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Spring 2024



SUPPLEMENT INSIDE
p13-28

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EDITOR / CEO
Fletcher Farrar

PUBLISHER
Michelle Ownbey

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
James Bengfort

CONTRIBUTORS
Pamela Savage, Carey Smith,
Deana Metzke, Daron Walker

PRODUCTION DESIGN
Joseph Copley, Brandon Turley, Devin Larson

ADVERTISING
Beth Parkes-Irwin, Yolanda Bell,
Ron Young, Haley Jackson

BUSINESS/CIRCULATION
Brenda Matheis

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The sandwich generation

Caring for your children and parents simultaneously

PARENT | Pamela Savage

The term “sandwich generation” was first coined in the 1980s by sociologists Dorothy Miller and Elaine Brody to identify people in their 30s and 40s who were taking care of their children as well as their elderly parents or extended family members.

According to the Pew Research Center, approximately 54% of Americans in their 40s have both children under the age of 18 and parents older than 65. Of these Americans, 24% of them are in the sandwich generation, meaning they are actively caring for both their children and their parents (or other older adults in their lives). This phenomenon is complex and is caused by myriad factors such as an aging population, increased overall lifespan and couples delaying parenthood in favor of careers. While opportunities to have children later and to live longer are ultimately pros for humankind overall, they can create caretaking sandwiches for some of us in the middle.

Two-thirds of the sandwich generation caregivers are women, due to the gender pay gap as well as societal pressures on women to be caregivers. According to a study by the University of Michigan School of Medicine, sandwich generation caregivers are more likely than their peers to report emotional difficulty and twice as likely to report financial difficulty. Nursing homes, assisted-living facilities and home health aides are often private pay, sometimes to the tune of thousands of dollars per week. Even if an older adult qualifies for assistance – which is not always the case – someone has to be in charge of organizing and arranging all of those intermediaries.

According to the U.S. Census, the number of Americans ages 65 and older is projected to increase by 47% by the year 2050. While the majority of



Americans will not need long-term care until they are much older than 65 (and some will not need it at all), about 70% of us will age until we need either full or partial assistance. It is a lot to think about and to plan for.

If you identify as a member of the sandwich generation, you are probably a little overwhelmed at this point. First of all: Take a breath. You are doing a beautiful job. We see you. Hopefully you have some friends and family to confide in and to spend time with. Hopefully you have some time to recharge.

To the extent that it is appropriate, it is all right to be straightforward with your children about what is going on. It is likely that your children already know what is happening, and at the very least, they definitely hear you on the phone discussing your loved one with doctors or family members. They may even experience a grandparent moving in or moving nearby. If age-appropriate, it is okay to ask your children to do more around the house. Most importantly, try not to feel guilty about bringing some of this heavy stuff around your kids.

Often, we want to shelter our children from tough topics, but ultimately our job as parents is to teach our kids how to be good humans. These caregiving situations offer some of humanity's most important lessons.

If you are reading this and thinking that you are not yet part of the sandwich generation but may be someday, it may behoove you to have a frank and honest conversation now with the people you'll be caring for. Ensure that you have all of the information needed to advocate and care for your relatives before the moment comes. If your relatives are reluctant to share this information with you yet, simply ask them where you might find it in case of an emergency. All that said, if you are an adult child, you may have to accept that your parent or loved one is not ready to have this conversation with you. Ultimately, you have to respect their position.

If you are reading this and thinking that you may someday require care from your adult children, I would recommend that you go ahead and add your trusted caregiver's name to your records with agencies such as your insurance company, your physician or pharmacy, Medicare, Medicaid and/or your financial entities. You don't even need to let your caregiver know that they have been granted the ability to interface with these agencies, but doing this early will allow your caregiver advocacy permissions should the time come unexpectedly. If you don't have powers of attorney or advance directives set up, do so. Even though this may feel uncomfortable, it is ultimately a major grace to your caregiver if they know your wishes and can advocate for you appropriately.

For caregivers, future caregivers and those receiving care, remember this: Your people are *people* first and foremost, and everyone is trying their best. Although this is fraught, hopefully your relationship is a positive one and you are able to recall all of the generous gifts of time and care that your loved ones have poured into you so that you can now do the same in return.

Pamela Savage is a freelance writer living in Springfield who is also part of the sandwich generation.



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advertising@illinoistimes.com

Beth Irwin 217-679-7803 Yolanda Bell 217-679-7802
Ron Young 217-679-7807 Haley Jackson 217-679-7804

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Left to right: A'Monnie Butler, Kalennia Brawn, A'Marrie Butler, Christian Walker, Aubree Wartenbe, Gabriella Wilkerson and Christopher Wilkerson Jr., students at McClernand Elementary School, show off their completed projects. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPRINGFIELD ART ASSOCIATION

Reaching out with art

Springfield Art Association partners with District 186

PARENT | Carey Smith

The Springfield Art Association and Springfield School District 186 have entered into a partnership that allows art to flourish for students selected to participate. The program in total involves 52 District 186 students this year, with 16 high school and 10 grade school students participating each semester.

SAA asked art teachers from the three Springfield public high schools for students they would recommend as far

as who would “enjoy, grow and love this experience,” said SAA education director Erin Svendsen. Eight students in two classes participate weekly, providing their own transportation to SAA.

Typically, the high school students work on mediums not usually available in the classroom, such as clay and pottery, glass projects and fiber arts, stated Svendsen,

“They love it!” said Svendsen. “They want to do extra. They want

to do everything we have to offer.

It’s a great space to bounce ideas off an art teacher, with some going to scholastic competition. Some are using it for college, others are growing and learning. They have some feedback. If they like a medium and want to dive deeper, they’ll go that route.” Svendsen said one of the activities that created a playful, fun atmosphere last semester was making self-portrait bobble heads out of clay.

“The kids have been great,” remarked Svendsen. A couple of students are applying to college as art majors, and she says they have come to class early and stayed late to work through their portfolios, with SAA staff helping them photograph their pieces. “It’s great to give them access,” Svendsen said.

The grade school students all attend McClernand Elementary School’s Boys and Girls Club, which provides after-school care. McClernand is across the street from SAA, making transportation a non-issue. SAA asked a supervisor for Boys and Girls Club to pick 10 kids who would most love to participate in art and express themselves, who also had good behavior.

Those 10 children, who are in third through fifth grade, get hands-on art workshops twice weekly, where they focus on art movements through time as well as cultural movements, experiencing art throughout the world.

