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Winter 2021

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New business casual for men

Ditch the suit and tie and upgrade your style

Men’s casual fashion is evolving and starting to take over the workplace. Trendy style and comfort are replacing the traditional starchy dress shirt, suit and tie. “The new business kind of dress has been either a nice pair of casual pants or some really nice dressy jeans, a sport coat and a sport shirt,” says Marc Maslauski, owner of Jim Herron Ltd. “That’s been the guy who used to wear the suit and tie – what he’s been wearing now.”

One of the biggest trends in the world of men’s casual wear are dress pants that look and wear like jeans. “Guys like pants that both look great and feel great,” says Maslauski. “A lot of guys are switching to dress pants with a low-rise cut of the waist. They feel more like jeans but still have that tapered leg design of dress pants.” They feel and wear like jeans, but look more dressed up – and come in a wide variety of fabrics to complement the season.

Stylish dress jeans are also seeing a rise in business casual popularity. However, it’s important to know the difference between daily casual jeans and dress jeans. If you’re going to wear jeans in a business casual environment, make sure they are dark, fitted, free of any sort of distressing, and hemmed to the proper length.

“We’re starting to see more people want to get dressed up again, believe it or not,” says Maslauski. “Hopefully that’s a good sign for things moving forward.” –Joseph Copley
Cheryl and Joe Biesiada of Springfield were both euphoric crossing the finish line at the Anchorage RunFest half marathon on Aug. 22, achieving their goal of running a half marathon in every state plus Washington, D.C. Thanks to cooler weather, Cheryl ran one of her best races of the year. With a surge of energy, she passed people from the halfway point to the finish line. Finishing ahead of Joe, she shared his joy when he crossed the finish. Cheryl placed third in her age group with a time of 2:00:07.

Cheryl and Joe have been pursuing this goal together since 2016, although they don’t run at the same pace, don’t run together during races and train separately. In 2017 they told Illinois Times they planned to complete a half marathon in all 50 states by the time Joe turned 70. (See December 2017 Capital City Senior). At that time, Joe had checked off 24 states and Cheryl 25. They intended to make Alaska their 50th state in August 2020. The pandemic delayed their plans by a year. In spite of adding only one new state in 2020, they completed their quest a month before Joe turned 71.

One benefit of turning 70 is that the competition diminishes in the 70-99 age group. Joe ran the Springfield half marathon in October, placing first in his age group, finishing in just under three hours. He has knee issues due to arthritis and isn’t committed to running more half marathons. He will continue to run/walk with a group of local guys who call themselves The Flying Turtles. Joe’s new goal is to golf in every state.

Cheryl and Joe Biesiada, feeling emotional after completing their goal of running a half marathon in every state plus Washington, D.C. This was at the Anchorage RunFest, Aug. 22, 2021.

Courtesy Cheryl and Joe Biesiada
Cheryl, 63, intends to keep running as long as her body holds out. “There are so many races on my bucket list,” said Cheryl. “It is nice to do the races I want to run and not worry about what state they are in.” She plans to run 15 or more half marathons in 2022, including the Avenue of the Giants among the redwoods in California and the Yosemite Vacation Race.

Due to the pandemic, Utah was their only new state in 2020. They ran the Zion Vacation Race in February, just as the pandemic was unfolding. That was Joe’s only half in 2020. Cheryl retired from SIU School of Medicine in May 2020 and needed something to keep her busy. She started running before Joe and had already set an additional goal of running 100 half marathons. She and a friend found races within driving distance, and Cheryl added nine races towards her goal between September and December 2020.

Cheryl and Joe enjoy the camaraderie and motivation of the 50 States Half Marathon Club. They are somewhat unusual for the group. For many couples, one person is the runner and the other their supporter. The annual meetup race for the 50 States Club was the Revel Big Cottonwood in Utah on Sept. 11, 2021. There Joe and Cheryl received their official 50 states half marathon awards. That is also where Cheryl ran her 100th half marathon, her 13th in 2021.

