

CAPITAL CITY

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# parent

Spring 2022

When our children are  
transgender **p4**

Boys on the run **p7**

Books about  
gardening fun **p11**

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## CAPITAL CITY parent

Spring 2022

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# When our children are transgender

PARENT | Carey Smith

Coming out to a parent can be a challenge at any age, but with increasing social freedom, more parents are trusted with their children's view of their true selves. Alice, a Springfield-area mom, was one of these parents. She asked to be identified by a pseudonym to protect her child's privacy.

"I don't feel like a boy. I feel like a girl," Alice's child told her at age 7. Asked to further explain, her child said they felt like they had a girl brain, but were trapped in a boy body. A transition to using female pronouns and a new name followed.

Alice says her initial reaction was, "I knew I wanted her to be heard. I wanted her to know I would always listen to her about herself."

After making an appointment with a pediatrician to talk about Emma's future (a pseudonym used to protect privacy), Alice arranged for therapy "so she could really talk to someone about all her feelings, and make sure she was comfortable with her feelings."

For young people who come out prior to puberty, a social transition is the norm. This involves transitioning from the outward appearance of one gender to the outward appearance of another, choosing and using correct pronouns, and often going by a new name that reflects a gender transition, a process Emma followed. "She's so much happier," says Alice of her daughter, who is now 10. For teenagers or adults, hormone therapy is another consideration.

Jonna Cooley, executive director at the Phoenix Center, says that questions from both parents and children are common at the beginning of a transition. Her staff fields calls from those requesting more information, including getting



referrals for doctors and therapists and information on support groups. Out on Adams, 213 E. Adams St., sells pride merchandise as well as helpful books, with staff available to answer questions.

Currently the Phoenix Center offers support for parents through its TransParent group. There is also LGBTQA yOUTH group, for ages 12-17, as well as a support group for trans adults called TranSupport. All groups are currently meeting remotely.

Those facilitating the support groups "are doing what they are doing because it's personal to them," says Cooley. "They have experience, and when new people

come on, the experienced people can share. Until recently, we didn't have a lot of resources for trans people at all. That's changed a lot in the last couple of years."

Alice says one of the hardest things to deal with in her daughter's transition was telling their very conservative grandparents. "They are accepting. It took time and patience, but at the end of the day, they want a relationship with their grandchild. They are working hard on using correct pronouns. I'm proud of their progress." Alice reports it was much easier sharing the information with her daughter's friends and their parents.

Alice's biggest concern with Emma's

future is not Emma herself. "She has always had such a strong sense of self. She's always been very comfortable as who she is, and I think she will be fine. I think she is strong enough to handle the outside world, but I think it's going to be difficult. I'm worried about what she will face. Trans people are murdered at a higher rate than any other populace. That is petrifying to me." Trans people are also four times more likely to be victims of violent crimes, she noted.

According to the Trevor Project's most recent survey on LGBTQ youth and mental health, more than half of transgender youth seriously considered suicide in 2020. Cooley addresses the need for LGBTQ+ kids to feel safe and supported at home. "It's pretty miserable to be hated in your own home. The teen trans suicide rate is astronomical, and a lot of that is a lack of parent support." According to this survey, simply using the correct pronouns at home reduces suicidal ideation by a whopping 50%. Use of a chosen name that reflects gender identity further decreases the prevalence.

For parents who may not feel accepting toward their trans children, Cooley encourages them to "understand as much as they can. While they may not be accepting, at least be supportive by not being derogatory or engaging in arguments about it. The biggest problem is there is a misconception of what it means to be trans – that it's a choice, and their child is doing it just to upset them."

Cooley says, "If your child tells you [they are transgender], it's not uncommon to take it personally, to think that you've done something wrong. But the reality is, if your child is telling you, you've done something right. It's an indication that the child trusts them."

Alice echoes this sentiment: "I feel lucky that I have a daughter that was able to talk to me. I felt really honored, and I patted myself on my back. I made an environment where she felt safe. Sometimes I wondered how I was doing as a parent, and in that moment, I thought I must have done something right."

*Carey Smith was raised in a homophobic environment but is thankful to have transitioned into an ally.*



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# Boys on the run

## STRIDE moves forward with three sites

PARENT | Pamela Savage

Three Springfield-area schools will be the launch sites for a new fitness and running program designed for third, fourth and fifth grade boys. Springfield YMCA STRIDE (which stands for Success + Teamwork + Respect + Inspiration + Determination = Excellence in Character) will launch in Feitshans Elementary School, Blessed Sacrament School and Farmingdale Elementary School beginning in March 2022. Andy Smith, director of Springfield STRIDE, hopes to use the program to offer boys in our community more opportunities for growth.