The students also get a different “make kit” to bring home each week. Make kits were originally prepared in-house by SAA at the start of the pandemic as a way to keep both children and adults interacting with art while in-person classes were not available. These kits contain pictures of the finished art, instructions and all materials needed to complete the kit.

Svendsen credits this partnership to



Camden Levy works on his sculpture.

the work of Terrance Jordan, director of school leadership and Family and Community Engagement (FACE) for District 186. Jordan stated the funding for this program comes from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds as part of COVID funding given to school districts.

As far as this partnership continuing next year, Jordan said, “As of right now we are not sure if we will be able to fund the program because ESSER

expires, but we are exploring other funding options.” Svendsen said she hopes grant funding may offer another year of these enrichment classes.

One added benefit to this partnership is inviting neighborhood and community kids into a cultural space. Svendsen says the kids know they can come anytime when the gallery is open to check out the current exhibits. And while “sometimes museums and galleries can be intimidating,” these children know that they are welcome to use and enjoy the space.

“A lot of them don’t know about us even though we’ve been here for 107 years,” said Svendsen. “We have all these resources. We’re not a scary bunch but a friendly neighbor. They can come in and chat with us.”

Svendsen added that all school-aged children are welcome to attend classes or camps at the SAA, which provides one free scholarship for a class or camp each year. The application process is simple, and the community is invited to partake in what the Springfield Art Association has to offer.

Carey Smith is a neighbor to both McClernand Elementary School and the Art Association, which lives up to its reputation as the creative heart of our community.



Sara Bonner-Jurgens with her clay creation.

KUMON



Like many 11-year-olds, Atharv maintains a busy schedule of extracurricular activities. He's a competitive swimmer, takes guitar lessons, holds purple belt status in karate, participates in a Lego robotics club, and is a member of his elementary school's eagle enrichment program.

Unlike many 11-year-olds, Atharv is already well into algebra, studying quadratic, higher degree, fractional, and irrational functions. Not to mention that he's already completed the entire Kumon Reading Program, which means he's analyzed high school-level literary texts.

"Atharv is a young student who is intrinsically motivated," said Brittany, Atharv's Kumon Instructor. "He used to struggle with patience because he was so hungry to learn and didn't understand

the repetition. He was able to develop focus and patience, which helped him appreciate the importance of mastery."

Atharv is the first one to admit that Kumon hasn't been an easy road for him, but he's most thankful for the work skills that he's developed throughout the years, including improving his attention span, focus, patience, confidence and overall morale. These skills have allowed him to move ahead of his peers in school, but they've also proved beneficial in his extracurricular activities.

He has been described as a beacon of positivity because he likes to encourage other Kumon Students, older and younger, that are feeling stuck in their Kumon journey. In fact, if you popped into his Kumon Center, you'd probably see him giving pep talks, encouraging both staff and students alike to be their best academic self.

"The best piece of advice that I have for kids just starting Kumon is to never give up," said Atharv. "At first, Kumon may seem hard, but you won't know until you try. Just try your hardest and you will succeed. There is nothing better than the feeling of advancing to the next level."

Atharv hopes to be an engineer when he grows up. We can't wait to see how he continues to use his beacon of positivity to change the world.

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KUMON



Ginormous Jorts and Best Wishes

PARENT | Deana Metzke

I've mentioned this before, but one of the many things I love about children's literature is the author's ability to help young readers learn a lesson, at times without explicitly calling out that lesson. As a parent, kid lit can be a helpful tool to use when conversations are difficult or when your child needs to hear the message from someone other than a parent. Sometimes, as an added bonus, the book is part of a series, which can also help foster a love of reading when the child wants to read the next installment. The two delightful books I am going to share with you fall into both of those categories: part of a series and a chance to learn a lesson.

The first book, *Stonks and the Ginormous Jorts!*, is written by Professor Clark and illustrated by Visoeale. This book, released in September, is actually the fourth book in Stonks' series, but the book does fine standing on its own.

In this rhyming picture book, we meet Stonks the ape and his friend, Dodger, as they are landing their spaceship at a Battle of the Bands competition on Earth. As they arrive, they witness a shy rabbit who is being ridiculed and rejected from the competition because the wolves in charge do not believe he is capable of participating. Luckily for the rabbit, named Barry, Stonks and Dodger are there to help and they all form a band together. Although he seems sure of his own talent on the drums, throughout the tale we learn about Barry's lack of self-confidence whenever the competition suggests that the Ginormous Jorts aren't good enough. Thank goodness for friends who are there to support and build your confidence, because through the support of Stonks and Dodger, Stonks and the Ginormous Jorts are a victorious



band at the end of the battle.

Besides the reminder to be confident in your abilities, I also enjoyed the illustrations in this book. The blue and purple hues are very enticing and do a great job of creating a concert atmosphere. Additionally, Clark includes some vocabulary words in his book, such as *scoffed* and *strenuous*, that lend themselves well to a chance to expose

your child to some new vocabulary as you read this book with them. Clark is also a Springfield-area author who has a website about the books in this series (www.stonksbooks.com), which are also available through Amazon.com.

The second book I want to share is the first book in a series by Sarah Mlynowski, titled *Best Wishes*. Mlynowski is the author of many chapter

books, including the *Whatever After* series, which is one that my daughter and I devoured together some years ago. So it did not take much convincing for me to crack open her new fantasy series.

In this book, our main character, Becca, is struggling in fifth grade. It isn't because of her grades, but because of drama with her best friend. As many of our children (and us) can probably relate, Becca's former best friend has new and different interests, and suggests to Becca that maybe they shouldn't be besties anymore. Becca is upset, but things take a turn when she receives and puts on a bracelet that grants her wish to have friends.

There's a reason for the saying, "Be careful what you wish for," because not only does every student in her school want to be Becca's friend, but also some of the adults want to be her friend now, too. Becca feels like her situation is out of control, but how can she figure out how to undo all the chaos?

I was already a fan of Mlynowski, but this tale of friend drama took me back to my own childhood. It also includes social media drama, making it even more relatable for kids. The first three books in the *Best Wishes* series can be found wherever you purchase books.