Since then, Cheryl has completed five more, including the Colonel Sanders half marathon in Corbin, Kentucky. This was special since her maiden name is Corbin, and she received an artisan ceramic bowl inscribed with Corbin for winning her age group.

Some runners are only there for the race, but Cheryl and Joe love to travel. By running in every state, they have enjoyed exploring America’s small towns and big cities, coastlines and mountains, national parks, quaint villages and everything in between. They visited Glacier National Park prior to the Missoula Half Marathon and afterwards went whitewater rafting with other members of the 50 States Club. When the Monterey Bay Half Marathon was canceled due to fires in California, they traveled two hours south to Paso Robles to run

Below:
Cheryl and Joe Biesiada receiving their 50-state half marathon awards at the 50 States Half Marathon Club annual meetup race, the Revel Big Cottonwood Half Marathon in Utah on Sept. 11, 2021. Cheryl planned her races to make this her 100th half marathon. Cheryl chose the cup for both her 50 states and 100 half marathons awards; Joe chose the crystal award for his 50 states award.

Advice from lessons learned

There’s lots to learn from how Cheryl and Joe Biesiada approach life and achieving their goals.

• Be flexible. If plan A doesn’t work, go to plan B or plan C. Rather than giving up, pursue another plan.

• Be humble. In spite of completing over 100 half marathons, Cheryl says others have done so much more. She marvels at someone who is running a third round of half marathons in all 50 states with plans to run 500 races.

• Pursue your passion. Cheryl’s passion is running, which caused her to change her lifestyle, eat better and feel better. Joe was inspired to run because he saw Cheryl having so much fun. Their son’s passion is music. Joe loves to play golf and now has a new goal of playing golf in all 50 states. By following your passion, you can meet new people and draw inspiration from others.

• Explore the surroundings wherever you may be. It opens your eyes to a broader world.

• Stay active. Whether it is running, lifting weights, hiking, biking, walking, etc., stay active in order to be healthy and enjoy life.
a smaller race, where Cheryl received a bottle of wine for winning third place in her age group. They went on to visit Hearst Castle, sea lion colonies, Big Sur and Pebble Beach Golf Course. They ran the Asheville at Biltmore race, toured the Biltmore mansion and finished the day at the Biltmore winery. After running the Jackson Hole Half Marathon, they explored Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. A race in Tenants Cove, Maine, was a favorite. They stayed one mile from the lighthouse shown in the movie where Forrest Gump concluded his cross-country run.

The Biesiadas are living life to the fullest in retirement. Cheryl is only recently retired. Joe retired 12 years ago after 39 years with the City of Springfield as a water engineer at the water treatment plant. They look forward to many more adventures.

Karen Ackerman Witter met Cheryl and Joe Biesiada many years ago through the Springfield Road Runners Club. She has enjoyed following their adventures and accomplishments through Facebook.
Cheryl and Joe have five children and seven grandchildren, scattered around the country. Cheryl's goal is to get them all together in one place. Center - Youngest granddaughter Sophia. Right - Cheryl with Cheryl and Joe's sons Liam and Collin.
What’s new and old in Jacksonville

Including an impressive new history museum

By Mary Bohlen     Photos by Randy von Liski

It may no longer be called the “Athens of the West,” but Jacksonville still offers plenty of history and culture, including a new museum, some Underground Railroad sites and a mansion-housed art gallery. Throw in a Ferris wheel and a new winery, and you’ve got yourself a full-day trip.

The Jacksonville Area Museum opened in September in the imposing former downtown post office building just off the central square. A nine-minute video offered in the old postmaster’s office traces Jacksonville’s roots to early settlers and their religious and educational bent. Memorabilia donated by citizens fill the shelves of the video room.

In the former post office lobby, visitors can view exhibits highlighting local retail, industry and institutions. Jacksonville has hosted woolen mills, a book binder, cigar rollers, food manufacturers and a vinyl record maker. The town also has been home to several state institutions over the years, and displays include a stone windowsill from the former state mental hospital with patients’ inscriptions visible.