STRIDE is a national program that was originally developed in 2009 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. STRIDE was envisioned as a counterpart to the successful and widely known national Girls on the Run (GOTR) program. The ultimate aim of STRIDE is character education for pre-teen boys, but with a special focus on fun and fitness. Program participants will focus on an engaging curriculum, as well as on increasing their progressive running stamina.

Andy Smith originally intended to bring STRIDE to Springfield in 2019, noting a need for “boys to engage with one another and have this type of character programming available.” However, plans to commence STRIDE were postponed by the pandemic shutdown, resulting in an even stronger need for comprehensive and engaging after-school programming for youth in Springfield. Smith posits that boys in our community need this important work on socialization and development now more than ever before.

In accordance with these needs, the STRIDE curriculum is centered around issues that boys may face in school, sports, community or at home, such as being a good friend and teammate, maintaining



**STRIDE, a national fitness and running program designed for grade-school boys, is preparing to launch three Springfield-area sites. PHOTO COURTESY OF STRIDE**

a healthy lifestyle, being cybersafe or understanding complex emotions. One particular component of the curriculum that stood out to Smith is entitled ‘Making a Difference in Action.’ During this week, the boys of each STRIDE site will brainstorm and plan a community service project that they can all participate in together as a team. The boys will then actually complete their service project and have an opportunity to reflect on what serving their community meant to them.

In addition to engaging with the character-building curriculum, participants will jog and run during practice. Rather than compete against one another, the boys will learn to work with, understand and encourage each other’s running progress. At the completion of the season, teams will participate in a 5K run with a STRIDER (an adult who has committed to run the 5K with him) in a celebration designed to boost confidence and rally around achieving his own personal best.

The Central Illinois chapter of Girls

on the Run has successfully organized an annual 5K run for their participants since 2004, and have invited STRIDE Springfield to run alongside them in a joint running event. Smith is grateful for this new partnership and is “excited to see how Girls on the Run and STRIDE will complement one another here in Springfield.”

Says Smith, STRIDE is for “any boy who is interested. I want it to be an equal opportunity program for boys from all walks of life.” Participants do not have to be runners, just willing to participate in the lessons and try their best. Through doing so, program participants will be given the opportunity to really see their hard work result in success and feel a growing sense of confidence and pride.

If you have an interest in becoming a STRIDE site or coach, please reach out to director Andy Smith at [stride@springfieldymca.org](mailto:stride@springfieldymca.org).

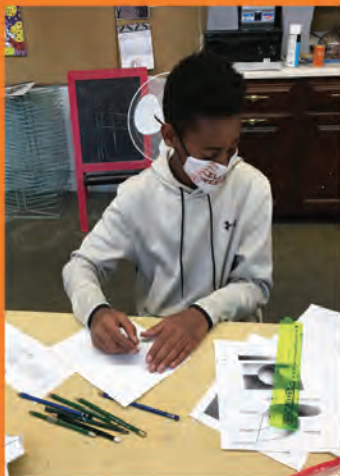
*Pamela Savage is a freelance writer in Springfield. She looks forward to enrolling her sons in STRIDE when they are eligible.*





# SUMMER CAMPS 2022

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# Packing hot lunches

CC PARENT | Ashley Meyer

Break out of the school lunch doldrums with a thermos. It's an ideal way to get out of the sandwich rut and increase the economy and nutritional value of packed lunches. And don't let your kids have all the fun – make yourself a nice lunch, too.

## Packing your thermos

Preheat the thermos with boiling water for about five to 10 minutes. When adding food, make sure to fill it completely in order to best retain heat. The key part of making thermos lunches awesome is all the little extras that go with them like shredded cheese, sour cream or a side of fruit salad. I've found that simply packing these alongside the thermos can result in slightly warm, unappealing fruit and soggy cheese – to prevent this, place a thin ice pack in the bottom of the lunch bag, place the container with chilled toppings on top, followed by a cloth napkin or dish towel, and finally, the thermos on top.

