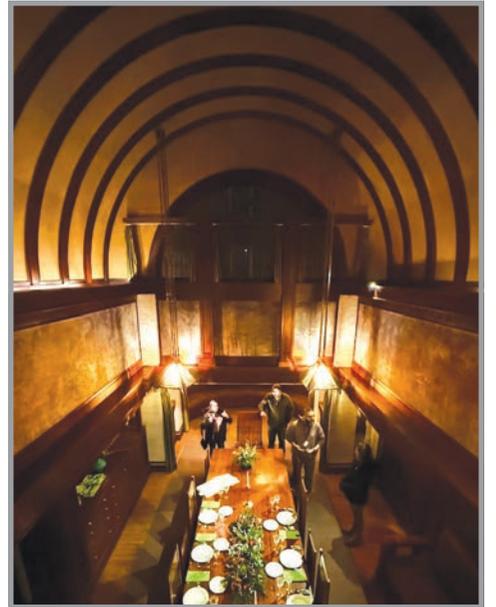




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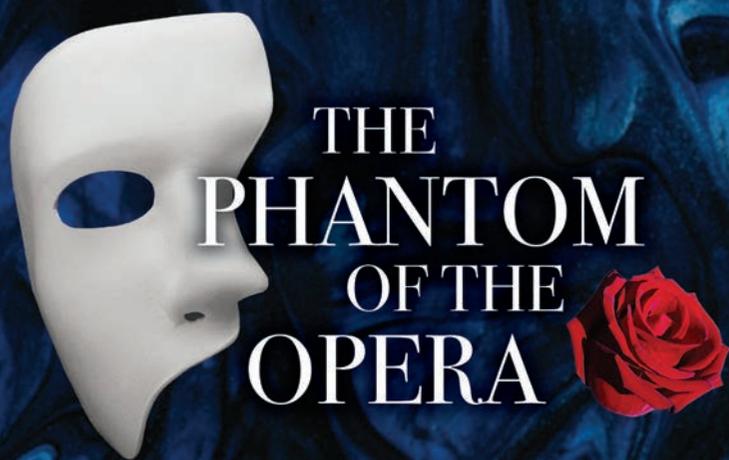
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State funds \$1.8M for local park upgrades

Department of Natural Resources awards grants for improving three parks in Sangamon County

PARKS | Dilpreet Raju

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has awarded \$600,000 each for park upgrades to three separate governmental bodies: the city of Springfield, the village of Grandview and the Springfield Park District.

The projects being funded include the construction of an outdoor sports complex in Grandview, a playground and pickleball courts at Lake Springfield Center Park and a redevelopment of Dreamland Park near Southeast High School. IDNR's Open Space Land Acquisition and Development grant, which is funded through a portion of tax dollars from real estate sales, awards a maximum of \$600,000 for development projects.

Grandview and Springfield were both designated as "distressed communities" by IDNR, which identifies such communities through "economic or physical criteria set forth in the Illinois Administrative Code." Only distressed communities were eligible for maximum awards in this grant cycle.

This year's Open Space Land Acquisition and Development grant cycle saw IDNR award \$36 million to nearly 70 park projects, a stark decrease from last year's more than \$55 million to 100 community park projects.

Dreamland Park

Springfield Park District was awarded a grant to install a new playground and fishing pier and repair damaged walkways and parking surfaces at Dreamland Park in southeast Springfield, according to Derek Harms, the Park District's executive director. Additionally, the pond at the park will be strengthened with riprapping.

"Most exciting for me is a new playground," Harms told *Illinois Times* after a Jan. 14 Park



The Springfield Park District has received a \$600,000 state grant to install a new playground and fishing pier and repair damaged walkways and parking surfaces at Dreamland Park in southeast Springfield. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

Board meeting. "The other playground is dated, so we will completely remove the old playground and construct a new playground in its place."

Harms said the next step will be to wait for IDNR to send out grant agreements, then more details about a construction timeline should emerge.

Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory told *Illinois Times* Dreamland has historical relevance as the original park was around in the early 20th century.

"Dreamland Park has a long history in our community. It was once the park when segregation was going that Black people could

go and enjoy themselves," Gregory said.

He praised the Park District and its leadership team for committing funds to upgrade Dreamland and for past improvements to Comer Cox Park and Kiwanis Park.

"It's special," he said, "just to grow up in the area and see how that park (Comer Cox) has evolved, and serving as alderman at this point, and being a former Juneteenth director. Kiwanis Park as well, it's a park that I've been to throughout my years in Springfield."

"The Smith family brought along the pump track in Comer Cox on that north side of the park there among other upgrades such as that fitness court, which the city partnered with the Park District on," Gregory said. "Go to the south end of the ward at Kiwanis Park — they've done a fantastic job over there: new toys, new picnic and pavilion area that the area neighborhood associations have enjoyed."

Lake Springfield Center Park

City Water, Light and Power will be responsible for renovating Lake Springfield Center Park, with plans to add four pickleball courts, a new playground and walking path while improving the parking lot.

"Enhancing this area opens Lake Springfield to the entire community, creating a dynamic activity center for all residents," Mayor Misty Buscher said in a written statement. "By investing in high-quality amenities and improving connections between Center Park and Lake Springfield, we are expanding access

to recreation, creating a welcoming gateway to the lake and laying the groundwork for long-term community and economic growth for Springfield and the surrounding region."

Todd LaFountain, CWLP's water division manager, said the improvements will make Lake Springfield a more inviting recreation spot.

"This award represents the first phase of what we can do to improve this area of Lake Springfield," LaFountain wrote. "Center Park has significant open space with great potential. Adding new recreational amenities allows us to better serve the public now and positions us for additional possibilities in the future, including expanded access to the shoreline for the public."

Grandview Sports Complex

The outdoor sports complex in Grandview will be comprised of two soccer fields, two bocce ball and pickleball courts, one basketball court and a concrete walking path.

"This project represents far more than new courts and walking paths. It represents opportunity, equity and investment in the people of Grandview," said Village President Mia Ray in the state's press release. "This grant allows us to create a safe, accessible and inclusive space where residents of all ages can be active, connect with one another, and take pride in their community."

The sports complex will be built across from the Grandview Municipal Building on East Keys Ave. □

Editor's note

Ryan P. Burge was pastor of an American Baptist church in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, for 17 years before his church closed for good in 2024. Since then he has become an influential political scientist, teaching at Washington University, while writing books about what happened to his church and many others like it. He's been on "60 Minutes" and in *The New York Times*. His latest book, *The Vanishing Church: How Polarization is Reshaping American Faith*, was the subject of a Religion News Service webinar this week. He told his online audience that until about 30 years ago there were about as many Democrats as Republicans in mainline Protestant churches. "Church was a place to be in contact with people who are different from you," he said. But in the last election, he said, 81 percent of white evangelicals voted for Donald Trump. Many on the other political side want a politically diverse church, insisting "We're not bad people." Burge says church people, whether Democrat or Republican, have always been middle-of-the-road moderates, but "That's not in vogue right now." In his talk, Burge was much stronger on analysis than on solutions. Still, he has his finger on a major cultural shift in religion and politics. He says, bluntly, "Mainline Protestant Christianity is headed for extinction." — *Fletcher Farrar, editor*

City has more expenses, less revenue

Proposed budget calls for spending down reserves to address shortfalls

CITY | Dean Olsen

Generous raises granted in collective bargaining contracts such as those negotiated for police and firefighters, coupled with a rise in headcount and increases in pension costs, threaten to push the city toward a fiscal cliff in three or four years, Springfield's immediate past budget director says.

Without tax increases or cuts in services, the city's path under Mayor Misty Buscher and the Springfield City Council is unsustainable and could exhaust the city's current estimated \$71 million in reserves by 2029 or 2030, Bill McCarty told *Illinois Times*.

"There is an enormous structural deficit, and the longer they wait to address it, the harder it will be to fix it," McCarty, budget director for 12 years under former mayors Mike Houston and Jim Langfelder, said after being contacted by the newspaper.

Buscher and her budget director, Ramona Metzger, disagreed with McCarty's characterization of the situation as a structural deficit, though Buscher said a subset of city spending – state-mandated police and fire pension payments – will create major funding problems for the city and other Illinois municipalities if not addressed soon by state lawmakers.

"Apparently, he has a crystal ball, because he's saying we're going to be out of money," Buscher said of McCarty's assessment of city finances. "Without pension reform, he's not wrong, but I don't think he's painting a clear picture."

McCarty responded: "I am not guessing to come to my conclusions. I'm using the administration's own numbers."

The council held budget workshops to discuss various departments' budgets before a Feb. 10 public hearing on the fiscal 2027 budget and potential final passage on Feb. 17.

No new taxes

McCarty's concerns about the budget pertain to the corporate fund, which pays for most functions of city government, but doesn't include City Water, Light and Power, for which a \$323.6 million budget is proposed in the next fiscal year. He said he is focused on overall city spending, not just public-safety pension obligations.

Buscher said the spending in her administration's proposed \$201 million corporate fund budget for the fiscal year that begins on March 1 – amounting to a 7.5% increase over current year spending – is necessary, justifiable and affordable.

At the same time, the mayor said she has no immediate plans to propose that the council adopt a local grocery tax in place of the statewide 1% grocery tax the state eliminated on Jan. 1. The loss of that money will mean about \$5 million less for city coffers on an annual basis.



Ramona Metzger, the city's budget director, gives a presentation during the Jan. 14 budget hearing.

Buscher also has no plans to propose an increase in the city's share of the property tax rate. The rate hasn't increased since the mid-1980s and stands at 93.8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, which works out to about \$625 a year for a \$200,000 home.

Springfield's property tax rate is lower than the municipal rates for Bloomington, Champaign, Decatur, Normal, Peoria and Urbana.

If Springfield raised its rate to the average rate for those six other communities – \$1.33 per \$100 of assessed valuation – the resulting increase would generate \$11.5 million more annually, according to Buscher's budget director, Ramona Metzger. Such an increase would boost the property tax bill for a \$200,000 home by about \$260 per year.

Because Springfield is a home-rule community, the City Council could raise property taxes regardless of the tax increase restrictions that Sangamon County adopted in the late 1990s and that govern other taxing bodies in the county.

"We're not close to bankruptcy," Metzger said. "There are things we could do if we had to do them."

Jeff Egizii, the budget office's fiscal services assistant director, added, "There are a lot of expenditures that could be delayed or cut."

Buscher isn't proposing any tax increases because she said she doesn't want to put more burdens on citizens, especially after two years of water rate increases amounting to a compounded total increase of 74%.

Police and fire costs increase

Buscher, 55, the former elected city treasurer, was

endorsed by the city's police and firefighter unions in her successful bid to deny Langfelder a third consecutive four-year term for the nonpartisan mayor's job in 2023.

Buscher said she resented McCarty's implication in public statements that unionized police officers and firefighters didn't deserve the raises negotiated in contracts with her administration and approved by the council.

McCarty, 50, a Springfield resident who ran unsuccessfully for city treasurer – Buscher's previous job – in 2023, currently works as chief financial officer for the Illinois Board of Higher Education. He said he has no plans to run for mayor or another city office in 2027.

McCarty said he isn't arguing that the multi-year, total 21% pay increases for police that were granted in 2023 and the pay and mandatory staffing increase for firefighters approved in 2025 after binding arbitration were unneeded.

The police contract was projected to cost the city an additional \$12 million or more through February 2026, and the new firefighter contract is expected to cost a similar amount over the next four years.

"What I'm saying is, if you look at it from a pure black-and-white number standpoint, the city will have a hard time affording that," McCarty said.

In addition, the city's state-required funding for police and fire pensions used to be covered by the city's share of property taxes. But pension payments began to exceed the city's property tax revenue about a decade ago.

In the next fiscal year budget, the city will need to use \$5 million more than the \$28.7 million it expects to collect in property taxes to cover police and fire pension obligations. The amount city government will need over and above its property tax revenues for police and fire pensions is projected to double in the next five years unless changes in the funding formula are approved by the General Assembly.

Using reserves to balance the budget

Buscher's proposed corporate fund budget in the next fiscal year would use about \$24 million from the current fund balance – one-third of the total – to balance the budget. The city would spend another \$27 million of the surplus in the fiscal year that begins March 1, 2027, according to the administration's projections. But Metzger said the city may not end up using that much of the surplus in either year because the city projects its revenues and spending conservatively.

The city's projected headcount of 1,498 employees in the next fiscal year includes an increase of 84 employees. Almost half of those increases would be represented by increases in sworn police officers and firefighters.

However, not all of those hires may take place, Egizii said. Even in the current fiscal year, there are 38 vacancies for non-CWLP jobs, he said.

The budget for the current fiscal year called for the use of \$14 million from the surplus, but none of that money ended up being needed. In fact, \$3.2 million was added to the end-of-year surplus because of a combination of higher-than-expected revenues and unfilled positions, Egizii said.

Metzger noted that the city soon could see large increases in sales tax revenues associated with tourism as the Scheels Sports Park at Legacy Pointe becomes fully operational.

McCarty acknowledged that the amount designated for spending from surplus funds may not be needed in the next year or two. But the fact that the administration is budgeting the potential use of \$24 million in the next fiscal year and \$27 million in surplus funds the year after that "all points to a major structural deficit," he said.

McCarty faulted council members for not asking hard questions about the future.

"I spent 12 years of my career rebuilding the city from virtual bankruptcy after the Great Recession," McCarty said. "When I left, it had record reserves. I can't sit by and watch all of that be destroyed in a matter of three or four years without saying something. I'm also doing this because I'm a citizen of the city, and I care about what the future looks like. . . . The plan is clearly to deal with this coming fiscal crisis after the next election." □

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New roundabout for West White Oaks Drive

City has others in planning stages for high-traffic intersections

INFRASTRUCTURE | Adrian Dater

If you've ever tried to make a left-hand turn out of the parking lot of the West White Oaks shopping center that includes Harvest Market, then onto Wabash Avenue, you know the pulse-pounding, head-swiveling moments of trepidation as the turn begins.

With often heavy traffic moving in both directions on West White Oaks Avenue and no traffic light at the intersection, the location is one of the most perilous in the city.

"It's an absolute disaster. It's so dangerous," said Jane Hay, a broker with The Real Estate Group who owns the retail center on the west side of West White Oaks Drive across from White Oaks Plaza. Tenants include Little Lincoln's Toy Shop, Wilson Haberdashery and The Gold Center.

"People are trying to turn left, or trying to go straight, and they can't. So they turn right, then they turn left on Cascade, and they turn around in our parking lot, and go back right," Hay said. "That happens all day long, and that's dangerous, too. They're coming in and they don't care, and they're whipping around our parking lot."

If all goes according to the city's plans, such traffic chaos will soon have a solution in the form of a new roundabout involving Hedley Avenue, Cascade Drive and West White Oaks Drive. The Springfield City Council considered ordinances at its Jan. 20 meeting to set the wheels in motion for the purchase of three parcels of land near the intersection. The total cost to the city for the

three parcels would be close to \$130,000, with five other smaller parcels of adjacent property needed to finish construction currently in the negotiation stage.

"We're looking at doing a three-quarter access at Hedley and West White Oaks Drive, then there would be a roundabout at Cascade Drive and West White Oaks Drive as part of that project," said Nathan Bottom, the city's chief engineer. "As part of the three-quarter access, you basically won't be able to turn left off of Hedley or coming out of the shopping center. You'll have to turn right. But, if you're coming out of the shopping center, you can turn right and take the roundabout to get back out to Wabash."

The city hasn't seen construction of a roundabout since 2017, when one was built at Archer Elevator Road and West Iles Avenue

across from the Kerasotes YMCA. The city's only other roundabout was built in 2010 as part of Capitol Avenue renovations.

The reason the city hasn't installed a traffic light to make left-hand turns out of White Oaks Plaza at either Hedley Avenue or Cascade Drive is that Wabash Avenue is too close, Bottom said. Traffic already backs up with people attempting to make a left-hand break for it out of the shopping center. A light would make for orderly left-hand turns, but would clog the considerable traffic of those who made a right onto West White Oaks Drive or are trying to turn left on Hedley or Cascade.

Bottom said the city is "shooting for June" to put the parcels out to bid for construction.

"That obviously is land-act dependent and getting our IDOT agreement and everything

along those lines to get it out for construction. Work wouldn't start until the fall," Bottom said. "We have language in there to shoot for (completion) by the holidays to minimize disruption."

Bottom said the city also plans to build a sidewalk and right of way across the street on Wabash Avenue, next to Panera Bread.

Bottom also disclosed other city traffic roundabout projects in the planning stages.

"We're beginning designs at 11th Street and Lincolnshire and 11th Street and Hazel Dell, near the South Sixth Street Wal-Mart," Bottom said. "We're evaluating safety improvements at those two intersections and looking potentially at roundabouts at those two locations."

For now, though, the roundabout to solve the chaos along West White Oak Drive is at the top of Bottom's list. Hay agreed it can't come too soon.

"It'll solve that problem, and it's become more and more of a problem as the traffic's gotten heavier. There are accidents multiple times per week. We can hear them," Hay said. "It'll keep people moving. There's no stopping or waiting for a light. Most people are going to be turning around anyway, and this allows them to do that. Construction won't be great in the short term, but for my businesses, I think, it'll be good long-term, because everyone will have to go right in front of my buildings on the roundabout." □

Adrian Dater, a longtime former sportswriter in Denver and author of seven books, moved to Springfield in 2023 to get his first taste of life in the Midwest.



The city plans to construct a roundabout involving Hedley Avenue, Cascade Drive and West White Oaks Drive to alleviate issues with vehicles trying to access Wabash Avenue. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

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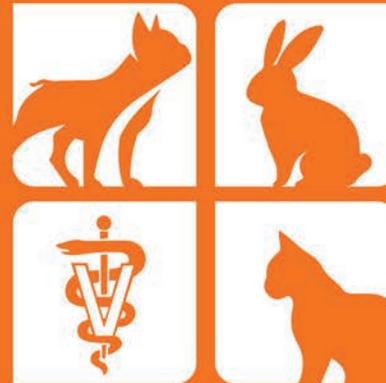


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OPINION

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YES TO LOGAN COUNTY DATA CENTER

As a proud Logan County resident, I support our county moving forward with the proposed data center project near Latham ("Data center opposition," Jan. 7). Logan County has always been built on hard work, progress and providing for the next generation. This project brings over 100 long-term local jobs, strong tax revenue for our schools, roads and public services, and a stable investment that helps keep our county moving forward.

Unlike wind farms and solar fields, which take up huge amounts of land and provide very few permanent jobs, this data center offers real, lasting employment opportunities for our community. These jobs will allow people to stay here, raise families and build a future.

We can be proud of protecting our rural values while still welcoming smart growth. Wanting transparency and accountability is fair, but refusing opportunity altogether doesn't serve Logan County or the people who call it home.

I believe in American innovation, local jobs and investing right here at home. If done responsibly, this project strengthens our county, supports our schools and keeps Logan County strong for generations to come. I'm proud to be from Logan County and proud to support progress.

Adam Charron

Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

HUMANITY FIRST

The audience filled the seats at the Logan County courthouse on the evening of Jan. 5. The evening began with Hut 8 presenters citing their own small town roots and how ownership of a smartphone, online photos and use of YouTube should compel a green light of their project. At one point, they even said data has been a gift to farmers.