A side gallery includes information and artifacts on such notables as orator William Jennings Bryan and Dr. Greene Vardiman Black, considered the father of modern dentistry, and their time in Jacksonville. The museum also notes Abraham Lincoln's connection to the town.

Another gallery celebrates the recently closed MacMurray College with photos, athletic banners, portraits of college presidents and paintings by former art professor Nellie A. Knoff.
The museum is hosting a traveling Smithsonian exhibit on “Voices and Votes: Democracy in America” till Dec. 23.

Laura Marks, a museum board member, said plans include transforming the former mail handling area to more exhibit space once volunteers can raise the $500,000 to $1 million needed for phase two. “We had a big opening and we have shown what we can do,” she said of the multiyear effort to open the first phase.

The volunteer-run museum, funded by donations, has plenty of history to showcase, beginning with Jacksonville’s founding in 1825. Nine years later it had the largest population of any Illinois city.

In its early years the town attracted New England educators who in 1829 founded Illinois College, which graduated the first college class in Illinois and began the first medical school in the state. The town’s commitment to education, further enhanced by the opening of state schools for the blind and deaf and the Illinois Conference Female Academy (eventually MacMurray College), led to the “Athens of the West” moniker.

Meanwhile, early religious leaders became active in antislavery efforts, and today at least nine sites are designated as having been part of the Underground Railroad. Some of the sites are private residences, but visitors can follow a map to view those from the outside.

Visitors also can book a tour of Woodlawn Farm, just east of town, to learn how farmer and cattle baron Michael Huffaker hired free African American families. That practice helped disguise the increasing number of slaves seeking freedom who passed through the area.

“They didn’t document how many slaves came through,” said Terry Maggart, chair of Jacksonville’s Underground Railroad Committee, likely because of the secretive nature of their journeys. No record of slave catchers coming to the farm exists either, he noted.

Maggart said Huffaker was one of the greatest pioneers around, valued education and expanded his holdings to 160 acres, unusual for that time. Visitors to the farm can view period furnishings, replicas of slave shackles and photos of the cabins and cellar.

Left: The David Strawn Art Gallery in Jacksonville features national and local artists in an 1882 mansion.

Below: Artifacts and information on the institutions that have made Jacksonville home include those from Illinois College and the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane. The Jacksonville Area Museum opened in September.
where slaves hid.

For a view of more elaborate housing, head to the David Strawn Art Gallery near downtown with its exhibits of national and local artwork. A Victorian mansion built in 1882, it holds permanent collections of Mississippi Indian pottery, a historic doll assortment and artifacts from the Mediterranean. Some rooms showcase period furnishings from the time the mansion was home to Phoebe and Jacob Strawn.

Other impressive buildings worth a look include the Carnegie Library and the Governor Duncan Mansion, home to one of the three Illinois governors who hailed from Jacksonville.

If you visit in the summer or fall, you can catch a ride on the Eli Bridge Ferris Wheel in Community Park. The company, the world’s oldest manufacturer of Ferris wheels and other amusement rides, still operates its Jacksonville factory.

The park itself carries history as the site of the former Illinois State Hospital for the Insane and later the now-abandoned Jacksonville Developmental Center. Bandstands hearken back to the hospital.

To top off your day, check out Waters Edge Winery and Bistro on the town’s eastern edge. The 17-acre site, set on rolling hills, offers wines from around the world and a large building suitable for special events.

Brittany Henry, executive director of the Jacksonville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, said two new restaurants plan to open soon, joining several others around the central square. The square annually hosts such events as farmers markets in the summer, a pumpkin festival for children in October and a Christmas market, scheduled for Dec. 10-11 this year.

For more information on events and sites in Jacksonville, seasonal hours and directions, go to jacksonvilleil.org or stop by the visitors bureau across from the new museum on East State Street. The new museum’s website is www.JacksonvilleAreaMuseum.org. Make an appointment to visit Woodlawn Farm at www.woodlawnfarm.com.

Mary Bohlen writes about travel for the Illinois Times and ReGeneration. During the Covid-19 pandemic, she has specialized in day trips from Springfield.
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Easy Rider

Her first motorcycle ride was for her 100th birthday. Now she’s a TikTok sensation.