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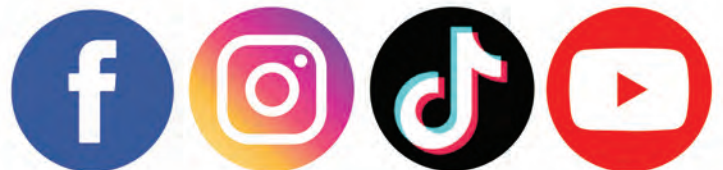
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Derek Harms, CPRP
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Administrative Assistant & Receptionist

Stephen Flesch, CPA
Director of Finance & Administration

Jason Graham
Director of Parks & Planning
ADA Compliance Coordinator

Amanda Tippin
Interim Director of Recreation & Marketing

Libby Marx
Graphic Design & Event Coordinator

FAX: 217-544-1811

217-544-1751 ext. 1000
dharms@springfieldparks.org

217-544-1751 ext. 1004
parks@springfieldparks.org

217-544-1751 ext. 1003
sflesch@springfieldparks.org

217-544-1751 ext. 1404
jgraham@springfieldparks.org

217-544-1751 ext. 1014
atippin@springfieldparks.org

217-544-1751 ext. 1010
emarx@springfieldparks.org

HUMAN RESOURCES

Cindy Higgins
HR & Risk Manager

217-544-1751 ext. 1009
chiggins@springfieldparks.org

Leslie Rusciolelli
Payroll & Benefits Coordinator

217-544-1751 ext. 1007
lrusciolelli@springfieldparks.org

Lori-Ann Trusty
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator

217-544-1751 ext. 1015
ltrusty@springfieldparks.org

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Doug Bates
Senior Accountant

217-544-1751 ext. 1006
jbates@springfieldparks.org

Lauren Shouse
Staff Accountant

217-544-1751 ext. 1005
lshouse@springfieldparks.org

Taneeka Edmonson
Administrative & Accounts Payable

217-753-6212 ext. 1401
tedmonson@springfieldparks.org

RAINOUT LINE

217-203-6004

RECREATION AREA - STAFF

ATHLETICS

Tim Rhodes - Athletics Manager
Email: trhodes@springfieldparks.org

217-753-6234 ext. 3005

AQUATICS

Nathaniel Merema - Aquatics Manager
Email: nmerema@springfieldparks.org

217-525-8847 ext. 1501

Michael Lemke - Facility Program Supervisor
Email: mlemke@springfieldparks.org

217-525-8847 ext. 1503

Dianna Rodgers - Administrative Assistant
Email: drodgers@springfieldparks.org

217-525-8847 ext. 1502

BOTANICAL GARDEN

Alexa Bryan Potts - General Manager
Email: apotts@springfieldparks.org

217-546-4116 ext. 2902

Mandy McCann - Horticulture Supervisor & Curator
Email: mmccann@springfieldparks.org

217-546-4116 ext. 2901

Charli Swain - Facility Program Supervisor
Email: cswain@springfieldparks.org

217-546-4116 ext. 2906

EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL

Debbie Clark - Program Supervisor
Email: dclark@springfieldparks.org

217-546-3970 ext. 2701

ERIN'S PAVILION EVENT CENTER

Tammy Naumovich - General Manager
Email: tnaumovich@springfieldparks.org

217-585-2941 ext. 2301

April McClintock - Administrative Assistant
Email: amclintock@springfieldparks.org

217-585-2941 ext. 2302

FUNSHOP

Eric Henderson - Facility Program Supervisor
Email: ehenderson@springfieldparks.org

217-753-2800 ext. 2001

Rose Zaidi - Funshop Program Supervisor
Email: rzaidi@springfieldparks.org

217-753-6234

GOLF COURSES & PROGRAMMING

Lance Flury - Head PGA Golf Pro Lincoln Greens Golf Course
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217-786-4111 ext. 1901

Mike Logsdon - PGA Golf Pro Pasfield Golf Course
Email: mlogsdon@springfieldparks.org

217-698-6049

Megan Greco - Assistant Pro Shop Manager Pasfield Golf Course
Email: mgreco@springfieldparks.org

217-698-6049

Linda Sherwood - LPGA Golf Pro Bergen Golf Course
Email: lsherwood@springfieldparks.org

217-753-6211

Laura Kuchar - Facility Manager Bunn Golf Course
Email: lkuchar@springfieldparks.org

217-522-2633

HENSON ROBINSON ZOO

Doug Hotle - Zoo Director
Email: dhotle@springfieldparks.org

217-585-1821 ext. 1705

Maggie Solum - General Curator
Email: msolum@springfieldparks.org

217-585-1821 ext. 1702

Hilary Tierney - Marketing & Guest Service Manager
Email: htierney@springfieldparks.org

217-585-1821 ext. 1704

Joe Curry - Business Services Administrator
Email: jcurry@springfieldparks.org

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NELSON CENTER ICE SPORTS

George R. Tucker - General Manager
Email: gtucker@springfieldparks.org

217-753-2800 ext. 2002

Leslie Jones - Funshop & Nelson Center Admin Asst.
Email: ljones@springfieldparks.org

217-753-2800 ext. 2004

Eric Henderson - Facility Program Supervisor
Email: ehenderson@springfieldparks.org

217-753-2800 ext. 2001

RECREATION

Marty Strieker - Superintendent of Programming and Events
Email: mstrieker@springfieldparks.org

217-753-2800 ext. 2003

SPECIAL RECREATION | INCLUSION PROGRAMMING

Andre Hawkins - Special Recreation Supervisor
Email: ahawkins@springfieldparks.org

217-585-2941 ext. 2307

THOMAS REES MEMORIAL CARILLON

Carlo van Ulft - Carillonneur
Email: cvanulft@springfieldparks.org

217-546-3853 ext. 2501

VELASCO TENNIS CENTER

Andrew Coon - Tennis Manager
Email: acoon@springfieldparks.org

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GENERAL AND PARK MAINTENANCE

301 Eastdale Avenue, Spfld IL 62703

FAX: 217-753-6237

Chuck Smith - Arborist
Superintendent of Natural Resources

217-753-6212 ext. 1402
csmith@springfieldparks.org

John Turasky
Project Manager

217-753-6212 ext. 1407
jturasky@springfieldparks.org

Mark Adkins, CPSI
Superintendent of Park Maintenance

217-753-6212 ext. 1403
madkins@springfieldparks.org

James Schackmann
Superintendent of Park Maintenance

217-753-6212 ext. 1406
jschackmann@springfieldparks.org

GOLF MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Dan Crumrine
Superintendent of Golf Courses