Peter Goehausen, left, Rylee Sevigny and Greg Irwin work for Hut 8 Corp, a Miami-based company that plans to build a \$5 billion data center in rural Logan County. The trio gave a presentation to the county board and answered questions from members of the public who attended the forum. PHOTO BY STEVE HINRICHS

When confronted with concerns about escalating utility rates due to data center growth and energy demand that exceeds supply, their response was that it was a good thing because it would trigger more bedrock energy production. Meaning more coal plants? Logan County has a large area of farmland buried under toxic coal waste, as one audience member noted, citing the rich farmland lost to Viper.

The Hut 8 group also promised hundreds of permanent IT jobs. One audience member was skeptical, asking just how many techs are they going to find in Logan County?

The audience repeatedly challenged the credibility of the company, citing inaccurate numbers on how close the center would come to residences, security fraud investigation on the company and a failed site in Niagara Falls. The company pitch vacillated between promises of millions of dollars of revenue, vague offers of supporting the local economy and growth and high walls to protect residents from the noise and lights generated by the center. They could not answer how many generators would be onsite or whether they would be natural gas or diesel. In fact, they could not answer many questions put before them by the audience.

Kelly Cudderly, a veteran in the IT

business from Logan County, stated that past data centers were small-scale and easily housed, having little impact, whereas these large-scale data centers are no more than a tech billionaire's project flop. She suggested if the county went ahead with the center, they should stipulate 1% of the center's earnings go to the community.

Is Hut 8 connected to Meta? The presenters said no connection existed, but they failed to acknowledge the Hut 8 connection to Blackrock, a major global investor. Blackrock also has 8% holdings in Ameren, which will be funneling the energy for this project.

It is essential to note that there is a serious conflict of interest growing among data centers, fossil fuel investors and utility ownership. It could lead to utility customers forced to pay higher rates and nowhere to turn, with the same corporations having ownership of the data center, energy production, new media and their utility.

Time has run out to roll back carbon emissions caused by high energy consumption. Mass proliferation of hyperscale data centers will fast track climate emergency. And as one of the audience members said, "AI must not be placed above humanity."

*Anne Logue
Springfield*

Words

I was an early reader, so I could read the words when I stood by my grandma in church singing the hymns from the large Methodist hymnal shared between us. Yes, I could sing the words, but what did "pavilion in splendor and girded with praise" mean to a six-year-old? For that matter, what do they mean to anybody.

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OPINION

Resign-and-replacement schemes

POLITICS | Rich Miller

Remember the national uproar last November when U.S. Rep. Chuy Garcia bowed out of his reelection race at the last minute and quietly passed petitions to put his chief of staff Patty Garcia on the ballot? We saw a lesser, but still quite palpable mass grumbling when state Rep. Marty Moylan (D-Des Plaines) did the same that month for his chief of staff Justin Cochran, who was subsequently appointed to the House by the district's Democratic township committeepersons after Moylan resigned.

But you didn't hear any disapproval last week when Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis simultaneously announced her retirement and the appointment of Appellate Court Justice Sanjay Tailor to fill her seat until the 2028 election.

This sort of resign-and-replacement move is far more common at the Illinois Supreme Court than in any other body of government.

During the 21st Century, six Illinois Supreme Court justices have won open seat elections, but eight Illinois Supreme Court justices were appointed to fill out terms of retired justices before an election, including Justice Tailor, according to research by my associate Isabel Miller and me.

Theis herself was appointed to replace retiring Chief Justice Thomas Fitzgerald in 2010, and then ran as an appointed incumbent in the 2012 campaign cycle. As with her predecessor Fitzgerald, Theis had finished serving a turn as chief justice before she decided to step down. She could have quit before the candidate filing period began last fall, but she waited until long after the ballot was set before making her decision.

Now, I happen to think very highly of Theis. I don't agree with her all the time, but that's not a requirement. She's been a solid jurist and won a Capitol Fax Golden Horseshoe Award last month. Her hand-picked replacement seems robustly qualified to serve.

But this constant resign-and-replacement scheme by the state's top court is really getting old.

The tradition at the top court is to allow retiring justices to select their replacements. The rest of the justices then go along as a courtesy.

To their credit, no real duds have ever been appointed. And since justices live and dine together in a dormitory-like setting during their Springfield sessions, I can understand why they would want to screen their roomies.

Still, it's not like the people who won open

seat races were creeps. Far from it. Justices Tom Fitzgerald and Tom Kilbride both won open seats in 2000. Justice Lloyd Karmeier won an open seat in 2004, and Justice David Overstreet won a similar battle in 2020. Justices Mary Kay O'Brien and Elizabeth Rochford won hotly contested open seat races in 2022. Justice Bob Thomas defeated appointed Justice S. Louis Rathje in the 2000 Republican primary.

Again, the appointees were/are pretty darned good as well. Justices Rita Garman, Anne Burke, P. Scott Neville, Joy Cunningham and Lisa Holder White were the other justices appointed before an election during the 21st Century aside from Rathje, Theis and Tailor.

Soon-to-be Supreme Court Justice Tailor is a good example of the court system's appointment process. Tailor was appointed as an associate judge in Cook County in 2003 and won his first actual election as circuit judge in 2022. Almost ever since, he has served as an appellate justice "by assignment" to the First District Appellate Court without an election. According to all accounts, he's a very good judge. This is in no way a knock on the guy. All I'm trying to do here is show what the system actually looks like.

The Illinois Constitution does allow the General Assembly to set up a replacement procedure, so it could act if it wanted to.

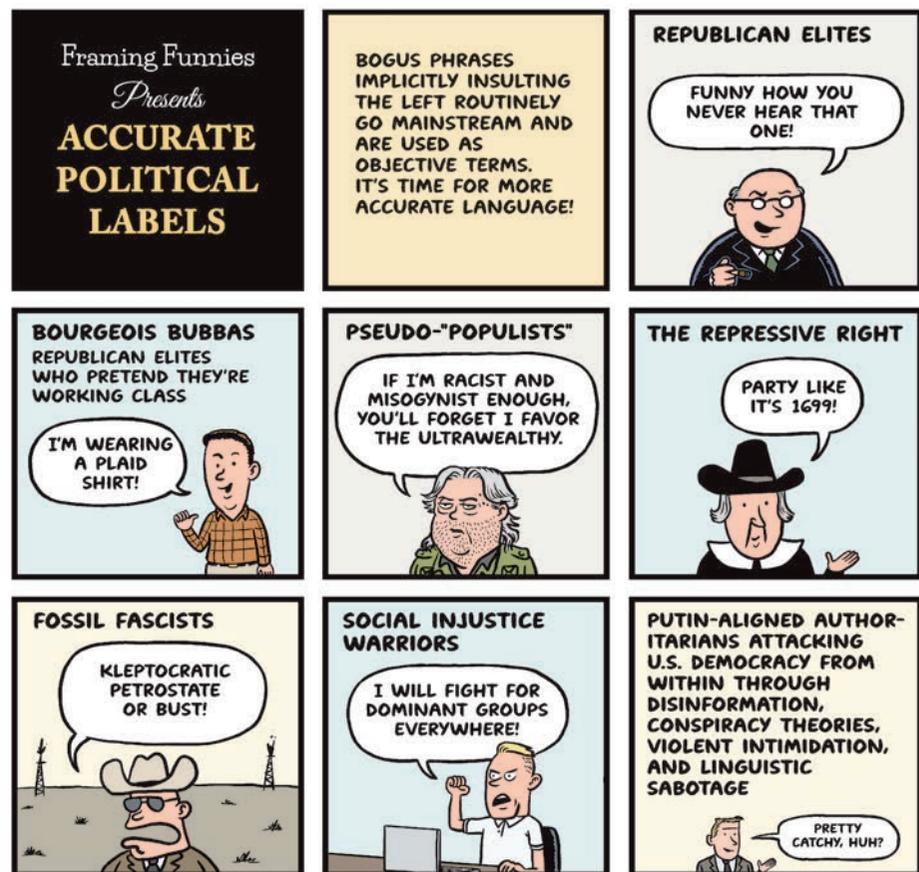
"A vacancy occurring in the office of Supreme, Appellate or Circuit Judge shall be filled as the General Assembly may provide by law," declares Article VI, Section 12(c) of the state constitution. "In the absence of a law, vacancies may be filled by appointment by the Supreme Court."

I kinda doubt the legislature will ever tackle this subject. The top court has long avoided interfering with internal legislative matters. Stepping on the judicial branch's vast patronage powers might provoke a retaliation.

Even so, legislators can't say their hands are tied. And, frankly, neither can the Supreme Court. The justices ought to establish a much more open and transparent replacement process.

Perhaps the news media should cover these resign-and-replacement schemes like every other governmental branch. Maybe injecting a little shame into this process could work.

The judicial branch is too heavily controlled by too few people without any guaranteed transparency. □



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Dumb. Outmoded. Unusable.

No, not Springfield's meters, its downtown parking program

KROHE | James Krohe Jr.

When people who live in the rest of Illinois complain about being fleeced by the sharpers in Springfield, they usually refer to state legislators, but the locals used to be pretty good at it too. Drop by the Levee district a century ago and you were likely to leave a poorer but wiser man, having been introduced to the state of the art in dice-loading, deck-stacking and drink-spiking while most cops looked the other way. The city of Springfield never actually cleaned up the Levee (tearing it down was simpler) and these days city hall is not just taking a cut of the petty swindles, it's running one.

I've been away for a while, but when I was in town to see the relatives, I dropped by downtown whenever I could. Even well into the 2000s a quarter, astonishingly, could still buy me 30 minutes of parking on the street during business hours. (In downtown Chicago a quarter will buy you about two minutes.) More recently I found it hard to tell if my quarter had dropped, because the polycarbonate copolymer in the meter windows was so yellowed I couldn't see the pointer on the time display. I figured a meter reader couldn't tell how much time was left on it either but – ker-chunk – I put a quarter in anyway. Better safe than ticketed.

Now that I'm living in Springfield again, I'm downtown more often. Recently I was going through the metal detectors at the state library and dutifully poured half a handful of quarters into the tray. "Meter money," I grumbled aloud. The guard replied, "Nah, they're still free."

Free?
Still?

I thus learned that street meter charges had been waived in 2020 to draw visitors downtown during COVID – because there's nothing a responsible municipality wants to do more during a pandemic than to encourage people to get out and mingle. But neither the meters nor parking signs alert parkers to the change, presumably because "everybody knows" that the downtown meters are free.

In a small town it's easy to mistake one's circle of friends and associates for the world, because they are the only world one knows. The problem is that Springfield, being a state government and regional medical center and international tourism destination, is part of a larger world whose residents know about parking in the capital city only what the capital city tells them. And Springfield doesn't tell them anything. The website of the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau offers whiz-bang graphics but no information about parking hours or rates. You would think that Downtown Springfield, Inc. would be shouting the news from the rooftops that street parking is free all the time, but click DSI's "Parking Downtown" and you will be transported back to 2020 when "street parking is free after 5 p.m. on weekdays and free all day on Saturdays and Sundays."

That information ought to be on the street anyway, posted either on the meters or on adjacent informational signs. Trusting to word of mouth as a communications strategy is cheap but works only among people who talk about parking, which doesn't include even all Springfieldians, much less out-of-towners. The result is that clueless drivers continue (we are told) to shove tens of thousands of dollars'

worth of quarters into dead meters every year.

It is by now nearly six years since the city council decided to not charge motorists to use street parking spaces downtown. City officials said at the time that it would not replace or repair its aging meters until the city was able to switch the whole system to some version of smart parking. (As usual, Springfield is 10 to 20 years behind this urban innovation; smart parking apps first appeared in U.S. cities in the early 2010s.) Making unreliable meters free was not a bad idea. But that temporary expedient looks to be permanent policy and ought to be made plain to motorists.

Fixing meters is a small problem that the city has bungled but fixing street parking won't be enough to bring people back downtown anyway. Before the parking must come the people, and whether and how that happens is not in the hands of city hall. The city does have a role as cheerleader and facilitator, but to be an effective partner of the state of Illinois and private capital, the city of Springfield will have to do better. If it can't afford to be smart, for instance, it can at least try to be honest. Remove the dumb old meters. If it can't afford to do that, block the coin slots on the old ones – duct tape will do. If it can't afford duct tape maybe city hall should get out of the city business. Or maybe it already has. □

Springfield native James Krohe has returned to Springfield after many years to see if what people are saying about it is true. Some of it is.

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Take care of your mental health

HEALTH | Holly A. Whisler

Every January, a representative from my health insurance company calls to schedule my annual wellness visit. Hard to believe? I thought so too, but it's true. The calls continue until I'm reached and make an appointment or decline the visit. A couple of years ago, two women wearing white coats and stethoscopes around their necks knocked on my front door. The reason: I had not scheduled my annual home visit. Let it be known that the wellness checkup is a really big deal.

Understanding the value of good health, I've participated in the wellness checkup a couple of times. Plus, the reward for doing so is a \$50 gift card, and I think that's a pretty big deal. A nurse practitioner conducts the exam, and when she was recently at my home, I asked why so much emphasis is placed on the in-home visit. She explained that during these visits, sometimes she can identify an indicator of an underlying health issue before it becomes a crisis. Some examples include high blood pressure or a heart rhythm that doesn't sound quite right, as well as signs of depres-

sion and anxiety. After all, mental health is a big deal, too.

The nurse's explanation definitely sold me on the importance of a wellness exam, but what about mental health? I haven't received a call to schedule a mental health appointment. Maybe it's too invasive, especially since people historically have considered a conversation about mental health to be taboo. Sadly, many have suffered in silence or were misunderstood and considered crazy. Fortunately, I believe this sentiment is shifting and that more people understand the importance of reaching out when you're not quite feeling like yourself.

Do you check in with yourself regarding your mental health? Monitoring mental health is mostly an internal job. What I mean by that is you need to know your baseline and be able to recognize when you're deviating from it. Your baseline is unique to you – only you know how you typically feel, your usual behaviors and daily routines and how you feel and respond when interacting with others.

Knowing your baseline is integral for the

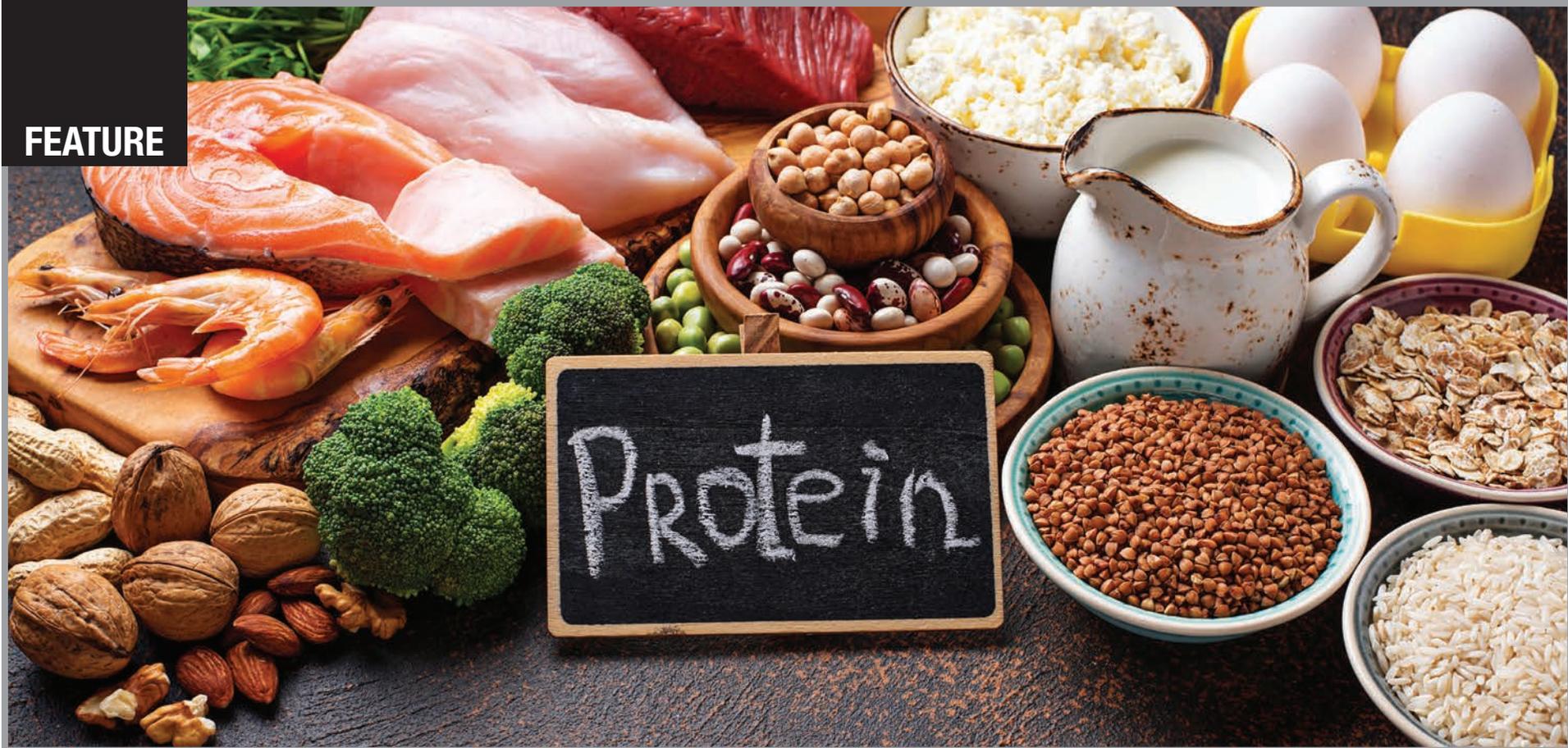
other part of the equation – deviating from it. Pay attention to changes in your typical sleep pattern, whether it's too much or too little. Are you easily agitated and irritable? Is your behavior different when interacting with friends, family and colleagues, and are you withdrawing from the people who care about you? Has your best friend, spouse or a trusted family member asked recently if you're OK? If you notice a couple of these signs and they're lingering, this is when you know you're deviating from your baseline. And, only you can determine if you have the coping skills to get back to baseline or if you need to talk with your physician.

Make a personal resolution this year to go the extra mile in caring for yourself by spending time in the quiet and assessing how you feel. Treat this like an appointment that recurs on a regular basis; put it on your calendar and be sure to show up for yourself. Learn what your baseline feels like so you'll be to notice subtle changes. Sometimes mental health can change so gradually that it's like walking with

a small rock in your shoe. Initially, you notice the discomfort, but if you ignore it and push on through it can become an open wound and a crisis.

The resources provided by the National Alliance on Mental Health Illinois (<https://namiillinois.org/>) have everything you can imagine to prepare you to make the most of your mental health appointments. On the home page there's an orange box labeled "In Crisis." If you're feeling the need for professional help sooner than later, select that box you'll be taken to a couple of crisis phone numbers. If anyone reading this article is feeling like the world would be better off without you, or maybe you know you're reaching a breaking point, pick up your phone and call or text 988 to get help in seconds.

Even if nobody calls or knocks on your door to remind you, it's still worth scheduling a weekly mental health checkup for yourself. Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. □



Eat more protein

Here's how much you need and why, plus easy ways to get it

HEALTH | Ashley Meyer

Stroll down the aisles of any grocery store these days and you're likely to see a bevy of protein-enhanced snacks, powders and drinks, cleverly packaged to catch your attention. While protein may be the nutritional buzzword of the moment, many people struggle to get the right amount of quality protein in their diets, especially those over the age of 40.

What is protein?