By Cinda Ackerman Klickna

In June 2021, June Flood was helped into a side car of a motorcycle and taken on her first-ever motorcycle ride. That was what she requested to celebrate her 100th birthday. When asked about the ride, she says, “It was fun but not long enough and not fast enough.” The video of her ride was posted on TikTok and has received close to two million views.

Accepting challenges is nothing new for Flood. On her 90th birthday she asked to go on a hot air balloon ride. That became a much longer ride than expected as the balloon operator who was from out of state realized the farm fields were still fully planted; finding a good landing site was difficult. It was another day that Flood enjoyed.

Flood says she is surprised she has lived to be 100. She really doesn’t know to what she can attribute her long life. But as she talks about her life, it becomes obvious her longevity is due to fun, faith (she has been active in Westminster Presbyterian Church), walking every day, and rolling with the punches.

“Enjoy, and take one day at a time. Just go with the flow,” she says. Flood has had to do that throughout her life. At the age of four, her father lost his job in Alton, and they moved to a farm near Carlinville. When she entered high school and her parents could only afford one set of textbooks, her older brother got them and refused to share. So, she used her friend’s books. She has been through a divorce, the death of her second husband, and the death of her third husband.

Flood came to Springfield after she married; she set up a beauty shop in her home. “June puts on lipstick every day,” says Amy Rasing, director of development.
at Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities, where Flood now lives.

During the pandemic, members of her extended family – 6 children, 14 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and 7 great, great grandchildren – came in pairs or groups to visit her daily, talking through the side window panels of an outside door near her room. It wasn't easy to only communicate through a window, and Flood says, "I knew how to unlock that door and could have gotten out. But I thought they might kick me out of here so I didn't."

Flood enjoys her sunny, corner room with two large windows and points to the picture hanging on the wall of her as a child, and the quilt on her bed with the names of family members. Her large angel collection fills a table behind the couch.

She plans to keep living one day at a time. She was first in line for the vaccine and walks daily. "Maybe I will live 10 more years, but I don't want to get helpless. If I do, I want to go – wherever they send me," she says with a chuckle.

Cinda Ackerman Klickna of Rochester enjoys meeting interesting people, the perk of freelance writing.

Her advice: “Roll with the punches. Go with the flow.”
“People may say they don’t have much of a story to tell, but when people start talking, when they are given permission to share, they start revealing that there is a great narrative over the course of one’s life,” said Dan Frachey, owner of Legacy Weavers Video.

Frachey began working on the concept for his new business after the closing of the Chiara Center at Riverton in February 2021. Frachey had served as program director for the retreat center, which never reopened after being closed for a year during the pandemic.

Soon after being laid off, Frachey began working on a business idea, inspired from his tenure as a supervisor at St. John’s Breadline, another previous employer. He discovered one of the regular guests who had been absent was actually in rehabilitation. When he visited, she said she wanted to reconnect with her daughter.

“The one way we could do that was to make a video. I brought an old video camera, and we got her story. Years later, the daughter contacted us and said she hadn’t seen that kind of clarity from her mother for years – it was a real gift.” The business idea stuck in his mind, and when he was laid off, “it really sprang to the forefront, like someone pushing their way through the crowd.”

Frachey honed his idea through CO.STARTERS, a business incubation course offered by Innovate Springfield, which Frachey describes as “a really excellent program” in which would-be entrepreneurs share their business ideas to see if they have merit. After completing the 10-week course, Frachey purchased the equipment he needed and began to offer his services through Legacy Weavers Video.

“I see value in a regular person’s story,”
said Frachey. The stories need not be of an extraordinary event, but simply the rich details of a life thoroughly lived. “How did people relate? How did they meet? What were their favorite foods? How did they spend time with their family? I love prompting people, and pretty soon they are revealing the golden nuggets that are there. It’s the ordinary details that become the extraordinary weaving of the tapestry of their life.”

