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Grants to Illinois won't cover Medicaid cuts

State received second-smallest federal health care grant among neighboring states

HEALTH | Nikoel Hytrek, Capitol News Illinois

Illinois will receive \$193 million for each of the next five years to expand health care access for the approximately 1.9 million people in rural areas – or about \$101 annually for every rural Illinoisan.

The money comes from the \$50 billion federal Rural Healthcare Transformation Program fund, which Congress created to offset federal Medicaid spending cuts included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, or H.R. 1, that passed last summer.

But health care organizations said the money will not be enough to compensate for Medicaid cuts.

“These funds are good, and we’re going to put them to good use, but it’s not a solution,” said Jordan Powell, senior vice president of health policy and finance for the Illinois Health and Hospital Association. “It’s not going to mitigate the impact of the significant Medicaid cuts that are coming our way.”

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services said between 190,000 to 360,000 Medicaid recipients are at risk of losing coverage in Illinois because of new work requirements.

H.R. 1 also imposes a tighter cap on how much money states can raise for their Medicaid programs through provider taxes. The new limits will be phased in, starting in fiscal year 2028, and could reduce total Medicaid funding in Illinois by \$4.5 billion a year by fiscal year 2031.

“Long term, we know a number of HR 1 provisions will have a devastating impact on health care in our state and present significant challenges with respect to maintaining equitable access to high-quality healthcare coverage for all Illinois residents,” the



department said in a statement.

Illinois has 85 small and rural hospitals that serve as hubs for access to care for people who can't travel long distances. Nearly 30% operate at a deficit, though, and most of the patients they serve are on Medicare or Medicaid, according to the Health and Hospital Association.

Powell described the new federal money as a bandage, not a permanent solution for the cuts Illinois hospitals will face. As Medicaid reimbursement decreases, he said, hospitals could be forced to reduce services like obstetrics, cut staff, or close entirely.

Grant considerations

The amount each state received ranged from \$147 million for New Jersey to \$281 million for Texas, and rural population appeared to be only a small factor in the equation.

That means states like Texas, with the largest

rural population in the country, got far less per rural resident than states like Rhode Island, which has the smallest. Texas received \$66 per rural resident and Rhode Island, with a total award of \$156 million, received \$6,305 per rural resident.

Half of the total \$50 billion was awarded to states equally, but the other half was awarded based on specific factors such as a state's current or planned policies for rural health care and proposed ideas that align with federal Make America Healthy Again priorities.

Among its neighbors, Illinois has the second-lowest award amount. Michigan, with its \$173 million award, is the only state with less.

In the Midwest, Michigan's rural population is slightly larger than Illinois', but it received only \$83 per person compared to Illinois' \$101. Iowa, with fewer rural residents than Illinois, got \$139 per rural person.

Illinois' priorities

When filling out the application to the federal government, Illinois' HFS consulted provider associations, rural hospitals, community health centers, community mental health centers, universities and community colleges, legislators and vendors.

According to the department, the state's application focused on:

- Increasing the number of health care workers in rural areas with education, scholarships, training and incentive programs.
- Removing the barriers that rural residents face to getting health care by investing in mobile and telehealth services.

- Changing the way rural health care systems run by creating regional partnerships.

The federal government indicated a preference for “transforming systems,” not just supporting ongoing operating expenses.

HFS said the hospital transformation grants will be a good tool for expanding its existing Healthcare Transformation Collaboratives to rural areas. The state launched the collaborative effort in 2021 to improve health care outcomes and reduce disparities across the state. It involves providers sharing resources to meet the health needs of multiple communities and expand access to services like preventative and specialty care.

“Team-based care, in partnership with hospitals and primary care practices, looks to improve access to care for rural residents by building out infrastructure and technology in order to increase access to specialty services, transform healthcare delivery, and overcome known geographic barriers for these communities,” the agency said in an emailed statement.