## Soups

Soups are the obvious choice when packing a thermos lunch, and while they may seem like unexciting lunch fare, when combined with colorful toppings the end result is fun, interactive and way more nutritious than a sandwich. Use silicone muffin cups to hold toppings in a larger flat container – it's cute and easier than fussing with lots of little individual containers with lids. Some of my favorite soup/topping combinations include:

- Loaded baked potato soup with bacon, scallions and shredded cheese
- Taco soup with avocado, shredded cheese, cilantro and scallions, cherry tomatoes, Greek yogurt and tortilla chips
- Cheeseburger soup with buttered croutons, cherry tomatoes, shredded cheese, green onions and bacon
- Butternut squash soup with Greek yogurt, bacon and scallions

## Burritos and wraps

A thermos can hold so much more than soup. To help speed up busy mornings,



**STRIDE, a national fitness and running program designed for grade-school boys, is preparing to launch three Springfield-area sites. PHOTO COURTESY OF STRIDE**

burritos can be made ahead and frozen, wrapped tightly in foil, for up to a month. When preparing them, use room temperature tortillas and make sure cooked fillings like rice and meat have cooled before assembling. I often make several at a time and stack them in gallon zip-top bags in the freezer. When ready to reheat, remove the foil and wrap in a damp paper towel. Microwave for two to three minutes (depending on your microwave), then rewrap in the foil and pack into a preheated thermos. Send with salsa, Greek yogurt or sour cream and salsa.

## Pasta

Opt for smaller pasta shapes like macaroni, shells or rotini. Be careful not to overcook the pasta and be generous with the sauce as the pasta will soak it up while it sits. For this reason, you also want to avoid packing the pasta too tightly in the thermos because it will expand as it soaks up the sauce. Dress it up with a side of grated cheese and small green salad.

## Casseroles or saucy dishes

Leftover are great for lunch. You already did

the work, so why not get two meals out of it? Dinner leftovers like lasagna or rice and beans will hold just fine in a thermos (avoid seafood – it doesn't hold well and the smell of fish is a bit of a lunch room faux pas). It is imperative that leftovers be cooled down quickly after they've been prepared (not sitting out on the counter for a few hours) and reheated thoroughly to an internal temperature of 160 degrees before packing into a preheated thermos. Send along some cut fruit and veggies to keep it fresh.

## Cheesy Taco Soup

Make this nourishing, kid-friendly soup ahead of time and freeze it in individual portions. It's also a perfect potluck or game day recipe.

- 1 pound lean ground beef, pork or turkey
  - 1 large onion, diced
  - 2-3 cloves garlic, minced
  - 1 each red and green bell pepper, diced
  - ½ teaspoon each salt, paprika and garlic powder
  - 1 teaspoon each cumin and oregano
  - 8 ounces cream cheese
  - 1 can Rotel tomatoes (mild if you're making for kiddos)
  - 1 can black beans, rinsed and drained
  - 1 cup frozen sweet corn kernels
  - 1 quart low-sodium broth
- Heat a heavy bottomed soup pot over high heat. Add the meat and brown, breaking it up with a wooden spoon as it cooks. When the meat is brown add the onion, garlic, peppers, salt and spices. Cook until the vegetables soften slightly and begin to brown. Add the cream cheese and stir until completely melted. Once melted add the tomatoes, beans, corn and broth. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer. Cook for 15-20 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking on the bottom. Serve with tortilla chips, shredded cheese, scallions, cilantro, diced cherry tomatoes, Greek yogurt and avocado.

*Ashley Meyer is a Springfield mom of two and chef who tries to keep things interesting with her daughters' school lunches.*



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# Books about gardening fun

PARENT | Deana Metzke

When I was growing up, both sets of my grandparents were gardeners. I enjoyed listening to my grandfathers compare their respective gardens during the summer and especially enjoyed grabbing a fresh tomato or two off the vine and eating it on the walk back to my granddaddy's house. Both grandfathers really seemed to cherish their land, the food that they were able to grow and the time they were able to spend in their gardens. So naturally, when I had the space of my own, I started gardening myself. However, I wish that I had read *The Veggie Patch Bandits* by Riya Aarini before I started gardening, because it may have saved me some headaches.