Frachey notes that not only the good times need to be recorded, but even the darker times are worth remembering, too. “The harder times people have had to get through – the death of a loved one, or being in financial straits – it reminds us that we don’t get around these dark times, we have to go through them. It makes for a very good story.”

Producing a legacy video begins with a conversation on how to approach making it. Sometimes the client may have a firm idea of what stories they want to share, and other times they may need assistance in figuring it out, especially if the video is a gift from children or grandchildren. Frachey states the focus is usually on some combination of chronology in discussing key moments – marriage, kids, military service – interspersed with family pictures, sometimes video clips and original music. “There are lots of possibilities,” said Frachey. “It’s an open canvas. I don’t tell anyone what to say; I just guide them.” In addition to family stories, some clients offer words of advice or encouragement for their loved ones, while others may expound on values they hold dear, or leave some kind of legacy statement.

“The beauty of the video is that the people watching are going to see their loved one with their mannerisms, the way they tell their story, their facial features and gestures, their laugh – that’s a powerful thing,” notes Frachey. “The grandkids are going to learn some details about what life was like at a certain historical period and how grandparents dealt with these changes. They’ll come away with a stronger sense of identity, with pride. This is an important part of being in this family, the same values and determination.”

Frachey feels that not only are his clients’ lives enriched by this experience, but his own life is as well. “I don’t like to say I’m ‘taking’ a video. I use the word ‘receiving,’ followed by ‘cherishing’ – to receive a story and offer it to others. It’s a way to celebrate even the terrible things, and the good things that come out of that. It’s just astounding the blessed ordinary moments of life, and together they make a nice story.”

Carey Smith loves stories, and prizes the ones she recorded from her grandfather, also a storyteller.

In recent months, Frachey has been initiating a project he calls “Legacy Weavers Connection Stories” as a charitable outreach that flows from creating legacy videos. He plans to connect high school students with area seniors living in assisted living and nursing facilities, with the resulting conversations producing a commemorative book of the senior’s story.

As a secondary outreach, Dan Frachey has begun doing speaking engagements in the community. In his presentation, called “The Power of Story,” he inspires listeners to be more intentional about celebrating their own life stories while seeking to share them and receive them. His message is that sharing and receiving life stories is particularly important within families.


–Fletcher Farrar
Not to sound like a reverse mortgage ad, but if you are in the second half of life, there is some great news.

You will live much longer, and healthier, than you think. More and more of us will be as sound of mind and body at 80 as we were at 60. It’s as though the extra years of life are added in the middle, not the end. Warnings of mental decline can be flawed by averaging errors, or by ignoring the fact that in important ways – like synthesizing knowledge – we actually get better as we age.

Traditional life stages of education, career and retirement are obsolete. Only 12% of us born after 1960 can expect to work in one place longer than 20 years. For all Americans, the average time at one job is under five years. The “magic age” of 65 was chosen in 1935 based on the life expectancy of people born in the 1870s. Today 65 and up is the fastest-growing segment in the workforce.

Managing transition is a surprisingly complex skill, but it can be learned.

Managing change is the key to longevity

By Dennis Thread

So if the old expectations are gone, what do we replace them with? And how do we take advantage of this “second middle age?”

A number of years ago, I worked on the Long Careers Project (funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the MacArthur Foundation) which tracked satisfaction and happiness later in life. We did deep dives into the lives of hundreds of Americans, some successful and well-known, some average citizens, all of whom were working past the normal retirement age, some working in their 90s or beyond.

One group reported a significantly greater sense of well-being. The single biggest factor for these individuals is that they made regular deliberate and intentional life and career changes throughout their working life. In other words, the opposite of the traditional 30-year career.

Managing transition is a surprisingly complex skill, but it can be learned.

Retirement gets idealized as placid and calm, but change and major life transitions don’t slow down as we get older. The folks who had serial careers were prepared for them. Today the majority of Americans of all ages have serial careers, and I am one of them.