Powell said increasing the workforce and cybersecurity at hospitals are some of the top priorities. After that, he said, expanding rural broadband internet and upgrading electronic health records are important.

“Workforce and technology were two of the main things that we heard from our members,” he said. “I think the state wants to emphasize better partnerships and collaboration between providers.”

‘Not a long-term fix’

Despite allowing rural hospitals and health systems to make needed improvements, Powell said he still doesn't think the money will be enough to make up for losing Medicaid payments.

“It's kind of like supplemental funding that's going to help them survive just a little bit longer,” he said. “I would actually say a significant portion of them are facing slim to negative margins, as is. And so this is funding that, again, will maintain some stability and viability for these organizations. But it's not a long-term fix.” □

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Editor's note

Good to hear about “My Heart's Downtown,” the new initiative oriented around Valentine's Day to focus attention on the heart of Springfield. “It's about people who care about downtown coming together to change its trajectory,” says Leah Wilson, executive director of Kidzeum and a member of the campaign committee. *Illinois Times* has supported downtown Springfield for all of *IT's* 50-plus years, and we'll be cheering efforts to “change its trajectory” in positive ways for 50 more. We note, however, that while the current campaign “invites Springfield to fall in love with downtown again,” people don't have to love it, just don't leave it. A healthy downtown is a fine amenity for any city. You don't have to love it to support historic preservation, nondemolition, bringing back state jobs and new apartments. You don't have to love it to applaud the churches, museums, politicians, residents and businesses that do. — Fletcher Farrar, editor



Left to right: Citizens Club board member Cynthia Lamar with Josh Sabo, Dr. Kari Wolf and Mike Murphy, who all served on the county's mental health commission. They spoke at the Jan. 23 Citizens Club to express support for an upcoming referendum that would use a 0.5% sales tax increase to fund mental health services.

PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

Creation of mental health board will be up to voters

County mental health commissioners lobby for approval of March sales tax referendum

MENTAL HEALTH | Dilpreet Raju

In less than two months, Sangamon County residents will determine, through a referendum vote, whether the county should levy a limited 0.5% sales tax increase to fund a Mental Health Board that would distribute tax dollars to social service providers.

Members of the county commission that recommended the Sangamon County Board adopt referendum language for a dedicated mental health board visited the Citizens Club of Springfield on Jan. 23 to drum up support for the upcoming referendum.

The sales tax increase would add an additional 5 cents of tax per \$10 of goods purchased and would not be included on groceries or medication. If approved, the tax would generate more than \$14 million annually for a mental health board, according to county estimates.

The vast majority of counties in Illinois have public entities called 708 boards funding mental health efforts, named after the decades-old Illinois bill-turned-law to grant the creation of such boards through a public

vote. The boards approve funding for local social service organizations through some form of tax revenue. While grants regularly prop up nonprofit organizations, 708 boards can stabilize funding for mental health services.

Mike Murphy, president and CEO of The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, chaired the county's exploratory commission of mental health boards. It included additional recommendations for instituting a mental health board.

"I want to make sure that we're checking them," Murphy said. "I don't want to establish this and then assume they're going to do a good job. I think it's going to be the responsibility of the County Board and others to make sure that they're actually performing."

Murphy, a Republican member of the state legislature from 2018 through 2021 and former owner of Charlie Parker's Diner, also reiterated that Springfield has a number of social service providers, but services are often limited due to funding and operating hours.

"We have a lot of great programs out there, but they're an inch deep and a foot wide. And they need to be a lot deeper and a lot wider," he said.

Ryan Croke, president of the Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission, shared some of the efforts underway to generate support for the referendum.

"There are letters going out to the general public, a few letters targeted at different audiences across the county," he said. Croke, who also serves as the first assistant deputy governor for Gov. JB Pritzker, overseeing health and human services agencies, hosted a Vote Yes for Mental Health fundraiser Jan. 26 at Hanson Professional Services.

If approved by the referendum vote on March 17, the County Board would be responsible for appointing members to the mental health board.