217-786-4120 ext. 1910
dcrumrine@springfieldparks.org

Arden Lear
Bunn Golf Course Superintendent

217-544-1751 ext. 1301
alear@springfieldparks.org

AQUATICS AND ICE MAINTENANCE

Nick Cordell
Superintendent of Maintenance Operations

217-753-2800 ext. 1001
ncordell@springfieldparks.org

PARK DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENT

1508 W. Fayette, Spfld 62704

FAX: 217-698-7456

Patrick Murphy
Police Chief

217-698-6030 ext. 2803
pmurphy@springfieldparks.org

Facilities

BERGEN GOLF COURSE

2900 Clearlake Avenue, Spfld 62703

Phone: 217-753-6211

BOTANICAL GARDENS

1740 W. Fayette Avenue, Spfld 62704

Phone: 217-546-4116

BUNN GOLF COURSE

2500 S. 11th Street, Spfld 62703

Phone: 217-522-2633

EISENHOWER POOL

2351 E. Cornell Avenue, Spfld 62703

Phone: 217-525-8847

ERIN'S PAVILION

4965 S. 2nd Street, Spfld 62703

Phone: 217-585-2941
FAX: 217-529-5668

FUNSHOP - LINCOLN PARK

1601 N. 5th Street, Spfld 62702
funshop@springfieldparks.org

Phone: 217-753-6234

HENSON ROBINSON ZOO

1100 E. Lake Shore Drive, Spfld 62712

Phone: 217-585-1821

LINCOLN GREENS GOLF COURSE

700 E. Lake Shore Drive, Spfld 62712

Phone: 217-786-4111

LINCOLN PAVILION

1601 N. 5th Street, Spfld IL 62702
parks@springfieldparks.org

NELSON CTR ICE RINK & POOL

1601 N. 5th Street, Spfld 62702

Phone: 217-753-2800
FAX: 217-753-4766

PASFIELD GOLF COURSE

1700 W. Lawrence Ave, Spfld 62704

Phone: 217-698-6049

RIVERSIDE CAMPGROUNDS

4105 Sandhill Road, Spfld 62707

Phone: 217-753-0630

THOMAS REES MEMORIAL CARILLON

1740 W Fayette Avenue, Spfld 62704

Phone: 217-546-3853

VELASCO TENNIS CENTER

1501 S Grand Ave W, Spfld, IL 62704

Phone: 217-546-4103

VETERANS MEMORIAL POOL

2700 E. Ely, Spfld 62702

Phone: 217-753-3030

WASHINGTON PARK PAVILION

1400 Williams Boulevard, Spfld 62704
Reservations: parks@springfieldparks.org

Phone: 217-546-3970

WASHINGTON PARK

Botanical Garden Group Tours

Bring your group for a tour of our beautiful Botanical Garden today!

All Ages | Monday - Friday | March 18 - April 30

Free guided tours are available to the general public with groups of 10 or more. Please call the Washington Park Botanical Garden at 217-546-4116 at least one week in advance to book a tour.



LILY GIVE-A-WAY

This is a Washington Park Botanical Garden Member only event. Become a Garden Member today and enjoy all the great plant giveaways and more!



The Springfield Figure Skating Club
PRESENTS

2024
SPOTLIGHT ON ICE

ICE FANTASIES

Stay tuned for more information!
Facebook @SpringfieldFigureSkatingClub
<http://www.sfsc4u.com/>

The Nelson Center Arena
1601 N. 5th Str. Springfield, IL | 217-753-2800



Life's cooler here
SPRINGFIELD
PARK DISTRICT

STEM
HOP INTO SPRING!

at Washington Park Preschool

In this class we will explore Spring STEM activities.
We will conduct Peep experiments, make an Easter egg rocket, and make an egg parachute. Sign up soon for this class as it will fill up fast!

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD FROM 9-10:30AM

AGES 3-5

Price is \$33R/\$38NR
Register at bit.ly/SPD_Spring-STEM
Activity #150942
Or Scan the QR Code!



WASHINGTON PARK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Spring Floral Display

Easter Lilies and lush tropical foliage fill the Exhibit Hall and Conservatory for the Annual Spring Floral Display.

MARCH 16 TO APRIL 7



WASHINGTON PARK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Orchid Info & Repotting Workshop

Join us for this one day only workshop! Members from the Prairie State Orchid Society will teach the basic care and repotting techniques for orchids.



An Egg-ZOO-lent Opening Weekend at the Henson Robinson Zoo!

Opening Day is
April 6th



For
All ages!

There will be fun spring and egg themed animal enrichment, animal encounters, and a visit from an "EGGstra" special Bunny!

So hop on into the Zoo for opening weekend!

\$7.50 adults 13-61
\$5.50 for kids 3-12
\$5.50 for seniors
FREE for ages 2
& under



**henson
robinson
ZOO**
est. 1970

**SPRINGFIELD
PARK DISTRICT**

Stay tuned on our social media
for all the latest details!



@HensonRobinsonZoo

Save The Date



Great Lawn Kite Festival

IN SOUTHWIND PARK

Come out to **Southwind Park** for a wholesome family friendly two-day experience you will remember for years to come!

Professional kite flyers & dealers from around the nation will travel to Southwind park and demonstrate the truest form of **kite flying!**

June 22nd
Saturday *Rainout Date:
June 23rd

Located at
Southwind Park Great Lawn
4965 S. Second St, Springfield, IL

Kite Vendor On Site

For more information, please call **Tammy Naumovich** at 217-585-2941 ext. 2301.



Springfield
Parks Foundation

SPRINGFIELD
PARK DISTRICT



My Wind Stuff  @mywindstufftoo
got-stuff@hotmail.com

Sled Hills

Pasfield Golf Course

1700 W. Lawrence, Springfield

The host of the most popular sled hill in the Springfield area. This sled hill is open from dawn to dusk. Sledding is permitted when snow is present.

Centennial Park

5751 Bunker Hill Road, New Berlin

Home to the largest sled hill in the area. The park features a 100 foot man-made sled hill. The sled hill is open from dawn to dusk. Sledding is permitted when snow is present.

Safety Tips

- Only sled within the designated sledding areas listed above
- Make sure children wear a helmet
- Dress warm: coats, hats, gloves, and boots
- Be courteous of other sledders
- Stay off the frozen ponds and creeks
- Only sled with a responsible adult
- Never sled alone
- Never sled after dark



Spring Break Camp

Need a fun and safe place for your child to attend while on Spring Break from school? Special Recreation's week-long Spring Break Camp provides organized recreational activities such as: playing sports, games, making crafts, going on walks, playing outside on the playground, going on field trips, and more!