As a writer, I’ve had to navigate regular change. As a way of earning a living, writing is less like being an “artist” and more like being a skilled tradesperson, like a decent finish carpenter, a skilled landscaper or dress-maker. But markets change. Fashions change. Expectations change. Financial realities change. To adapt as a writer, I’ve worked in show business, in corporate America, in public policy, and as a journalist. As an adult, I’ve made major cross-country moves five times and am planning for more.

I’ve learned a great deal about change, the good and the bad. I’m at the “traditional” retirement age, but I expect
and hope to keep on adapting and changing and working as long as possible. Like those folks in the Long Careers Study, I hope the best predictor for happiness late in life, aside from financial security, is this willingness to embrace intentional and regular re-creation.

But even if you worked for the same organization for 30 years, you have also managed transitions. There have been disruptions in your work life, new job titles or industry and competitive changes. There are ways of looking at your career that can build confidence in your ability to handle the kinds of choices we all face.

As Joan Didion famously wrote in The White Album, “We tell ourselves stories in order to live.” It begins by looking at the way we describe our lives. The emerging field of narrative psychology looks at how the stories we tell give our lives structure and meaning.

Our stories are constantly evolving as we gain new perspectives, and they generally become more positive later in life. It’s important to remember that many “successful” people’s stories contain themes of redemption.

Transitions are powerful, complex, exhilarating, mysterious and sometimes frightening. Taking time to reflect on past transitions, learning from mistakes, and figuring out how to capitalize on your strengths is key. Take time to understand how you navigate change and learn to choose the kinds of change that are right for you. It’s not about change for change’s sake. If you are thinking about retiring, it might be best to delay that big move, especially if you haven’t experienced major life/work transitions, or if you haven’t handled them well.

Don’t rush. If you’ve reached retirement age – whatever that means to you – chances are you still have decades of physical and mental health. And years of changes to come. Look to your own experience. Learn to face those challenges with what wisdom you have and with humility and grace.

Dennis Thread of Springfield is a freelance writer, director and producer experienced in theater, opera, immersive experiences, public ritual, film, TV and institutional and corporate communications. dthread@creativethread.com
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As events may be canceled or rescheduled at the last moment, please first check with the host or venue when making plans to attend an event.

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**“Pastels Among the Pages”**

**Henson Robinson Zoo Lights**
Fri.-Thu., Dec. 17-23, 5-9pm. Sun.-Thu., Dec. 26-30, 5-9pm. Take a stroll through the zoo and enjoy thousands of lights and displays. Hot cocoa bar, toasted marshmallows, photo opportunities for holiday pics. See the many zoo animals that are still active this time of year. Adults $7, kids 3-12 $5, ages 2 and under are free. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

**It’s a Wonderful Life**
Fri., Dec. 17, 7pm. It’s become a holiday tradition, just like the good old days. The theater is filled with Christmas music and the scent of popcorn in the air. The lights dim, the red velvet curtain parts and glorious movie magic begins. Tickets at the door. $10 or $5 with a non-perishable food donation. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence, 800-838-3006.
Christmas Candlelight Tours
Fri., Dec. 17, 5-8pm. Take a self-guided tour of a Victorian mansion decorated in full holiday splendor, illuminated by candlelight and filled with festive music. No reservations necessary. Tours begin upon arrival. Doors are open until 7:30pm. $5. C.H. Moore Homestead DeWitt County Museum, Clinton, 219 E. Woodlawn St., 217-935-6066.

Dual Piano Christmas

Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular
Fri., Dec. 17, 8pm. The smash hit multimedia laser and light show featuring the music of Pink Floyd. uispac.com. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Policy Breakfast
Fri., Dec. 17, 7:30am coffee reception, 8am program. This is the third collaborative assessment between HSHS St. John’s Hospital, Springfield Memorial Health and the Sangamon County Department of Public Health about of Sangamon County community health needs, and the three organizations will discuss the results. hcfra.org. Hoogland Center for the Arts Club Room, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Winter solstice celebration
Fri., Dec. 17, 5-6pm. A time to gather to ignite the Christ light which will guide the path through winter’s darkness and lead to the next phase of expansion. It will include an opportunity to celebrate in community following the ceremonial observation. Hosted by Unity of Springfield. Love offering. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-523-5897.