Citizens Club president Joyce Nardulli asked Murphy, "What happens if this referendum fails?"

"Status quo," Murphy said. □



The Kroger grocery store at 201 E. Bidwell St. Taylorville. PHOTO BY INE HUGHES

AG reaches settlement over Taylorville Kroger

Kroger and its contractor to pay state \$108,000 for mishandling asbestos

COURTS | Dilpreet Raju

Kroger and SSI Services, an Indianapolis-based contractor, agreed to pay Illinois \$108,000 over unsafe renovations to the Kroger grocery store in Taylorville, 201 E. Bidwell St., in order to settle a suit filed by Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul in 2022.

The suit, which was filed in Christian County court, alleged five different instances of noncompliance from Kroger and SSI Services. Taylorville's Kroger was closed for nearly six months in 2022 after a late July renovation inspection by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency found materials with asbestos in public areas of the grocery store.

"This settlement holds Kroger and SSI Services accountable for jeopardizing the public's health by exposing shoppers and employees to dangerous materials containing asbestos," Raoul said in a press statement. "I'm pleased that this case is resolved and that the abatement has been completed. I remain committed to protecting Illinois residents from those who would jeopardize their health, safety and the environment."

Asbestos is a group of mineral fibers previously used in construction before being phased out in the early 21st century after researchers discovered its carcinogenic effects. Inhaling asbestos could cause chronic respiratory diseases along with various forms of cancer.

The settlement states "defendants do not affirmatively admit any allegations... and nothing in this consent order shall be interpreted as such an admission." □

Paula Crouch faces primary opponent

Former deputy David Timm running against appointed Sangamon County Sheriff

ELECTIONS | Dean Olsen

The woman appointed as the new Sangamon County sheriff in the wake of the July 2024 murder of Sonya Massey says her experience, education and determination make her worthy of being elected to a four-year term.

"I just feel like we started moving in the right direction for improvements," Paula Crouch told *Illinois Times* when explaining her decision to seek a four-year term for a job that pays \$175,460 per year.

"By choosing to run," she said, "that just gives me the opportunity to give some of the changes that I put in place time to set. And then, obviously, there are some other things that I'm looking forward to for the future that really need more time than the two years I would have been allotted with just the appointment."

To achieve that goal, the first electoral challenge for Crouch, 52, who lives in rural Sangamon County between Williamsville and Sherman, will be prevailing in the March 17 Republican primary. Early voting begins Feb. 5.

Republican voters will choose between Crouch and David Timm, 51, a retired Sangamon County sheriff's deputy from rural Pleasant Plains.

The winner of the primary will face off in the Nov. 3 general election against Democrat Marc Bell, 62, a retired Illinois State Police master sergeant and Springfield resident who is running unopposed in his party's primary.

Crouch retired as a lieutenant in the Springfield Police Department in 2023 after 24 years in a variety of roles. Timm worked for the sheriff's office for 25½ years, including as a field training officer and a member of the SWAT team, before retiring in January 2025.

The sheriff's office employs more than 200 people, including those in the county jail, and operates with an annual budget of \$25.5 million.

Based on recent history, the winner of the GOP primary could have an edge in November. A Democrat hasn't been elected sheriff in Sangamon County since Martin Gutschenritter in 1974.

In 2024, former Republican sheriff Jack Campbell retired at age 60, in the middle of his term, amid calls for his resignation in the weeks surrounding Massey's shooting death.

The 36-year-old Black single mother of two teenagers was unarmed and dealing with mental illness when she died at the hands of a



Paula Crouch was appointed sheriff in September 2024 and is now seeking election to a four-year term. She faces a challenger in the March primary. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

white sheriff's deputy, Sean Grayson, on July 6, 2024.

Campbell condemned Grayson's actions but defended the 2023 hiring of Grayson, a Riverton resident, because Campbell said he wasn't aware of questions raised about Grayson's ethics and competency when Grayson worked at the Logan County Sheriff's Office and other central Illinois police departments.