An afternoon snack will be provided. Please bring a cold sack lunch with no candy or soda. Must be potty-trained.

Location: Erin's Pavilion

MIN/MAX: 5/25

Activity #	Age	Day	Time	Date	R/NR Fee
170112-01	5-27	M-F	7:30a-5:30p	4/01-4/05	\$150/\$180



SPRING BREAK CAMP

Spring Break Camp

Need a fun and safe place for your child to attend while on Spring Break from school?

Special Recreation's week-long Spring Break Camp provides organized recreational activities such as:

playing sports, games, making crafts, going on walks, playing outside on the playground, watching movies, playing the wii and Nintendo switch and more.

An afternoon snack will be provided.
Please bring a cold sack lunch with no candy or soda.

April 1st - 5th
7:30 am - 5:30 pm
at Erin's Pavilion.

Fee: \$150R/\$180NR
Activity #170112

For more information:
217 585 2941 ext. 2307
ahawkins@springfieldparks.org

Register at
bit.ly/SPDSpringBreakCamp





Nelson Center Ice Rinks

The Nelson Center contains two indoor ice rinks, nine locker rooms and concession areas that are open to the public year-round. Housing the only two indoor ice rinks within a 60-Mile radius, it serves as the home for many programs, events and activities in the area. As well as offers a variety of instructional classes and leagues designed to teach children and adults how to figure skate or play hockey. The Nelson Center is also home to the NAHL Springfield Jr. Blues, Lincoln Land High School Hockey Association, Springfield Youth Hockey Association, and the Springfield Figure Skating Club.

Public Skate

Public Skate is open to the public and all ages. Patrons enjoy music being played while skating on the ice. Patrons must abide by all Nelson Center skating rules. Children 10 years of age and under must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult, age 16 or older. Please call ahead to confirm public skate times as it may be canceled due to tournaments, games, and/or special events: **217-753-2800**. You can also check the Skate Schedule at bit.ly/SPD_Ice-Schedule.

Public Skate Sessions

Please check our website at bit.ly/SPD_Ice-Schedule to see our Public Skate Schedule!

Public Skate - Skate Not Included

Child 12 and Under:	\$6
Seniors 62+:	\$5
Adults 13-61:	\$6

*\$3 skates separate

Public Skate - Skates Included

Children 12 and Under:	\$9
Seniors 62+:	\$8
Adults 13-61:	\$9



Purchase your Freestyle Punch Pass TODAY and Save Money!

Passes can be purchased online or at the Nelson Center.

START HERE - LEARNING HOW TO ICE SKATE

Learning to skate is actually quite easy & fun!
Just like YOU, every champion began with a few easy lessons

THE
nelson
CENTER

Life's cooler here

SPRINGFIELD
PARK DISTRICT

HOCKEY

Ice Breakers

Skating 2
Hockey

Learn to Play

Mini-Mite & Mite
Tier 1 & Tier 2
SYHA

RECREATION

Public Skate

Enjoy skating on our
ice with your friends
and the community!

ICE JAMZ

Come & spend some
time on the ice with a
fun light show, music
games & giveaways!!

FIGURE SKATING

Tiny Tots or Ice Breakers

Learn to Skate

Snowplow 1-4
Basic 1-6
Free Style 1-6

More Ice Skating Classes

Edges
Spins & Jumps
Skills Sharpening

Private Lessons

SFSC



SpringfieldKings.org

Springfield



Figure Skating Club

www.sfsc4u.com

Nelson Center - 1601 N. 5th St, Spfld Ph: 217-753-2800 Find you **FUN**, find your *smile* at springfieldparks.org

Outdoor Ice Skating



The Springfield Park District provides seasonal outdoor ice skating at Lincoln Park, Southwind Park and lower Washington Park lagoons. For your safety, Park District staff monitors the thickness of ice at each of these lagoons. When the ice is thick enough to safely support ice skating, the "No Skating" signs will be removed. When these signs are removed, the public is welcome to enjoy outdoor ice skating. Please obey the "No Skating" signs when posted.



YOU ARE INVITED to host your BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH US!

Make your child's birthday party a memorable one. Parents relax and enjoy, while you host your party with us and we do the clean up!

Each party listed includes their own unique amenities. Pick the FUN that's right for you and your little ones...

bit.ly/SPDBirthdayParties

FUNSHOP PARTIES!

Parents and children can enjoy the Funshop program in the setting of a birthday party! There are a ton of tantalizing toys and interest areas that will capture your children's imagination.

2 Hours | Min. 20 people, Max. 50

COST:

\$100R | \$120NR for 1-10 Kids \$150R | \$180NR for 11-15 Kids
\$200R | \$230NR for 16-20 Kids

AGE: 16mo-5yrs

PARTY INCLUDES: Toys, games, and activities | Party host, birthday paper good, and tables and chairs provided | Bring your own food and drink.

CALL THE FUNSHOP TO BOOK YOUR PARTY!
217-753-6234



PARTY WILD AT THE HENSON ROBINSON ZOO

2 Hours | 20 Guests

COST: \$170 for Members \$180 R | \$200 NR

PARTY INCLUDES: Zoo Admission, Party Host, Feed for Goats + Fish, Special Gift for Guest of Honor, Birthday Decorations. Bring your own cake and ice cream! [no other outside food or drink allowed]

ADD ONS: Animal Encounter with Zoo Staff - \$30 | Train Ticket Package - \$30 for 20 riders | Party Favors - \$4 each | Additional Guests - \$5 per guest | Hotdog Lunch - \$5 each

CALL THE ZOO TO BOOK YOUR PARTY! 217-585-1821



FOOTGOLF

Ready, set, let's kick-it at Bergen Golf Course! Come play Footgolf for your next Birthday Party. It's a new sport that is a combination of soccer and golf. It's easy, just come dressed in athletic wear and we'll provide the soccer balls! Open early April through October (weather permitting).

2 Hours | Min. 8 people, Max. 16

COST: \$80

AGE: ALL

DAYS: Fri, Sat or Sun

PARTY INCLUDES: Each additional guest past 8 will incur a \$10 add-on fee per guest | Soccer Balls for all participants to play FootGolf | FootGolf Instruction card and guide from the first tee | Birthday reservations are welcome to bring their own refreshments and cake.