Irving Berlin’s White Christmas
Sat., Dec. 18, 7pm. Just like the ones we used to know. Join Bing and Rosemary, Danny and Vera-Ellen for one of the jolliest of all movies. Tickets at the door. $10 or $5 with a non-perishable food donation. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence, 800-838-3006.

Old Capitol Holiday Walks
Sat., Dec. 18, 10am-7pm. Wed., Dec. 22,
5-8pm. Decorated trees, a gingerbread village, living windows, visits with Santa, carriage rides, live entertainment and holiday shopping. Downtown Springfield, 217-544-1723.

**Carriage rides**
Sat., Dec. 18, 2-7pm. Wed., Dec. 22, 4-7pm. Get a tour of the downtown holiday happenings at a leisurely pace in a carriage. Old State Capitol Plaza, Washington Street between Fifth and Sixth streets.

**Holiday Pops in the Heartland**

**“Voices and Votes”**
Sat.-Sun., Dec. 18-19, 10am-4pm. Wed., Dec. 22, 10am-4pm. Examines why American revolutionaries established a government that entrusted the power of the nation, not in a monarchy, but in its citizens. Jacksonville Area Museum, Jacksonville, 301 E. State St.

**The Ha Ha Holiday Show**
Sat., Dec. 18, 8pm. Presented by Capital City Improv. A night of live improv, songs and sketches that will have you laughing all the way to the New Year. $15. hffta.org. Hoogland Center for the Arts Club Room, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

**Holiday and Winter Farmers Market**
Sat., Dec. 18 and the third Saturday of every month, 8am-12pm. Find fresh, local produce and proteins. EBT accepted and SNAP recipients can receive a Healthy Ways card that spends like SNAP benefits. Union Station, 500 E. Madison, 217-557-4588.

**Winter Nights at the Museum**
Sat., Dec. 18, 5-7pm. Wed., Dec. 22, 5-7pm. In partnership with Downtown Springfield, Inc. and Springfield Memorial Foundation. SMTD trolley pickup and drop off at Historic Union Station. Donations of personal care items to benefit Springfield Salvation Army Warming Center accepted for admission. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.
Wreaths Across America
Sat., Dec. 18, 11am-12pm. A part of wreath-laying ceremonies conducted across the country at the same time as the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit organization supported by volunteers and wreath sponsors, and its mission is Remember, Honor, Teach. wreathsacrossamerica.org. Camp Butler National Cemetery, 5063 Camp Butler Road, 217-553-6103.

Summer - The Donna Summer Musical
Sun., Dec. 19, 7pm. She was a girl from Boston with a voice from heaven, who shot through the stars from gospel choir to dance floor diva. $24-$89. uispac.com. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Cellist Chet Lord-Remmert

Springfield Chess Club
Wed., Dec. 22, 6pm. Casual games for the public and club members of all ages and skill levels. Meets Wednesdays at 6pm in the food court of White Oaks Mall at 2501 Wabash Ave. and at 6pm on the second Monday of each month in the multipurpose room of Lincoln Library at 326 S. Seventh St. springfieldchessclub.com. Free. 217-726-2584.

First Night Springfield

New Year’s Burlesque
Fri., Dec. 31, 8:30-9:30pm and 10:30-11:59pm. A scintillating show full of classic burlesque, variety acts, singing, dancing and high-flying artistry presented by 217 Burlesque and Curiosities. Ages 18 and over. Masks required in the theater. $20-$25. Salem on Seventh Theater, Petersburg, 119 S. Seventh St., 217-632-7089.

Mystery Movie Monday

Matt Hughes meet and greet

Elvis Himselvis
Sat., Jan. 8, 3pm. Rick Dunham is back as Elvis Himselvis to present the third part of his Elvis Top 40 trilogy. The DTCB Band will be joining him onstage to cover hits from 1968-1981. $18. hcfta.org. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Photography exhibit

Young at Heart
Tue., Jan. 11, 9:30am-12pm. Seniors and retirees are invited for free blood pressure checks, followed by a presentation at 10am, then a free lunch. Call or visit the website for details. Continues on the second Tuesday of each month. athenschristian.net. Free. Athens Christian Church, Athens, 1411 E. Route 29, 217-636-8463.