Grayson, 31, was convicted by a jury of second-degree murder on Oct. 29. The trial was moved to Peoria County because of pretrial publicity surrounding the nationally publicized case. Grayson is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 29.

Crouch was appointed by the GOP-controlled County Board on Sept. 18, becoming the first female sheriff.

She has the support of the Sangamon County Republican Party and many prominent local Republicans. They include State's Attorney John Milhiser, Coroner Jim Allmon, Springfield Ward 7 Ald. Brad Carlson, state Rep. Mike Coffey, County Clerk Don Gray, Circuit Clerk Joe Roesch, former Springfield mayor Karen Hasara and former sheriffs Campbell and Neil Williamson.

But Crouch is trailing in campaign fundraising behind Timm, who said Crouch's endorsements are part of "the old guard system that's been in place that's still trying to

control what's going on there."

The two Republicans' campaign committees filed reports with the Illinois State Board of Elections showing Crouch with \$32,252 and Timm with \$62,025 at the end of the fourth quarter of 2025. Bell's committee reported \$9,385 at the end of the reporting period.

Timm said his campaign fundraising indicates his grass-roots support and outreach to voters and community groups. He has been endorsed by the union representing Sangamon County deputies, correctional officers and court security staff – Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 55 – as well as Illinois Troopers Lodge 41, Illinois FOP Corrections Lodge 263 and the Illinois State FOP.

Both Timm and Crouch said they want to see pay increased for deputies and correctional officers to help recruit and retain high-quality employees. Negotiations are under way between the county and the unions representing those workers on contracts that deal with pay and working conditions.

Since becoming sheriff, Crouch said she has worked to improve communication with the community.

She said she and her command staff have quarterly meetings with the Faith Coalition for the Common Good, Black Lives Matter Springfield and the Springfield branch of the NAACP.

Her office's recent release of a smartphone

app, The Sheriff's App, is designed to streamline communications with the public and the dissemination of information, she said.

Crouch was a neighborhood police officer during her career with the Springfield police, "and then I was a sergeant over the neighborhood policing division, so that opened my eyes to how communications can really improve relationships with the community."

She said her education and experience set her apart from Timm, who graduated from Pleasant Plains High School and earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from Lincoln Land Community College.

Crouch, who graduated from Auburn High School, earned her associate's in criminal justice from Lincoln Land, a bachelor's degree in business administration from Benedictine University and a master's in criminal justice administration from Western Illinois University.

"It's not just about being book smart," she said, "but it shows your ability to commit, to be dedicated to starting and finishing stuff, and then there's the knowledge that comes with that, as well."

Crouch said she has expanded training of staff on how to deescalate tense situations involving the public and got the training paid for by the Decatur-based Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

She also has put deputies and correctional officers through specific training on how to maintain and improve their mental health, and she improved training of jail staff on the use of tasers.

Timm said he would work to upgrade the surveillance camera system in the jail to increase accountability for the staff; Crouch said improvements in camera equipment are ongoing.

Timm said he has the support of the staff of the sheriff's office and will restore public trust in the sheriff's office. Crouch said her outsider status makes it easier for her to hold the staff accountable and improve the office.

"I have working relationships with a lot of these people, but they don't have to like me," Crouch said. "I don't need the popularity vote. My job is to run the sheriff's office, to keep the community safe, and to make sure that we are following the rules that are in place for law enforcement." □

Budzinski meets with Sangamon Towers owner

Pacific Management increases security measures in response to resident complaints

HOUSING | Dilpreet Raju



U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski held a Jan. 26 press conference in Springfield following a meeting with the owner and management of Sangamon Towers. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

Some progress has been made to address ongoing safety and hygiene complaints from residents at Sangamon Towers, 424 N. Fourth St., U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski said at a Jan. 26 press conference in the capital city.

