program at Lincoln Land Community College and then became a Laborers union apprentice. He now earns almost \$30 per hour in his work on the \$220 million-plus renovation project at the Illinois Capitol.

In his spare time, Davis volunteers by speaking to others dealing with substance-use disorder, encouraging them to avoid his path.

“We’re not all trying to live a life of crime,” he said.

The thanks Davis offers isn’t shared by everyone who took part in the debate over the SAFE-T Act, which stands for Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today. Emotions and expectations remain high on both sides as a complex implementation period begins. Critics warn of potential dangers to the public at a time when stresses related to the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to increases in crime in some parts of the state.

A key section of the law, known as the Pretrial Fairness Act, is scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, unless the date is delayed or parts of the legislation are derailed by lawsuits from prosecutors in about 60 counties, including Sangamon, challenging its constitutionality.

Worries remain even as the legislation,



Derrick Davis, a union laborer helping to renovate the north side of the Capitol in Springfield, supports the elimination of cash bail in Illinois and says past problems he had in posting bail delayed his ongoing recovery from substance-use disorder and his steps toward the better life he now enjoys. The end of cash bail, scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, 2023, is part of the SAFE-T Act. PHOTO BY JOSHUA CATALANO

which gained urgency among the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus in the wake of the May 2020 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, is hailed by supporters as groundbreaking civil rights legislation.

The major groups opposing the bill or critical of it in the past took a neutral stance on the trailer bill, which is intended to modify the main legislation. Many concerns aired by law-enforcement agencies and other opponents of the SAFE-T Act were addressed by the Democratic-controlled General

Assembly in the fall veto session through House Bill 1095. The 308-page bill passed Dec. 1 with no Republican votes and was signed into law Dec. 6 by Gov. JB Pritzker, also a Democrat.

Backers say the law will more fairly base an accused person’s freedom prior to trial on the risk he or she poses to the public or the risk of flight and not showing up for court, rather than the person’s ability to afford bail.

They portrayed the numerous changes made through the recent trailer bill as

clarifications that, in some cases, were made in response to misinformation from Republicans and others about the law in the run-up to the recent elections for governor and seats in the General Assembly.

But opponents said the trailer bill’s changes were major and proved that the Democrats’ allegations of GOP “fear mongering” were disingenuous because many parts of the law that Republicans criticized were changed significantly.

“These were not minor clerical fixes,” said state Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield. “These were big changes to who can be detained.”

Because of the nature of negotiations in the legislature, McClure said he wasn’t surprised that law-enforcement groups ended up being neutral on the trailer bill. His interpretation of the Democratic stance goes like this: “OK, you can either help us make things a little bit less bad, or it’s just going to take full effect, and you know, all the most horrible provisions are going to remain in the bill.”

“So when you’re negotiating with a gun to your head, you don’t really have a choice,” McClure said.

Jim Kaitschuk, executive director of the Illinois Sheriffs’ Association, said lawmakers “did a number of things to make the process more implementable, and I appreciate that.”

However, he said more tragedies resulting from the release of defendants are “inevitable.” And he said he is concerned about the short time period to train police on the recently adopted changes, as well as the lack of adequate funding from the state to help counties accommodate the swift hearings on detention and pretrial monitoring requirements.

Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell, a fellow Republican and consistent critic of the SAFE-T Act, said: “I still believe the entire bill should have been repealed – it’s that bad. It still impacts our safety and empowers criminals. Criminals aren’t going to be held as accountable as they had (been) in the past.”

On the other hand, Sarah Staudt, a former defense attorney, said there’s “tons of evidence” from Loyola University Chicago and other researchers on bail-reform efforts in Cook County and nationwide, as well as the documented harmful impact of bail on poor people who are disproportionately Black and brown. That information, she said, indicates Kaitschuk and Campbell’s predictions about bad things happening won’t come true, and

crime rates won't rise.

McClure and other critics say the pro-SAFE-T Act research is biased.

Staudt, director of policy for the Chicago Applesseed Center for Fair Courts, which is part of the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice, said: "We do have a bill now where we have a lot of agreement. We've got to give this bill a chance to work."

Making changes to the SAFE-T Act

In signing HB 1095, the governor's press office said in a news release that the bill, consisting of a "series of amendments and clarifications ... addresses misinformation related to the act." Pritzker's press office, in legislative shorthand, said the bill clarified "the detention net, expansion processes for transitioning to cashless bail on Jan. 1," and specified definitions of "willful flight and dangerousness, among other changes."

The changes made it clear that people currently in county jails wouldn't be let out of jail on Jan. 1, though those detained could ask for a hearing to request that the new system be applied to their situation.

Critics of the original SAFE-T Act said prosecutors would have to meet the difficult and almost impossible burden of proving "willful flight," defined as "planning or attempting to intentionally evade prosecution," if they wanted to use that reason to detain without bond a person on a variety of charges, including second-degree murder, robbery, burglary, arson, kidnapping, aggravated battery, aggravated DUI and aggravated fleeing and eluding police.

If prosecutors wanted to detain without bond a person based on the suspected harm he or she would pose if released, they had to prove the person posed a threat to a specific person or persons. The charges covered included first-degree murder, sexual assault, aggravated arson and vehicular hijacking, or carjacking.

The changes adopted in the trailer bill made it easier to detain defendants on all of the highlighted charges. The definition of willful flight was made less rigid so it could include a history of repeated failure to show up for court hearings. The definition of potential harm to the public was expanded to include "a real and present threat" to the safety of "the community."

The changes also expanded the list of offenses that made defendants eligible for detention. The list now includes certain forcible felonies, hate crimes and attempts of crimes that were otherwise detainable. Also added were felonies that involve the threat or infliction of great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement.

John Patterson, a spokesman for Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said the "underlying goal" of the expansion of



Kareem Butler, a pretrial justice fellow at the Chicago Applesseed Center for Fair Courts, speaks at a Nov. 16 rally inside the Illinois Capitol in support of the Pretrial Fairness Act that is part of the SAFE-T Act. PHOTO BY DEAN OLSEN

the detention net "is that dangerous people should be detained, while those who merely lack resources and do not pose a threat should not."

The trailer bill also clarified language of the SAFE-T Act to address a situation police deal with often – trespassing on private property, which is a Class B misdemeanor in most cases. It's now clear that police can arrest, detain and remove people committing Class B and C misdemeanors after being issued a citation or a notice to appear in court.

Even with the improvements, McClure, a former Sangamon County assistant state's attorney, said he voted against the latest trailer bill for several reasons, which include:

- *Judges for the first time can count time that a defendant spends on electronic monitoring outside his or her home while awaiting trial as time served on a future sentence after conviction. McClure called that new option for judges "bizarre";

- *Democrats refused to include Republican leaders in negotiations on the latest revisions; and

- *The SAFE-T Act won't address rising crime in the state and will further harm police recruitment efforts.

"They basically bashed the brains in of law enforcement and the citizens of this state, and now they're going, 'Oh well, sorry we bashed

in your brains, and here's a box of chocolate,'" McClure said.

"There are people behind this bill who do not believe in prison," he said. "They do not believe in jails. They care more about protecting criminals than protecting victims." Advocates of the SAFE-T Act have denied the allegations.

Sangamon County State's Attorney Dan Wright declined comment on the SAFE-T Act because of the state's attorneys' legal challenges, which are pending in Kankakee County Circuit Court. A decision is due by Dec. 28. Sangamon County Public Defender Craig Reiser also declined requests for comment.

Costs to implement the SAFE-T Act

The Sangamon County Board has set aside about \$1 million in 2023 for additional costs expected to be incurred by the office of the sheriff, public defender and state's attorney, partly for new staff and partly for increases in salaries for existing staff, said board Chairman Andy Van Meter, a Republican.

"We did not raise taxes to do this," Van Meter said. "Our budget for 2023 estimates a slight decrease in the property tax rate because of savings in our required pension contribution. The decrease would have been much greater if we hadn't had to provide this

additional funding for public safety."

He added, "The legislature's 'fix' to the SAFE-T Act" may require the county to open the courthouse on Sundays to conduct full, formal hearings, "which will add additional costs we haven't fully calculated yet."

The trailer bill creates a grant program, subject to future appropriations, for increasing funds for public defenders – but not state's attorneys – to handle the expected increase in caseloads.

The elimination of cash bail will mean the Sangamon County sheriff's department no longer will generate about \$100,000 per year from the \$30 fee the department can collect from each defendant posting bond. But with an annual budget of \$22 million, that loss won't have much of an impact, Campbell said.

Restitution to crime victims, which can come from bail that's posted, will drop, McClure said.

Two different narratives

McClure, Campbell and other critics of the SAFE-T Act took issue with the notion that there's widespread suffering by defendants and their families when the requirement for bail keeps defendants detained for days, weeks or months.

"Unfortunately, we still have to accept that crimes are committed, and there is a lot of

work that needs to be done to reduce them, and we have to have a system to address that,” Kaitschuk said.

Campbell said there’s a simple solution to the problems inmates encounter when they can’t make bail. “How about if they don’t commit a crime?” he asked.

The sheriff said his staff took a look at the backgrounds of 25 random Sangamon County inmates among the 340 at the jail in August and found that they averaged 26 previous arrests as adults. The low was one arrest, and the high was 87, he said. The number of convictions wasn’t available, he said.

Advocates of the SAFE-T Act act as if most jail inmates “are good people who don’t have any money,” “just made a mistake” and could work a normal job if not detained, the sheriff said. Campbell said his unscientific look at the jail population’s criminal history indicates that for most detainees, crime is “just what they do for a living.”

Staudt, however, who is part of the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice, said Campbell is offering a “very narrow and unsupported view” that doesn’t account for years of research and the documented impact of police contact with low-income neighborhoods and racial differences in policing.

“This is very much not a solution in search of a problem,” she said. “When we jail people we don’t need to, we destabilize lives.”

Pretrial detention, even for short time periods, disrupts jobs, families and makes people more likely to be arrested in the future, Staudt said. People jailed pretrial also are more likely to eventually plead guilty and be sentenced to prison, she said.