Legacy: Our wealth of music
Thu., Jan. 13, 7-9pm. Maggie Brown,
daughter of the late lyricist and performer Oscar Brown Jr., has been using her talents to further her father’s musical legacy and to inspire a greater sense of responsibility for the positive outcome of our future. Part of the State of Sound experience. Free, but reservations are required. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

**Labyrinth Walk**  

**Policy Breakfast**  
Fri., Jan. 28, 7:30am coffee reception, 8am program. A look at the new year. With Sangamon County Board Chair Andy Van Meter and Mayor Jim Langfelder. hfcta.org. Hoogland Center for the Arts Club Room, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

**Incredibly Italian**  

**ABBA Mania**  
Sun., Jan. 30, 2pm. Experience the flamboyance of the 70s and all the uplifting, dance-inducing and sometimes heart-breaking songs from the Swedish supergroup, with fantastic costumes, staging, lighting and effects. $19-$49. uispac.com. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

**That Golden Girls Show! a puppet parody**  
Thu., Feb. 3, 7:30pm. From Sophia’s get-rich-quick schemes, Rose’s tales from St. Olaf, Blanche’s insatiable hunt for men and the Fountain of Youth, and Dorothy’s daily struggle to make sense of her life—devoted fans will fondly remember the four girls. $29-$69. uispac.com. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.
Flora and Fauna

August Wilson's Gem of the Ocean
Feb. 18-19, 8pm, Sun., Feb. 20, 2pm, Feb. 25-26, 8pm and Sun., Feb. 27, 2pm. Set in 1904 at 1839 Wylie Avenue in Pittsburgh's Hill District. Aunt Ester guides Citizen Barlow on a soaring, lyrical journey of spiritual awakening to the City of Bones. Fog machine, loud sound effects, racially charged language and slight sexual situations. $20. hctfa.org. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Pat Rued and Pat Kroth

Pump Boys and Dinettes
Fri.-Sat., Mar. 11-12, 8pm, Sun., Mar. 13, 2pm, Fri.-Sat., Mar. 18-19, 8pm and Sun., Mar. 20, 2pm. A celebration of life, love, Dolly Parton and catfish with the fellas from the gas station and the sisters next door at the Double Cup Diner. $20. hctfa.org. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

QUILTS 2022 Biennial Quilt Show

Fiddler on the Roof
Thu., Mar. 24, 7:30pm. A wonderful cast and a lavish orchestra tell this heartwarming story of fathers and daughters, husbands and wives, and the timeless traditions that define faith and family. $24-$89. uispac.com. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.
UPGRADING our team for patients age 60 and over.

Donita Schrey, APRN, has joined Valerie Thompson, MD, and Alfred Harney, MD, at HSHS Medical Group on Mathers Road. Donita helps the team meet the health care needs of our Medicare and 60+ patients. Through new providers and services, we will continue to upgrade our care for Medicare patients.

To schedule an appointment, call 217-241-3586.

HSHS Medical Group
2801 Mathers Rd. • Springfield, IL 62711

HSHSMedicalGroup.org
Mardi Gras Masquerade Gala

Saturday, February 26th
6:00 pm
Crawne Plaza, Springfield, IL

Seating is limited. Covid restrictions apply. Call 217.787.9234 for tickets and Sponsorship information.

Don your finest masquerade and cocktail/black tie optional attire and join us for a fun-filled evening!

Silent auction, wine pull, seated Cajun dinner, and live entertainment by Scournc Rocs.

Community Education / Lunch & Learn

Join Us for these FREE Virtual Presentations

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM
5:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month
December 14: Too Close for Comfort?
  Presented by: Home Instead

LUNCH & LEARN (For Caregivers)
12:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month
December 15: Advance Care Planning 101
  Presented by: Memorial Health System

To register, visit agelinc.org or call 217.787.9234
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