Budzinski, who flipped Illinois' 13th congressional district for Democrats just over two years ago, said Pacific Management, the company that owns and operates Sangamon Towers, began to staff a security guard around the clock last month, roughly one month after the congresswoman sent a letter to Pacific Management highlighting resident complaints and *Illinois Times* reporting. Additionally, residents now need to present an ID when entering the building.

Jeff Richards, Pacific Management CEO, and Tammy Cloe, property manager of Sangamon Towers, spoke with Budzinski and Service Employees International Union staff on Jan. 26, according to a press announcement. Budzinski addressed the media afterwards, although Richards and Cloe did not join her.

"Today was a really positive, I think, big step forward," Budzinski said. "Pacific Management has made some really good commitments, firm commitments, especially around the security issues of the building."

In November, *Illinois Times* reported that seniors had constant issues with unauthorized visitors, broken elevators, bedbugs and other problems that upset the daily lives of residents. The privately owned building receives funding from the

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide affordable housing for low-income, elderly and disabled residents.

Sangamon Towers, which Budzinski noted was "originally started as senior independent, assisted living," has more than 120 units, even after some apartments were damaged from a fire set by an arsonist last July.

Kayla Watson, an SEIU caregiver, told reporters housing issues including mold, unclean public spaces and general security concerns have been ongoing for the 12 years she has been working there. Watson said residents were hesitant to speak up about issues due to fear of eviction and then having to find another place to stay.

"They have nowhere else to go, so if they speak up, (they wonder), 'Will they try to kick me out? Will they evict me? Where would I go?' or then I get, 'I told them, but nothing's been done about it,'" Watson said.

In the two months since Budzinski sent a letter to Pacific Management, Watson said there have still been complaints from residents about elevators, unaddressed mold and residents allowing unauthorized visitors inside.

Budzinski said creating more secure, affordable housing is one way to address the systemwide issues facing the country.

"This is not an issue that is just here within Springfield," she said. "We need more affordable housing. We also need affordable housing that is safe, secure and in good public health standing." □

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THANKS FOR ELECTRIC RELIEF

When people talk about high electricity bills, families and individuals are the first who come to mind. But businesses are heavily impacted by electricity prices, especially small business owners who have to pay higher electricity prices at home and at their business.

To give you an idea of how electricity price spikes hurt me and my small business, WindSolarUSA, I experienced rate increases of 18-22% at my home, which houses my home office that I work from four days per week. Fortunately, because of the business that I own and operate, I was able to expand my solar system to better meet my load and add two batteries to store my excess generation during the day so I can dispatch it at night or in times of a grid outage to keep my home powered and fully operational with clean energy from the sun.

An important achievement happened this fall that will help businesses across the state, as well as families. On Jan. 8, Gov. JB Pritzker signed the Clean and Reliable Grid

Affordability (CRGA) Act, a direct solution to address the historic electricity prices. When we needed relief the most, Gov. Pritzker and Sen. Doris Turner stepped up to help their constituents by passing and signing this vital legislation.

Not only will CRGA cut electricity prices, but it invests in the future of our grid to keep costs down and keep the grid running smoothly. Over time, Illinois will make its investment in CRGA back at a 12:1 ratio, and any business will tell you to take that deal every time.

Thank you again to Gov. Pritzker and Sen. Turner for supporting the small businesses that make up the backbone of our capital city's local economy.

*Michelle Knox
Springfield*

PONY UP

It's interesting that two data center projects have appeared in central Illinois over the last few months. Both are selling huge financial benefits to the local governments. They might perform on their promises, but they might not. So far, the proponents of these projects seem to be very confident that the massive power and water requirements will never



Gov. JB Pritzker signs the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act.

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impact rates for area residents. Maybe, but maybe not.

Since these companies appear to be financially able to build and operate at such a large scale over numerous states, it's probably a good idea to have total visibility into the source of their financial strength. There has been much written about how the big AI players are generating so much wealth for themselves and their investors. I would encourage our local decision-makers to have a crystal clear view into the whole financial system behind these projects. And then demand enough cash up front to protect local ratepayers from huge price increases for at least 50 years. This, of course, would be on top of the property taxes they are pledging to deliver.