CALL BERGEN GOLF COURSE TO MAKE A RESERVATION. 217-753-6211



ICE SKATING PARTY BECAUSE IT'S COOLER AT THE NELSON CENTER!

Ice Skating, Skate Rentals, Party Room, Birthday Paper Goods

2 Hours | Min. 5 people

COST: \$18 R | \$20 NR for Gold Package \$14 R | \$16 NR for Silver Package
[cost for packages is per person]

*\$25 deposit due on day of booking. \$25 subtracted from total on day of party.

AGE: ALL

PARTY INCLUDES: Ice Skating | Skate Rentals | Birthday Paper Goods

CALL: 217-753-2500





SPRINGFIELD
PARK DISTRICT

NOW BOOKING PARK SHELTER RENTALS!

Park Shelter rental season is from **March 1st - October 31st!**

Picnic Rentals can be booked up to **one year in advance** during the rental season!

*All rentals require a non-refundable deposit.

Barker Park

Picnic Shelter - Basic

*Power

Centennial Park

Picnic Shelter 1 - Basic

Picnic Shelter 2 - Basic

Comer Cox Park

Picnic Shelter 1 - Amenity

Picnic Shelter 2 - Basic

Picnic Shelter 3 - Basic

*Power, Restrooms, Water

Duncan Park

Picnic Shelter 1 - Amenity

Picnic Shelter 2 - Basic

Picnic Shelter 3 - Amenity

*Power, Restrooms, Water

Dreamland Park

Picnic Shelter 1 - Amenity

Picnic Shelter 2 - Amenity

Picnic Shelter 3 - Amenity

*Power, Restrooms, Water

Enos Park

Picnic Shelter - Amenity

*Power, Restrooms, Water

Iles Park

Picnic Shelter 1 - Amenity

*Power, Restrooms, Water

Indian Hills

Picnic Shelter - Basic

Jaycee Park

Picnic Shelter 1 - Amenity

*Power, Restrooms, Water

Lincoln Park

Picnic Shelter 4 - Amenity

Picnic Shelter 7 - Amenity

*Power, Restrooms, Water

Rotary Park

Picnic Shelter - Basic

*Restrooms, Water

Southwind Park

Hope Pavilion - Amenity

Picnic Shelters 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 -

Basic

*Power, Restrooms, Water

Stuart Park

Picnic Shelter - Basic

*Power

Washington Park

Picnic Shelter - Amenity

*Power, Restrooms, Water



Book here at:
bit.ly/SPD_Shelter-Rentals
Or scan the QR code!

For more information, please call the Springfield Park District at **217-544-1751**



CHOOSE your own SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE!

With The Springfield Park District's

Special Recreation
Summer Camps

Nelson Center
Summer Camp

Preschool
Summer Camps

Henson Robinson Zoo
Summer Camps

Athletics
Summer Camps

Tennis
Summer Camps

Sign Up Today at
bit.ly/SPD_Summer-Camp



VOTED THE BEST SUMMER CAMPS IN SPRINGFIELD



One week sessions from June 3 through July 26 for ages 4 to 18
Art and History camps offered throughout

Registration begins February 27 for SAA members, February 29 for non-members

Learn more at www.springfieldart.org

A background image of children in green YMCA camp shirts sitting on grass. One child in the foreground is holding a blue water bottle and waving.

the YTM

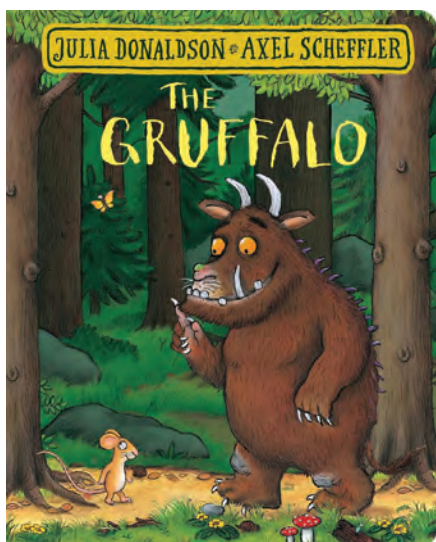
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A SUMMER OF SMILES

**"CAMP IS A PLACE
I CAN BE MYSELF"**

**Summer Camp
Sign-Up
Open NOW**

springfieldymca.org

A QR code with the text 'the Y CAMP SIGN UP' below it.



Pair a book and movie

PARENT | Pamela Savage

Every parent on the planet likely knows the importance of reading as it relates to their kids' future literacy. You probably also know that when very young children are read to their vocabulary increases and their language development blossoms. Reading with your kids is also quality time that ultimately strengthens the parent/child bond.

And it's not just a cliché that reading opens kids' minds to new worlds and new perspectives. Books and conversations about books have the power to deepen relationships between kids and their grown-ups. While it's still cold outside, why not use the opportunity to help keep your child's excitement about reading alive and to ultimately deepen your bond? Check out some of these book and television/movie pairings, perfect for enjoying together as a family.

For the emerging pre-reader

The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson is an enchanting story that tells the tale of a mouse that goes off in search of a nut. The television pairing clocks in under 30 minutes. Have more time? Check out the sequel, *The Gruffalo's Child*.

The Snowman by Raymond Briggs is a wordless picture book that will engage your child's imagination. The show is similarly captivating and lasts about 30 minutes.

Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats tells the story of Peter as he explores his neighborhood during winter's first snow. This was a favorite in our house, and the short film version lasts about 40 minutes.

How *The Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss is an evergreen classic, and the 2018 film *The Grinch* is a great modern-day update.

Clifford the Big, Red Dog by Norman Bridwell is another beloved children's classic about the adventures of a girl and her giant, red-furred dog. There are numerous Clifford books with themes to match any child's interest and plenty of television and movie pairings to boot.

For novice and decoding readers

Pete the Cat by James Dean is a popular kids' series that follows the groovy adventures of a cat named Pete. It comes as a picture book, board book or a decodable reader. The accompanying television series on Amazon Prime



narrates the books well.

Moby Shinobi by Luke Flowers and *Hello Ninja* by Nate Wilson, illustrated by Forest Dickson, are great book series for lovers of excitement and silly adventure. The *Moby Shinobi* books are solid leveled readers. Netflix's TV series, *Hello Ninja*, is also very cute.