“It is an unjust practice to charge people a fee for their freedom, especially when it is an arbitrary amount that is decided incredibly quickly without any real consideration of how their life might be impacted or if they’re even actually any kind of public safety risk,” she said.

The Network for Pretrial Justice in November released a report on a court-watching project in Sangamon, Peoria, McLean, Champaign, DuPage, Kane and Winnebago counties that the network said found bond amounts being set arbitrarily.

“Court watchers consistently observed judges knowingly set bonds well above what accused people said they could afford – or not ask what they could afford at all,” according to the report.

Though parts of the report included subjective observations by court watchers, Kareem Butler, a pretrial justice fellow at the Chicago Appleseed Center, said, “We documented a lot of dehumanizing treatment of people in bond court and judges using language that was condescending and



From left, the late state Sen. Scott Bennett, D-Champaign, Sen. Robert Peters, D-Chicago, Sarah Staudt, director of policy at the Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts, and Champaign County State’s Attorney Julia Reitz provide testimony and answer questions Dec. 1 in front of the Senate Executive Committee regarding changes in the SAFE-T Act that later were passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed into law. PHOTO BY LEE MILNER

ignorant toward people and their mental health conditions.”

According to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics, most people held in Illinois jails statewide in 2019 (89%) were male, 50% were Black, 33% were

white, and 14% were Hispanic. Most (82%) were being held on felony charges, and most (89%) were being held pretrial.

From 2020 to 2021, individuals admitted to Illinois jails pretrial spent an average of 34 days there, while the average number of days in jails outside Cook County was 15 days, according to Loyola researchers.

Loyola researchers say almost two-thirds of inmates facing felony charges in Illinois are not in jail custody or under any kind of supervision or monitoring while they await trial. That situation, they said in an October research brief, “casts doubt on a central assumption behind much of the criticism” of the SAFE-T Act – that the cash bail system “protects the community by keeping people behind bars until their cases are resolved.”

“We don’t have statewide numbers for this,” the researchers wrote. “But data from a range of urban, suburban and rural counties we’ve examined so far suggest that, under current practice, the majority of those charged with detainable offenses are released within a week.”

Shelly Heideman, executive director of the Springfield-based Faith Coalition for the Common Good, said the coalition supports the SAFE-T Act and its amendments. “To me, it’s definitely a racial and economic-justice issue,” she said.

Teresa Haley, president of the Illinois and Springfield branches of the NAACP, said the groups back the law because “the justice system is just not fair” to Black people. “We know Black men and women are imprisoned based on social economics. We sit behind bars longer.”

She said she hopes the “scare tactics” being used by SAFE-T Act opponents are overcome by truth. “I think everyone needs to take a deep breath and be educated with the right information,” she said.

Widow seeks justice

For Cassandra Greer-Lee of Chicago, the SAFE-T Act brought a measure of justice after the April 12, 2020, death of her husband, Nickolas Lee, 42. He was one of the first Cook County Jail inmates to contract COVID-19 and died from it at John Stroger Hospital in Chicago, she said. Greer-Lee said her husband was being held pretrial in the jail for an alleged 2018 armed robbery.

Because both state and federal charges were pending, and because the federal system doesn’t allow for bail, Nickolas might not have been released pretrial even if the SAFE-T Act had been in effect, Cassandra Greer-Lee said.

But she believes the SAFE-T Act would have made it less likely for him to catch COVID because fewer inmates would be in the jail and social distancing would have been more effective.

“No matter what he was charged with, he didn’t deserve to die,” she said.

Whether county jails will serve fewer, more or the same number of inmates under the SAFE-T Act is unclear.

“Your freedom shouldn’t be determined by your wealth,” Greer-Lee said. □

Dean Olsen is a senior staff writer at Illinois Times. He can be reached at dolsen@illinoistimes.com, 217-679-7810 or twitter.com/DeanOlsenIT.



Cassandra Greer-Lee holds above her head a poster with an image of her late husband, Nickolas Lee, who died at 42 in April 2020 as a result of COVID-19 he contracted while an inmate at the Cook County Jail. Greer-Lee participated in a Nov. 16 rally at the Illinois Capitol in support of the SAFE-T Act.

PHOTO BY DEAN OLSEN

A first novel with ties to Springfield

Melotte moves from architecture to writing and the Old West

BOOKS | Cinda Ackerman Klickna

Ralls Melotte is known for his work in art glass and architecture. A registered architect for over 50 years, he was a partner in the Springfield architectural firm Melotte, Morse, Leonatti, Parker, Ltd. In 2019 he retired, moved to Wisconsin, and has now added to his repertoire by writing his first novel, *Cat's Café*, the first in a planned trilogy. Melotte says, "I've always enjoyed writing, but publishing and marketing are all new to me."

Melotte's interests have included geology, geography and railroads. On a trip to visit his wife's family in Idaho, he learned more about his interests and was inspired. "I learned of the unique volcanic explosions that shaped the land and then about the canal systems that helped develop rich farmland," he says. "It was our third stop in Idaho Falls where I found out about the history of Eagle Rock. These all influenced me to write this novel."

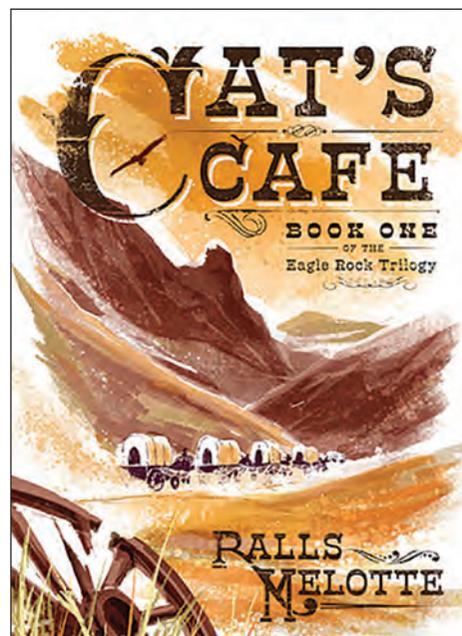
Don't be fooled into thinking *Cat's Café* is a typical western, even though some items sound familiar: a tough sheriff, a corrupt politician, a ruthless gang, a sexy bar waitress, a disreputable financier, an ignored Indian, an abandoned woman, all living in a rough-and-tumble outpost where the saloon draws unruly men. The novel is much more, as Melotte has used real people and real events to weave together a story that focuses on the strength of settlers, the development of towns in the 1870s, and the independence of women.

"I found as much satisfaction discovering first-person records, maps and blogs by writers with a shared passion for the Old West, as I did creating a realistic story to weave into actual events," says the author.

The novel begins on July 3, 1879, with Catherine (Cat) opening up the saloon that she and her husband, Patrick, own. As she slings steins of beer and calms the carousing men, she wonders where her husband is. She waits for Patrick to come home, but days drag into weeks, and she knows her survival depends on keeping the saloon running. She has always wanted a café, not just a saloon, and gains the help of Jay, along with his mother, Crow Feather, who makes the most delicious meals. Cat begins to offer breakfasts and lunches to the folks of Eagle Rock, Idaho, who are starving for a decent meal instead of the slop served at the hotel. Suddenly, Cat's Café has lines waiting for tables for both breakfast and lunch. Cat is catapulted into running a business, ordering supplies, hiring workers, dealing with difficult clients and making friends with many in town, including Fannie, who works the bar, and Henry, who interests Cat.

Word arrives that her husband has been found, drowned in the Snake River. What Cat doesn't know is that the Mormon mayor, Luther Armstrong, is behind Patrick's disappearance. His motives become clear and, as the plot develops, others appear to be less than innocent, including Sheriff Zane Gunther. A few twists and surprises show that others are embroiled in some dirty dealing behind the scenes.

Melotte has done extensive research to weave into the plot the real-life story of the expansion of the railroad, the founding of Eagle Rock, the influence of the Mormons, and the work of actual people who settled



in the area. Melotte has used real people for characters such as Robert Anderson and Matt Taylor who built the first bridge across Snake River.

The author also includes Herman Berghoff. "Berghoff was from Germany and came to the West to be a cowboy," Melotte says. "He introduced a way to cool beer, which tasted better than the beer that was served warm and was bitter. Years later the Berghoff Restaurant in Chicago became famous."

Two other real-life characters are Rebecca Mitchell, a missionary from Illinois, who set up a school and promoted women's rights,

and Francis Dubois, from Springfield, who became the U.S. Marshall in Idaho. Melotte says his book combines Illinois history with Idaho history.

Chapter explanations in the appendix are as interesting as the novel itself and provide the historical background of such events as the 1857 Mountain Massacre, the financing of railroads by tycoon Jay Gould, the influx of Mormons to the area, as well as information about the Snake River, whiskey, train schedules, the use of the telegraph, and the history of the Pony Express.

The development of the railroad, the support for women's rights, the strength of people, and the changes needed to form a town are areas Melotte explores in his novel. "I wanted to show that there was huge enterprise in the West," Melotte says. "Many went west to escape trouble, but many also wanted to take risks, start over, and be part of a new territory."

Melotte, too, has taken a risk and started over by writing a novel.

With rich descriptions of the land, history of the region, realistic dialogue that Melotte researched, and well-developed characters, *Cat's Café* is an interesting and fun read which includes a love story, a murder mystery, a twist, and a hanging ending.

Melotte has already begun the second novel in his Eagle Rock Trilogy. *Cat's Café* is available at rallsmelotte.com. □

Cinda Ackerman Klickna writes book reviews and enjoyed the history and real characters that are woven into the plot of the novel.

ILLINOIS TIMES - 2023 CAPITAL CITY VISITOR

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Subject matter: Abraham Lincoln

Entry deadline: All entries must be received by Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 at 5 p.m.