Protein is an essential macronutrient that's made up of long chains of amino acids. The type and arrangement of the amino acids in the chain determines the function of the protein; therefore, amino acids play a pivotal role in a range of bodily functions from breaking down food, growing and repairing tissue, building muscle and maintaining the digestive system. Our bodies require over 20 different amino acids to function properly, and because we can't store amino acids, they must be either made from scratch or by altering other amino acids. There are nine amino acids – known as essential amino acids that our body can't make on its own and instead must come from our diet.

How much do we need?

"Ideally, you'd base protein consumption on an individual's body composition and their lean body mass, which will dictate how many grams of protein they should be consuming per pound of lean body weight," said Chad Marschik, a

certified exercise physiologist and owner of Body Symmetry in Springfield. "For most active people, we recommend between 0.8 to one gram of protein per pound of lean body mass. If you don't know your lean body mass then you'll want to shoot for 0.8 grams of protein per pound of scale weight."

Marschik explained that older people have greater protein needs because they don't assimilate amino acids as efficiently as they did when they were younger.

"What you find is that for most folks over the age of 60 to 65 their eating goes down in general, but their protein demands are actually greater in terms of what they need to ingest because they aren't going to assimilate the same ratio of amino acids," he said.

What to eat?

"Protein is a lot like grades of gas with different octane ratings," said Marschik. "Think of a 93-octane gasoline for a high-performance sports car because it burns hotter and more efficiently."

Similarly, different proteins have different biological values (BV), or the measure of how efficiently the body absorbs and uses dietary protein.

"The highest biological value protein known is whey protein isolate, which has a BV of over 100, meaning it is assimilated very well and

almost all of those amino acids are utilized completely. Compared to soy protein, which has a biological value of 75, there's 25% less uptake of soy protein," he said.

These high value proteins contain a complete profile of essential amino acids in the correct proportions that allow them to be completely utilized by the body. Animal proteins in general have the highest biological value, Marschik pointed out, and are sources of complete protein. Whole eggs, lean ground beef, cottage cheese and Greek yogurt are all excellent protein-rich options with a high BV. Plant-based proteins tend to lack one or more essential amino acids and therefore have a lower biological value. Different proteins can be combined, however, to raise their overall BV and create a complete protein. Examples include whole grain rice and beans or hummus made from chickpeas and tahini (sesame seed paste).

Although American diets tend to be heavy on protein in evening meals and carb heavy in the morning, Marschik recommends spreading protein consumption throughout the day, with high value proteins being consumed with every meal. Unsweetened Greek yogurt with berries and nuts is an excellent protein-rich breakfast option, as well as these easy cottage cheese bites, perfect for a quick breakfast or snack.

Cottage cheese egg bites

8 eggs
1 cup cottage cheese
1 cup shredded cheese such as cheddar or gruyere
½ teaspoon salt
Up to 1 cup of mix-ins such as cooked ham or bacon, minced herbs or cooked vegetables like mushrooms, spinach and bell pepper

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Liberally coat a 12-cup non-stick muffin pan with butter or olive oil.

Combine the eggs, cottage cheese, shredded cheese, salt and pepper in the bowl of a blender or food processor and blend until smooth, about 20-30 seconds. Pour this mixture through a fine-meshed sieve (this removes excess air bubbles) into a small pitcher with a pour spout. Divide the mix-ins amongst the 12 muffin cups and pour in the egg mixture over the top, filling each cup about three-quarters of the way full.

Bake for 25 minutes, until the eggs have set in the middle. Remove from the oven and let rest for 5 minutes before using a table knife to run along the side of the cup and help release the egg bite. Refrigerate for up to four days or freeze for several weeks. □

Ashley Meyer is a freelance writer and chef who lives in Springfield.



Tips to get through the winter

HEALTH | Pamela Savage

Winter is upon us and we are going to get through it. Here are ideas for ushering your family through the wintertime with some healthy habits that will hopefully promote peace and well-being in your homes.

Indoor games

The draw of the sofa/snuggle/screentime trifecta is strong this time of year. And while I have no problem with me or my kids indulging in an afternoon with a throw blanket and a good movie, the appeal is lost when it's an everyday activity. In your resistance against becoming "couch people," consider indoor games as an alternative to screens. Whether it's a board game, card game or even an active video game (I know, but sometimes you have to meet them where they are at), mixing things up with a little friendly competition will break up the day and get minds and bodies moving. And speaking of moving, it's pretty easy these days to stream a family friendly workout or dance video. Enlist your kids' suggestions and try something new.

Nature play

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing," according to an old Norwegian

saying. Now, there can be some truly terrible winter weather in central Illinois, so feel free to ignore this one during a polar vortex, but there is something to be said for getting outdoors in the winter. Winter nature play can involve sledding, hiking, bird watching, animal tracking, fort building, kicking a ball, biking, playing in the ice or anything your family enjoys. Everyone is usually better off after they've spent some time outdoors, and kids especially benefit from open air play in nature. Grab your hats, gloves and coats, and make it a priority to get outside in winter.

Eat well

This is definitely the hardest one for me in the winter. In the summertime, I often bring home loads of fresh fruit and vegetables from the farmers market and wonder: "What do we even eat in the wintertime?" Truly. What do we eat in the wintertime? Perhaps you have the type of children who will happily slurp down soup filled with "weird stuff" (cooked vegetables), but here in our house, eating well is much more basic – raw fruits and veggies on a plate next to a comforting main course. It's OK if incorporating fruits and vegetables

isn't very exciting this time of year – it'll be summer again one day.

Maintain routines, including rest

Now that the hustle and bustle late-night gatherings of the holidays are behind us, this one is probably easier to do. Maintaining our regular rest routine is important for staying both physically and mentally healthy. This goes for kids as well as adults. Don't stay up past your bedtime, ignore devices before bed and try to listen to your body to give it the rest it needs.

Stay prepared for illness

Make sure your home pharmacies are stocked with fever and pain-reducing meds, as well as hydrating bonuses like Popsicles or sports drinks should you be hit by high fevers, or worse, the dreaded stomach bug. Preemptively clean out your humidifiers, and consider whether an indoor air purifier would be a worthwhile purchase for your family. Alternatively, open the windows for ventilation when you have a sick family member, or if the house simply feels a little stuffy. Follow your doctor's recommendations, and wash your hands.

Boost mood

I don't know about you, but if I am reading a book or watching a show that is a little dark during winter, there goes my mood down into the deep dark doldrums right along with it. Since everything in the news seems to be – well, a lot – it's up to us parents to purposefully seek out and choose upbeat books, crafts, music, television and movies for us and our kiddos. I do believe that changing our inputs can change the energy of our homes, and making the choice to focus on positivity when it is possible will benefit our mental health. And while you are at it, stay offline when you can.

Take it easy

It's winter. The days are weird. People are sick. The world is hard. We might slip some days. Keep trying. We are building strong and healthy families that prioritize love, care and well-being, and we are doing it together. □

Pamela Savage is a freelance writer in Springfield. She is routinely befuddled by what to make for dinner in the wintertime.

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The writer took this photo of a “sun dog,” or parhelion, while traveling on Interstate 74, shortly after passing through Indianapolis. PHOTO BY KAREN WITTER



The writer's granddaughter, Anna, encounters a butterfly at Washington Park. PHOTO BY KAREN WITTER

The study of awe

How finding the wonder in everyday things can improve your life

BOOK REVIEW | Karen Ackerman Witter

The new year is a good time to read *Awe – The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life*, the 2023 book by Dacher Keltner. He pioneered the scientific study of awe and demonstrated that people who find everyday awe are more curious and open to new ideas and the strengths and virtues of other people.

Keltner is a professor of psychology at University of California Berkeley and a renowned expert in the science of human emotion. His book, based on decades of scientific research, explains what awe is, what causes awe, how it impacts the brain, what the benefits are and how to experience more awe to enhance your life and well-being. Keltner says we have a basic need for awe and can find it anywhere.

First, what is awe? In 2003, Keltner and his colleague defined awe as “the feeling of being in the presence of something vast that transcends your current understanding of the world.” Keltner cites eight wonders of life where one can find awe – moral beauty (exceptional character and ability), collective effervescence (being part of a collective “we”), nature, music, visual design, spirituality and religion, life and death, and epiphany. A magnificent sunset, the birth of a baby, stars in the night sky, towering trees, inspirational music and art, and witnessing someone accomplish a phenomenal feat are some examples.

Experiencing awe results in feeling part of something bigger than oneself, living with wonder and being more curious and open to new ideas. Other benefits include better concentration and handling stress with more resilience. Awe shifts people’s minds to see things as interrelated and have a sense of being part of the natural world.

“In teaching happiness for more than 20 years, I have seen how much health and well-being we gain by being amazed at things outside ourselves,” writes Keltner.

Keltner tells compelling stories and relays personal experiences about the transformative power of awe through art, music, nature, births and deaths, inspirational people, spirituality and epiphanies. His stories and insights range from inmates at San Quentin State Prison to NBA basketball star and coach Steve Kerr to Charles Darwin and many ordinary people having extraordinary experiences.

Keltner’s research investigates the relationship between emotions and the brain. His studies have shown that witnessing courage, kindness, strength and resilience in others activates different areas of the brain and prompts us to be more ready to share and help others. Sights, sounds, scents and tastes of nature lead to awe-related vagus nerve activation and reduce fight-or-flight cardiovascular response, blood pressure, cortisol and inflammation. Encounters with

images of nature activate dopamine networks in the brain, which animate exploration and wonder.

Viewing art, listening to music and being exposed to nature trigger the release of oxytocin and dopamine. Regions of the brain associated with self-criticism and anxiety quiet down. In one extensive study in the United Kingdom, people who practiced art or viewed art volunteered more in their community and gave away more money two years after the study.

People in all cultures are awestruck by the beginning and end of life. Keltner writes that childbirth is the most undervalued act of courage in human history. The birth of a child induces a sense of awe. Studies have shown that both parents have elevated levels of oxytocin (which triggers openness and connection) six months after the birth of a first child.

Proinflammatory cytokines are released in immune cells to kill bacteria and viruses; social threats also elevate these proinflammatory cytokines. Awe can be a pathway to avoid chronic inflammation and associated diseases.

“It is hard to imagine a single thing you can do that is better for your body and mind than finding awe outdoors,” writes Keltner. It leads to the reduced likelihood of cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, diabetes, depression, anxiety and cancer. The benefits extend across the life span, from

reduced asthma in children to reductions in everyday aches and pains, allergies, vertigo and eczema.

Keltner writes that the world has become more narcissistic, defined by self-focus, arrogance, a sense of superiority and entitlement. He says narcissism can trigger myopia to concerns of others as well as aggression, racism, bullying and everyday incivility. In a study of the impact of experiencing nature-related awe on the polarizing issue of police brutality, the participants exposed to awe perceived the issue in a less-polarized fashion.

Experiencing awe animates children’s curiosity. Numerous factors are contributing to a downward trend in children experiencing awe and discovering the wonders of life. There is less art and music taught in school, less free-form play, more rigid scheduling of children’s time and less time spent outdoors.

There are many opportunities in everyday life to experience awe by opening all of one’s senses. As nature writer Rachel Carson advised in the 1950s, look at clouds, look up at the sky and listen to sounds of the natural world.

Slow down. Observe. Listen. Immerse yourself in art, nature and music. Experience something that brings you to tears of joy or gives you goosebumps. Find the extraordinary in the ordinary. □



The effects of long COVID

HEALTH | Carey Smith

Though COVID deniers still exist, the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc in our communities in 2020 and beyond. Those unfortunate enough to catch the original strain were more likely to die or be seriously impaired, with over 100,000 Americans dying within the first four months of COVID reaching the U.S. Within a year, 400,000 Americans died, and to date, over 1.2 million deaths in our country have been recorded.

As medical professionals learned to treat this novel disease, and testing increased and vaccines were produced, the severity of the illness and the deaths attributed to COVID decreased. Years later, many people have simply moved on with their lives, leaving COVID in the background of daily living much like winter influenza.

However, about 20 million Americans have been diagnosed with long-lasting symptoms from their primary COVID infection, dubbed long COVID. Even so-called mild variants such as the Omicron strain have left people – often young and previously healthy – severely disabled and bedridden.

Brain fog, fatigue and post-exertional malaise are the most commonly reported symptoms, but more than 200 symptoms have been identified, affecting nearly all bodily systems. Symptoms can begin weeks or even months after a COVID infection clears.

These effects can range from being a nuisance to life-altering in a major way. Dianna Cowern, an American science communicator and physicist who was the intelligent and energetic face of the YouTube channel “Physics Girl” was infected with the Omicron variant of COVID at her wedding in May 2022. Within two months, she developed long COVID and became completely bedridden, which continued for years. She could not read, talk, listen to audio books or watch videos. Her days were spent in bed wearing an eye mask in complete silence, reducing the amount of stimuli her body received to near zero. Eating and communicating her needs to her caretaker were her only activities.

Cowern slowly recovered and by May 2025 – three years later – was able to walk independently, and she released a short “I’m back!” video. However, by July 2025, she was bedridden once again.

Being avid fans of Cowern’s, this was my family’s introduction to the horrors of long COVID and why we still wear masks when COVID cases spike locally. It was heartbreaking to see a young, vibrant woman in the peak of health broken to such a low quality of life.

One bright spot in the world of chronic disability is that sufferers of myalgic

encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome, also known as ME/CFS, are finally getting attention in the form of research studies and funding, as ME/CFS and long COVID share many symptoms. ME/CFS affects an estimated 2.5 million Americans. The cause isn’t known, though it tends to start with a flu-like infection, leading experts to suspect a viral infection may be the trigger, much like with long COVID.

Nearly 2% of the adult workforce in the U.S. is unable to work because of ME/CFS or long COVID, costing the economy between \$30-50 billion annually in lost productivity and health care costs. Although sufferers can request disability payments to help support themselves, it often takes years and more than one application to receive benefits and sometimes requires a lawyer.

The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends yearly COVID vaccines for all adults, including pregnant women, especially those in congregate care or long-term care facilities. It also recommends the vaccine for all children age 6 to 23 months, those 2 to 17 years old with at least one risk factor for severe illness and children with weakened immune systems. Vaccines have been shown to be effective in reducing the severity of COVID.

Illinois no longer follows recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control because

of the lack of “rigorous scientific review processes for vaccine-related decisions” following the appointment of vaccine-denier Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., as the secretary of Health and Human Services. Instead, the state of Illinois has formed the Illinois Immunization Advisory Committee, made up of experts from various fields, and follows its guidance instead.

It takes little effort to wear a well-fitting KN95 or other mask in public spaces when COVID infections are high. Although most media no longer report on COVID infections and deaths, they still occur in our communities.

One way to keep an eye on COVID infections locally is to consult the Illinois Department of Public Health’s Wastewater Surveillance System [<https://iwss.uillinois.edu/>]. Springfield’s wastewater site is Spring Creek. Although the dashboard often runs a week or two behind real time, the information is handy for noticing spikes in RSV, influenza and COVID and taking precautions if it feels necessary to do so.

Carey Smith is a freelance writer who had COVID for the first time a year ago and still experiences long-lasting effects, including brain fog and fatigue. Though she can still work, it has made life more challenging.

Hangover? Nothing beats “Old Sober”

Yak-a-mein, also called “Yock,” is an iconic noodle soup from New Orleans

FOOD | Peter Glatz

Two decades ago, I attended an outstanding performance by the Derek Trucks Band at Tipitina's in Uptown New Orleans. The evening's most enduring memory, however, wasn't the music – it was a late-night culinary discovery. Stepping outside for air, I was drawn by an irresistible aroma to a man selling noodle soup out of the back of his pickup truck. For \$5 I purchased a bowl of yak-a-mein – an odd name for an equally strange but perfect dish. This steaming bowl featured spaghetti and shredded beef in a fragrant broth, topped with a hard-boiled egg, chopped green onions and an unlikely drizzle of ketchup. After a night of excessive beer consumption and pervasive sidestream smoke inside the cannabis-filled venue, this strange meal truly satisfied the kind of craving that emerges in the late-night hours, perfectly capping off the night's excesses. Though the music was outstanding, the memory of yak-a-mein is what truly endures.

Yak-a-mein, often called “Yock” or “Old Sober,” is an iconic noodle soup from New Orleans. For decades, this dish has been a favorite in the city's African-American kitchens and in local mom-and-pop corner stores. Its origins are unclear, but yak-a-mein is a mashup of Asian and Creole flavors, reminiscent of both ramen and pho. It is a common sight at city celebrations and Second Line parades. Famed for its restorative properties, yak-a-mein is a popular hangover cure. It's the perfect meal to ease the transition from the revelry of Carnival and Mardi Gras into the Lenten fasting season.

Yak-a-mein is made with a spicy beef or chicken-based broth seasoned with hot sauce, soy sauce and Creole spices (paprika, garlic powder, and cayenne pepper). The broth is ladled over spaghetti and cooked meat (usually beef, sometimes pork or chicken). Yak-a-mein is traditionally topped with sliced green onions, a hard-boiled egg and chopped herbs such as parsley or cilantro. Some people like to garnish it with an extra dousing of ketchup, soy sauce and hot sauce.

The mystery surrounding yak-a-mein's origins only adds to its intrigue. As is typical of many traditional recipes, the preparation of yak-a-mein varies from cook to cook. Since the recipe was passed down orally through generations, it does not appear in traditional New Orleans cookbooks; only recently have recipes been published in newspapers and online. Although the precise origins of yak-a-mein are unknown, one theory holds that



A bowl of yak-a-mein, also known as “Old Sober.” PHOTO BY ANN SHAFFER GLATZ

Chinese immigrants who arrived in Louisiana in the 1800s to work on sugar plantations and later on the railroads inspired the dish with their noodle soups.

The dish had become increasingly difficult to find because many of the corner stores that specialized in it failed to reopen after Hurricane Katrina. Tourists tend to gravitate toward more well-known local specialties such as gumbo, crawfish and po'boys. However, the dish is starting to appear on the menus of sit-down restaurants, making this classic New Orleans flavor accessible to those who don't have a Creole grandmother to teach them or a favorite corner store to visit.

Linda Green, the “Yak-a-mein Lady,” is credited with preserving the yak-a-mein tradition. A former Orleans Parish School Board cook for 25 years, her tenure ended after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when the school board never re-contacted her. Already popular in the city's Second Line culture as a vendor and president of the Lady & Men Rollers Social Aid & Pleasure Club, Linda used her following to begin cooking for musicians, established a booth at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and became the main yak-a-mein vendor at Sunday second lines.

Yak-a-mein

Adding baking soda to your pasta cooking water

will give your spaghetti the color and springy texture of ramen noodles. Seasoning four quarts of pasta cooking water with two tablespoons of baking soda and one tablespoon of kosher salt will give you the desired results without making your spaghetti taste bitter and soapy.

Four servings

Ingredients:

2 ½ lb. boneless chuck roast
2 teaspoons kosher salt, plus more for seasoning
2 tablespoons Creole or Cajun seasoning, divided (I prefer Slap Ya Mama brand)
⅔ cup soy sauce (or tamari), plus two tablespoons
⅓ cup mirin
2 tablespoons canola, grapeseed or avocado oil
1 medium yellow onion, chopped
1 bell pepper, chopped
2 stalks celery, chopped
2 quarts beef or chicken stock
Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste
1 tablespoon ketchup, plus more for topping
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon hot sauce, plus more to taste (I like Louisiana Hot Sauce)
1 lb. spaghetti, cooked to package directions

For serving:

1 bunch scallions, trimmed and sliced, both

white and green parts
½ bunch flat-leaf parsley, stemmed and chopped
½ bunch cilantro, leaves and tender stems, chopped
4 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and halved
Extra hot sauce, soy sauce, and ketchup

Preparation:

Pat the beef dry, then season it with 2 teaspoons of salt and 1 tablespoon of Creole or Cajun seasoning. Place in a resealable plastic bag and add ⅔ cup of soy sauce (or tamari) and ⅓ cup of mirin. Squeeze out the air and marinate for at least two hours or overnight in the refrigerator.