There is a strategy in the business world, often overlooked, that is simply: "Put your money where your mouth is." Proceed with caution, local leaders.

*Mike Bartscht
Springfield*

IT'S ABOUT OIL

President Donald Trump's actions in Venezuela are terrifying. He claims he's doing this because Nicolas Maduro is a dictator – but we know the truth. It's all about oil.

What's worse is that Republicans in Congress are going to keep letting Pete Hegseth and Trump do whatever they want. We need a check on their lawlessness. I'm grateful that my representative, Nikki Budzinski, was quick to call him out for this. There's no need to be provoking foreign nations and risking soldiers' lives all to give a leg up to his Big Oil buddies.

We already have so much to fear with this administration's use of ICE and stepping on the Constitution – the last thing we need is a crisis abroad. Our focus should be on strengthening our democracy and solving real problems. We deserve leaders who are measured and responsible.

*Julie Dailey
Springfield*

Train Wreck

There has been a recent awful train wreck, here's one that didn't happen. My great aunt, then, a young woman worked alone in a country radio shack in Wisconsin. She listened in to the Morse code though against the rules, she discovered a train was coming on the wrong track and would collide with another train near her shack. She rushed out and with great physical effort moved one track on to a siding while the engineer cursed her out his window. Moments later, the other train rushed by and a collision was averted. Did she ever get praise for this act of heroism? Of course not. She was a woman, and whoever's fault it was that two trains would have surely collided and did not want it to be known. But I imagine the engineer sent to the siding breathed a silent prayer of thanks. Is this story true? Why would my great aunt have made it up and told it to the family? Who else would believe it if she had?

2026 Jacqueline Jackson

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Bears' Indiana gambit having an effect

POLITICS | Rich Miller

Illinois House Democrats were told last week that a state capital projects plan designed to assist Arlington Heights' bid to lure the Chicago Bears away from their Indiana stadium gambit would cost up to \$895 million.

None of the money would be used to directly build the new Bears stadium or the surrounding commercial district envisioned by the team's ownership. Gov. JB Pritzker insisted to reporters earlier this month that the projects would be done to help enhance the area. Capital assistance has been on the table since the Soldier Field tear-down proposal, but now we have an idea how much the team wants for this project.

A portion of the capital funding would be used for things like moving water mains to allow for the stadium's construction. Other improvements, including a major tollway project, would benefit the surrounding area, but, like the water lines, also probably wouldn't be done without the new stadium.

Politically, it's imperative that the state not be seen as giving the billionaire Bears ownership a taxpayer-funded stadium. If they can give themselves enough cover, then maybe (maybe) they might possibly find enough votes for this. But it's still a straight uphill climb even after Indiana has begun putting its cards on the table.

Lots of meetings have been held at the legislative and executive levels with the team and local government officials. Whether this is motion or actual movement remains to be seen. But some previously recalcitrant Chicago legislators do appear to be considering an Arlington Heights plan to prevent the team from crossing the border.

You've probably already seen that an Indiana Senate committee unanimously approved a bill to attract the Bears across state lines last week.

Before they passed the bill, the committee stripped out minority and women contract goals and protections, which is not a good look for the Bears here.

According to the bill, the stadium's construction funding includes "proceeds of local excise taxes" and "applicable proceeds of food and beverage tax and innkeepers (hotel) tax." Those local sales taxes would pay the lease, which would in turn pay off the bonds for building a new stadium.

Right now, there's no state limit on the amount of bonding authority to finance the complex, which will definitely run into the billions of dollars.

The size of the taxing district or whether tax increases or even new taxes would have to

be imposed are not specified in the bill, either.

Lots of local governments over a wide swath of Indiana could be frozen out of receiving increased sales tax collections, and/or taxpayers could feasibly be hit with new taxes or higher rates.