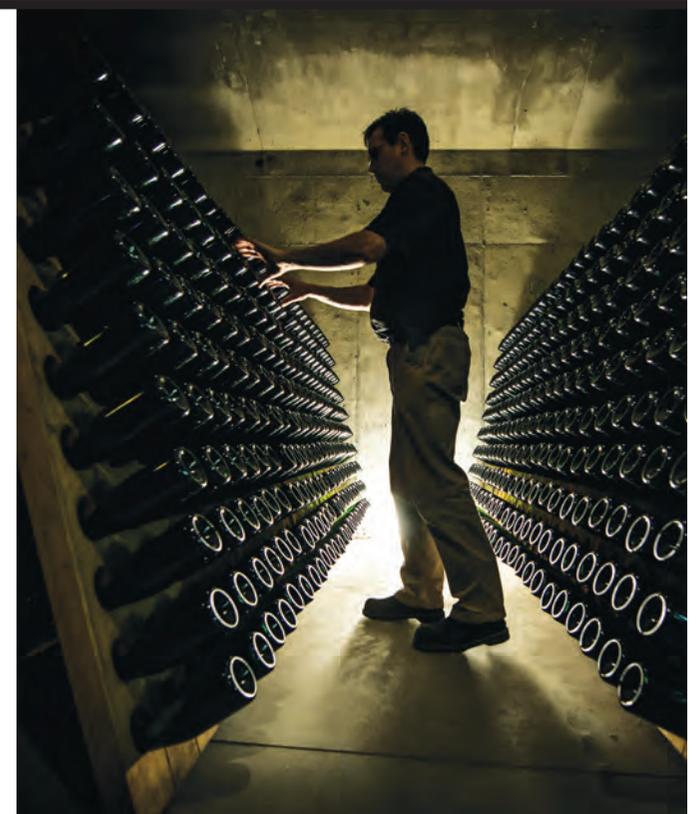
Rules: Entries must be submitted as high resolution digital .jpg images at 300 dpi (please, no camera phone photos as the dpi is typically not high enough). Files should be saved as artist name and image title (e.g., Doe, Jane - Artwork Title). If your work is selected as a finalist, you may be asked by *Illinois Times* to provide the original work

of art for a display event, but the artwork would be returned to you at the conclusion of the event.

Complete the entry form with a short description and upload your digital files at illinoistimes.com/covercontest, or deliver them on a CD or a flash drive with a completed entry form to: *Illinois Times*, 1240 S. 6th St., Springfield, IL, 62703

Publication/show rights: It is assumed that the entrant is the owner of the copyright of each artwork submitted. Permission to show winning art in the gallery and publication in *Illinois Times* is assumed.

Enter now at illinoistimes.com/visitorsguidecovercontest
Deadline to submit your artwork is Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023 by 5 p.m.



The lineup of sparkling wines from Illinois Sparkling Company. Right, hand-riddling, a process that involves slowly inverting the wine bottle so sediment collects in the neck. PHOTOS COURTESY ILLINOIS SPARKLING COMPANY

The best bubbly

Old World and New meet at Illinois Sparkling Company

FOOD | Ashley Meyer

There are few things I enjoy more than a good glass of bubbly. Champagne, while not the birthplace of sparkling wine, is considered to be the benchmark for top-quality bubbles. The region of France itself is quite small, measuring just under 135 square miles, and only wines grown and produced within its borders are allowed to be labeled as Champagne.

The process itself is also strictly regulated – true Champagne must be made in the traditional method. Grapes are harvested when they're still relatively tart, then pressed and fermented into a base wine, which is then bottled along with a splash of liqueur de tirage. This mixture of sugar, yeast and nutrients sparks a secondary fermentation in the bottle, which creates the wine's iconic sparkle. Once this second fermentation is complete, the wine is matured on the lees (spent yeast cells) for a minimum of 12 months, but the finest wines will often spend several years aging on the lees before it is released. Also known as méthode champenoise, or méthode traditionnelle, this process was developed and perfected by generations of winemakers in Champagne, and all wines bearing that label are made in this way. This costly, labor-intensive process, combined with limited supply from this tiny

region, is why true Champagne is never cheap.

Luckily, wine regions around the world have adopted this same technique, and top-quality méthode champenoise wines can be found in both old-world and new-world regions alike. Traditionally made sparklers from a number of French regions are labeled as cremant, with those from Alsace, Loire and Burgundy being some of the most noteworthy. Spanish cava is also made this way (Italian prosecco is made using a different process). Premium méthode champenoise wines can also be found in practically every New World wine region. Graham Beck is one of my favorite producers from South Africa, and here in the United States, brands like Schramsberg, Chandon and Gruet have achieved legacy status, thanks to their consistently high quality.

Even bubbly lovers in Illinois don't have to travel far to imbibe in delicious méthode champenoise wines. Illinois Sparkling Company, located just two hours north of Springfield, has been making crisp, quaffable traditionally made sparkling wine since 2008. Mark Wenzel is the winemaker and owner of August Hill winery in Utica, Illinois. While he was developing wines for August Hill he noted that Illinois grapes had a similar composition

to fruit from Champagne, in that they were high in acid and low in tannin (compounds that contribute texture and structure in red wines). The climate and geography here in Illinois are remarkably similar to Champagne, which is relatively flat compared to other winemaking regions and has a cold, continental climate.

"It all started, I guess, because my wife and I love to drink sparkling wine," Wenzel explains. "I made some base wine and took it around to folks at conferences who had some experience with sparkling wine and just tried to research and learn as much as I could." Eventually Wenzel would go on to create a separate brand for his bubbly: Illinois Sparkling Company. Using state-of-the-art technology and equipment direct from Champagne, Wenzel has crafted a line of award-winning sparkling wines that showcases the potential of Midwest wines.

ISC's crisp Brut is a blend of Illinois-grown chardonnay, frontenac gris and lacrosse varieties that combine the best characteristics of old-world grapes with the hardiness of American varietals. The wine spends three years on the yeast lees before being riddled and disgorged, a slow labor-intensive process that involves

slowly inverting the bottle so the sediment collects in the neck of the bottle. The neck is then dipped in a super cold brine solution and the frozen plug of yeast is ejected. Wenzel riddled his wines by hand in the early days of ISC, but now uses a machine called a gyropalette. Designed in France and used by all the top Champagne houses, these machines accomplish in a matter of days what used to take weeks of tedious work.

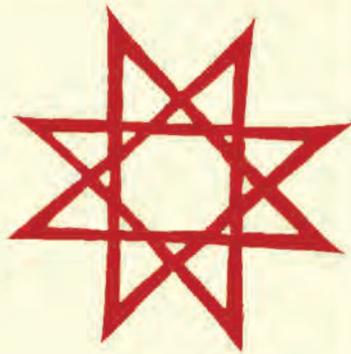
After disgorgement, the wine is topped up with liqueur d'expédition, a mixture of wine and sugar that dictates the sweetness of the final wine. Wenzel uses this opportunity to craft a line of wines in a range of sweetness levels. The brut is the driest, followed by increasingly sweet demi sec and sec offerings. ISC also makes sparkling Rosé from 100% chambourcin grapes, picked early while still fresh and vibrant. Aged for a shorter time on the lees to better preserve the wine's juicy red fruit aromas, the ISC Brut Ombré Rosé is incredibly food-friendly, pairing perfectly with everything from grilled lamb chops to fried chicken and buttery popcorn. Perhaps best of all, ISC's line of wines are competitively priced starting at around \$25. Look for them at your local wine shop or at ISCbubbly.com. □

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5:00 p.m. Children's Service

7:30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols
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MUSIC



Jack White plays holiday music at It's All About Wine this Thursday.

Christmas weekend music

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

Well, with the upcoming frightful weather and how this year Christmas falls on Sunday, therefore putting the naturally occurring Eve on Saturday night, our music forecast for this holiday weekend is slow to middling. Then again, if the pickings are slim, those events that are happening will likely be bustling, since it seems that nothing can stop the deep desire of folks to experience live music.

At this juncture in time, I would like to relate a known notion (but one to be repeated and reminded of) that before venturing out into bad weather to see a show, please check to be sure it's really going to happen. It is just a natural fact that the first excursion into extreme wintry conditions of the season seems to be the worst for travel and cancellations. Then as the winter progresses, the amount of cold and snow may increase, but our tolerance increases as well, and the frustrating cancellations of December becomes the "Oh, hell, let's just do it" of January and February.

Our first cancellation to report is not to the weather but to illness, as the 1st Annual Country Chapel Christmas (featuring the tremendous triumvirate of Joshua Reilly, Micah Walk and Ben Bedford) is not happening this Friday. Not one to waste an opportunity, we can still relate news about the space purchased by Cured Catering owners Brian and Melissa Reilly this year. A historic church building with a unique background in Buffalo, Illinois, it's now renamed the Bullard Country Chapel and is available to rent for events of all kinds. This was to be their first big music show ever (boo-hoo), but I am quite sure there will be many more to come.

Now let's get started on our trip through the scene with a look-see at Thursday night

offerings, acting as if there is not a winter storm with freezing temps on the way. The Curve Inn hosts 3's Company, offering a deal of either a \$10 cover charge or a donation of a large coat, hat or gloves to benefit Helping the Homeless of Springfield as admission. You can't beat an offer of doing good things for the great price of listening to good music, so slide on over to the venerable Curve for a rockin' show invoking the real Christmas spirit.

At It's All About Wine, Jack White delivers the holiday songs one last time for 2022 and Joel Honey is the "host-er with the most-er" at Buzz Bomb's open mic. And for something different, cruise on out to Sangamon Auditorium when the Copper Coin Ballet Company presents *Nutty Nutcracker*, a wild and wacky take on the famous Nutcracker Ballet story.

Friday sure looks good on paper (or online actually) for now, so make a note to get down and go see Mike Burnett & the Suns coming up at the Blue Grouch, the Cocktails serving it up at Third Base, Johnnie Owens & Friends buttering up the crowd at Boone's and Kapital Sound & Friends taking it up at the Curve. Then there's UNCHAINED turning it up at Danenberger's, Roxschool setting it all up at Weebles and some guy named Tom Irwin & the Raouligans rounding up the crowd at George Ranks.

As I mentioned before, having Christmas Eve on a Saturday night sure dampens the scene spirit, but JJ Bradley is up to the task and brings his band into the Blue Grouch for our lone listing of live music.

So much for Sunday Funday music times when that day is Christmas Day, but go enjoy your holiday. Let's make the most of it all, and I'll see you next week. □

MUSIC



Roxschool plays at Weebles Bar & Grill Friday night.