In a heavy skillet or Dutch oven, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Sear the beef on all sides until a nice brown crust forms, about 10 minutes. Transfer the meat onto a plate and set aside.

Reduce the heat to medium-low and sauté the onion, bell pepper and celery for 5-6 minutes, until softened.

Stir in the stock and scrape up the browned bits from the bottom of the pot. Add the remaining tablespoon of Cajun or Creole seasoning. Tuck the browned beef back into the pot. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer two-three hours, or until the meat is fall-apart tender. Turn off the heat and cool for 20 minutes.

Remove the beef and chop or shred it.

Strain the broth, discard the vegetables, skim the fat, then reheat the broth over medium-low heat. Stir in the remaining two tablespoons of soy sauce, one tablespoon of ketchup, one tablespoon of Worcestershire sauce and one tablespoon of hot sauce. Taste the broth and season with additional salt and pepper if needed.

When ready to serve, divide the cooked spaghetti and beef into four bowls, then cover with the warm stock. Garnish with the scallions, chopped herbs and the hard-boiled egg halves. Serve with extra hot sauce, soy sauce and ketchup on the side. □

After a 40-year career in dentistry, Dr. Peter Glatz retired at 66 to pursue his lifelong passion to become a chef. This unconventional second act saw him gain professional experience over seven years in acclaimed kitchens nationwide. His journey from the precision of dentistry to the creativity of culinary arts proves that it's never too late to reinvent oneself.

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Additional card Add On \$30*	9 games pay \$100	1 Coverall game pays \$350
*6 cards-9 Main Games	2 Raffle Games - buy cards that night	
*6 cards-Final Coverall Game	EACH GAME PAYS \$200	
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*2 sheets for \$2 Raffle Game	LICENSE #BL 53191	
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55" Samsung TV Raffle



The cast of *Something's Afoot*, Springfield Theatre Centre's production of the musical mystery that draws on the novels of Agatha Christie. PHOTO BY CE NOEL PHOTOGRAPHY

Something's Afoot: A musical mystery spoof

THEATER | Mary Young

Something's Afoot, written by James McDonald, David Vos and Robert Gerlach, is a silly musical whodunit that lightheartedly pokes fun at, of all things, murder. Specifically, it makes light of the kind of murder mystery conceived in the mind of popular writer Agatha Christie. The show, with a direct nod to Christie's novel *And Then There Were None*, features a slew of British stereotypes getting knocked off, one by one, and a Miss Marple-ish busybody trying to find the killer before it's too late. Christie's works have been adapted many, many times into movies and plays and with *Something's Afoot*, "campy musical" was added to the list.

The show was first produced in 1972 and experienced a brief run on Broadway in 1979, after which it found its home primarily in community theater. Springfield Theatre Centre brings us this production. While the material isn't exactly groundbreaking and the songs are fairly simplistic, there's enough here to get an audience chuckling at the absurdity of it all. And who doesn't need a good chuckle these days?

With a nod to the English music hall

style of the 1930s, the story unfolds in 1935 England by introducing 10 strangers, each with a secret. The only thing that they all have in common is Lord Dudley Rancour. Some of them work for him and others were invited to his remote lake estate under mysterious circumstances. The cast of characters include: Lettie, the tap-dancing maid (Rachel Bridges); Flint, the "gripper" caretaker (Matthew Ratz); Clive, the dutiful butler (Rick Cina); Hope Langdon, the peroxide-haired ingenue (Jacqueline Keysear); Dr. Grayburn, the friendly family doctor (Roger Finnell); Nigel Rancour, the pompous nephew (Roy Pyers); Lady Grace Manley-Prowe, the stuffy Granddame (Catherine Doyle); Col. Gillweather, a retired military man (Flynn Hanners); Miss Tweed, the elderly amateur detective (Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross); and lastly, Geoffrey, (Evan Noyes), a college student who suddenly appears on the scene but is totally innocent. Or is he? Worth stressing, as it is noted in the program, "All the characters are British."

The evening takes a dark turn when the host is found dead from a gunshot wound and the bridge to the mainland has washed away,

leaving the guests stranded. Adding to the tension, a major thunderstorm is brewing. The action kicks off right away with the sudden death of one of the 10 characters, which dispels any preconceived notions that the butler did it.

The cast appeared to genuinely have fun with the piece and their characters, though I think the zaniness could have been punched up a bit more overall. Honestly, I don't think this piece can be taken too far over the top. The pacing was good and the songs had some capable voices singing them.

The show is accompanied by the one musician onstage, Mary Myers, who was inconspicuously tucked away under the staircase with her keyboard. I enjoyed the special-effect booby traps employed to dispatch the victims, but I did wonder about sight lines. Depending on where a person is seated, some of these effects might be a little hard to see.

It's worth a special nod to the Britishisms explained in the program that were spoken throughout the play. Wouldn't it be great if we incorporated these into our everyday lexicon?

Imagine a world where we ate "bubble and squeak," sat less on our "derrières" and participated in more "wild tattoos."

Director Laurie McCoy said the show had been on her bucket list for years. The first local production (also at Springfield Theatre Centre) was in 2001 and was directed by her husband, Rich McCoy. I remember enjoying that production all those years ago, and it was fun to reminisce about it. I hope this latest iteration puts smiles on some new faces who will also think back on it fondly. □

Note: The show contains strobe lights and some loud sound effects, including gunshots. Also, a reminder about the parking changes to the adjacent ramp, which now requires user to scan a QR code or the use of an app with online payment.

The production continues Jan. 23–25 at the Hoogland Center for the Arts. Curtain is at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday with a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. in the Peggy Ryder Theatre. Tickets can be purchased at bcfta.org or by calling 217-523-2787.



Ben Bedford discusses his transition from music to drawing during an evening event at the Dana-Thomas House. PHOTOS COURTESY ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Art nights at the Dana-Thomas House

Wednesdays, Feb. 4 and 11, 5:30-7 p.m.
Experience free mixed-media art classes. All supplies are provided. Reservations required; limited to 25.

Game nights at the Dana-Thomas House

Wednesdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 18 and 25 at 5:30 p.m.
Bring your family, friends and favorite board game to a table in one of the mansion's historic rooms. Reservations required as tables are limited.

Date nights at the Dana-Thomas House

Make plans for a dinner date downtown and stop in at the Dana-Thomas House before or after for a free program and evening tour. Light snacks and water provided.

Thursdays at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 22 - Join this rare showing of original blueprints and learn what last-minute changes were made to the house during construction.

Jan. 29 - In conjunction with an *Illinois Times* digital exhibition, photographer Brian Bowles will discuss his experiences photographing urban wildlife including eagles, hawks, blue herons and turkey vultures.

Feb. 5 - The influence of Japanese culture on Frank Lloyd Wright

Feb. 12 - "Loving Artifacts," rarely seen objects related to Susan Lawrence Dana's relationships.

Feb. 19 - Susan Lawrence Dana's impact on equality and education

Feb. 26 - Kitchen and bath tours

Evening tours of the Dana-Thomas House

Friday Jan. 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Shadows and unique perspectives come out at night on evening tours.

Old State Capitol

Saturday self-guided tours with short 20-minute presentations on weekly themes at 5:00, 5:45 and 6:30 p.m.

Civil War Nights

Jan. 17 - Civil War Monuments

Jan. 24 - Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society

Jan. 31 - Preparing for Presidency

Black History Nights

Feb. 7 - Illinois' Black Soldiers

Feb. 21 - Dave Joens discussing his book *From Slave to State Legislator: John W.E. Thomas, Illinois' First African American Lawmaker*

Feb. 28 - Black History Month Highlight: Capitol Insider William Butler

Evening fun at historic sites

Dana-Thomas House and Old State Capitol to host free events

ARTS | Karen Ackerman Witter

This winter, area residents have opportunities to experience the Dana-Thomas House and Old State Capitol through a wide range of evening programs. These sites are popular tourist attractions in the capital city but are also offering programming designed to appeal to locals. Justin Blandford, superintendent of state historic sites in Springfield, told *Illinois Times* they were looking for ways to entice people to come downtown and also visit the area's restaurants, shops and local businesses. "We appreciate Visit Springfield, Downtown Springfield, Inc. and Springfield's small business owners for collaborating with IDNR to attract guests and residents downtown," Illinois Department of Natural Resources director Natalie Phelps said in a written statement.

Game nights, date nights, art nights and evening tours will take place at the Dana-Thomas House on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. The Old State Capitol, which reopened last year after two years of major renovations, will feature short, informative programs related to the Civil War and Black history on Saturday evenings.

Blandford says the magic of being in the

Dana-Thomas House is different at night. Now people have various opportunities to see this firsthand. Experience an intimate tour of the house during date nights. Enjoy playing your favorite game surrounded by spectacular art glass and the architectural features the home. Learn about painting with watercolors while immersed in a magical environment.

Programs began in January and are continuing through February. Holiday decorations remain in place to add to the festive experience. Earlier this month, guests tried their hand at watercolor through the tutelage of Carolyn Sommer while seated under the vaulted ceiling. Local artist Ben Bedford discussed his transition from music to drawing and his pen and ink exhibition. Others enjoyed evening tours.

Brian Bowles will present two short programs about urban wildlife at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29, at the Dana-Thomas House. Bowles became interested in photography 15 years ago. He said as a kid, he didn't see hawks or eagles when he was on road trips, as populations had declined due to the use of DDT. Now, eagles and hawks are common - if you look. Bowles said he

frequently sees bald eagles during his drives around Lake Springfield and even in the city on West Washington Street flying over Grant Middle School.

Bowles will show some of his photographs and talk about how to train your eye and pay attention to detail. He photographs all of the birds from his car, as he does not want to be disruptive.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, Dave Joens, retired director of the Illinois State Archives, will discuss his book *From Slave to State Legislator: John W.E. Thomas, Illinois' First African American Lawmaker*. He will give three short presentations at 5, 5:45 and 6:30 p.m.

Check out the full schedule of events for the diverse program offerings. Registration is required for art nights and game nights and recommended for all other programs. Register on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/historic-sites-evening-events-4805582>.

Additional family-friendly activities downtown are being planned for Valentine's Day weekend, including at the Kidzeum. □



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**Session 2: Understanding
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Jan. 28 | 3-4:30 p.m. | Presented by
J.P. Morgan

**Session 3: Implications of
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Feb. 4 | 3-4:30 p.m. | Presented by
Capital Group

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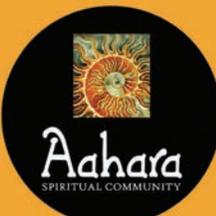

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Springfield's historic peace church

by Tony Watson, First Church of the Brethren

The term conscientious objector probably reminds many older folks of the 1960s and the Vietnam War. During this unpopular war many unwilling draftees attempted to establish themselves as conscientious objectors to avoid the draft. However, the term goes much further back than that in American history. Conscientious objection to forced combat dates back to the beginnings of the nation. In 1757, the Militia Ballot Act allowed Quakers exemption from military service. Nonetheless during the Revolutionary War the act was rarely honored. Objectors had their lands and property seized. In some cases, pacifists were dragged from their homes and forced into military units.

During the Civil War there was greater recognition that “conscientious” objection was not cowardice. In Feb. 1864, the act was amended to recognize those conscientious objectors who were members of the Society of Friends (Quakers), Mennonites and the Church of the Brethren. These churches had the gravitas and longstanding traditions of pacifism. Their commitment to nonviolence dated back hundreds of years.

During the Depression, the first conference of historic peace churches was held in 1935 in Kansas. This meeting brought Quakers, Mennonites and Brethren together. At this conference the term “Historic Peace Churches” was created. They meant to distinguish their theological pacifism from political or philosophical pacifism. Prior to the start of FDR’s peacetime draft, Quakers, Mennonites and Brethren worked together to negotiate the provisions of the pending Selective Training and Service Act of 1940. Representatives from the Historic Peace Churches successfully persuaded President Franklin D. Roosevelt to offer alternative service. As a result, the Civilian Public Service, or CPS, was created. The historic peace churches actively put their people to work. The 12,000 men who entered the CPS during WWII did vital work. Conscientious objectors working in mental hospitals created new standards for the treatment of patients with mental illness.

Although active membership in one of the historic peace churches is no longer a requirement for claiming conscientious objector status in the United States, these three were the only ones ever recognized by the United States military. The recognition of these churches as “historic peace churches” by the military is significant because it acknowledges centuries of consistent pacifist witness, illustrating what sincere, deep-rooted conscientious objection looks like.

Though Springfield has no active Mennonite church, it has a Quaker meeting, and the Church of the Brethren on Yale Boulevard in Harvard Park. The Brethren congregation meets every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Their resilience is a testament to the longstanding tradition of these historic peace churches.

 **First Church
of the Brethren**

2115 Yale Blvd., Springfield
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FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

MUSIC



Devin C. Williams showcases his delta blues style at the Buckhart Tavern this Friday.

Here we have the music

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

Mush, my frigid friends, as we go full frozen tundra time to see what goes on in the Springfield-area scene this weekend. We know that music heats up the fingers, toes, noggin and nose – as well as the heart and soul – so take advantage of any and all opportunities to allow the sounds to raise the temps.

Let’s take this time to congratulate Devin C. Williams for his very solid second-place win in the solo/duo category last week representing the St. Louis Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. It takes a lot of work and dedication (not to mention cash) to join more than 250 other acts from around the world as bands and solo/duo acts compete for the chance to play for the finals in the famed Orpheum Theater. Devin took his Delta-style, one-man band sound all the way to the finish line and deserves a hearty hi-ho for the achievement. So congrats to DCW and be sure to catch his next local gig (which is this Friday at Buckhart Tavern) and personally say hey.

Other IBC competitors from our scene have done well, including Robert “Lefty Preacher” Sampson, who reached the finals more than once. So let’s pause to be thankful for all the amazing talent we have available to see on any given night in the area. Now with that segue, let’s see what’s out there.

Friday comes on strong with a variety of acts, including Niko Boeker singing his cool style at Harvest Market, Not Petty getting all Petty at the Butternut Hut and 3’s Company bringing you their best at the Curve Inn, while Angel Brown’s Smooth N’ Blue Duo featuring Rick Gasparin lights up the Lime Street Cafe and Micah Walk shines at Bar Bella.

The Main Gate hosts an all-ages hip hop show with Meet-Up 5 night featuring local

hip-hop artists doing their thing. There might still be slots available for performers, so go to the event Facebook page and check if you want to participate in this fine opportunity to support the hometown hip hop scene.

More Friday shows give us the amazing talents of the Jay Larson Band on full display at Mowie’s Cue, Deep Lunar Blue lassoing the moon at George Rank’s, Joel Honey doing the dance at Boone’s, while Dumb Records presents a karaoke night fundraiser hosted by our local Food Not Bombs group set to raise awareness and some bucks to help with helping out our community to distribute food to those in need.

Saturday lists more than 30 things for you to do in the area for entertainment including some action in Decatur when the Wolf Crick Boys with Tyler Landess land at the legendary Winery, Groundhog Jam jams at Pop’s Place, Brad Hursh and David Sample do up Rocco’s and Pizzazz permeates the Camouflage Bar at VFW Post 99, if you so happen to be in the market for some Soy City adventures.

Sunday delivers an array of small-town afternoon gigs with Keith Dunlap at Trails End in Curran, Hank Greenwalt at Vixen Hill Winery in Palmyra, Wes Olsen at Buckhart Tavern and Hippies of the Heartland at Hill Prairie Winery near Oakford.

We also have plenty of shindigs in the capital city including After School Special at Little Corner Bar and those one and onlys, Antone DeRocchi and Jaigh Lowder, playing an evening show at Mother Road Diner. And just in case you stayed all night in Decatur, Bluesmattic hits at Pop’s Place and Andre Wilke does Golden Fox Brewing on your way home.

Until next time... □

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MUSIC

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Attention bands, bars and musicians: submit your shows and photos online at www.illinoistimes.com or by email calendar@illinoistimes.com.

Thursday Jan 22

Karaoke Night with DJ Nattie Beats
Benderz, Auburn, 8pm

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

Open mic with Bob the Brewer
Decatur Brew Works, Decatur, 6:30-10pm

Karaoke
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm and 7pm

Karaoke
Lock, Stock and Barrel, Decatur, 9pm-12am.

Dan Grover
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

Open mic with Silas Tockey
Spirited Republic/Limerick Brewing Company, Lincoln, 7-10pm

Kortney and friends open mic
The Blue Grouch, 7-11pm

Karaoke
The Tippy Toad, 8pm-12am

Friday Jan 23

Micah Walk
Bar Bella, 7-9pm

Joel Honey
Boone's, 5:30-8:30pm

Devin C. Williams
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

Karaoke with DJ Jeff
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 8pm

Not Petty
Butternut Hut, 6-9pm

3's Company
Curve Inn, 7-10pm

Boots, Hats and Pearl Snaps Band
El Campesino Mexican Restaurant, Girard, 5:30-7:30pm

Karaoke
Foxhole Pub N Grub, Lincoln, 8pm-12am

Deep Lunar Blue
George Rank's, 8-11pm

Niko Boeker
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Karaoke Night
JB's Hideout, Blue Mound, 8pm

it Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo
Lime Street Cafe, 7-10:30pm

Karaoke
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Meet Up 5 Hip Hop Show
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 7pm

The Jay Larson Band
Mowie's Cue, 8pm

Karaoke
Pickles Package and Pub, Pawnee, 9pm-2am

Saturday Jan 24

Double H Karaoke
American Legion Post 32, 7-11pm

Hunter Sharp and The Flats
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

Last Call Blues Band
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7-10pm

Matthew Combs
Cafe Amulet, Petersburg, 3-6pm

Pizzazz
Camouflage Bar, VFW Post 99, Decatur, 7:30-10:30pm

Decade of Decadence
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8-11pm

Kortney Leatherwood
The Filling Station, Rochester, 8pm

Karaoke
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm

Hat Trick
The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 7pm

Nick Park
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Hippies of the Heartland
KJB's Pint Haus, Jacksonville, 9pm

Avery Kern
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 8-11pm

Harris Trio
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

Thomas J Beverly
Mulvaney's Pub, Stonington, 3-6pm

Renegade Karaoke
Northern Lights Lounge, 8:30pm-12:30am

Karaoke by the Rayman
Pearls Pub, Auburn, 8pm-12am

The Tangents
Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, 3-5pm

Groundhog Jam
Pop's Place, Decatur, 5-8pm

Brad Hursh and David Sample
Rocco's, Decatur, 8-10pm

Karaoke
Silver Sevens Gaming Pub & Parlor, 8pm-12am

Jeff Newman and Robert Sampson
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 6:30pm

Open mic
Stella Coffee & Tea, 10am-12:30pm

Karaoke
The Next Stop Saloon, Mount Pulaski, 8pm-12am

it Wolf Crick Boys with Tyler Landess
The Winery, Decatur, 9pm

Sunday Jan 25

Wolf Crick Boys
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

Wes Olson
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Andre Wilke
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 4-7pm

Hippies of the Heartland
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 1-4pm

Tracy Gibbs
It's All About Wine, 3-6pm

it After School Special
Little Corner Bar, 2pm

Matthew Adermann
Legendary Small Town Trading Co., Taylorville, 10am-1pm



Tracy Gibbs will perform from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday at It's All About Wine.