The legislative calendars in each state may give Indiana an advantage. Indiana state law requires adjournment by March 14, but Hoosier legislative leaders have said they want to adjourn by Feb. 27.

Indiana's House speaker said last week that he won't run a bill unless the Bears commit to moving to his state. If he sticks to his guns, he could force the team to pick a state well ahead of the Feb. 27 deadline.

The Illinois legislature doesn't usually do much until after the March primary, so getting something done or on the table this month would be way out of character.

And some Illinois legislative higher-ups want to wait to see what Indiana does before moving forward.

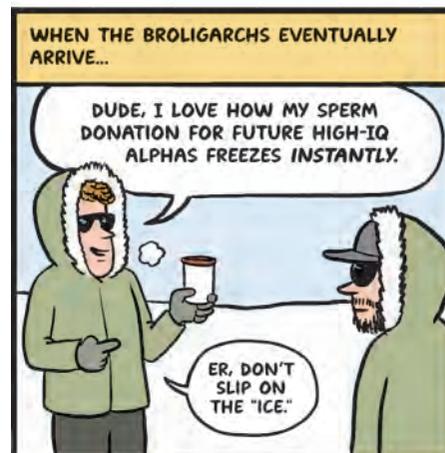
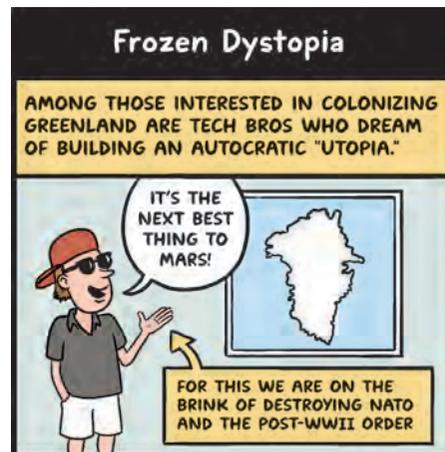
Indiana's governor has engaged in open warfare with key Republican state senators including its top leader after the chamber rejected his proposal to redraw congressional

boundaries to help Republicans. It's also doubtful that Indianapolis will welcome competition from another domed stadium for major sports and concert events, and the House speaker represents some Indianapolis suburbs.

The Bears also want a Payment in Lieu of Taxes bill from Illinois. The legislation would let them lock in annual payments to local governments for decades, rather than be subjected to the ever-increasing payments under the property tax system. From what I'm hearing, however, quite a large number of legislators don't yet have a decent understanding about what that PILOT bill would do. But the bill is seen as attractive to state leaders because it puts the onus on local governments and doesn't cost the state a dime.

The bottom line is that the Bears' Indiana gambit has managed to change the public tone of leaders like Gov. JB Pritzker, who is no longer openly hostile to the idea. House Speaker Chris Welch recently posted photos of himself hanging out in the Bears owner's skybox.

For both states, motion is one thing, actual movement is another. □



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Behind the scenes at District 186 schools

The recent state Report Card tells only part of the story

EDUCATION | Story and photos by David Blanchette

The 2025 Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Report Card that tracks performance at the state's public schools showed that six Springfield District 186 schools had improved their designations and four schools' designations had declined ("State report card improves for District 186," Dec. 4).

The ISBE Report Card ranks schools' performance with the summative designations of exemplary, commendable, targeted, comprehensive and intensive. These designations are based on proficiency testing in several subjects, including reading and math, plus attendance, graduation and other data.

In this in-depth review, we focus on two schools whose designations rose, Lanphier High School and Butler Elementary, and two whose designations dropped, Southeast High School and Enos Elementary. Do the Report Card scores tell the real story? Are higher-scoring schools more successful while lower-scoring schools are less so, or are there factors that dilute the distinction between the scores?

That depends on how you define success, as we discovered during visits to each school and in-depth interviews with the people who work in them.

Lanphier High School

"You have to want to work."