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 Dec 22

Open mic with Joel Honey
Buzz Bomb Brewing Co.,
7-10pm

3's Company
Curve Inn, 6-9pm

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

Christmas music with Jack White
It's All About Wine, 6-9pm

J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke
La Fiesta Chatham, 6-10pm

Friday Dec 23

J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke
Bald Buddha Brewing, 7-11pm

Mike Burnett & the Suns
The Blue Grouch Pub, 6:30-10:30pm

Friday Night Jazz - Johnnie Owens and Friends
Boone's, 5:30-7:30pm

Kapital Sound and Friends
Curve Inn, 6-10pm

UNCHAINED
Danenberger Family Vineyards,
New Berlin, 7-10pm

Tom Irwin and the Raouligans
George Rank's, 8-11pm

The Cocktails
Third Base Sports Bar,
8-11pm

Roxschool
Weebles Bar & Grill, 7-11pm

Saturday Dec 24

JJ Bradley Band
The Blue Grouch Pub, 6:30-10:30pm

Sunday Dec 25

Open mic
Piper Glen Golf Club, 1-5pm

Monday Dec 26

Open mic with Joel Honey and Silas Tockey
Whiskey Jack's Sports Bar,
8-11pm

Tuesday Dec 27

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

Karaoke with Debbie Cakes
The Blue Grouch Pub, 7-11pm

JB's open jam
George Rank's, 8-11pm

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

Open mic with Jim Ackerman
Silver Sevens Bar and Grill,
6:30-9:30pm

Wednesday Dec 28

Open mic
Boone's, 7-10pm

Karaoke
Clique, 9pm-1am

AI Kitchen
Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, 6-9pm

Karaoke with Debbie Cakes
Weebles Bar & Grill, 7-11pm

Karaoke with DJ Jeff
Whiskey Jack's Sports Bar, 7pm

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THE CALENDAR



First Night Springfield
Saturday, Dec. 31, 1-10 p.m.
Hoogland Center for the Arts
420 S. Sixth St.
Union Baptist Church
1405 E. Monroe St.
217-753-3519

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS | A celebration of the arts

it First Night Springfield is on again this year and the Springfield Area Arts Council has planned a celebratory evening with some great partners that have been working to make this night memorable. Hoogland Center for the Arts will start the party by hosting free children's activities and crafts, such as designing bead bracelets and creating fireworks shakers, beginning at 1 p.m. Afterwards, head to the Union Baptist Church to catch the *Watch Night* program presented by writer Robert Davis at 4 p.m. It is a dramatization that recalls the night of Dec. 31, 1862, when enslaved and free African Americans gathered to await news that Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation. You'll have time to get back to the Hoogland by 7 p.m. when it will light up its stages and welcome performances by The Lovelorn, Capital Big Band, Thomas J. Beverly and Geoff Ryan, the Springfield International Folk Dancers and many other acts. Also, on the main floor gallery, you will find an exhibit of the works of members of the Sangamon Watercolor Society. A fireworks display at 8:15 p.m. will help ring in the New Year, too. Gather at the corner of Fourth Street and Capitol Avenue to get a good view of it. Light refreshments will be available throughout the day in the Hoogland Center lobby and festivities will continue through 10:30 p.m. The children's activities, *Watch Night* program and fireworks are free and the family friendly entertainment at 6-10 p.m. is \$20 for adults and \$5 for children. Enjoy the evening and have a happy New Year.

■ Dance

Nutty Nutcracker
Thu., Dec. 22, 7pm. Holiday surprises abound when this magical tale turns upside down. \$5 general admission or \$42 reserved. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

■ Art & Architecture

Holidays at the SAA Collective
Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11am-5pm. The juried artists of the SAA Collective present their ever-popular annual holiday art show. Free. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

■ History

"J. Capps & Sons, Ltd. A History of Nice Threads!"
Through Dec. 30. Featuring the history of Jacksonville's first manufacturer, the exhibit traces the history of the company from 1839 through the company's closing in 1975. See original fabrics, tools, company records and photographs, and read the reminiscences of Capps' employees. Jacksonville Area Museum, Jacksonville, 301 E. State St., 217-408-1197.

■ Faith & Philosophy

Candlelight Service

Sat., Dec. 24, 6pm. First Congregational Church, 2100 S. Bates Ave., 217-546-7170.

Candles & Carols Celebration for the Holiday

Sat., Dec. 24, 6-7:30pm. A lively celebration of many different holidays, all in one festive evening. Free. Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 745 Woodside Road, 217-585-9550.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass

Sat., Dec. 24. Christmas Eve Mass 5pm and Midnight Mass 11pm. Christmas Day Mass 10am. Communion in the Episcopal Church is open to all baptized Christians. Cathedral Church of

St. Paul, 815 S. Second St., 217-544-5135.

Tidings of Comfort & Joy
Sat., Dec. 24, 5:30pm. A service of song and scripture. First Church of the Brethren, 2115 Yale Blvd., 217-523-5212.

■ Holiday Happenings

17th Annual Holiday Interfaith Breakfast

Sun., Dec. 25, 8:30am-12pm. Temple B'rith Sholom and Temple Israel are partnering to serve a Christmas morning breakfast with proceeds to be donated to the local charity, St. Martin de Porres Center. Tickets will be available at

the door. Adults \$9, children ages 5-12. \$5. Free for children under 5. Temple B'rith Sholom, 1004 S. Fourth St., 217-525-1360.

Light up the Park

Thursdays-Sundays, 6-9pm. Through December 25. A local holiday tradition. Get ready to be wowed by the nearly 1-mile drive through hundreds of thousands of lights and beautiful displays. A \$5 per-vehicle donation is requested. Sponsored by the Chatham Friends of the Parks. Chatham Community Park, Chatham, 698 S. Park Ave.

Zoo Lights

Through Dec. 22-23 and Dec. 26-30, 5-9pm. Take a stroll through the zoo and enjoy thousands of lights and displays. Enjoy hot cocoa or roast a marshmallow over the fire pit. See zoo animals that are active this time of year such as red wolves, arctic fox, eagles, cougars, birds of prey and many others. Adults \$7.50, kids 3-12 \$5.50, kids 2 and under free. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

■ Children's Corner

Santa Claus

Mondays-Saturdays, 11am-7pm. Find Santa in front of his huge walk-through Christmas tree in the Macy's wing. Reduce your wait time with reservations at WhereIsSanta.com. White Oaks Mall, 2501 Wabash Ave., 217-787-0110.

Winter Break Fest: STEAMY Winter

Wed., Dec. 28, 11am-3pm. Escape the end-of-break blues with crafts and activities. Make a coded candy cane, create frost in a jar and more. At 11:30am and 1:30pm listen to Mike Anderson tell stories and sing songs about the winter. A come-and-go event. Free. Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring St., 217-782-0061.

■ Bulletin Board

APL pet adoptions

Saturdays. Cats are available 12-4pm and dogs are available 12-3pm. Adoption appointments are also available from 12-5pm at the

shelter at 1001 Tainter Road. PetSmart, 3183 S. Veterans Pkwy., 217-544-7387.

Cat adoptions

Fourth Saturday of every month, 12-3pm. Forever Home Feline Ranch will have cats available for adoption. Opportunities are also available for fostering and volunteering. Donations welcome. Ace Hardware, 1600 Wabash Ave., 217-787-5100.

■ Health & Fitness

Chair aerobics for seniors

Mondays, Wednesdays, 9-10am. Chair aerobics is suitable for everyone, with gentle exercises that develop flexibility, strength, balance, coordination and fitness. Call for more information. athenschristian.net. free. Athens Christian Church, Athens, 1411 E. Route 29, 217-636-8463.

Fasters meeting

Fourth Tuesday of every month, 6-7pm. A group discussion and support for a healthy lifestyle through intermittent fasting and eating real food. CrossFit Instinct, 301 South Grand Ave., 217-725-6715.

Glucose and blood pressure screens

Fourth Wednesday of every month, 9:30-11:30am. Provided by SIU School of Medicine. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-528-4035.

Let's Get Fit

Exercise classes for individuals 50+ hosted by Senior Services of Central Illinois. Meets Monday through Friday, 9-10am, both in person and via Zoom. Contact Justin Yuroff for more information and to register for the Zoom link. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-528-4035.

Overeaters Anonymous

Mondays, 5:30pm. The only requirement is a desire to stop eating compulsively. Unity Church, 417 E. Cordelia St., 217-416-1648.

Overeaters Anonymous

Saturdays, 10am. Springfield First United Methodist Church, 2941 S. Koke Mill Road, 217-416-1648.



FILED
INDEX DEPARTMENT
DEC 15 2022
IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

WHEREAS, On the 8th day of November, 2022, an election was held in the State of Illinois at which time the addition of Section 25 to Article I of the Illinois Constitution was submitted, and

WHEREAS, In pursuance of Law, the State of Board of Elections appointed to canvass the returns of such election and to declare the results thereof, did, on this, the 5th day of December, 2022, canvass the same, and as a result of such canvass, did declare that the Proposed Amendment to the Illinois Constitution has received either three-fifths of those voting on the question or a majority of those voting in the election.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, in conformity to statute in such case made and provided, do hereby make public proclamation, declaring as a result of such canvass the foregoing results.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Besse White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this FIFTEENTH day of DECEMBER, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-TWO, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and FIFTH.

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR

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Real Estate Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Trustee for Dover Mortgage Capital Corporation Grantor Trust Certificate Series 2004-A Plaintiff,

vs. Leda White; Citizens Equity First Credit Union a/k/a CEFCU; Unknown Owners Tenants and Non-Record Claimants Defendants.