Antone DeRocchi and Jaigh Lowder
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 5-8pm

Bluesmattic
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

Jazz Night with B. Douglas and The Travelers for Peace
Sky Lounge, 5-8pm

Keith Dunlap
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-6pm

Monday Jan 26

Last Call Blues Band with Besserat Habtes and Charles Tiner
The Alamo, 7-10pm

Al and Kathy Kitchen
Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm

Tuesday Jan 27

Karaoke Night hosted by Alan Livengood
Fluid Lounge, 7pm

Allan Harris
Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm

Open jam with Smokestacks
George Rank's, 8-11pm

Open mic with Bob Besser
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 6-9pm

Karaoke
Oogie and JJ's Bar, Glenarm, 7-10pm

Karaoke with Suzi
The Rusty Rail Pub, Lincoln, 8pm-12am

Wednesday Jan 28

Open mic with Joel Honey and Silas Tockey
Boone's, 7-10pm

Karaoke
Clique, 9pm-1am

Robert Sampson
Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm

Open jam with Kristi White
Goodfellas Pub, 7-10pm

Thomas J Beverly
Obed & Isaac's The Cidery, 6-8pm

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ARTS

The Muni's season of love

THEATER | Mary Young

The Springfield Muni Opera's Season of Love theme promises to be another memorable summer under the stars with an expanded slate of offerings from four shows to five, including a junior production. The season kicks off with *Mamma Mia!* opening May 29, followed by *All Shook Up* opening June 19, *The Prince of Egypt: The Musical* opening July 10, *Disney's Frozen: The Broadway Musical* opening July 31 and *Disney's The Lion King Jr.* opening Aug. 20.

If you're thinking about auditioning for Muni's 76th season, you might want to attend the Muni Workshop at 10 a.m. on Jan. 31 at the Hoogland Center for the Arts to learn more about the Summer of Love season. The workshop is a helpful and encouraging way to get motivated, ask questions and prepare for auditions. Attendees will get a chance to meet the staff of each show and become more comfortable with the audition process. You can ask specific questions as well as receive a QR code to access the audition forms. Adult auditions will be held Feb. 21-22 and 28 with callbacks on March 1. Children's auditions are March 7.

Muni marketing co-chair Luke Busboom highlights the changes for this year and what volunteers and audiences alike can look forward to this summer.

"For people who are auditioning for the first time, we want everyone to know that the Muni and the Springfield theater community at large is an incredibly supportive environment. For seasoned performers all the way to those who are brand new to the stage, our goal is the same: production staffs that are committed to making auditions encouraging, clear and welcoming," Busboom said.

"Our audition workshop at the Hoogland is always super helpful, but beyond that, we suggest reviewing audition materials, choosing

cuts that showcase your personality, and coming prepared to dance and move. Most importantly, we ask that you come willing to have fun and meet great people," he said.

Several of the 2026 titles are first-time productions for the Muni, which Busboom said is exciting for both performers and audiences. Regarding the decision to add a fifth production and a junior version show to the line-up, he said, "This season felt like the right moment to expand.

"The five shows allow us to move into our 76th season – coming off of our big 75th anniversary season – in a way that feels bigger, more inclusive and more in line with the momentum we've seen in recent years," Busboom said. "It's long been talked about to add a junior show, and with the community's growing interest, the board saw an opportunity specifically for youth."

Busboom described *Disney's The Lion King Jr.* as "a super high-energy, visually fun production specifically for younger audiences and performers alike." He said the Muni is exploring opportunities for kid-friendly preshow activities and some interactive elements to make the experience even more special.

Busboom also has recommendations for any first-time attendees:

"For someone who has never attended a Muni show, I always describe it as a unique Springfield experience – warm summer nights, live music and hundreds of people all gathered outdoors to enjoy great storytelling right off the lake. It is relaxed, affordable and always community and volunteer-driven, which makes it feel really special."

For more details about the upcoming season and ticket information, visit themuni.org. □

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THE CALENDAR



The Phantom of the Opera | Fri., Jan. 23, 7 p.m., Sat., Jan. 24, 2 and 7 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 25, 2 p.m. | Hoogland Center for the Arts, LRS Theatre | 217-523-2787

THEATER | Achievers present classic musical

it This weekend the Hoogland Performing Arts Education Achievers (grades 9-12) present this classic musical. In *The Phantom of the Opera*, a mysterious, masked figure lurks beneath the Paris Opera House, exercising a reign of terror over all inside. He falls in love with a young soprano, Christine, and devotes himself to creating a new star by nurturing her talents and employing all of the methods at his command. The score, by Andrew Lloyd Webber, includes “Think of Me,” “Angel of Music,” “Music of the Night,” “All I Ask of You,” “Masquerade” and the title song. \$21.

■ Theater & Comedy

Something's Afoot

Fri., Jan. 23, 7:30pm, Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30pm and Sun., Jan. 25, 3pm. In this musical comedy, which takes a poke at Agatha Christie mysteries, 10 people are stranded in an isolated English country house during a thunderstorm. One by one, they're picked off. As the bodies pile up, the survivors race to uncover the identity and motivation of the culprit. Presented by Springfield Theatre Center and directed by Laurie McCoy. \$20-\$22. Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Express Yourself! Acting & Improv Class

Mon., Jan. 26, 5-6:30pm. by Springfield Park District Special Recreation. Residents \$8, non-residents \$10.50. Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-585-2941.

“Mr. Lucky” Dobie Maxwell and Blind Stein

Fri., Jan. 23, 8pm and Sat., Jan. 24, 7:30pm. Dobie Maxwell, known as “Mr. Lucky,” and Blind Stein brings their brands of humor to Donnie B's Comedy Club. At the K of C Hall next to Casey's Pub. \$23-\$25. Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 2200 S. Meadowbrook Road,

217-891-4858.

■ Dance

Academy of Lifelong Learning Winter Celebration

Fri., Jan. 23, 12pm. Members of Lincoln Land Community College's Academy of Lifelong Learning (ALL) and guests will explore what ALL has to offer, socialize and enjoy entertainment and refreshments. The event will feature the presentation “Salsa As You're Able – Come As You Are, Move As You Can.” Julio Barrenzuela, the salsa ambassador, will introduce participants to the shared musical heartbeat behind Latin America's most popular social dances: salsa, merengue and bachata. llcc.edu. Free. Student Union, Menard Hall, Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-786-2432.

Adult Aerial Silks Short Term Class

Thu., Jan. 22, 7-7:45pm. This three-week beginner series is a fun, supportive introduction to aerial silks for adults. Learn basic climbs, wraps, foot locks and poses while building strength and confidence. No experience required. Ages 18 and older. \$60 for full three-week session. Springfield Dance, 5531 International Pkwy., 217-483-3623.

■ Art & Architecture

“the neophobic kingdom” at LLCC's Trutter Museum & Murray Gallery

Through Feb. 13, 8am-4pm. See the “the neophobic kingdom” exhibit featuring artwork by sculptor Thad Duhigg through Feb 13 at the Trutter Museum & Murray Gallery, located on the upper level of Menard Hall. A closing reception will be from 5:30 to 7:30pm Thursday, Feb. 12. Duhigg's work explores the intersection of tradition and contemporary anxiety. Known for his mastery of bronze casting and his ability to subvert expectations, Duhigg creates sculptural landscapes that challenge viewers to reconsider the narratives shaping our world. Free. Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-786-2200.

Cross-Stitch Bookmarks

Sat., Jan. 24, 12-3pm. Participants will learn the basic stitches involved in a cross-stitch beginner project. By the end of the two-day SAampler, participants will have completed a floral bookmark. All materials are provided. For ages 12 and older. SAA members \$40, Nonmembers \$50. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 2175232631.

Paws, Claws, and Hooves: Our Best Animal Friends

Saturdays, 10am-3pm and Mondays-Fridays, 9am-5pm. Through Jan. 30. Celebrate our relationships with our animal friends. From cuddly pets to wild beasts captured in their natural habitats, this exhibition showcases animal images in all media by local artists 16 years and older. springfieldart.org. Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

■ Film & Television

Sneak Peek Screening of PBS Documentary “The Librarians”

Tue., Jan. 27, 6-7:30pm. When Texas lawmakers seek to review a list of books, librarians find themselves on the frontlines of a national battle. Across the U.S., librarians face the impact of uniting against library collection standards that include restrictions on race-related and LGBTQIA+ content. Drawing on historical context, “The Librarians” explores the broader implications for education and public life. A discussion of this upcoming documentary from PBS Indie Lens will follow. chathamlib.org. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce St., 217-483-2713.

There's Still Tomorrow

Sun., Jan. 25, 1-3, 4-6pm and Tue., Jan. 27, 7-9pm. In this moving comedic drama set in postwar Rome, a working-class wife and mother dreams of a better future. Winner of six Italian Academy Awards, this movie is the second of this year's Molly Schlich International and Independent Film Series. Presented by Exciting Windows! by Susan Day and the Springfield Art Association. Adults \$10, Children \$5. AMC Classic Springfield 12, 3141 Mercantile Dr., 217-523-2631.

■ Food & Drink

Robert Burns Dinner

Sat., Jan. 24, 6pm. Be whisked away to a Celtic land during this cultural experience presented by the St. Andrews Society of Central Illinois. It's a semi-formal event. Kilts and period dress encouraged. Includes bagpipers and live music, Scottish dancers, Burns poetry readings and toasts. TBA. Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, Southern View, 625 E. St. Joseph St., 217-529-6626.

■ History

Perspectives in History: “Historical Preservation – Why?”

Thu., Jan. 22, 5pm. Presentation by Quinn Adamowski from Landmarks Illinois. Reception at

4:30pm followed by presentation at 5pm. Sponsored by the Massie Family Fund. Free. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 533 S. Walnut St., 217-522-4415.

■ Faith & Philosophy

Celebrate Recovery

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30pm. Celebrate Recovery is a scripture-based, 12-step recovery program that helps individuals work through hurts, hangups and habits. Meetings begin with \$5 meal. For more info, see the Celebrate Recovery at Together Church page on Facebook. \$5 meal, free first time. Together Church, 225 N. Grand Ave. East, 217-299-8767.

■ Holiday Happenings

Ice Skating

Saturdays, 1-4pm and Sundays, 1-4pm. Through Feb. 15. An age-old holiday tradition. Skating and skate rental are free, though donations are welcome to help maintain equipment. A full schedule can be found on ALPLM website. Free, donations accepted. Union Square Park, 212 N. Sixth St.

Winterfest at Elmwood

Sun., Jan. 25, 1:30-4pm. After December's snowstorms canceled Christmas at Elmwood, organizers reimaged the season with Winterfest at Elmwood — a celebration of community, charm and winter's simple joys. Guests will enjoy kids' crafts, twinkling décor, live music from Wildwood Strings and Greenview High School Vocal Group, cozy storytelling in the Conservatory, nostalgic wagon rides and warm treats such as cider, cocoa and cookies. Free, donations accepted. Historic Marbold Farmstead, Greenview, 21722 State Highway 29, 217-202-2917.

■ Fundraisers & Galas

Karaoke Night Fundraiser

Fri., Jan. 23, 7-9:30pm. Food Not Bombs Springfield, IL is holding a donate-what-you-can karaoke night fundraiser. Venmo preferred, cash OK. Funds raised will go toward things such as the costs of meal distribution supplies and ingredients to supplement the donated food received from local businesses to help us feed the community. Light refreshments will be served. Email foodnotbombs.spi@proton.me with questions. \$5 donation suggested for entry. Dumb Records, 418 E. Monroe St., 217-691-8991.

■ Community Organizing

New Era of Youth Service in America Illinois Statewide Partner Forum

Sun., Jan. 25, 6pm. presented by Made Wright and Youth Service America, key partners and

stakeholders from across the state will discuss the current state of youth service, envision a new era of youth service, explore strategies to double youth participation and develop a potential state policy agenda and examine other timely topics impacting youth engagement. Register by Jan. 20 at forms. gl/9dDUSa54yqyL9zFa7. Members of organizations and youth leaders invited. Cowork Springfield, 2532 Farragut Drive, Suite 1, 618-506-0041.

■ Children's Corner

Funshop Kids Club

Fridays, 3:30-6pm. Through April 24. This is a fun and welcoming drop-off program where children ages 6 to 12 explore themes through crafts, STEM projects and interactive play. It includes group games, hands-on stations and active play. Pack a snack or light meal for your child. Kid's Club encourages creativity, teamwork, and a love of learning—all while having a great time! Register at bit.ly/Funshop_KidsClub1. Activity #140910. \$30 residents, \$35 non-residents for 1 day only. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

Little Lincoln's Fireside Tales: Community Helpers

Tue., Jan. 27, 9:30-11:30am. How can you help the community? The ALPLM's Education Team will share stories and activities as it explores what it means to be part of a community. Advance registration required. Due to increased demand, two sessions are now offered for Little Lincoln's Fireside Tales. Select the session online. If the first choice is “sold out,” select the other time. presidentlincolnilinois.com. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

■ Lectures & Meetings

Blueprint to Action: Structuring Goals

Fri., Jan. 23, 9-10:30am. Start the year with practical tools to move from vision to implementation by setting clear, equitable goals and ensuring accountability. Participants will learn to define priorities, anticipate barriers and structure projects for success. Free. 1908 Innovation & Coworking Center, 1100 South Grand Ave E, 217-753-3551.

Citizens Club: Countywide 708 Mental Health Board

Fri., Jan. 23, 8-9am. Join us for a discussion of the Sangamon County Mental Health Commission's recommendation for the formation of a countywide 708 Mental Health Board. The program will feature

members of the commission including Mike Murphy (chair), Dr. Kari Wolf and Josh Sabo. Coffee and networking at 7:30am. Free and open to public. Hoogland Center for the Arts Club Room, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Coffee Chats With Bri

Thu., Jan. 22, 7-10am. Have questions about attending Lincoln Land Community College? Join Bri VanMeter, post-traditional adult recruitment specialist, for an informal chat over coffee. Ask questions, learn more about LLCC and explore options in a relaxed setting. No appointment necessary. llcc.edu. Homemade Passions By Bryce, Riverton, 713 N. 7th St.

Coffee Chats With Bri

Tue., Jan. 27, 7-10am. Have questions about attending Lincoln Land Community College? Join Bri VanMeter, post-traditional adult recruitment specialist, for an informal chat over coffee. Ask questions, learn more about LLCC and explore options in a relaxed setting. No appointment necessary. llcc.edu. Cafe Moxo, 2661 Chatham Road, 217-788-8084.

IWIL January Pop-up

Sat., Jan. 24, 10am-12pm. This January pop-up meeting and after pop-up boutique crawl are free for members and guests. No need to RSVP. Make a day of it, or jump in at any of the stops. Meet at Golden Hour Bake House for a complimentary light breakfast, coffee bar and "Get Ready with Holly Rose Skincare" information. There will be a cash bar for mimosas and other items. Text with questions. Free. Golden Hour Bake House, Springfield, 11 W. Old State Capitol, 217-494-9471, 217-303-2432.

Life Recovery 12-Step Group

Mondays, 6:30-7:45pm. Work through the 12 steps of life recovery, a set of biblical principles in addiction treatment that outline a course of action for tackling problems such as drug and alcohol addiction, overeating, sex addiction and more. See the Facebook page for more info. Destiny Church, 1425 N. Fifth St., 217-685-4124, 217-553-2025.

Stronger Together: Parents of Special Needs Kiddos Support Group

Mondays, 6-7:30pm. Through March 2. Join others who are loving and raising special needs children. Discussion, support and connection with others who understand those joys and challenges. Special needs included but not limited to autism, Down syndrome, physical and

developmental disabilities and medically fragile children. Mothers will meet Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23. Fathers will meet Jan. 19, Feb. 2 and 16 and March 2. No child care available. Open to all. RSVP at event link. Free. Hope Church, 3000 Lenhart Road, 217-787-1446.

Understanding Cryptocurrency

Wed., Jan. 28, 3-4:30pm. A comprehensive overview of the evolving cryptocurrency landscape, focusing on Bitcoin, blockchain technology and the growing influence of stablecoins. Second part of a three-part speaker series on understanding cryptocurrency and the digital ecosystem offered by LLCC's Academy of Lifelong Learning (ALL), Fidelity, J.P. Morgan and Capital Group. Offered via Zoom. To register, visit www.llcc.edu/ALL-special-events. Free. Via Zoom, Springfield.

Understanding Dehumanization to Resist Dehumanization

Wed., Jan. 28, 6-7:30pm. Dr. David Livingstone Smith, through analysis and examples, will explore the causes of dehumanization — including sociohistorical factors, powerful propaganda that spreads fear of evil and our very human psychological vulnerabilities to manipulation. Part of the Engaged Citizenship Common Experience Speaker Series. uis.edu. UIS Brookens Auditorium, One University Plaza, 217-206-6073.

Young Adult Group

Fourth Monday of every month, 6-8pm. A drug and alcohol free space where young adults can be themselves. Ages 18-26. Phoenix Center: Out On Second, 120 E. Scarritt St., 217-528-5253.

Forum on City Garbage Ordinance

Mon., Jan. 26, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Learn about the existing garbage ordinance and the requirements and accountability within the ordinance for property owners, waste haulers and the city of Springfield. Info@SpringfieldICON.org. Presented by Springfield ICON. South Side Christian Church, 2600 S. MacArthur Blvd.

Bulletin Board

Food and Clothing Distribution

Fourth Saturday of every month, 9am-12pm. Through Dec. 26. Need free clothing or food? Bring an ID and plan to fill out a little paperwork. Free. The Frank and Linda Vala Dream Center of Sangamon County, 1480 N. Fifth St., 217-685-9375.

The Foundation Academy LLC Youth Program

Tuesdays, 4:30-7:30pm. Through March 5. The Foundation Academy LLC serves all central Illinois youths ages 12-18, with emphasis on at-risk and underprivileged individuals, by providing comprehensive, job-focused education. Soft skills are essential for navigating personal life and workplace challenges. Email Lbrown.thefoundationacademyllc@gmail.com for information. thefoundationacademyllc.com. Free. Kumler United Methodist Church, 600 N. Fifth St., 217-523-2046.

Springfield Budget Workshop No. 3

Thu., Jan. 22, 5:30pm. This Fiscal Year 2027 workshop will have presentations by the police department, fire department and City Water, Light and Power. In the council chamber. Municipal Center West, 300 S. Seventh St., 217-789-2235.

Treasured Memories

Remembrance Ceremony

Thu., Jan. 22, 11am-12pm. Honor and remember friends, family and SSCI clients who have passed. Includes live music, refreshments and a reading of names. Bring a photo of a loved one to share on the memory table. To include a name in the reading, please email b.hipsheer@ssoci.org by Jan. 9. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-503-4643.

Health & Fitness

Free ice skating day

Sat., Jan. 24, 12-1:10pm. At Nelson Center Ice Rink 2. The ice will be divided in half for anyone who wants to try figure skating and hockey. The Springfield Park District is co-sponsoring this event with the Springfield Figure Skating Club and the Springfield Youth Hockey Association. Register online at bit.ly/FreeSkate1-SPD. Activity #140417. Nelson Center, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-2800.