In this cute picture book illustrated by Maria Andrieieva, Mr. Bagban has grown an amazing garden that he is very proud of and cannot wait to start harvesting. However, there are a variety of unwelcome bandits that keep coming into his garden and eating his fruit, vegetables and even his flowers. Full of frustration, Mr. Bagban comes up with idea after idea of different ways to keep these bandits out of his garden. With each barrier that he builds, somehow, some way, these pesky animals keep getting into and destroying his garden. The experience is so disheartening to our main character (and I don't blame him), that he doesn't even want to plant a new garden the next year. Finally, the animal bandits sort of feel bad and give Mr. Bagban a peace offering, which inspires him to come up with a plan to make everyone happy and with full bellies. It is a plan I wish would work for my backyard, but to find out what that is, you'll have to read the book yourself.

Riya Aarini, an Illinois author, released *The Veggie Patch Bandits* last year, but she has written other books, and you can find out more at [riyapresents.com](http://riyapresents.com).

Another nice read about gardening is *The Ugly Vegetables*, written and illustrated by Grace Lin. In this story, a young girl and her mother are planting their garden, just like the rest of the neighborhood. However, as things start

to grow and bloom, the young girl notices that at their house they are not growing beautiful flowers like the neighbors, but rather vegetables that the girl decides are "ugly." Her mother tries to explain to her that the food that they are growing are vegetables traditional to China, but that doesn't ease the young girl's apprehension about feeling different. However, once mom makes a dish with the "ugly vegetables" and the neighbors get a whiff of the tasty aroma, the girl's thoughts start to change. Although this book is about gardening, it also teaches a nice lesson

about appreciating differences.

Gardening is a great family activity, and whether you are just starting out or you've been growing food and flowers for a long time, these books are great titles to read with your kids to start to develop their green thumb.

Deane Metzke is a literacy coach at a Springfield elementary school and mom of two. For more children's book recommendations, follow her on Twitter @DMetzke or visit her blog at <http://raisingreaders.site>.





# Out of the shadows

## Some midwives will soon become legal in Illinois

PARENT | Carey Smith

"I'm proud of the work that midwives and midwifery advocates have done over the decades," said Hannah Landis, certified professional midwife (CPM) and vice president of the Illinois Council of Certified Professional Midwives. "I'm proud we finally got something negotiated," said Landis of the law signed in December by Gov. JB Pritzker that allows the certification and licensure of CPMs in Illinois, making it the 37<sup>th</sup> state in the U.S. to recognize CPMs.

Typically active for home births, a CPM is a trained maternity care provider licensed through the North American Registry of Midwives. Not all states recognize the licensure, and Illinois ceased to do so in the 1960s, taking a further step in the 1990s to criminalize practicing as a CPM, making it a felony.

However, home births attended by CPMs never ceased during this time, causing providers to move underground. Despite Illinois' strong tradition of upholding a woman's right to choose her reproductive health care, the criminalization of CPMs greatly limited choice. Those who sought a CPM had to rely on word-of-mouth to find one, while women who were unsuccessful might choose to have an unassisted home birth.

Due to their underground status, CPMs were not allowed to carry oxygen or have access to life-saving clotting drugs. CPMs were also not able to accompany a woman to a hospital if an intervention were needed.

Women didn't stop choosing to have home births, but with licensure restored and CPMs able to operate again in the open once the law takes effect in October 2022, it will be much safer for everyone.

Landis, who has operated Beautiful Things Birth Services in Danville since 2018, said she originally got into birth work because of the lack of access.



Midwife Leah Williams attending a Springfield home birth in July 2020.

PHOTO BY SOUL FOCUS PHOTOS

"They shouldn't have made us have a gray market. It's unethical. I've fought against that for 14 years, since I got pregnant and couldn't find what I was cultured in. My mom, my aunts and my sister-in-law all had home births. It's very normalized to me.... Only having a hospital option felt disorienting to me and influenced my rite of passage into motherhood.

"I'm mad, I'm bitter. I'm annoyed the state intervened in something it had no business getting into. That's why I got into birth work. I felt it was my battle to fight, to serve women in their way and in their choice," Landis said.

There are many reasons a woman may prefer a home birth, such as a cultural norm or trauma from a previous hospital birth experience. Some women simply want to avoid unnecessary interventions and have more autonomy

throughout labor.

In the U.S., about one in three women who give birth in a hospital have a cesarean, much higher than the World Health Organization's recommended rate of 5-10%. Hospital births often lead to a cascade of interventions, which in turn can lead to greater risk of infection, complications and longer recovery times.

Leah Williams (a pseudonym used to protect privacy) is a traditional midwife operating in central Illinois who gained entry into the craft through apprenticeships. She said the most common reason someone seeks her out over a hospital birth is "having control over the situation, and not having to fight over what they want." Though many women write a birth plan, those preferences are often ignored or disregarded during the birth, resulting in

what Williams describes as a “combative atmosphere in the hospital,” whereas “just having the things they would put in a birth plan should be routine.”