Case No. 2013CH00093
1323 Valley Drive, Springfield, IL 62702

Judge Adam Giganti
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on January 19, 2022, Jack Campbell will on January 10, 2023, at the hour of 9:00AM at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Second Floor, Springfield, IL 62703, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Commonly known as 1323 Valley Drive, Springfield, IL 62702

PUBLIC NOTICES

Parcel Number(s): 14-20-353-015
The real estate is improved with an Owner Occupied Single Family Residence.
Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount.
The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds.
The subject property 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. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 19-028400.
Alan S. Kaufman
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
One East Wacker, Suite 1250
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: 312-651-6700
Fax: 614-220-5613
Attorney, No.: 6289893
Email: StateEFiling@manleydeas.com
Case Number: 19-028400
I3208300

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF,
VS.
TONI A MERCHANT A/K/A TONI MERCHANT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 22 FC 000040
1113 NORTH WESLEY STREET SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on June 8, 2022, Sheriff of Sangamon County will on 01/17/2023, in the boardroom of the Sangamon County Bldg., 200 S. 9th St., Springfield, IL 62701, at 09:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:
TAX NO. 14-25.0-104-006 & 14-25.0-104-007
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1113 North Wesley Street
Springfield, IL 62702

Description of Improvements: The property is a single family. The property has a morton type building garage. The garage is detached. The exterior is vinyl siding. The color is tan. The property has a fence. The property is occupied. Fence has damage to it
The Judgment amount was \$81,221.14.
Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours.
NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered

for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the bid amount, 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. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Information: Visit our website at <http://iforeclosuresales.mrpilc.com>.
Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-088181L
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.
I3208622

NOTICE OF SALE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
WILLIAMSVILLE STATE BANK & TRUST, Plaintiff,
vs.
MICHAEL K. RYAN AND WESTWIND HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION, Defendants.

CASE NO. 22-FC-96
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
997 RIDDLE HILL RD.
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on October 26, 2022, the following described real estate, to-wit:
Permanent Index Number: 13-33.0-454-001 aka 13-33-454-001
Commonly known as: 997 Riddle Hill Rd., Springfield, IL 62711
will be offered for sale and sold at public venue on January 31, 2023, at 9:00 AM, in the Sangamon County Complex, County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois. The Judgment amount is \$89,847.74.

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 calculated 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 \$300, in certified funds/or

wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. 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 lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the mortgaged real estate arose 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 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. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.
For information contact Plaintiff's Attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, 601 East William Street, Decatur, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719

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 institution of an action to enforce the collection of assessments, and which remain unpaid by the owner during whose possession the assessments accrued. If the outstanding assessments are paid at any time during any action to enforce the collection of assessments, the purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title.

If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1).
If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that the Law Firm of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
WILLIAMSVILLE STATE BANK & TRUST, Plaintiff,
Dated Dec. 22, 2022
By Ryan M. Beavers (#6335549), Its Attorney
Of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC
Ryan M. Beavers (#6335549)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 740
Decatur, IL 62525
Send Notice/Pleadings to:
Veronika J. Miles (#6313161)
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Telephone: (217) 422-1719
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754

COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF PATTI J. LEWIS, DECEASED
CLAIMS NOTICE
No. 2022 PR 465
Notice is given of the death of Patti J. Lewis. Letters of Office were issued on December 12, 2022, to Linda Williams Hammer, c/o Kevin N. McDermott, 109 South 7th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704, or with the Executor, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice, and any claim not filed within that period is barred.
Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 12th day of December, 2022.
Kevin N. McDermott
Attorney for the Estate of Patti J. Lewis
109 South Seventh Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 753-4070
Ill. Reg. No. 6196497
Kevin@KevinNMCDermott.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In Re the Estate of:
JAMES ROBERT "ROB" MEHAN, JR., Deceased.
Case No.: 2022PR000472
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of James Robert Mehan, Jr., of Riverton, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 14, 2022, to Diana Cappelli, as Independent Executor, whose address is c/o her attorney of record, Barry O. Hines, 1224 Centre West Drive, Suite 200A, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

The Estate will be administered without Court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration, at any time, by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 23, 2023, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Dated this 14th day of December, 2022.
Diana Cappelli
Independent Executor
Barry O. Hines - 01220918
Attorney at Law
1224 Centre West Drive, Suite 200A
Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone: (217) 698-8444
Email: Barry@HinesLaw.net

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
RICHARD L. GROSS,
Deceased.
Case No. 2022-PR-410
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of RICHARD L. GROSS, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on September 28, 2022. Letters of Testamentary were issued on the 27th day of October, A.D., 2022, to STEVEN P. CHURCHILL, 116 Linden Lane, Williamsville, Illinois, 62693, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Sangamon County Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 28th day of October, A.D., 2022.
ESTATE OF RICHARD L. GROSS, Deceased,
BY: /s/Pamela E. Hart
Hart, one of his Attorneys.
PREPARED BY:
Pamela E. Hart (6299974)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217)753-8200
peh@scottscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
VICTORIA L. WILLIAMS,
Deceased.
Case No. 2022-PR-451
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE AND NOTICE TO HEIRS
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of VICTORIA L. WILLIAMS, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on November 10, 2022. Notice is hereby given that the Last Will and Testament of VICTORIA L. WILLIAMS, dated September 14, 2022, was admitted to probate on November 30th, 2022 and on that date Letters Testamentary were also issued to SUSAN J. THOMPSON, 2713 Clifton Dr., Springfield, Illinois 62704, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Sangamon County Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 6th day of December, A.D., 2022.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of:
Mark A. Talkington,
Deceased.
No.: 2022-PR-453
NOTICE TO HEIRS AND
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF CLAIM DATE
Notice is given of the death of Mark A. Talkington, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters Testamentary were issued on December 1, 2022, to Phillip A. Canady, 14386 Boy Scout Trail, Petersburg, Illinois 62675, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is DELANO LAW OFFICES, LLC, One Southeast Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.
Notice is given to all known and unknown heirs of Mark A. Talkington of the entry of the Order as set forth above and of the entry of an Order declaring Christopher Lee Talkington as the only heir of Mark A. Talkington.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 28-4 of the Probate Act, 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.

Estate of VICTORIA L. WILLIAMS,
Deceased,
BY: /s/ Pamela E. Hart
Pamela E. Hart, one of its Attorneys.
PREPARED BY:
Pamela E. Hart (6299974)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217)753-8200
peh@scottscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
PAUL S. BRADY,
Deceased.
Case No. 2022-PR-443
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of PAUL S. BRADY, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on October 11, 2022. Letters of Testamentary were issued on the 30th day of November, A.D., 2022, to MICHAEL S. BRADY, 908 S. Linden Street, Normal, Illinois, 61761, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Sangamon County Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 6th day of December, A.D., 2022.

ESTATE OF PAUL S. BRADY,
Deceased,
BY: /s/Pamela E. Hart
Pamela E. Hart, one of his Attorneys.
PREPARED BY:
Pamela E. Hart (6299974)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217)753-8200
peh@scottscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of:
Mark A. Talkington,
Deceased.
No.: 2022-PR-453
NOTICE TO HEIRS AND
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF CLAIM DATE
Notice is given of the death of Mark A. Talkington, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters Testamentary were issued on December 1, 2022, to Phillip A. Canady, 14386 Boy Scout Trail, Petersburg, Illinois 62675, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is DELANO LAW OFFICES, LLC, One Southeast Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.
Notice is given to all known and unknown heirs of Mark A. Talkington of the entry of the Order as set forth above and of the entry of an Order declaring Christopher Lee Talkington as the only heir of Mark A. Talkington.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 28-4 of the Probate Act, 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months of the first day that this Notice is published, and any claim not so filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Alan J. Jedlicka – 6291659
DELANO LAW OFFICES, LLC
Attorneys for Executor
One Southeast Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: 217-544-2703
Fax: 217-544-4664
ajedlicka@delanolaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Estate of:
CHARLES M. KENNEY, II,
Deceased.
NO. 2022-PR-457
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Charles M. Kenney, II of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 7, 2022, to Janet K. Kenney, 2624 Hazelnut Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62702, as Executor, whose attorneys are Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before June 14, 2023, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 7th day of December, 2022.
Matthew J. Cate - 06272040
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-4868
matthewcate@barberlaw.com
335685

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In Re the Estate of:
JEFFREY A. MAGUIRE,
Deceased.
No. 2022-PR-471
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of JEFFREY A. MAGUIRE, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 14, 2022, to CYNTHIA MAGUIRE, as Independent Executrix, and whose attorney of record is WILLIAM D. REID, Elmore & Reid, 808 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704.
The Estate will be administered without Court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of Sangamon County, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of issuance of Letters, and any claim not filed within that period is barred.
CYNTHIA MAGUIRE,
Independent Executrix

ELMORE & REID
Attorneys At Law
808 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62704
217/523-2340

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN RE THE ESTATE OF
JUDITH ANN McCASKELL
DECEASED
Case No. 2022-PR- 426
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is hereby given of the death of JUDITH ANN McCASKELL. Letters of Administration were issued on December 6, 2022, appointing TINA PIERCE, 78 W. Fairview Lane, Springfield, IL 62711, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Creighton R. Castle of Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C., 900 Community Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703. Phone: (217) 525-1571.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated: 12/08/22
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Sangamon County Complex
200 S. Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Prepared By:
Creighton R. Castle, ARDC No. 6215856
crcastle@gwcbllaw.com
Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.
efile@gwcbllaw.com
900 Community Drive
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 525-1571
8051-928778

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF: MICHAEL E. CAMPBELL,
Deceased.
Case No.: 2022-PR-449
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of MICHAEL E. CAMPBELL of Williamsville, Illinois, and that Letters Testamentary were issued on November 28, 2022, to ELIZABETH C. CUMMINGS, as Executor, of 530 S. State Street, Lincoln, IL 62656, whose attorney is Duane D. Young of Young Law Partners, P.C., 1300 South 8th Street, Suite Two, Springfield, Illinois, 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, and with the offices of Young Law Partners, P.C., Attorneys for Executor, or both, within six (6) months from the date of publication and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representatives and to their attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
ELIZABETH C. CUMMINGS, Executor of the Estate of MICHAEL E. CAMPBELL, Deceased
Attorneys' Address:
Duane D. Young
Registration No.: 3091457
YOUNG LAW PARTNERS, P.C.