Women's Self Defense Class

Sun., Jan. 25, 1-2:30pm. A self-defense seminar designed for women to learn techniques that will give them a game plan against most common self-defense situations. Wear athletic clothing, bring a water bottle, no jewelry. RSVP via text or email. For those 12 and older. Free. Gracie Barra Brazilian jujitsu, 1665 Wabash Ave Suite D, 630-440-7816.

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Illinois Times 2026 Special Issues & Publications

Healthy, Wealthy and Wise
Thursday, January 22

Wedding Issue
Thursday, Feb. 12

Spring Guide
Thursday, March 19

Spring Home & Garden
Thursday, April 16

Summer Guide
Thursday, May 21

Juneteenth
Thursday, June 11

Grillin' and Chillin'
Thursday, July 2

Fall Guide
Thursday, September 3

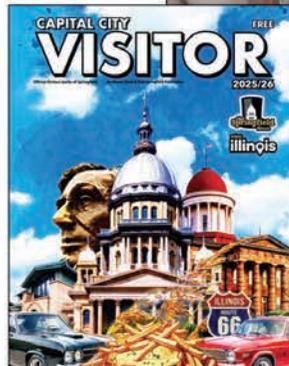
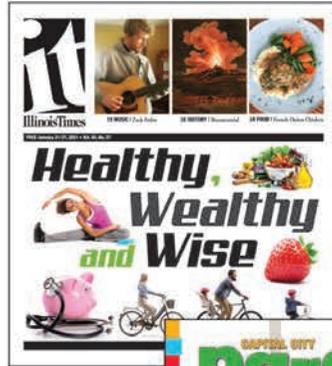
Fall Home & Garden
Thursday, September 24

Best of Springfield
Nomination issues: Aug 6 & 13
Runoff issues: Sept. 10 & 17
Results Issue: October 29
Thank You Issue: Nov. 12

Winter Guide
Wednesday, November 25

Holiday Happenings
Thursday, December 3

Remembering
Wednesday, December 31



Capital City Parent

Friday, February 13

Space & ad copy deadline: Wednesday, January 21
Final art deadline: Monday, January 26

Friday, May 8

Space & ad copy deadline: Wednesday, April 15
Final art deadline: Monday, April 27

Friday, August 7

Space & ad copy deadline: Wednesday, July 15
Final art deadline: Monday, July 27

Friday, November 13

Space & ad copy deadline: Wednesday, October 21
Final art deadline: Monday, October 26

Capitol City Jobs

Thursday, Feb. 26

Ad space due Wed., Feb 11

Thursday, August 20

Ad space due Wed., Aug. 5

Capital City Visitor

Monday, March 23

Space & ad copy deadline: Wednesday, February 4
Final art deadline: Monday, February 23

217 Food Weeks

217 Pizza Week

Feb. 9-15

Monday, February 9, 2026 National Pizza Day

217 Burger Week (10 days)

March 16-25

217 Taco, Nacho & Margarita Week

Apr. 27 - May. 4

217 Pony Shoe Week

June 22-28

217 Burger Week (10 days)

Aug. 17-27

217 Italian Week

Nov 9-15

217 Comfort Week

Dec. 7-13

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Real Estate Foreclosure

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

INB, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, a national banking association, f/k/a Illinois National Bank, Plaintiff,

v. SHERRILL A. MARTIN, THE COUNTRY PLACE, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

No.: 2025-FC-105

NOTICE OF COURT SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the Court in the above entitled cause the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder. The sale shall be subject to Court approval. Buyer will be entitled to possession 30 days after the sale is confirmed by the Court.

(A) The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is:

Timothy J. Rigby
Hart, Southworth & Witsman
Suite 501, One North Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-0055

(B) The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is:
22 Country Place, Springfield, Illinois 62703

(C) Tax ID Number: 22-27-402-022

(D) A description of the improvements on the real estate is:

Approximately 1,565 square foot 2 story 5 room townhouse with a two car garage, 2 bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms, fireplace and patio.

(E) No times have been specified in the judgment of foreclosure for inspection of the real estate prior to sale.

(F) The time and place of the sale are:
Time: 9:00 a.m. on February 17, 2026.

Place: Sangamon County Courthouse

200 South Ninth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

(G) The terms of the sale are:
Twenty-five percent (25%) of sale price at time of sale and balance within twenty-four (24) hours.

(H) Title will be conveyed subject to any liens or encumbrances prior to the mortgage of INB, National Association, f/k/a Illinois National Bank, all general real estate taxes, special assessments if any, easements and restrictions of record, and all encroachments, if any.

INB, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, a national banking association, f/k/a Illinois National Bank, Plaintiff

Timothy J. Rigby (ARDC #6225930)
Alexander S. Prillaman (ARDC #6339535)

Hart, Southworth & Witsman
Suite 501, One North Old State Capitol Plaza

Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-0055
trigby@hswnet.com

aprillaman@hswnet.com
NOTE: This communication is made for the purpose of collecting a debt. Any information obtained in response to this communication may be used for that purpose.
8051-961017

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Estate of:
HERMAN J. MILLER, SR.,
Deceased.

NO. 2026-PR-19
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Herman J. Miller, Sr. of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 15, 2026, to Trevor J. Miller, 6847 Curran Road, Chatham, Illinois 62629, as Executor, whose attorneys are Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before July 22, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2026.

Matthew J. Cate - 06272040

Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79

Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-4868

matthewcate@barberlaw.com
366231

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

Estate of:
CLAIRE J. SLAGLE,
Deceased.

NO. 2026-PR-17
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Claire J. Slagle of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 15, 2026, to Robert Timothy Slagle, 64 Danbury Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62704, as Executor, whose attorneys are Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before July 22, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2026.

Matthew J. Cate - 06272040

Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79

Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-4868

matthewcate@barberlaw.com
366301

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

PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LISA MARIE BELL, DECEASED

Case #2026-PR-16

DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of LISA MARIE BELL. Letters of Office have been issued to WILLIAM CEARLOCK, 36 Greencastle Circle, Springfield, IL 62712, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215

South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Administrator, or both, on or before July 29, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Administrator and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2026.

William P. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.

1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703

(217)544-0701

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

PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DANNY EGLER, DECEASED

Case #2026-PR-14

DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DANNY EGLER. Letters of Office have been issued to ELIZABETH EGLER, 4062 Mill Stone Drive, Springfield, IL 62711, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before July 29, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2026.

William P. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.

1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703

(217) 544-0701

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

ESTATE OF

WILMA L. SINNOTT,
Deceased.

Case No. 2026-PR-13

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Wilma L. Sinnott Giles. Letters of Office were issued on January 14, 2026 to Donald Weinhoff of 4440 Ash Grove Drive, Suite A, Springfield, IL 62711, as Executor, and whose attorneys are Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel, 1231 South Eighth Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, IL, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

DATED this 14th day of January 2026.

Gordon W. Gates

GATES WISE SCHLOSSER & GOEBEL
1231 South Eighth Street

Springfield, IL 62703

Telephone: (217) 522.9010
Facsimile: (217) 522.9020
Email: gordon@gwspc.com
Attorneys for the Estate

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

ESTATE OF

WILLIAM T. SINNOTT,
Deceased.

Case No. 2026-PR-12
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of William T. Sinnott. Letters of Office were issued on January 14, 2026 to Donald Weinhoff of 4440 Ash Grove Drive, Suite A, Springfield, IL 62711, as Executor, and whose attorneys are Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel, 1231 South Eighth Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, IL, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

DATED this 14th day of January 2026.

Gordon W. Gates

GATES WISE SCHLOSSER & GOEBEL
1231 South Eighth Street

Springfield, IL 62703
Telephone: (217) 522.9010

Facsimile: (217) 522.9020
Email: gordon@gwspc.com
Attorneys for the Estate

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

Estate of:
WILLIAM VERNE WIEBKING,
Deceased.

NO. 2026-PR-10
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of William Verne Wiebking of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 14, 2026 to William Scott Wiebking, P.O. Box 1151 Chatham, VA 24531, as Executor, whose attorneys are Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before July 21, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2026.

Randall W. Segatto - 06193211

Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79

Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-4868

rsegatto@barberlaw.com

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

In the Matter of the Estate of THELBERT L. DRAKE, Deceased.

IN PROBATE

NO. 2026-PR-9

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of THELBERT L. DRAKE, deceased. Letters of Office were issued on January 13, 2026, to G. ROGER REEVES, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Hugh F. Drake, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205

South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 20th day of July, 2026, or three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2026.

BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Hugh F. Drake

(Registration No. 6269666)

205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000

P.O. Box 2459

Springfield, IL 62705-2459

(217) 544-8491

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

ESTATE OF JERRY A. WOOD, SR.,
Deceased.

Case No. 2025-PR-495

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of JERRY A. WOOD, SR. Letters of Office were issued to JERRY A. WOOD, JR., whose address is 1525 E. Glenn Avenue, Springfield, IL 62703 and SANDRA L. PAINTER, whose address is 3017 Louise Ln., Springfield, IL 62703, as Independent Co-Executors. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before July 22, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered such notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Dated January 13, 2026

Attorneys for Independent Co-Executors:

Roger L. Rutherford (2426919)

Sorling Northrup

Attorney for Independent Executor

1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200

P. O. Box 5131

Springfield, IL 62705

Telephone: 217-544-1144

E-Mail: rlrutherford@sorlinglaw.com

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

In the Matter of the Estate of CARROLL LEE JACOBS, Deceased.

IN PROBATE

NO. 2025-PR-513

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Notice is given of the death of CARROLL LEE JACOBS. Letters of office under In-

dependent Administration were issued on January 7, 2026 to Dwight Dale Emerson Jr, whose attorney of record is Brown, Hay & Stephens, 1000 US Bank Building, P. O. Box 2459, Springfield, Illinois. Notice is given to unknown heirs who are named in a Petition filed in the above proceeding to probate a Will and whose names or addresses are not stated in the Petition, that an Order was entered by the Court on January 7, 2026 admitting the Will to probate. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order of Admission, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or other evidence, as provided in Section 6—21 of the Probate Act (755 1 LCS 5/6—21) You also have the right under Section 8—1 of the Probate Act (755 1 LCS 5/8—1) to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within 6 months after admission of the Will to probate. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701 or with the representative of the estate, or both on or before July 21, 2026 or three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Joseph B. Roesch, Circuit Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JACQUALINE M. KELZER, DECEASED Case #2026-PR-000001 DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of JACQUALINE M. KELZER. Letters of Office have been issued to JILL MENEZES, 130 Willow Road, Rochester, IL 62563, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before July 22, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 8th day of January, 2026 William P. Sheehan SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C. 1215 South 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PRENICE R. CARTER, SR., Deceased CASE NO. 25 PR 511 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to creditors of the death of PRENICE R. CARTER, SR., of 1000 Rutledge Street, Pawnee, Illinois, who died December 17, 2025. Letters of Office were issued to PRENICE R. CARTER, JR., whose address is P. O. Box 388, Osage Beach, Missouri 65065, as Independent Administrator whose attorney is LINDSEY E. REESE of the law office of REESE and REESE, 200 W. Market Street, Taylorville, IL 62568. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Sec. 284 of the Probate Act, 755 ILCS 5/28-4 of 1992, as amended. Any interested person

terminates Independent Administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition to Terminate to the clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerks Office at 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the estate representative or both, on or before July 29, 2026, which date is not less than six months from the first publication of this notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the estate representative and to the attorney for the estate representative within (10) days after it had been filed. PRENICE R. CARTER, SR. ESTATE BY; LINDSEY E. REESE. ATTORNEY CIRCUIT CLERK Reese & Reese Attorneys at Law 200 W Market St., Taylorville, IL 62568 217824-8107

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CAROL EVERLY FLOYD, DECEASED Case #2025-PR-424 NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS Notice is given to THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CAROL EVERLY FLOYD, DECEASED, including any unknown heir who may be a minor or a disabled person, and including but not limited to the unknown descendants, if any, of Phil Therrien, Dick Therrien, Betty Leyden, William H. Harris, F. Bruce Harris, George Schlecht, Jr., Gloria Mision, Jean Marie Davis, Spencer E. Everly, Jr., Allen R. Everly, Charlotte Brummett, Robert H. Everly, Margaret Gabalis and Richard Everly, that a Supplement to Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary was filed in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois, on January 6, 2026. The Unknown Heirs of Carol Everly Floyd are made parties to this estate proceeding by said Supplement to Petition for Probate of Will.

Within 42 days after January 6, 2026, any such unknown heir may file a Petition with the court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or by other evidence, as provided in Section 6-21 of the Probate Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 755, Act 5, Section 6-21), or successor provision. Heirs also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 755, Act 5, Section 8-1), or successor provision, to contest the validity of the Will by filing a Petition with the Court within 6 months after January 6, 2026. Filings are to be made with the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk to your local Circuit Clerk's office. Dated this 6th day of January, 2026. Patrick J. Sheehan SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C. Attorneys for Independent Administrator 1215 South 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217)544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS Estate of: PATSY A. SMITH, Deceased. NO. 2025-PR-512 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of Pasty A. Smith of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 6, 2026, to Lori J. Stevens, 1309 E. Grove, Bloomington, IL 61701, as Executor, whose attorneys are Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before July 13, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 6th day of January, 2026. Bernard G. Segatto, III - 06190753 Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP P.O. Box 79 Springfield, IL 62705 (217) 544-4868 bsegatto@barbertlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF: CASE NO. 2025PR488 SHERRYL L. MUSGRAVE, Deceased CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of SHERRYL L. MUSGRAVE, Letters of Office were issued on January 6, 2026 to Katie Aldrich, 311 Virginia Lane, Rochester, IL as Independent Administrator whose attorney is Donald M. Craven, 1005 N. 7th Street, Springfield, IL, 62702. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first Publication of this Notice. Any Claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. /s/ Donald M. Craven Donald M. Craven (#6180492) Attorney for Independent Executor Donald M. Craven, P.C. 1005 North Seventh Street Springfield, IL 62702 Telephone: (217) 544-1777 Facsimile: (217) 544-0713

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the Matter of the Estate of DANIEL P. SCHUERING, Deceased. IN PROBATE No. 2025-PR-000510 DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of DANIEL P. SCHUERING, deceased. Letters of Office were issued on December 30, 2025, to Sarah F. Schuering, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Taylor L. Ingram, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 9th day of July, 2026, or three months from the date the representative mailed or

delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 30th day of December, 2025. BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP Taylor L. Ingram (Registration No. 6349276) 205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000 P.O. Box 2459 Springfield, IL 62705-2459 (217) 544-8491 tingham@bhsllaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JUDITH N. WEEDMAN, Deceased NO. 2025PR000507 DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Judith N. Weedman, Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on December 30, 2025, to Melissa K. Jankauski, 7712 Pin Oak Drive, Plainfield, IL 60586, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 9th day of July, 2026, or three months from the date the Representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 30th day of December, 2025. Gregory P. Sgro Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP 1119 S. 6th Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JERRY LEE TOEPKE, DECEASED. Case No. 2025PR000490 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of Jerry Lee Toepke, Lane County, Oregon. Letters of Office have been issued to Susan Jean Toepke, 821 S. 2nd Street, Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424, whose attorney is W. Thad Kuhfuss, of Kuhfuss & Proehl, P.C., 342 Elizabeth Street, Pekin, Illinois 61554. Claims may be filed on or before July 15, 2026. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred, except that the claim of a creditor who has been notified by mail or delivery of notice shall be barred on said date or three months from the date of such mailing or delivery, whichever is later. Claims may be filed in the Office of said Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, with the Independent Executor, or to the Executor's in-state Agent, W. Thad Kuhfuss. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file a claim with the Clerk of the Court, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

DATED this 29th day of December, 2025. SUSAN JEAN TOEPKE, Independent Executor of the Estate of Jerry Lee Toepke, deceased Name and Address of Attorneys for the Executor: W. Thad Kuhfuss ARCD# 1543865 Kuhfuss & Proehl, P.C. 342 Elizabeth Street P.O. Box 1068 Pekin, IL 61555-1068 Phone: (309) 347-4164 Email: wthadkuhfuss@grics.net 8051-960905

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the Matter of the Estate of MARCIA JEANNINE MOHN, Deceased. DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE IN PROBATE No. 2025-PR-503 Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Marcia Jeannine Mohn, deceased. Letters of Office were issued on December 23, 2025, to Paul A. Brewer and James A. Rogers, as Independent Co-Executors, whose attorneys are Edward T. Graham, Jr. and Brandon R. Clark, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 22nd day of July, 2026, or three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 24th day of December, 2025. BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP Brandon R. Clark Registration No. 6329553 205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000 P.O. Box 2459 Springfield, IL 62705-2459 (217) 544-8491 bclark@bhsllaw.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY Re: the marriage of Stacie Ramthun, Petitioner And Brent P. Ramthun, Respondent Case No. 2025-DN-000210 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION Notice is given you, Brent P. Ramthun, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief. Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, in Springfield, Illinois on or before the 22nd day of February, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition. Joseph B. Roesch Circuit Clerk

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY Re: the marriage of Belinda Marshall, Petitioner And Jhon T. Scott, Respondent

Case No. 2025-DN-000267 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION Notice is given you, Jhon T. Scott, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief. Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, in Springfield, Illinois on or before the 15th day of February, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition. Joseph B. Roesch Circuit Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS WEST CENTRAL BANK, an Illinois banking corporation, Plaintiff, v. JEFFREY KLEES, CASSIE KLEES, R.F. LUMBER CO., INC., an Illinois corporation, CAPITAL ONE, N.A., UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. Case No. 2026FC000010 NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS of the real estate described below, Defendants in the above-entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-206, 15-1218 and 15-1502 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Defendants is February 27, 2026. Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on January 14, 2026. 1. The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: West Central Bank, an Illinois banking corporation; 2026FC000010.. 2. The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois 3. The name of the title holders of record are: Jeffrey Klees and Cassie Klees 4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: Part of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 9, Township 16 North, Range 4 West of the Third Principal Meridian in Sangamon County, Illinois, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at an iron pin found marking the Northeast corner of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the aforesaid Section 9; thence North 89 degrees 51 minutes 54 seconds West along the North line of said South Half 290.00 feet to a found iron pin marking the true point of beginning; thence South 02 degrees 50 minutes 10 seconds East 116.20 feet to a found iron pin marking the beginning of a 403.80 foot radius, nontangent curve, concave Southeasterly, whose center bears South 90 degrees 33 minutes 35 seconds East; thence Northeasterly along said curve through a central angle of 90 degrees 08 minutes 04 seconds a distance of 64.38 feet; thence North 89 degrees 34 minutes 29 seconds East 31.00 feet to a found iron pin marking the West right of way line of Fifth Street; thence South 00 degrees 25 minutes 31 seconds East along said right of way line 50.00 feet to a found iron pin; thence South 89 degrees 34 minutes 29 seconds West 31.00 feet to a found iron pin marking the begin-

ning of a 353.80 foot radius, tangent curve, concave Southeasterly; thence Southwesterly along said curve through a central angle of 18 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds a distance of 111.15 feet to the beginning of a 276.08 foot radius, tangent curve, concave Northwesterly; thence Southwesterly along said curve through a central angle of 10 degrees 09 minutes 39 seconds a distance of 48.96 feet to a found iron pin; thence South 00 degrees 25 minutes 31 seconds East 50.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 50 minutes 27 seconds West 17.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 25 minutes 31 seconds East 93.81 feet to the South line of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the aforesaid Section 9; thence South 89 degrees 50 minutes 27 seconds West along said South line 267.00 feet to a found iron pin; thence North 00 degrees 17 minutes 39 seconds West 335.35 feet to a found iron pin; thence North 89 degrees 51 minutes 54 seconds East 371.25 feet, more or less, to the true point of beginning.

Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois. 5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 1015 N. 5th Street, Riverton, Illinois 62561 6. The Tax Identification Number for the real estate is as follows: 15-09-0-277-010 7. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:

Name of Mortgagors: Jeffrey Klees and Cassie Klees
Name of Mortgagee: West Central Bank
Date of Mortgage: December 12, 2024
Date of recording: December 17, 2024
County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois
Recording document identification: Document No. 2024R21575
/s/ Joseph B. Roesch
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Emmet A. Fairfield
Registration No. 6180505
205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-8491
efairfield@bhsllaw.com
8051-961235

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
UNITED COMMUNITY BANK, an Illinois banking corporation,
Plaintiff,
v.
ASHLEY R. PRICE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF ILLINOIS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No. 2025FC000246
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS of the real estate described below, Defendants in the above-entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-206, 15-1218 and 15-1502 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Defendants is February 11, 2026. Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on December 31, 2025.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: United Community Bank, an Illinois banking corporation;

2025FC000246.

2. The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois
3. The name of the title holder of record is: Ashley R. Price
4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:
Lot 20 in Morningside Place. Except all Coal and Minerals Underlying said Lot. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 33 Windsor Road, Springfield, Illinois 62702
6. The Tax Identification Number for the real estate is as follows: 14-29-0-105-014
7. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:
Name of Mortgagor: Ashley R. Price
Name of Mortgagee: United Community Bank

Date of Mortgage: May 28, 2010
Date of recording: June 1, 2010
County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois
Recording document identification: Document No. 2010R17525
/s/ Joseph B. Roesch
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Emmet A. Fairfield
Registration No. 6180505
205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-8491
efairfield@bhsllaw.com
8051-961032

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
INB, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, a national banking association, f/k/a Illinois National Bank,
Plaintiff,

v.
SHERRILL A. MARTIN, THE COUNTRY PLACE, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
No.: 2025-FC-105
NOTICE OF COURT SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the Court in the above entitled cause the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder. The sale shall be subject to Court approval. Buyer will be entitled to possession 30 days after the sale is confirmed by the Court.

(A) The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Timothy J. Rigby
Hart, Southworth & Witsman
Suite 501, One North Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-0055
(B) The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is:
22 Country Place, Springfield, Illinois 62703
(C) The legal description of the real estate is:

Unit No. 22, Building 6, in Country Place Condominium as delineated on a Survey of Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, being part of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 27, Township 15 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian, in the City of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, according to the Plat of Survey thereof which is attached as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Condominium recorded January 16, 1974 in Book 1184

of Mortgages at page 883 as Document No. 552057, as and if amended from time to time, along with its undivided percentage of ownership of common elements and limited common elements.

Except any interest in coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois. Tax ID Number: 22-27-402-022 (D) A description of the improvements on the real estate is: Approximately 1,565 square foot 2 story 5 room townhouse with a two car garage, 2 bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms, fireplace and patio.

(E) No times have been specified in the judgment of foreclosure for inspection of the real estate prior to sale.
(F) The time and place of the sale are: Time: 9:00 a.m. on February 17, 2026. Place: Sangamon County Courthouse 200 South Ninth Street Springfield, Illinois 62701
(G) The terms of the sale are: Twenty-five percent (25%) of sale price at time of sale and balance within twenty-four (24) hours.

(H) Title will be conveyed subject to any liens or encumbrances prior to the mortgage of INB, National Association, f/k/a Illinois National Bank, all general real estate taxes, special assessments if any, easements and restrictions of record, and all encroachments, if any.

INB, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, a national banking association, f/k/a Illinois National Bank,
Plaintiff
Timothy J. Rigby (ARDC #6225930)
Alexander S. Prillaman (ARDC #6339535)
Hart, Southworth & Witsman
Suite 501, One North Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-0055
trigby@hswnet.com
aprillaman@hswnet.com
NOTE: This communication is made for the purpose of collecting a debt. Any information obtained in response to this communication may be used for that purpose.
8051-961017

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
PHH Mortgage Corporation
PLAINTIFF
Vs.

Todd Wright; Colleen Welsh; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Terrance Wright; United States of America - Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants; Dan Way, as Special Representative for Terrance Wright (deceased)
DEFENDANTS
No. 2025FC000230
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Terrance Wright
Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants
That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:
COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
29 Glenwood Lane
Chatham, IL 62629
and which said Mortgage was made by: Terrance Wright
Beverly Wright
the Mortgagor(s), to Alliance Mortgage

Company dba AMC Mortgage Corp., as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Sangamon County, Illinois, as Document No. 2002R25978; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending. NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Sangamon County Courthouse
200 South Ninth Street, Room 405
Springfield, IL 62701
on or before February 9, 2026, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.
CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(630) 794-5300
DuPage # 15170
Winnebago # 531
Our File No. 14-25-07544
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
I3279502

The Southern View Zoning Board will meet on Tuesday February 3, 2026, for the purpose of considering the creation of a new zoning classification, C-3, and the uses and restrictions on property which may be included in a new zoning district. The Board will also discuss changes to the Residential Zoning provisions in the existing Southern View Code, and the need for any amendments related to the size of structures on residential lots in the Village. The meeting will be held at 6:00 pm at Southern View Village Hall, 3410 S 5th Street, Southern View, IL 62703.

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition. A petition for variation of the provisions of Section 3 (Setbacks) of Appendix A of the Land Use Plan for Lake Springfield and its Marginal Properties; and Section 155.068 (b) (1), Garages or accessory buildings or structures, of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Petitioners desire to construct a pool and landscaping, and contain an accessory structure of a covered patio. The pool will be at least 10' from the North property line, and as drawn, is designed to be 15'. To be in compliance with the Lake Land Use Plan, and Zoning Ordinance, petitioners respectfully request a variance of: Appendix A, Section 3 (setbacks), of the Land Use Plan for Lake Springfield and its Marginal Properties, to allow the construction of a covered patio which will be approximately 1' off the north property line instead of the required minimum 10' and, to the extent it is necessary, to allow the walkway surrounding the pool to be approximately 4'6" instead of the required minimum 10'; and Section 155.068 (b) (1), of the Zoning Ordinance, to allow the construction of a covered patio which will be approximately 1' off the north property line instead of the required minimum 3'. Improvements (or structures) located on said property is a single-family residence, and a dock.

Legally described as: The Elms Tr. 7 Sec. 2 of the Springfield Lake Lands. Tax Identification# 29-02.0-176-008
The property is located at 8 The Elms, Springfield, Illinois.
The petitioners are Joseph M. Kulek, and Margaret A. Kulek, as lake lease holders, By Attorneys Sheehan & Sheehan

Lawyers, P.C., Patrick J. Sheehan, III, of Counsel.
Docket No. 2026-011
John Harris
Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition.

A petition for a variance of section 155.095(k), Required Accessory Off-Street Parking Spaces: Community Facilities Uses: Commercial Daycare Center. Subject property consists of a mixed-use building of approximately 20,000 square feet. Petitioner desires to construct and operate a day care facility into portions of the existing building. Exhibit "A" attached to the petition is a color-coded key showing subject property, and Page 2 of Exhibit "A" is a count table which shows all users in the mixed-use building. Petitioner plans to open the daycare in three distinct phases. The first proposed phase, (Phase I), would consist of use of 1,820 square feet of the aforementioned building, including two pre-existing bathrooms and 2 classrooms. Phase I is the first of two blue sections shown in Exhibit "A", and is the northwestern most room. As proposed, Phase I, does not currently require the parking variance. Phase II would consist of expanding the daycare another 3,400 sf for a total of 5,220 square feet of use, adding 4 classrooms and 2 existing bathrooms. Phase II is also depicted in blue and is the southwestern most room in Exhibit "A". A variance is required to facilitate Phase II. Phase III is not yet planned, but is a contingency for future optional usage. Other occupied spaces unrelated to the daycare are currently leased in the aforementioned property. Phase III exists in case current tenants of the property leave the premises and petitioner were to then rent additional space in the building. Exhibit "A, Page 2" contains a list by phase as to how many parking spaces are currently required, and how many would be required with the a proposed variance. Namely, Petitioner proposes that, to accommodate expansion of Phase I into Phase II that the number of spaces required for Phase I be changed from 18 to 5, and the number of spaces required for Phase II be changed from 34 to 9. To be in compliance with the zoning ordinance, petitioner respectfully requests a variance of 155.095 (k) related to the off-street parking requirements as they pertain to the day care center use to permit a reduction of the required parking spaces to .245 spaces per 100 square feet of floor area, instead of the 1 space per 100 square feet of floor area per code, and that 1) the number of off street parking spaces required in Phase I and II be reduced from 52 spaces to 14 spaces, and that 2) the same variance allowing .245 spaces of parking per 100 square feet of floor area be applied to Phase III. Improvements (or structures) located on the property are a mixed use building of approximately 20,000 square feet and surrounding parking. The subject real estate is currently classified in the S-2, Community Shopping & Office District District, Section 155.031.

Legally described as: PT Blocks 3 and 4 and PT VAC Alleys & Streets Woodside Sub Lands #1 (Includes all of the S 20' lots 6 & 11 B3) and further identified as Parcel: 22-03.0-304-007
The Property is located at 2160 South 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois
The Petitioner is Janene Menke, as Lessor, by Her Attorneys Drake, Narup, & Mead, PC, Jeffrey J. Cocagne, of Counsel.
Docket No. 2026-010
John Harris
Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition.

A petition for a Conditional Permitted Use pursuant to Sections: 155.033 (c) (14), Conditional Permitted Uses in the B-1, Highway Business Service District: Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization, and 155.211.7, Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization, and 155.492, Conditional Permitted Use, of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Petitioner RTD MC II, LLC, is the contract lessee of subject property. RTD MC II, LLC is leasing the property from property owner, Duchess Holdings, LLC. The Property is improved with a masonry and frame one-story commercial 4,582 square foot building and attendant paved parking area. This property is currently vacant. Petitioner, Spring Lucius Community LLC, is the proposed subtenant of the property and the holder of a cannabis dispensary license, and desires to operate an adult-use cannabis dispensing organization at the property. Petitioners, to be in compliance with the zoning ordinance, respectfully requests a Conditional Permitted Uses pursuant to 155.033 (c) (14) and 155.211.7, and 155.492, for use of property as an Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization. Improvements (or structures) located on said property are a frame one-story commercial 4,582 square foot building and attendant paved parking area. The subject real estate is currently classified in the B-1, Highway Business Service District, Section 155.033.

Legally described as: EXHIBIT A: Part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 1, Township 15 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows: Commencing at a stone marking the Southwest corner of Lot 3 in Wanless Place, Third Plat Addition to the City of Springfield (the point of beginning); thence South 61 degrees 32 minutes 22 seconds East along the North right of way line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad a distance of 656.50 feet to the West right of way line of South 31st Street (Dirksen Parkway); thence North 00 degrees 24 minutes 36 seconds West along the said West right of way of Dirksen Parkway a distance of 677.60 feet to a iron pipe which is the true point of beginning; thence South 89 degrees 35 minutes 24 seconds West a distance of 180.00 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 00 degrees 24 minutes 36 seconds West a distance of 195.00 feet to an iron pipe on the South right of way line of South Grand Avenue; thence North 89 degrees 16 minutes 26 seconds East along said South right of way line a distance of 117.12 feet to an iron pipe; thence South 40 degrees 04 minutes 52 seconds East along the Southwest right of way line of the intersection of South Grand Avenue and Dirksen Parkway a distance of 98.50 feet to an iron pipe; thence South 00 degrees 24 minutes 36 seconds East along said West right of way line of Dirksen Parkway a distance of 119.83 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.75 acres more or less, situated in Sangamon County, Illinois. Tax I.D. No. 22-01.0-101-014

The property is commonly known as 1401 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois. The petitioners are RTD MC II, LLC, as Contract Lessee, and Spring Lucius Community LLC, as proposed subtenant, By Attorneys GATES WISE SCHLOSSER & GOEBEL, Gordon W. Gates of Counsel.
Docket No. 2026-009
Ben Ferris
Assistant Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Com-

mission will meet on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition.

A petition for a Variance of Section 155.098, Required Accessory Off-Street Parking Spaces: Retail or Service Establishments not otherwise covered, of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Petitioner currently operates "Springfield Farm & Home Supply Store" on subject property, which contains two hundred sixteen (216) off-street parking spaces. Petitioner desires to construct an 18,000 square foot addition to the south side of the existing building. The total floor area with the addition will be sixty-three thousand six hundred fifty-five (63,655) square feet. Therefore, with the addition, a total of three hundred eighteen (318) off-street parking spaces would be required to comply with Zoning Ordinance Section 155.098 which requires 1 parking space for every 200 square feet of floor area. To be in compliance with the zoning ordinance, petitioner respectfully requests a Variance of 155.098 to allow 1 parking space for every 295 square feet of floor area instead of 1 space for every 200 square feet of floor area. The variance would allow two hundred sixteen (216) off-street parking spaces, instead of the three hundred eighteen (318) total spaces for a retail building totaling sixty-three thousand six hundred fifty-five (63,655) square feet of floor area.

Improvements (or structures) located on the property are a sixty-thousand two hundred ninety-two (60,292) square-foot retail store, of which forty-five thousand six hundred fifty-five (45,655) square feet is "floor area" as defined in 155.086 of the Zoning Ordinance. The subject real estate is currently classified in the I-1, Light Industrial District, Section 155.040. Legally described as: All that part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, in Township 16 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian, lying East of the East line of the right of way of U.S. Highway 66 By-Pass; Except the North Third thereof, and except the South Third thereof; Also except therefrom part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 16 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian, Sangamon County, Illinois, further described as commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 13, thence South 00 degrees 52 minutes 36 seconds East on the East line of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13 a distance of 895.02 feet to the true point of beginning; thence continue South 00 degrees 52 minutes 36 seconds East on the said East line a distance of 418.98 feet; thence North 89 degrees 17 minutes 34 seconds West parallel with the North line of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, a distance of 2025.84 feet to the East right of way line of Dirksen Parkway; thence North 01 degree 26 minutes 39 seconds East on the East right of way line a distance of 418.85 feet; thence South 89 degrees 17 minutes 34 seconds East parallel with the North line of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, a distance of 2008.88 feet to the point of beginning, said exception containing 19.40 acres. And also excepting that portion thereof deeded to the People of the State of Illinois by Warranty Deed recorded August 22, 1997 as Document No. 97-34205. All situated in Sangamon County, Illinois, as recorded in Document Number 2022R00152, in the office of the Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, State of Illinois. Tax ID Number: 14-13.0-200-042.

The Property is located at 2804 North Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois. The Petitioner is Springfield Farm Supply Co., Inc., By Adam K. Bowles, its President, and Michael L. Pauling, its CEO; By its attorneys Schmiedeskamp Robertson Neu & Mitchell, LLP, Harold B. Oakley, of

Counsel.
Docket No. 2026-008
Ben Ferris
Assistant Zoning Administrator

NOTICE

In the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois, GAZMEND RUSHITI, Plaintiff vs. ADA RICHARDS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants, Foreclosure, Case No. 2026-FC-9. NOTICE is hereby given you, UNKNOWN OWNERS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, that suit entitled as above has been commenced and is now pending wherein Plaintiff seeks to foreclose a contract for deed affecting the following described property, to-wit: The South 100 feet of Lot Twenty-five (25) of Hugo Thoma's Addition. Except all coal, minerals and mining rights heretofore conveyed of record. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois. Commonly known as: 837 E. Percy Avenue Springfield, IL 62702 Tax I.D. #: 14-22.0-202-022 And you are further notified that unless you appear on or before March 2, 2026, and defend in said suit, default judgment may be entered against you on the day following or thereafter. Joe Roesch Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Illinois Attorneys for Plaintiff: Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP P.O. Box 79 Springfield, IL 62705-0079 217/544-4868

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition. A petition for variance of Sections: 155.061, Basic Yard Requirements, and 155.064, Required Front Yards in Partly Residential Blocks, and 155.100, Required Accessory Off-Street Parking Spaces: Eating and Drinking Establishments, and 155.114(b), Regulations for the Location of Off-Street Parking Facilities, of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Petitioner desires to construct an addition to the West side and South end of the existing structure to provide adequate space to run a small restaurant serving alcohol. Petitioner, to be in compliance with the zoning ordinance, respectfully requests variation of: 155.061 and 155.064, related to the front yard setback requirement to allow the new addition (north property line) to continue at the existing building line of approximately eleven (11') feet instead of twenty (20') feet as required in Section 155.064; and variances related to accessory off street parking provisions for: 155.114 (b) to allow a parking space in a portion of the front setback as illustrated in Exhibit A attached to the petition, or a variance of 155.100 to allow 6 accessory off street parking spaces instead of the 7 required spaces as shown in Exhibit B attached to the petition. Improvements (or structures) located on the property are a frame building consisting of one business suite, and a parking lot with 10 noncompliant spaces. The subject real estate is currently classified in the S-2 Community Shopping and Office District, Section 155.031. Legally described as The West Forty (40') feet of Lots 22, 23, and 24, block 4 of the Gehlman and Turner Subdivision situated in the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois; commonly known as 910 South Grand Avenue West, Springfield, Illinois, and further identified as Index #22-04.0-102-015 and Index #22-04.0-102-014. The Property is located at 910 South Grand Avenue West, Springfield, Illinois. The Petitioner is Ambers, LLC, by Hector

Alvarado, its President.
Docket No. 2026-007
John Harris
Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition. A petition for reclassification of property from B-2, General Business Service District, Section 155.034, to B-1, Highway Business Service District, Section 155.033, of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Petitioners are contract purchaser of subject property and desires to bring the property to compliance with the zoning ordinance and potentially redevelop the restaurant to a size greater than the existing 4,032 square feet. The potential new construction would be approximately 5,500 square feet. To be in compliance with the zoning ordinance, petitioner respectfully request reclassification of property from B-2 to B-1 to continue operating as a commercial restaurant with a drive through and to potentially increase the square footage of the current building by way of demolition and rebuilding. Improvements (or structures) located on the property are a one story brick and frame building consisting of a commercial restaurant with a drive-through. Subject property is currently classified in the B-2, General Business Service District, Section 155.034. Legally described as Lot 1A, of the redivision Lot 1 Northfield Plaza first Addition, of the City of Springfield, as per Plat recorded as document #95-08486 in the records of Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois. Exempting therefrom that part of the land conveyed to the people of the State of Illinois, Department of Transportation by Special Warranty Deed recorded December 18, 2002 as document No. 2002R73755. Tax ID: 14-13.0-478-009 The Property is located at 3200 Northfield Drive, Springfield, Illinois. The Petitioner is AMM Springfield, LLC, by Jordan Chapman, its Authorized Agent. Docket No. 2026-006
John Harris
Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition. A petition for a Variance of Sections 155.320 (d) and (e), Permitted Accessory On-Premises Signs, of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Petitioner desires to install an illuminated pylon sign with the business name and logo for Porsche on the East side of subject property. The sign is approximately 134 Square Feet. To be in compliance with the zoning ordinance, petitioner respectfully requests a variance of: 155.320 (d) to allow said sign without the required landscaping with ground-cover, with a minimum five-foot diameter, directly around the base of the sign; and 155.320 (e) to allow said sign to be placed on the property with no setback from the East property line instead of the 10 feet required by code. Improvements (or structures) located on the property are a commercial building used by the owners for automobile sales. The subject real estate is currently classified in the I-1, Light Industrial District, Section 155.040. Legally described as Lots 1 & 2 Block 6 Old Town Plat and Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 Block 24 Mason's Addition, and further identified by PIN: 14-28.0-483-010. The Property is located at 100 E Madison Street. The Petitioner is First & Madison, LLC

d/b/a Isringhausen Imports, Inc., by Cory Libka, its General Manager.
Docket No. 2026-005
John Harris
Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition. A petition to vary Section 9 (Docks) of Appendix A of the Land Use Plan for Lake Springfield and its Marginal Properties. The petitioner desires to add to six existing boat docks, identified in Exhibit 2 of the petition as docks A through E and one T pier, which are: A-177, B-172, C-107 and D-129, E-125 and T-Pier-132 feet. Petitioner desires an addition to each dock to be no more than two hundred feet from the shoreline from the point known as normal full pool elevation instead of the 100 feet per dock. To be in compliance with code, petitioner respectfully requests to vary the Lake Land Use Plan, Appendix A, Section 9 (Docks) to allow extension of the docks A through E and the T Pier to no more than two hundred feet from the shore line from the point known as full pool elevation. Improvements (or structures) located on said property are a building with a restaurant, bar, kitchen, night watchman's quarters, and accessory buildings including a pool and pavilion. There are six floating docks that extend into the lake and allow for member parking, visitor parking, and member leased slips. Subject Real Estate is currently classified in the R-1, Single family residence district, Section 155.016. Legally described as: HICKORY POINT TRACT A SECTION 35 and consists of approximately 6.53 non-farm acres. Tax identification number 22-35.0-276-002 The property is located at 76 Yacht Club Road, Springfield, Illinois. The Petitioner is Island Bay Yacht Club, By It's Attorneys, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, By Alex Rabin, its Attorney and Past Commodore Docket No. 2026-004
Ben Ferris
Assistant Zoning Administrator

Performance Pipelining, Inc, 1551 W. Norris Dr. Ottawa Il 61350, 815-433-0080 is seeking Sherwood & Timberlane - Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Contract #PW26-12-50 Within the City of Springfield for subcontracting opportunities in the following areas: Landscaping, High Pressure Cleaning, Televising of Sewers, Traffic Control, Excavations and Bypass Control. All disadvantaged businesses should contact John Hunter VIA EMAIL before January 26th to discuss the subcontracting and employment opportunities. Consideration will be based on bid amount, business references, financial resources and manpower availability. John Hunter jhunter@ppi-liner.com Ph 815-795-0594 Fax 815-431-0307

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Plaintiff, v. CLUB CAR WASH LINCOLNSHIRE, LLC, ET AL., Defendants.