However, Williams is unsure if she will seek CPM licensure to work legally. Part of her concern is the cost and time required to do exactly what she is already doing – three years of formal education and roughly \$50,000 in expenses.

Another reason Williams cites to stay underground is that, although the CPM licensure is now recognized, it is legally limited in scope. For example, a vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) is not deemed within the scope of CPM licensure, and is also rarely available in a hospital setting.

“The thing I love is that I can work for the mom directly without a third party telling me what to do,” said Williams. “I can support a mother wanting a VBAC, and I can support her without the government telling me I can’t.”

“That market will persist,” agreed Landis. “There are midwives that will help someone give birth at home despite a risk factor.”

Landis expects more women to seek out home birth because the new law “allows midwives to market themselves and consumers can make up their minds, based on options. What we’ve seen in other states, it’s not a huge percentage of people choosing home birth, but it can get up to 5%.”

Many activists feel the home birth midwifery model may also help provide more equitable outcomes for women, especially women of color. Currently, American women die of childbirth at a higher rate than in any other developed country, with women of color dying at two to three times the rate of white women. The infant mortality rate for babies of color is several times higher than for white infants.

Now that CPM licensure is recognized in Illinois, the next piece of the puzzle will be getting home births covered by Medicaid, which will increase access to home births for women of color and women who live in poverty.

*Carey Smith is thankful for the underground midwife who attended the home birth of her youngest child.*



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# Family event calendar

PARENT | Stacie Lewis

## **"Art for the Ages"**

Tue.-Sat., 12-4pm through March 2022. An exhibit of work by District 186 students including drawings, paintings in tempera, oil and watercolor and three-dimensional figures. Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, 1440 Monument Ave., 217-391-6323.

## **Blind Date with a Book**

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-3pm through February. For adults, young adults and preteens. Stop by the M. G. Nelson Gallery to pick up your book. You'll get some clues about the book, but you won't know what it is until you purchase it. Paired with customized chocolate bars from Cocoa Blue Chocolates, it will certainly give you or someone you care about a special night in. \$12-\$15. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

## **Springfield Chess Club**

Casual games for the public and club members of all ages and skill levels. Meets at 6pm on the second Monday of each month in the multipurpose room of Lincoln Library at 326 S. Seventh St., and on Wednesdays at 6pm in the food court of White Oaks Mall at 2501 Wabash Ave. [springfieldchessclub.com](http://springfieldchessclub.com). Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-726-2584.

## **Lincoln's birthday**

Feb. 12, Sat. 9am-5pm. Free admission in celebration of the 16th president's birthday. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

## **Springfielding the Love**

Feb. 12-13, Sat. 9am-4pm. Community appreciation weekend. Exhibits, Valentine's Day crafts, STEAM programs and resources for Black History Month. IDPH, CDC and WHO guidelines including masks and monitoring building capacity. Free. Kidzeum of Health and Science Children's Museum, 412 E. Adams St., 217-971-4435.

## **Winter Farmers Market**

Feb. 19, Tue. 8am-12pm. Find fresh, winter vegetables, baked goods and local meats. EBT accepted and SNAP recipients can

receive a Healthy Ways card that spends like SNAP benefits. Union Station, 500 E. Madison, 217-557-4588.

## **Little Lincoln's Fireside Tales: Belonging**

Feb. 22, Tue. 10-11am. Hands-on activities, crafts and exciting books for children five and younger and their caregivers. The theme is "Belonging!" Share stories and activities that show us what it means to belong. In person and via Zoom options. [presidentlincoln.illinois.gov](http://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov). Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

## **The Boat Show in Springfield**

Feb. 25, Fri. 2-9pm, Sat. Feb. Lots of exhibitors from across central Illinois. Fiberglass and aluminum fishing boats, inboards, runabouts, pontoons, tritoons and more. Concessions. \$5 at the door. Ages 12 and under are free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-341-1730.

## **Springfield Jr. Blues vs. North Iowa Bulls**

Feb. 26-27, Fri. 7pm and Sat. 6pm. Adults \$10-\$12. Children 12 and under \$6-\$8. Nelson Center, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-525-2589.