1300 South Eighth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Telephone: (217) 544-8500
Facsimile: (217) 544-6200
8051-928675

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE Matter of the Estate of
BARBARA A. KOLKHORST, Deceased.
IN PROBATE
No. 2022-PR-456
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Barbara A. Kolkhorst, deceased. Letters of Office were issued on December 6, 2022, to Sharon K. Sampson, 20953 Athens Blacktop Road, Petersburg, IL 62675, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Brandon R. Clark, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 12th day of June, 2023, or three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 7th day of December, 2022.
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Brandon R. Clark
Registration No. 6329553
205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705-2459
(217) 544-8491
bclark@bhslaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
GARY CHASTAIN,
Deceased
NO. 2022-PR-464
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of GARY CHASTAIN, Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on December 14, 2022, to GARY L. CHASTAIN, 225 Homes St., Manton, MI 49663, and KATHY CONVERY, 648 E. Devon Hurst Lane, Point Vedra, FL 32081, as Independent Administrators, whose attorney is Alex B. Rabin, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr & Rabin, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before June 15, 2023, or six (6) months from the date the Representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 14th day of December, 2021.

Alex B. Rabin
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin, & Reinbold, LLP
1119 S. Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
217-789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
CAROL M. TUNGETT, DECEASED
Case #2022-PR-466
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of CAROL M. TUNGETT. Letters of Office have been issued to RICHARD E. POOCK, JR., 322 Julie Court, Chatham, IL 62629, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before June 27, 2023, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 13th day of December, 2022.
Patrick J. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217)544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
TERRY J. HUNTER, DECEASED
Case #2022-PR-470
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE/NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS
Notice is given of the death of TERRY J. HUNTER. Letters of office have been issued to KAREN PATTERSON, 2800 Via Rosso #200, Springfield, IL 62703, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before June 28, 2023, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Notice is also given to the UNKNOWN HEIRS OF TERRY J. HUNTER, Deceased, including any unknown heir who may be a minor or a disabled person, that an Order was entered in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois, on December 14, 2022, admitting Decedent's Will to Probate. You are named as an heir of Decedent in the Petition for Probate of said Will. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order of Admission, any heir may file a Petition with the court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or by other evidence, as provided in Section 6-21 of the Probate Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 755, Act 5, Section 8-1), or successor provision. Heirs also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 755, Act 5, Section 8-1), or successor provision, to contest the validity of the Will by filing a Petition with the Court within 6 months after December 14, 2022. Filings are to be made with the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Spring-

field, IL 62701. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk to your local Circuit Clerk's office.
Dated this 14th day of December, 2022.
Patrick J. Sheehan, III
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217)544-0701

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF SANGAMON
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JAMES R. MARX, DECEASED.
NO. 2022-PR-445
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
Notice is given of the death of JAMES R. MARX, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 23, 2022, to ELIZABETH ANN MAYFIELD of 1912 Fairfield Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62702 and DAVID JAMES MARX of 2234 Everest Parkway, Cape Coral, Florida 33904, whose attorney is DelGiorno Law Office, LLC; 2160 S. 6th Street, Suite E, Springfield, Illinois 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S 9th St., room 405, Springfield, IL 62701 or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the 8th day of December, 2022, being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Dated this 29th day of November 2022.
ELIZABETH ANN MAYFIELD and DAVID JAMES MARX,
Co-Executors of the Estate of JAMES R. MARX, Deceased
By: DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
By: /s/ Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney Attorneys for Estate:
Anthony J. DelGiorno (ARDC 6277358)
DELGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
2160 S. Sixth St., Ste. E
Springfield, IL 62703
Tel: (217) 773-5337
Service: service@delgiornolawoffice.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
David M. Fickas Jr., Petitioner
And
Christina A. Fickas, Respondent
Case No. 2022-DC-247
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Christina A. Fickas, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.
Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, in Springfield, Illinois on or before the 22nd day of January, 2023, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.
Paul Palazzolo
Circuit Clerk

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF SANGAMON
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JOSEPH P. ROCK, DECEASED.
NO. 2022-PR-447
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES
Notice is given of the death of JOSEPH P. ROCK, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 23,

2022, to CHRISTOPHER WALSH of 4076 Rose Ave., Western Springs, Illinois 60558, whose attorney is DelGiorno Law Office, LLC; 2160 S. 6th Street, Suite E, Springfield, Illinois 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S 9th St., room 405, Springfield, IL 62701 or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the 8th day of December, 2022, being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
You also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1) and pursuant to Section 6-11 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-11) to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within 6 months after admission of the Will to probate.
Dated this 29th day of November, 2022.
CHRISTOPHER WALSH, Independent Executor of the Estate of JOSEPH P. ROCK, Deceased
By: DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
By: /s/ Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney Attorneys for Estate:
Anthony J. DelGiorno (ARDC 6277358)
DELGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
2160 S. Sixth St., Ste. E
Springfield, IL 62703
Tel: (217) 773-5337
Service: service@delgiornolawoffice.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
David M. Fickas Jr., Petitioner
And
Christina A. Fickas, Respondent
Case No. 2022-DC-247
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Christina A. Fickas, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.
Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, in Springfield, Illinois on or before the 22nd day of January, 2023, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.
Paul Palazzolo
Circuit Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of
Leviathis James Kirkum
For change of name to
Leviathis Topez Alexander
Case No.: 2022-MR-505
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on January 25, 2023 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name

from Leviathis James Kirkum to Leviathis Topez Alexander, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Dec. 8, 2022

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Daniel Kirkum
For change of name to J'yonte Dasan Alexander
Case No.: 2022-MR-504
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on January 25, 2023 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Daniel Kirkum to J'yonte Dasan Alexander, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Dec. 8, 2022

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Stephanie Lynn Lockhart
For change of name to Stephanie Lynn Maupin
Case No.: 2022-MR-496
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 7, 2023 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Stephanie Lynn Lockhart to Stephanie Lynn Maupin, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Dec. 15, 2022

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Kory Alexander Wall
For change of name to Elise Dawn Willow
Case No.: 2022-MR-455
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 7, 2023 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Kory Alexander Wall to Elise Dawn Willow , pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Dec. 15, 2022

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Ann Katherine Hearing Stealey
For change of name to Katherine Stealey
Case No.: 2022-MR-508
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on January 13, 2023 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Ann Katherine Hearing Stealey to Katherine Stealey, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Dec. 15, 2022

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Katherine Elizabeth Rohrscheib
For change of name to Marzipan Leonore Eyrie
Case No.: 2022-MR-511
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on January 24, 2023 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Katherine Elizabeth Rohrscheib to Marzipan Leonore Eyrie , pursuant to the

statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Dec. 15, 2022

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Katherine Nicole Dzierzanowski
For change of name to Katherine Nicole Strode
Case No.: 2022-MR-469
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 7, 2023 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Katherine Nicole Dzierzanowski to Katherine Nicole Strode, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Dec. 22, 2022

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Hayley Elizabeth Jacobson
For change of name to Casey Emory Jacobson
Case No.: 2022-MR-418
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 7, 2023 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Hayley Elizabeth Jacobson to Casey Emory Jacobson, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Dec. 22, 2022

Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS
Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Trustee for Dover Mortgage Capital Corporation Grantor Trust Certificate Series 2004-A
Plaintiff,
vs.
Leda White; Citizens Equity First Credit Union a/k/a CFCU; Unknown Owners Tenants and Non-Record Claimants Defendants.
Case No. 2013CH00093
1323 Valley Drive, Springfield, IL 62702
Judge Adam Giganti
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on January 19, 2022, Jack Campbell will on January 10, 2023, at the hour of 9:00AM at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Second Floor, Springfield, IL 62703, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
LOT 72 OF WESTWOOD VALLEY, SECOND ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 1, 1966 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 315976, A SUB-DIVISION OF PART OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 16 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN. Commonly known as 1323 Valley Drive, Springfield, IL 62702
Parcel Number(s): 14-20-353-015
The real estate is improved with an Owner Occupied Single Family Residence.
Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The subject property 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. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601.
Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 19-028400.
Alan S. Kaufman
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
One East Wacker, Suite 1250
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: 312-651-6700
Fax: 614-220-5613
Attorney. No.: 6289893
Email: StateE filing@manleydeas.com
Case Number: 19-028400
I3208300

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
UNITED COMMUNITY BANK, an Illinois banking corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
DAVID M. SCHNECK, JAIMEE L. BELLOT, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
No. 2022FC000239

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS of the real estate described below, Defendants in the above-entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-206, 15-1218 and 15-1502 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Defendants is January 27, 2023.
Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on December 9, 2022.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: United Community Bank, an Illinois banking corporation; Case No. 2022FC000239.
2. The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois
3. The names of the title holders of record are: David M. Schneck and Jaimee L. Bellot
4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: Lot 18 in Woodland Estates Subdivision Plat No. 3, according to the plat thereof recorded June 3, 1997, in the Office of the Recorder of Sangamon County, Illinois, as Document No. 97-21070.
5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 901 Redwood Drive, Auburn, IL 62615
6. The Tax Identification Number for the real estate is as follows: 34-10-304.010
7. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows: Names of Mortgagors: David M. Schneck and Jaimee L. Bellot
Name of Mortgagee: United Community Bank
Date of Mortgage: May 15, 2020
Date of recording: May 19, 2020
County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois

1. The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: United Community Bank, an Illinois banking corporation, successor by merger to Illini Bank; Case No. 2022FC000240.
2. The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court for the seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois
3. The names of the title holders of record are: Joseph J. Burger and Linda L. Burger
4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: Lot 13 in Country Lake West, 2nd Plat according to the Plat thereof recorded March 23, 1979 as Document No. 819484.
Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any.
Situating in Sangamon County, Illinois.
5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 7486 Country Lake Drive, Springfield, Illinois
6. The Tax Identification Number(s) for the real estate is/are as follows: 13-29-452-006
7. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows: Names of Mortgagors: Joseph J. Burger and Linda L. Burger
Name of Mortgagee: Illini Bank
Date of Mortgage: January 29, 2013
Date of recording: February 7, 2013
County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois
Recording document identification: Document No. 2013R04659
/s/ Paul Palazzolo
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Emmet A. Fairfield

Recording document identification: Document No. 2020R11142
/s/ Paul Palazzolo
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Emmet A. Fairfield
Registration No. 6180505
205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-8491
efairfield@bhslaw.com
8051-928844

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
UNITED COMMUNITY BANK, an Illinois banking corporation, successor by merger to Illini Bank
Plaintiff,
vs.
JOSEPH J. BURGER, LINDA L. BURGER, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants.
No. 2022FC000240

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS of the real estate described below, Defendants in the above-entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-206, 15-1218, and 15-1502 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Defendants is January 27, 2023.
Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on December 9, 2022.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs and case number are as follows: United Community Bank, an Illinois banking corporation, successor by merger to Illini Bank; Case No. 2022FC000240.
2. The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court for the seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois
3. The names of the title holders of record are: Joseph J. Burger and Linda L. Burger
4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: Lot Thirteen (13) Country Lake West, 2nd Plat according to the Plat thereof recorded March 23, 1979 as Document No. 819484.

Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any.
Situating in Sangamon County, Illinois.
5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 7486 Country Lake Drive, Springfield, Illinois
6. The Tax Identification Number(s) for the real estate is/are as follows: 13-29-452-006
7. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows: Names of Mortgagors: Joseph J. Burger and Linda L. Burger
Name of Mortgagee: Illini Bank
Date of Mortgage: January 29, 2013
Date of recording: February 7, 2013
County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois
Recording document identification: Document No. 2013R04659
/s/ Paul Palazzolo
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Emmet A. Fairfield

Registration No. 6180505
205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705-2459
(217) 544-8491
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Registration No. 6180505
205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000
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Springfield, IL 62705-2459
(217) 544-8491
efairfield@bhslaw.com
8051-928846

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
UNITED COMMUNITY BANK, an Illinois banking corporation
Plaintiff,
vs.

CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON, LEONIFEL V. THOMPSON, CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a municipal corporation, STATE OF ILLIONIS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
No. 2022FC000241
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS of the real estate described below, Defendants in the above-entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-206, 15-1218, and 15-1502 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Defendants is January 31, 2023.
Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on December 13, 2022.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: United Community Bank, an Illinois banking corporation; Case No. 2022FC000241.
2. The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois
3. The name of the title holder of record is: Christopher Thompson
4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:
The South 52 feet of Lot 12 and the South 52 feet of the East Half of Lot 11 in Block 7 in Paynes South Grand Avenue Subdivision Number 3 of Part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 15 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian.
Situating in Sangamon County, Illinois.
5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 1409 South First Street, Springfield, Illinois
6. The Tax Identification Number(s) for the real estate is/are as follows: 22-04-206-012
7. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:
Name of Mortgagor: Christopher Thompson
Name of Mortgagee: United Community Bank
Date of Mortgage: September 5, 2001
Date of recording: September 20, 2001
County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois
Recording document identification: Document No. 2001R46266
/s/ Paul Palazzolo
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Emmet A. Fairfield
Registration No. 6180505
205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705-2459
(217) 544-8491
efairfield@bhslaw.com
8051-928893

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF,
VS.
TONI A MERCHANT A/K/A TONI MERCHANT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.
NO. 22 FC 000040
1113 NORTH WESLEY STREET SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on June 8, 2022, Sheriff of Sangamon County will on 01/17/2023, in the boardroom of the Sangamon County Bldg., 200 S. 9th St., Springfield, IL 62701, at 09:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment: LOTS FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE (573) AND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR (574) IN SPAULDING'S CAPITAL PARK ADDITION. EXCEPT ALL COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE SAID LANDS TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE SAME. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS .
TAX NO. 14-25.0-104-006 & 14-25.0-104-007
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1113 North Wesley Street
Springfield, IL 62702
Description of Improvements: The property is a single family. The property has a morton type building garage. The garage is detached. The exterior is vinyl siding. The color is tan. The property has a fence. The property is occupied. Fence has damage to it
The Judgment amount was \$81,221.14.
Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours.
NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the bid amount, 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. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF,
VS.
TONI A MERCHANT A/K/A TONI MERCHANT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.
NO. 22 FC 000040
1113 NORTH WESLEY STREET SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
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IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE

FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-08818IL PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale. 13208622

NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE

SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COUNTY OF SANGAMON

SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY,

ILLINOIS

WILLIAMSVILLE STATE BANK & TRUST,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL K. RYAN AND WESTWIND HOME

OWNERS ASSOCIATION,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 22-FC-96

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

997 RIDDLE HILL RD.

SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on October 26, 2022, the following described real estate, to-wit:

LOT 5 IN WEST WIND, A SUBDIVISION

OF PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF

THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE

SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 33,

TOWNSHIP 16 NORTH, RANGE 6 WEST OF

THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; ALSO

KNOWN AS LOT 5 IN WESTWIND. SITUATED

IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Permanent Index Number: 13-33.0-454-

001 aka 13-33-454-001

Commonly known as: 997 Riddle Hill Rd.,

Springfield, IL 62711

will be offered for sale and sold at public

venue on January 31, 2023, at 9:00 AM,

in the Sangamon County Complex, County

Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield,

Illinois.

The Judgment amount is \$89,847.74.

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 calculated

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 \$300, in certified funds/or

wire transfer, is due within twenty-four

(24) hours. 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 lienor acquiring the residential

real estate whose rights in and to the

mortgaged real estate arose 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

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.

Prospective bidders are admonished

to check the Court file to verify all

information.

For information contact Plaintiff's Attorney:

Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, 601 East

William Street, Decatur, IL 62523, (217)

422-1719

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 institution

of an action to enforce the collection of

assessments, and which remain unpaid by

the owner during whose possession the

assessments accrued. If the outstanding

assessments are paid at any time during

any action to enforce the collection of

assessments, the purchaser shall have no

obligation to pay any assessments which

accrued before he or she acquired title.

If this property is a condominium unit

which is part of a common interest community,

the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure

sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the

assessments required by the Condominium

Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1).

If the sale is not confirmed for any reason,

the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled

only to a return of the purchase price

paid. The Purchaser shall have no further

recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee

or the Mortgagee's attorney.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-

OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO

REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS

AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION,

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701

(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE

FORECLOSURE LAW.

Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection

Practices Act you are advised that the Law

Firm of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, is

deemed to be a debt collector attempting

to collect a debt, and any information

obtained will be used for that purpose.

WILLIAMSVILLE STATE BANK & TRUST,

Plaintiff,

Dated Dec. 22, 2022

By Ryan M. Beavers (#6335549), Its

Attorney

Of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC

Ryan M. Beavers (#6335549)

HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC

Attorneys at Law

P.O. Box 740

Decatur, IL 62525

Send Notice/Pleadings to:

Veronika J. Miles (#6313161)

Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com

Telephone: (217) 422-1719

Facsimile: (217) 422-1754

8051-928153

Capitol Storage LLC

818 S Dirksen Parkway

Springfield, IL 62703

217-522-0300

Sale 01-07-2023

Peoria Rd

#37 Rick Lascody

Taintor Rd

17 Treyvion Burton

J6 Pam Kirk

To pay past due rent and fees call 1-217-

522-0300. Private Sale will be January 7,

2023 at 9AM. The sale will begin at Peoria

Rd. Location. Please call to verify start

location day before sale.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, IL-

INOIS PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Plaintiff,

vs.

2004 HONDA CR-V

VIN# JHLRD78844C021973

Jennifer Duval

No. 22-MX-000188

22-AF-018

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the People

of the State of Illinois, ex rel. Daniel K.

Wright, State's Attorney for Sangamon

County, filed the above-captioned matter

on February 24, 2022. UNLESS YOU file a

verified answer with the State's Attorney

of Sangamon County, Illinois at the Sangamon

County Complex, 200 South Ninth

Street, Room 402, Springfield, Illinois,

62701, within 45 days of this publication,

A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT OR DECREE

MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR FORFEITURE

OF THE ABOVE ASSETS PURSUANT

TO ILLINOIS FORFEITURE LAW.

/s/ Paul Palazzolo

Clerk of Court

J.W. Pierceall

Assistant State's Attorney

200 S. 9th Street, Room 402

Springfield, Illinois 62701

(217) 753-6690

Sangamoncounty.SAO.civil@sangamonil.

gov

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS

SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD,

ILLINOIS

THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS,

a Municipal Corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Dorothy M. Johnson, Bobby J. Jimerson,

UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD

CLAIMANTS,

Defendants.

No. 22-MR-522

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO, Dorothy M. Johnson,

Bobby J. Jimerson, Unknown Owners and

Non-Record Claimants, that a complaint

has been filed in the above named court

on December 6, 2022 for demolition of the

structure or structures located on the real

estate commonly known as 2000 E. Cook

Street, Springfield, Illinois, and legally

described as:

Lot 5 and the West 10 Feet of Lot 4 in

Block 1 of Gatschenberger's Subdivision

of the Northwest Part of the East Half

of the Southwest Quarter of Section 35,

Township 16 North, Range 5 West of

the Third Principal Meridian. Situated in

Sangamon County, Illinois.

(Permanent Parcel No. 14-35.0-327-001);

and for other relief.

UNLESS Dorothy M. Johnson, Bobby J.

Jimerson, Unknown Owners and Non-

Record Claimants FILE an answer or

otherwise file an appearance in this case

in the office of the clerk of this court,

Room 405 Sangamon County Building,

200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL

62701, on or before January 17, 2023. A

JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY

BE ENTERED AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT

DAY FOR THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE

COMPLAINT.

/s/ Paul Palazzolo

Clerk of Court

J6 Pam Kirk

Corporation Counsel

Kateah McMasters

Assistant Corporation Counsel

Attorneys for Plaintiff

800 E. Monroe, Room 327

Springfield, IL 62701-1653

(217) 789-2375

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission

will meet on Wednesday, January

18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council

Chamber of the Municipal Center West to

hear the following petition.

A petition for a variance of Sections:

155.320 (e), Permitted Accessory

On-Premise Signs, and 155.322 (c), Il-

luminated Signs, of the Springfield Zoning

Ordinance. Petitioner desires to install an

illuminated monument, ground sign and

requests variation of certain sign regula-

tions. To be in compliance with the zoning

ordinance, petitioner respectfully petitions

for a variance of Section: 155.320 (e) to

allow the placement of one illuminated

monument sign four (4) feet from the

West property line instead of ten (10') feet

as required in Section 155.320 e; and

155.322 (c) to allow the placement of

one illuminated monument sign less than

100 feet from a residential zoning lot as

required in Section 155.322 c.