Llama Llama by Anna Dewdney is another solid series about growing up and facing challenges like the first day of school, a sick day or running errands. You can find this one in picture book, board book or reader form, and the accompanying Netflix series is short and sweet.

Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey has a lot of potty humor, but if your child is really starting to gain some steam with independent reading, graphic novels like this one can be pretty engaging. The Netflix series also features some sass and potty language aimed at the early elementary set.

The *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book series by Jeff Kinney has a good mix of text and

pictures for early elementary readers, even though the main character, Greg Heffley, is in middle school. Its chapter book qualities also make it seem like a big kid book. Disney+ recently released a holiday special to accompany one of the books that is enjoyable for the whole family.

For fluent and comprehending readers

Ramona by Beverly Cleary is a classic. As a child, I loved these funny novels about Ramona Quimby and her friends and family. My son likes them, too, and there is a 2010 movie adaptation we are looking forward to checking out.

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh is a book series about precocious 11-year-old Harriet who plans to become a spy and a writer when she grows up. Apple+ recently adapted the book into a relaxing and clever television series.

The *How to Train Your Dragon* series by Cressida Cowell follows Viking protagonist Hiccup as he interacts with dragons and learns to become a hero.

This series does have a lot of absurd name-calling – words like “snotface” and “baggybum” – which can be a pro for kids and annoying for parents. There are several movie adaptations and a series on Peacock Kids.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians by Rick Riordan is a seven-book fantasy series about a demigod living in the 21st century alongside other Greek deities and villains. Disney+ is currently streaming an eight-episode season based on the first book.

The *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling has seven books in total. These books do get thematically more mature and intense for young readers, so it might be one worth reading alongside your child. And it can be fun to watch the movie when you finish the book together!

Pamela Savage is a freelance writer living in Springfield. She has spent her cold weekends of late reading (and watching) children's stories.


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polebarnchicevents@gmail.com

Family event calendar

PARENT | Daron Walker

FEBRUARY

Lilacs and Letters

Through March 22. This one-act play features a single actor portraying Walt Whitman, one of America's most influential poets, as Whitman processes the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and tends to wounded Civil War soldiers. Free with admission. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Ho Etsu Taoko Drummers

Sat., Feb. 17, 7:30-9:30pm. Part of the Illinois College Fine Arts Series. \$20. Students and children free. Illinois College Rammelkamp Chapel, Jacksonville, 215 Park St., 218-245-3192.

Jesus Christ Superstar

Sat., Feb. 17, 7:30pm and Sun., Feb. 18, 2pm. This iconic musical returns to the stage on the show's 50th anniversary. With lyrics and music by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, the show is set against the backdrop of the extraordinary events during the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ. Part of the Broadway Series. uispac.com. \$34-\$99. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

The Boat Show

Feb. 23, 2pm-8pm; Feb. 24, 10am-7pm; Feb. 25, 10am-5pm. Lots of exhibitors from across central Illinois. Fiberglass and aluminum fishing boats, inboards, runabouts, pontoons and more. Concessions. \$5, children under 12 are free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-341-1730.

Black Children's Book Week Kickoff

Sun., Feb. 25, 1-3pm. Get a free book to take home, chat with local celebrities and listen as they read a story, join a scavenger hunt. Learn about community

organizations such as Lincoln Library, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Kidzeum, Juneteenth, Inc. and the League of Women Voters. spiaahm.org. Free. Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, 1440 Monument Ave., 217-391-6323.

Experience Joyful Music - A sensory-friendly performance

Tue., Feb. 27, 6:30-8:30pm. Intended for an inclusive audience of all ages with sensory or other needs. Grammy Award winner Dan Zanes and Haitian-American jazz vocalist Claudia Zanes perform a mix of songs in a style that's homespun, joyful, sophisticated, and artful. The audience is invited to dance and sing along. uispac.com. \$15. UIS Studio Theatre, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

The World of Percussion

Thu., Feb. 29, 6:30-8pm. Percussionist Brant Roberts will showcase a range of styles and sounds that can only come from percussion instruments, featuring music from around the world and telling the stories of different locations through sound. In partnership with UIS Music and part of the Date Night series. uispac.com. \$15. UIS Studio Theatre, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

The Questioners: Read, Question, Think. PLAY!

Through May 5. Children can explore art, science and civics in a hands-on exhibit featuring characters in second grade from a series of best-selling books. Children will be able to build flying contraptions, pilot a "cheese-copter," make an arch out of pancakes and transform "Mount Trashmore" into a park. Free with admission to museum. Children admitted for \$1 on Feb. 17, March 16 and April 20 and May 4. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Springfield Chess Club

Wednesdays, 5:30-8pm. Casual games for the public and club members of all ages and skill levels. Meets weekly at the White Oaks Mall food court. Free. White Oaks Mall, 2501 Wabash Ave., 217-726-2584.

MARCH

Sensory-Friendly Visit Times

First Sunday of every month, 9-11am. Through Dec. 1. Lights and noises are turned down to make the museum more comfortable for visitors with sensory differences so they can explore and discover the galleries at their own pace. Headphones are available for loan at the admissions desk. kidzeum.org. Admission. Kidzeum of Health and Science Children's Museum, 412 E. Adams St., 217-971-4435.

Mystery Movie Monday

First Monday of every month, 7pm. Through May 6. You won't know the title of the film until the red velvet curtain opens on the grand screen. Movies from across the spectrum of genres will be shown – comedy, drama, suspense, musical, romance, western – everything but horror. Free popcorn. atthelegacy.com. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence, 800-838-3006.

On Your Feet

Tue., March 5, 7:30pm. "The Story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan." The inspiring true story about heart, heritage and two people who believed in their talent—and each other—to become an international sensation. uispac.com. \$34-\$99. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Disney Princess: The Concert

Wed., March 6, 7-9pm. The songs of Disney's princesses come alive on stage. Larger-than-life animation and theatrical effects immerse the audience as powerhouse talents sing your favorite princess, hero and villain songs, and share behind-the-scenes stories from their time

on the stage and screen. Attend in royal attire. uispac.com. \$39.50-\$79.50. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Illinois Alpaca and Fiber Fest

March 9-10. A certified show featuring halter classes with championships, adult and youth showmanship, walking fleece with championship and fiber arts. Sponsored by the Illinois Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association. alpacainfo.com. Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 801 Sangamon Ave., 402-437-8484.