## **Enchanted: Storybook Ballets**

Feb. 26, Sat. 10am, 2, 6pm. Delightful children's stories, such as The Snow Queen, The Little Mermaid and Sleeping Beauty, brought to life. Be transported into the magical world of ballet. Presented by the Springfield Ballet Company and the Springfield Youth Ballet Company. \$30 adults and \$15 children 12 and under. [uispac.com](http://uispac.com). UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

## **National Skate Day**

Feb. 26, Sat. 11:30am-1:30pm. Get a free ice-skating lesson and enjoy a day at the rink. All ages welcome. Prizes. Limited spots available. COVID guidelines will be followed. Call for more information. Nelson Center Ice Arena, Lincoln Park, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-2800 ext. 2003.

## **Springfield Jr. Blues vs. Minnesota Wilderness**

March 4-5, Fri. 7pm and Sat. 6pm. Adults \$10-\$12. Children 12 and under \$6-\$8. Nelson Center, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-525-2589.

## **Illinois Horse Fair Rodeo**

March 4-5, Fri.-Sat. 7pm. Presented by the Horseman's Council of Illinois. \$15-\$20. Coliseum, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave.

## **Illinois Product Expo**

March 5, Sat. 10am-5pm. Explore the foods of Illinois through your taste buds with free samples from vendors. Discover new products, relax in the Illinois Wine Garden and stock up on your long-time favorites. Admission \$5, ages 10 and under free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-8047.

## **WECI Women's Business Showcase**

March 9, Wed. 4:30-7pm. Celebrating women owned/operated businesses. Mingle with women making their way in the business world. Connect, build new relationships, learn and register to win prizes. Over 50 businesses represented. Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-441-2342.

## **St. Patrick's Day Parade**

March 12, Sat. at the Craic O' Noon. The parade starts at Jefferson and Sixth streets to west on Fifth to east on Capitol, to north on Sixth to the Reviewing Stand (the family friendly area), then east on Washington to the Horace Mann parking lot. Downtown Springfield.

## **Winter Farmers Market**

March 19, Sat. 8am-12pm. Find fresh winter vegetables, baked goods and local meats. EBT accepted and SNAP recipients can receive a Healthy Ways card that spends like SNAP benefits. Union Station, 500 E. Madison, 217-557-4588.

## **WWE Road to WrestleMania**

March 19, Sat. 7:30pm. WWE Champion, Big E vs Kevin Owens vs Seth Rollins vs Bobby Lashley - Fatal Four Way Match for the WWE Championship. RAW Women's Champion Becky Lynch

vs. Bianco Belair. Many more including RAW tag team champions, RK-BRO. \$20-\$115. theboscenter.com/wwe. BoS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, 800-745-3000.

#### Springfield Flea Market

March 19, Sat. 8:30am-3:30pm. Antiques, vintage, collectibles, crafts, new and used. Illinois State Fairgrounds Illinois Building, 801 Sangamon Ave., 782-6661.

#### Springfield Jr. Blues vs. Minnesota Magicians

March 25-26, Fri. 7pm and Sat. 6pm. Adults \$10-\$12. Children 12 and under \$6-\$8. Nelson Center, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-525-2589.

#### Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*

April 1-3, Fri. and Sat. 7pm and Sun. 2pm, April 8-10, Fr. And Sat. 7pm and Sun. 2pm. The Tony Award-winning family fun musical that delights audiences with its contemporary take on the classic tale. Jaw-dropping transformations, stunning costumes, the pumpkin, the glass slipper and a bit of magic. \$18. hcfta.org/tickets. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

#### USA Boxing

April 16, Sat. 7:30pm. Springfield Cobras Boxing presents USA Olympic-style amateur boxing. theboscenter.com. \$20-\$60. BoS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, 800-745-3000.

#### Moana Jr.

April 22-24, Fri. and Sat. 7pm and Sun. 2pm. April 20-May 1, Fri. and Sat. 7pm, and Sun. 1pm. This thrilling and heartwarming coming-of-age story follows the strong-willed Moana as she sets sail across the Pacific to save her village and discover the truth about her heritage. Presented by the Springfield Theatre Centre. hcfta.org. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

#### Artsy: An Art Fair for Kids in Care

May 1, Sun. Amazing art, hands-on experiences, balloon animals and arm painting hosted by The James Project, a nonprofit foster care and adoption ministry. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 801-810-9278.

#### 3, 2, 1 Blastoff

May 4, Wed. 10am. A concert for kids by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. ilsymphony.org. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.



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