Improvements (or structures) located on

said property are one brick and frame

building (12,000 sq ft), one frame building

(4,000 sq ft); one block and steel frame

building (36,000 sq ft). Subject Real Es-

tate is currently classified in the I-1, Light

Industrial District, Section 155.040.

Legally described as: Lots 6, 7, 8, and 9

in Block 8 of Frank Osburn's addition to

the City of Springfield and vacated alley

and Miller Street, situated in Sangamon

County, and further identified as Index#

14-28.0-179-010.

The property is commonly known as 700

North MacArthur Boulevard, Springfield,

Illinois.

The petitioners are Historic Renovations,

Inc., By Kirk Jefferis, Its President.

Docket No. 2023-003

Docket No. 2023-002
John Harris
Assistant Zoning Administrator

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS REGIONS BANK D/B/A REGIONS MORTGAGE, Plaintiff,

vs. SHELLY WEST, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISEES OF SIMON J. WEST A/K/A SIMON J. WEST, JR., DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SIMON J. WEST A/K/A SIMON J. WEST, JR., DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISEES OF SIMON J. WEST A/K/A SIMON J. WEST, JR., DECEASED AND REGIONS BANK, Defendants.
CASE NO. 22-FC-191
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 14356 BAB RD AUBURN, IL 62615
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Unknown Heirs and Devises of Simon J. West a/k/a Simon J. West, Jr., deceased, Unknown Claimants and Lienholders Against the Estate of Simon J. West a/k/a Simon J. West, Jr., deceased and Unknown Claimants and Lienholders Against the Unknown Heirs and Devises of Simon J. West a/k/a Simon J. West, Jr., deceased, Defendants, this case has been commenced in this Court against you and others, asking for foreclosure of the Mortgage held by the Plaintiff on the property located at 14356 Bab Rd, Auburn, IL 62615, more particularly described as:

i. The names of all plaintiffs and the case number are identified above.
ii. The court in which said action was brought is identified above.
iii. The names of the title holders of record are: Heirs and Devises of Simon J. West, deceased
iv. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:

Part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 12, Township 13 North, Range 6 West of the Third Principal Meridian, Sangamon County, Illinois, being described as follows: Commencing at a stone at the North Quarter corner of Section 12; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 1699.46 feet to an iron pin at the point of beginning; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West 338.66 feet to an iron pin; thence South 89 degrees 13 minutes 04 seconds East 238.52 feet to an iron pin; thence North 2 degrees 18 minutes 43 seconds West 343.51 feet to an iron pin; thence South 89 degrees 39 minutes 47 seconds West 224.64 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.81 acres, more or less.

Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any.

Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois
Permanent Index Number: 34-12-200-037 a/k/a 34-12.0-200-037

v. A common address or description of the location for the real estate is as follows:

14356 Bab Rd, Auburn, IL 62615
vi. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:
Names of the Mortgagors: Shelly West, Unmarried Woman

Names of the Mortgagee: Regions Bank d/b/a Regions Mortgage
Date of the Mortgage: June 22, 2018
Date of the recording: June 28, 2018
County where recorded: Sangamon County
Recording document identification: Document No. 2018R13264

UNLESS YOU FILE your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the Office of the Clerk of this Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1629 on or before January 21, 2023, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE.
CLERK OF THE COURT

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Julie Beyers (#6217185)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 740
Decatur, IL 62525
Send Notice/Pleadings to:
Veronika J. Miles (#6313161)
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Telephone: (217) 422-1719
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754
8051-928942

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF: STEVEN BRUCE SHERER, Deceased.

Case No. 2022-PR-65
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the death of STEVEN BRUCE SHERER. Letters Testamentary were issued on December 1, 2022, appointing CHRISTOPHER E. SHERER, 5 Old Oaks Dr., Hillsboro, IL 62049, as Executor, whose attorney is John M. Gabala of Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C., 900 Community Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 62703, Phone: (217) 525-1571.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Montgomery County Courthouse, 120 North Main Street, Hillsboro, IL 62049, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 1, 2023, which date is not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Court Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed with the Circuit Court Clerk.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local Circuit Clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your Circuit Clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

If you are unable to pay your court fees, you can apply for a fee waiver. For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegalaid.org. You can also ask your local Circuit Clerk's office for a fee waiver application.

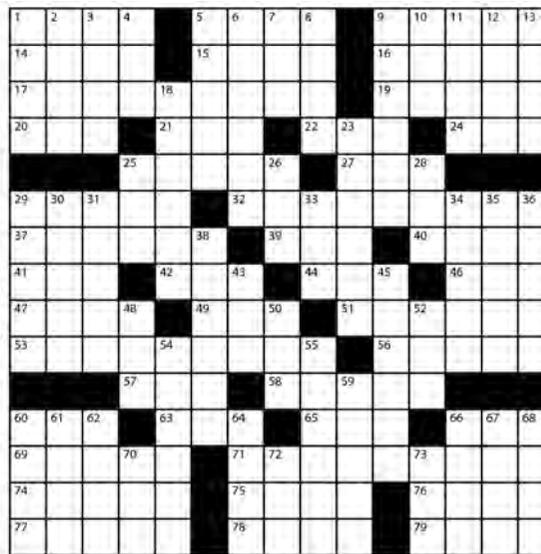
Dated: 12/16/2022
Clerk of the Circuit Court
120 North Main Street, Hillsboro, IL 62049
8051-928947

It can be thrown

Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 769

Across

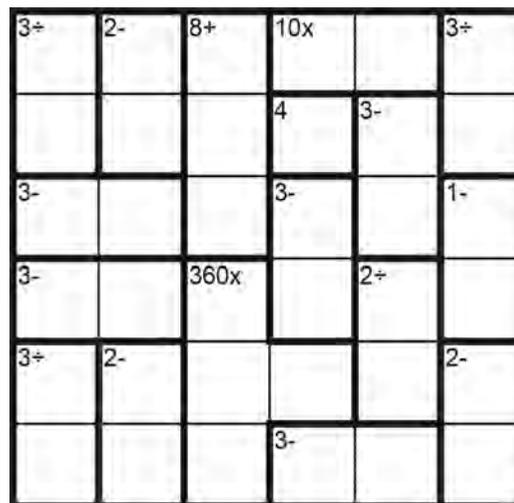
1. Bankrolls
5. "Put ___ on it!"
9. ___ diem (seize the day)
14. Give off, as light
15. Spanish house
16. Notify
17. A.T.M. access code
19. Attach
20. Golf ball prop
21. Michelle Obama ___ Robinson
22. Beachgoer's goal
24. Health resort
25. Supermarket area
27. Egypt and Syria, once: Abbr.
29. Brainy
32. Five- or seven-card game
37. "___ Sandman"
39. TV show featuring a DNA lab
40. Ball
41. Caribou kin
42. Cozy room
44. Aliens, for short
46. Egyptian boy king
47. "I cannot tell ___"
49. Comic book punch sound
51. Big step
53. Downloadable alerts
56. On ___-to-know basis
57. Bruin legend Bobby
58. Tops
60. Neighbor of Ga.
63. Colorado Indian
65. Dr. of rap



66. Steal
69. Valentine's Day dozen
71. Knight's protection
74. "... and ___ of thousands!"
75. Abhor
76. "___ that special?!"
77. 1980's first lady
78. Has a mortgage
79. Toll rds.
10. Will Smith title role
11. Roger of "Cheers" dozen
12. Support. with "up"
13. Europe's highest volcano
18. Together
23. Unwelcome financial exams
25. Gallery display
26. And so forth
28. Yankee Maris, informally
29. Makeup problem
30. Pop music's ___ Vanilli
31. Welcome at the door
33. "What's the ___?"
34. Actress Holmes
35. Get away from
36. Gave a PG, say
38. News bulletin
43. "Smoking or ___?"
45. ___ Island, N.Y.
48. It may be stroked
50. Part of WWW
52. E.R. workers
54. Reliable
55. Put under
59. Astrological ram
60. Actress Drescher
61. "Livin' la Vida ___"
62. Straight ___ arrow
64. Canyon effect
66. Coarse file
67. Sound on Old MacDonald's farm
68. Some diner orders
70. Computer key: Abbr.
72. "Hee ___"
73. Cambridge univ.

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 769

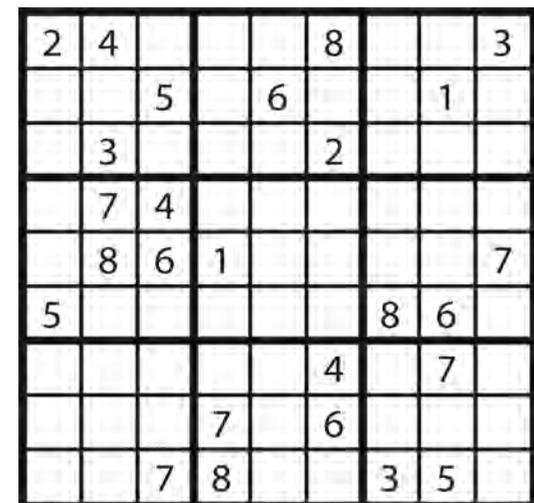
Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.



Difficulty hard

Sudoku No. 769

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



Difficulty medium

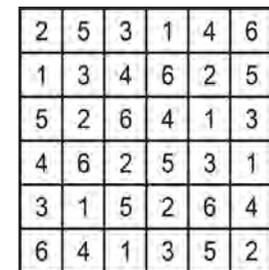
Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #768



Sudoku answers from #768



JoshJosh answers from #768

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 3200 W. Iles, 217-787-5111
 700 Stevenson Drive, 217-529-3000
 617 Bruns Lane, 217-787-3001
 120 S Chatham Road, 217-787-1651
 2120 Peoria Road, 217-544-0139

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 BJ Grand Salon & Spa West, 3300 Robbins Rd.
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