Train Fair

Sun., March 10, 10am-4pm. With over 35,000 square feet, this is the largest train show in downstate Illinois. Operating layouts, vendors, buy, sell and trade. Hosted by the Springfield Railroad Society. Early bird shopping starts at 9am for \$10. springfieldtrainfair.com. \$5. Children under 11 are free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-8047.

Abraham Lincoln in song with Chris Vallillo

Wed., March 13, 6:30-8:30pm. Part of the Illinois College Fine Arts Series. \$20. Students and children free. Illinois College Sibert Theatre, Jacksonville, McGaw Fine Arts Center, 217-245-3192.

Q.U.I.L.T.S. Biennial Quilt Show 2024

Fri., March 15, 10am-6pm and Sat., March 16, 10am-4pm. Over 400 quilts and quilted items. Raffle, Quilts of Valor presentations, bed turnings, demonstrations, quilt appraisal (by appointment), door prizes, vendors and a kid's scavenger hunt. Food available, free parking, accessible and some wheelchairs will be available. springfieldquilts.com. \$10 or \$15 for both days. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217 652-9839.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sat., March 16, 12pm. Barry Friedman, owner of the Alamo, is the grand marshal. Proceeds of the event will benefit the Rutledge Youth Foundation. This year's theme is Irish

fairytale and folklore. Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh! stpatsdayparade.com. Downtown Springfield, Downtown.

World Ballet Series: Swan Lake

Fri., March 22, 7-9pm. World Ballet Series is a unique project composed of renowned professional dancers representing over ten countries. Featuring richly detailed, hand-painted sets as well as over 150 radiant costumes that bring fresh representation to this timeless classic. uispac.com. \$35-\$89. Sangamon Auditorium, UIS, 1 University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Disney's Finding Nemo Jr.

Fri., March 22, 7pm, Sat., March 23, 2, 7pm and Sun., March 24, 2pm. A story full of family, friendship and adventure presented by Hoogland Performing Arts Education. hcfta.org. \$18. Reduced prices for seniors, students and children. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Jiu Jitsu Tournament

Sat., March 23, 9:30am. Presented by FUJI

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*Visit cefcu.com/challenge for official rules and requirements.

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BJJ Championship Series. Competitors range in age from 4 years old to 60+. fujibjj.com. \$20 at the door. Age 12 and under are free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-8047.

WWE Road to WrestleMania

Sat., March 23, 7:30-10:30pm. See your favorite WWE superstars including The American Nightmare, Cody Rhodes, Seth "Freakin" Rollins, LA Knight, Rhea Ripley, Becky Lynch, Bobby Lashley and many more. Superstar Experience and Walk the Aisle VIP Packages also available. \$20 and up. BOS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, 217-788-8800.

Coin Show

Sun., March 24, 9am-3pm. U.S. and foreign coins, ancient and modern coins, gold and silver bullion, state quarters and paper money. Over 70 dealer tables. Hosted by the Central Illinois Numismatic Association. Free for members and children under 16. \$1. Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Dr., 217-899-9996.

APRIL

First Friday Concert Series

Fri., April 5, 7pm. Duruflé's Requiem performed by the Millikin University Choir. spicathedral.org. Free. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 524 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-522-3342.

Henson Robinson Zoo Opening

April 6, 10am-5pm. Enjoy a day of sun and fun to kick off the start of the zoo season. Meet new animal friends that have arrived and possibly get a visit from the Spring Bunny, too. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 East Lake Shore Drive, 217-544-1751.

Come From Away

Sun., April 14, 7:30pm. This musical is based on the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded plane passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Part of the Broadway Series. uispac.com. \$34-\$99. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

National Clydesdale Sale

April 18-20. The largest Clydesdale sale in the country. Visit the website for the full schedule of events. clydesale.com. Free admission. Coliseum, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 815-247-8780.

Disney's Winnie the Pooh Kids

Fri., April 26, 7pm, Sat., April 27, 2, 7pm and Sun., April 28, 2pm. Welcome to the Hundred Acre Wood, where you'll once again find Winnie the Pooh and his pals, Tigger, Piglet, Rabbit and Owl. hcfta.org. \$15. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

2024 Lincoln Pilgrimage

April 26-28. Boy Scouts from across the Midwest will converge on Lincoln's New Salem Village. The Scouts will hike 20 miles to Springfield, visit Lincoln's Tomb and see more than a dozen Lincoln-related museums. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.



Summer Camps at Kidzeum!

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Bluey's Big Play

Tue., April 30, 6-8pm and Wed., May 1, 6-8pm. Bluey's Big Play is a brand-new theatrical adaptation of the Emmy award-winning children's television series. Join the Heelers in their first live theater show. Featuring brilliantly created puppets, this is Bluey as you've never seen it before, uispac.com. \$33-\$131. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

MAY

First Friday Concert Series

Fri., May 3, 7pm. Featuring the UIS Choir. spicathedral.org. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 524 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-522-3342.

Hammer-In

Sat., May 4, 9am-3pm. The blacksmiths will be working and all of the buildings will be open for this popular annual event. clayville.org. Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains, Route 125, 217-481-

4430.

First Sunday Midwest Bazaar Spring Fever

May 5, 8am-4pm. You never know what you're going to find at this bazaar. Top-notch vendors, food and even a pet adoption mobile site. You can even visit with some alpacas. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-8047.

Mothers Day at the Zoo

May 12, 10am-5pm. Celebrate the day with Mom at the zoo. Moms get in free with any other paid admission. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 East Lake Shore Drive, 217-544-1751.

Old Capitol Art Fair

May 18, 10am-5pm and May 19, 10am-4pm. Set against the backdrop of the Old State Capitol, the art fair is the jewel of the Midwest. This tradition of fine art has brought artists and shoppers from across the country flocking to downtown

Springfield's two-day outdoor art gallery for over 60 years. Free. Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-553-5564. springfieldoldcapitolartfair.org.

Springfield Legends Classic III

May 25, 6:30pm. Former members of the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals battle it out in a seven-inning exhibition game. VIP meet and greets available which include autographs, photos and more. Former Cardinals Tom Herr and Brian Jordan are among the players. See Lucky Horseshoes web site, shoesbaseball.com, for ticket prices and more info. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 North Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

Lucky Horseshoes

May 28. Springfield's Prospect League team's season begins at home against a division foe, the Illinois Valley Pistol Shrimp. Regular season concludes July 31 and playoffs begin Aug. 1. Shoesbaseball.com. Lanphier Park, 1415 North Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

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