Case Number: 2025ED000005 PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for judgment as to the determination of just compensation for certain real property legally described in Exhibits A and B, and for other relief. (See attached legal description if applicable.) EXHIBIT A DESCRIPTION OF RIGHT OF WAY F.A.P. ROUTE 666 (BL-55/6TH ST) SECTION (110X-5) WRS, N, SW JOB NO. R-96-003-10 PARCEL 6030111 SANGAMON COUNTY STA. 20+97.59 TO STA. 22+39.26 CLUB CAR WASH LINCOLNSHIRE, LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 22-15.0-326-003 ADDRESS: 1001 LINCOLNSHIRE BLVD., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711 Part of Lot 1 of the Final Plat of Club Carwash Minor Subdivision in the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 15 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian in Sangamon County, Illinois further described as: Commencing at an iron pin at the northwest corner of said Lot 1 with said point being on the existing easterly curved right of way of F.A.P. Route 666 (Bus I-55/South Sixth St); thence along said easterly right of way on a curve to the right with a radius of 5,830.00 feet through a central angle of 00 degrees 40 minutes 31 seconds having a chord distance of 68.70 feet bearing South 05 degrees 10 minutes 15 seconds East an arc distance of 68.70 feet to a point of curvature being the point of beginning; thence on a curve to the left with a radius of 198.00 feet through a central angle of 16 degrees 12 minutes 08 seconds having a chord distance of 55.80 feet bearing South 46 degrees 48 minutes 40 seconds East an arc distance of 55.99 feet; thence South 35 degrees 45 minutes 16 seconds West 9.00 feet to a point of curvature; thence on a curve to the left with a radius of 207.00 feet through a central angle of 33 degrees 06 minutes 02 seconds having a chord distance of 117.93 feet bearing South 71 degrees 26 minutes 01 second East an arc distance of 119.59 feet to the existing northerly right of way line of Lincolnshire Blvd.; thence South 88 degrees 30 minutes 29 seconds West 65.64 feet along said northerly right of way line to a point of curvature; thence continuing along said northerly right of way on a curve to the right with a radius of 133.50 feet through a central angle of 34 degrees 42 minutes 50 seconds having a chord distance of 79.65 feet bearing North 74 degrees 09 minutes 03 seconds West an arc distance of 80.88 feet to a point of curvature on the existing easterly curved right of way of F.A.P. Route 666 (Bus I-55/South Sixth St); thence along said easterly right of way on a curve to the left with a radius of 5,830.00 feet through a central angle of 00 degrees 37 minutes 16 seconds having a chord distance of 63.20 feet bearing North 04 degrees 31 minutes 22 seconds West an arc distance of 63.20 feet to the point of beginning containing 0.072 acres (3,151 square feet). The said Real Estate being also shown by the plat hereto attached and made a part hereof. Bearings and distances are based on the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System NAD83 (1997) - West Zone. EXHIBIT B DESCRIPTION OF TEMPORARY EASEMENT F.A.P. ROUTE 666 (BL-55/6TH ST) SECTION (110X-5) WRS, N, SW JOB NO. R-96-003-10 PARCEL 6030111 TE SANGAMON COUNTY

STA. 21+28.48 TO STA. 24+53.17 CLUB CAR WASH LINCOLNSHIRE, LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY PURPOSE OF EASEMENT: GRADING & SHAPING TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 22-15.0-326-003 ADDRESS: 1001 LINCOLNSHIRE BLVD., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711 Part of Lot 1 of the Final Plat of Club Carwash Minor Subdivision in the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 15 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian in Sangamon County, Illinois further described as: Beginning at an iron pin at the northwest corner of said Lot 1 with said point being on the existing easterly curved right of way of F.A.P. Route 666 (Bus I-55/South Sixth St); thence North 88 degrees 30 minutes 29 seconds East 53.16 along the south line of the Vacation of 6th Street Frontage Road by Ordinance No. 200-06-2020; thence North 43 degrees 31 minutes 32 seconds East 70.73 feet to the north line of said Southwest Quarter; thence South 01 degree 29 minutes 31 seconds East 45.00 feet; thence South 88 degrees 30 minutes 29 seconds West 31.35 feet parallel with said south line; thence South 56 degrees 00 minutes 56 seconds West 27.92 feet; thence South 88 degrees 30 minutes 29 seconds West 37.57 feet parallel with said south line to a point of curvature; thence on a curve to the right with a radius of 5,840.00 feet through a central angle of 00 degrees 37 minutes 24 seconds having a chord distance of 63.54 feet bearing South 05 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds East an arc distance of 63.54 feet to a point of curvature; thence on a curve to the left with a radius of 193.00 feet through a central angle of 14 degrees 42 minutes 22 seconds having a chord distance of 49.40 feet bearing South 49 degrees 03 minutes 41 seconds East an arc distance of 49.54 feet; thence South 35 degrees 45 minutes 16 seconds West 9.00 feet to a point of curvature; thence on a curve to the left with a radius of 202.00 feet through a central angle of 29 degrees 44 minutes 43 seconds having a chord distance of 103.70 feet bearing South 71 degrees 11 minutes 25 seconds East an arc distance of 104.87 feet; thence North 88 degrees 30 minutes 39 seconds East 22.93 feet parallel with the existing centerline of Lincolnshire Blvd.; thence South 87 degrees 32 minutes 43 seconds East 149.90 feet; thence South 84 degrees 51 minutes 14 seconds East 54.63 feet to the east line of said Lot 1; thence South 01 degree 28 minutes 27 seconds East 5.52 feet along said east line to a point of curvature on the existing northerly curved right of way line of Lincolnshire Blvd.; thence along said northerly right of way on a curve to the right with a radius of 915.50 feet through a central angle of 03 degrees 12 minutes 18 seconds having a chord distance of 51.20 feet bearing North 84 degrees 58 minutes 29 seconds West an arc distance of 51.21 feet to a point of curvature; thence continuing along said northerly right of way on a curve to the left with a radius of 1,084.50 feet through a central angle of 08 degrees 06 minutes 41 seconds having a chord distance of 153.40 feet bearing North 87 degrees 26 minutes 37 seconds West an arc distance of 153.53 feet; thence South 88 degrees 30 minutes 29 seconds West 16.40 feet along said northerly right of way line to a point of curvature; thence on a curve to the right with a radius of 207.00 feet through a central angle of 33 degrees 06 minutes 02 seconds having a chord distance of 117.93 feet bearing North 71 degrees 26 minutes 01 second West an arc distance of 119.59 feet; thence North 35 degrees 45 minutes 16 seconds East 9.00 feet to a point of curvature; thence on a curve to the right with a radius of

198.00 feet through a central angle of 16 degrees 12 minutes 08 seconds having a chord distance of 55.80 feet bearing North 46 degrees 48 minutes 40 seconds West an arc distance of 55.99 feet to a point of curvature on the existing easterly curved right of way of F.A.P. Route 666 (Bus I-55/South Sixth St); thence along said easterly right of way on a curve to the left with a radius of 5,830.00 feet through a central angle of 00 degrees 40 minutes 31 seconds having a chord distance of 68.70 feet bearing North 05 degrees 10 minutes 15 seconds West an arc distance of 68.70 feet to the point of beginning containing 0.094 acres (4,106 square feet). The said Real Estate being also shown by the plat hereto attached and made a part hereof.

Bearings and distances are based on the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System NAD83 (1997) - West Zone. sd UNLESS YOU file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S 9th St. #405, Springfield, Illinois 62701, on or before February 11, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT. Witness: December 29, 2025 (Clerk of the Circuit Court) By: Joseph B. Roesch Name: Julie Beyers Attorney for: Plaintiff Address: 601 East William Street City, State, Zip: Decatur, IL 62523 Telephone: (217) 422-1719 Email: juliebeyers@hsbattys.com 8051-960915

Publication notice IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff,

vs. CALVARY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant(s). No. 25-MR-598 NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO, Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, that a complaint has been filed in the above named court on December 22, 2025 for demolition of the structure or structures located on the real estate commonly known as 829 S. 17th St, Springfield, Illinois, and legally described as: LOT 9 IN BLOCK OF J.H. SPEAR'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD (Permanent Parcel No. 14-35.0-306-016); and for other relief.

UNLESS Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants FILE an answer or otherwise file an appearance in this case in the office of the clerk of this court, Room 405 Sangamon County Building, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, on or before February 9, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY FOR THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE COMPLAINT. /s/ Joe Roesch Clerk of Court Gregory E. Moredock Corporation Counsel Kateah McMasters ARDC #6309668 Assistant Corporation Counsel Attorneys for Plaintiff 800 E. Monroe, Room 327 Springfield, IL 62701-1653 (217) 789-2375 kateah.mcmasters@springfield.il.us

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Sangamon County Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, January 15th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., in the County Board Chambers, Room 222 of the Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. 9th St., Springfield, Illinois, to hear the testimony for the petition of C1 Sangamon LLC, contract purchaser of property commonly known as the 13000 Block of Thayer Road, Waverly, IL 62692 and legally described as follows: Parcel Identification Numbers: 33-29.0-200-001, 33-29.0-100-002, 33-20.0-400-002 & 33-20.0-300-003 Petitioner requests pursuant to Chapter 17.58 and Section 17.39.020, a Conditional Permitted Use for a Data Center. Also in attendance to hear the testimony will be the members of the Zoning & Land Use Committee of the Sangamon County Board. Dated this 8th day of December, 2025 Sangamon County Zoning Board of Appeals CHARLES W. CHIMENTO, CHAIRMAN

Ted Cole, last known address: 2048 S 5th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Unit #13. Contents: household items, personal items and tools. The above-named occupant is hereby notified that the contents of said storage units: Grace Church Mini Storage, 3401 S 6th St, Springfield, IL 62703, will be sold or disposed of if payment is not received in full by February 6, 2025. Cash, Cashier's Check or Money Order will be accepted.

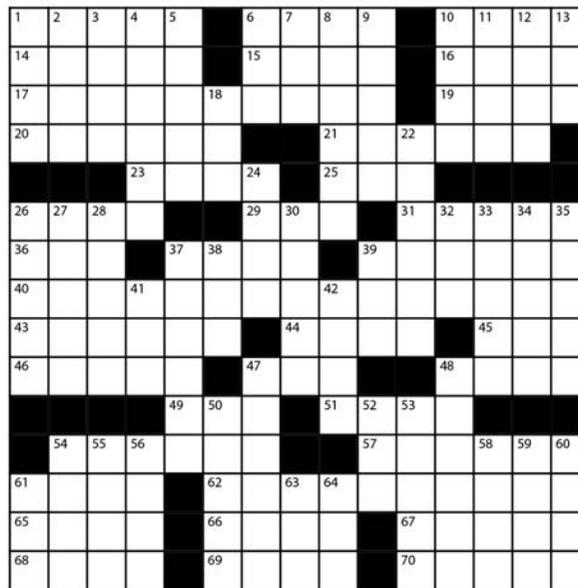
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF SANDRA J. KIHN, Deceased. No. 2026PR22 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Sandra J. Kihn, a resident of Sherman, Sangamon County, Illinois, who died in Springfield, Illinois, on December 27, 2025. Ashley A. Pasbrig, whose post office address is 230 Prairie Place, Sherman, Illinois 62684, was appointed executor of her estate on January 20, 2026. The attorneys for the executor are Hart, Southworth & Witsman, One North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 501, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62702, or with the executor, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, of this notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 20th day of January, 2026. Samuel J. Witsman (ARDC #6193744) Alexander S. Prillaman (ARDC #6339535) Hart, Southworth & Witsman Suite 501, One North Old State Capitol Plaza Springfield, Illinois 62701 Telephone: (217) 753-0055 switsman@hswnet.com aprillaman@hswnet.com 8051-961379

The end of spring? Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 928

Across

- 1. Ishmael's people
- 6. Microsoft product
- 10. Trunk growth
- 14. Deadly snake
- 15. Black-and-white treat
- 16. Mine: Fr.
- 17. Shut-in's anxiety
- 19. Safety org.
- 20. Bartered
- 21. Mascara mishaps
- 23. Dog warnings
- 25. That, to Juanita
- 26. Possess
- 29. Switch settings
- 31. Little rascal
- 36. Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"
- 37. Peek-
- 39. Stab in the back
- 40. Tech school offering
- 43. Gov. Schwarzenegger
- 44. Reddish horse
- 45. Goal
- 46. Union member
- 47. Allow
- 48. "___, old chap"
- 49. Language suffix
- 51. Declares
- 54. Big to-do
- 57. Ranger's domain
- 61. Military vehicle
- 62. Masks are worn here
- 65. Largest of seven
- 66. "___ Kampf!"
- 67. "I'll do it!"
- 68. Like Cheerios
- 69. LBJ or RMN, e.g.
- 70. Swings around



Down

- 1. Billing abbr.
- 2. Crowd sound
- 3. "Dancing Queen" group
- 4. River crosser
- 5. Not so crazy
- 6. Trial
- 7. Redenbacher, to friends
- 8. Big Cup maker
- 9. College quarters
- 10. Doll's cry
- 11. Actor Sharif
- 12. Lays down the lawn
- 13. Luckman of Chicago Bears fame

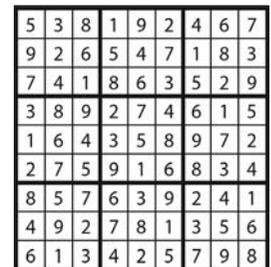
- 18. New Deal pres.
- 22. Enter cautiously
- 24. Any day now
- 26. Loud chuckles
- 27. "Dying / Is ___," like anything else": Plath
- 28. "Wheel" woman
- 30. ___ Dame
- 32. Cigarette pkg.
- 33. Met highlights
- 34. Craze
- 35. Miniature
- 37. Out for the night
- 38. Hunk's pride
- 39. Call to Bo-peep
- 41. Part of an E-mail address
- 42. Decomposes

- 47. It's not quite a ringer
- 48. Jerusalem's land
- 50. Dry spell
- 52. It's south of Eur.
- 53. Cat calls
- 54. ___ cow (flips out)
- 55. "I'm working ___!"
- 56. "Fine by me"
- 58. "___, Brute?"
- 59. Sown, on the Seine
- 60. "___ bien!"
- 61. Eastern "way"
- 63. Fizzle out
- 64. Coast Guard rank: Abbr.

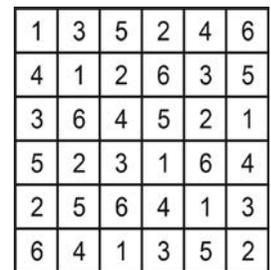
Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #927



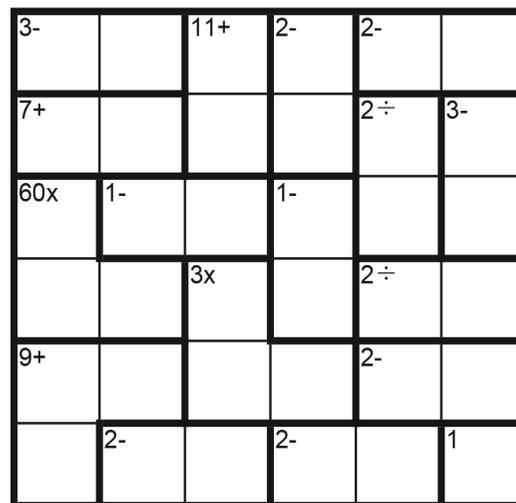
Sudoku answers from #927



JoshJosh answers from #927

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 928

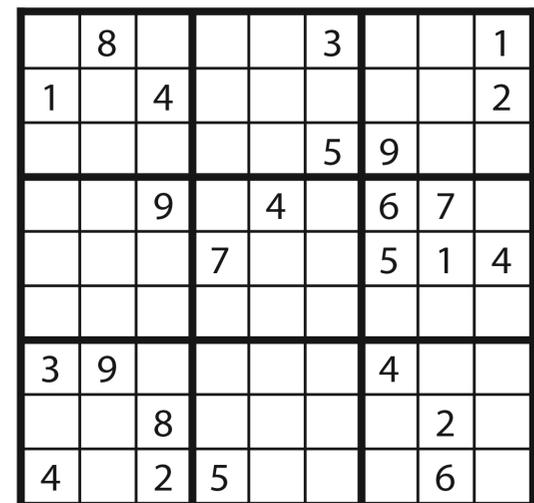
Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.



Difficulty medium

Sudoku No. 928

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



Difficulty hard

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER

12TH

2026

100TH ANNIVERSARY *Celebration*

BANK OF SPRINGFIELD CENTER
Convention Center Plaza #1
Springfield, IL 62701

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COME IN EARLY 2026!



Springfield
Urban League, Inc.

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