From 2024 to 2025, Lanphier High School moved up two designations from intensive (lowest performing 5% of schools or a graduation rate below 67%) to targeted.

"We are the pride of the north side and we are looking forward to achieving more success," said Lanphier High School principal Alicia Miller when asked about the institutional attitude that fueled Lanphier's rise in the state Report Card rankings. More specifically, Miller credits administrator-educator collaboration, a focus on individual student determination and a push to get students looking beyond high school as factors in Lanphier's success.

"It really takes all of us: our community partners, parents, students and every staff member here for us to experience success academically, socially and emotionally," Miller said. "Lanphier is a place where you want to be here, but you have to want to work. We celebrate every growth point that we receive and let the kids know we're proud of them."

Miller points to the school's "thinking



Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) coordinator Brad Hodapp, school improvement coach Betsy Hunsley-Hunt, and principal Alicia Miller walk the hallways of Lanphier High School.

classrooms" where students are "authentically learning, but more importantly, they want to learn."

"The kids are working on math problems with a group of students where one is writing out the problem, but it's the group telling their classmates how to solve it," Miller said. "It's important to get the kids talking, using academic language, and for teachers to be walking around, seeing what's going on and helping them. Students feel comfortable doing that around their peers, and it builds confidence and empowers kids to believe they can do it."

"Students have to join us in putting the work in and be willing to take risks academically," Miller added. "We have the supports in place and have teachers who are willing, ready and able to help them be successful academically."

Also high on Miller's list of Lanphier positives is the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, a college and career preparatory initiative. Lanphier graduation rates have gone up significantly, to 71% last year from the 53% that existed before Miller became principal. The school uses a post-secondary coach to help students

focus on opportunities for college, career and beyond.

Brad Hodapp is a history teacher and the Lanphier AVID coordinator.

"I'm very intentional about getting these kids focused on college and career," Hodapp said. "I make it a point to go into freshmen and sophomore classes to see these kids, get them motivated so they know where we're going over the next few years and stick with it."

"It's a constant battle of making it seem relevant, showing them the 'why,'" Hodapp added. "But when they actually make the

connection and get it, that's one of the reasons I do this job. You may not get every student all the time, but when you get the majority, when you get a challenging student, you feel validated. You feel like what you're doing is making a difference."

Lanphier has a school improvement coach, Betsy Hunsley-Hunt, whose job entails exactly what the title implies. Right now, one of her focuses is on improving Lanphier's Ninth Grade on Track numbers, a metric that follows the proficiency that freshmen have with an eye toward high school graduation in four years.

"One of our assistant principals works with that group and she's in constant contact with their parents. If they're not in school, she's on them," Hunsley-Hunt said. "She has special nights where she meets with them in the auditorium and goes through what is going on, what students need to do to graduate, and where they are right now."

Attendance is another issue on Hunsley-Hunt's agenda, and fighting chronic truancy is a problem that Lanphier shares with other District 186 schools. The chronic absenteeism district-wide for 2025 was 41%, down slightly from 42% in 2024. But four-tenths of the student body is still a big number.

"We know that our families across the district have multitudes of reasons why, but we just want our kids to show up every day, to come to school to work," said Hunsley-Hunt, whose efforts come with some personal rewards.

"We have some of the funniest and best kids. I'll go to a restaurant and they'll be like, 'Hey Mrs. Hunsley,' That's the best feeling in the world, and I would not want to be any other place. This is my home," Hunsley-Hunt said.

Principal Miller said the rate of behavior problems has dropped at Lanphier in recent years, and when discipline must be administered "we address it and then welcome our students back into the classroom to learn." Miller and her staff "try to look at things from a trauma-informed lens"

because "the trauma they experience outside of school can impact what happens in school," she said.

Lanphier has a support team in place for students that includes social workers, school psychologists, and the Mosaic Program offered through Memorial Behavioral Health where students can have therapy in school if they need it.

"I'm proud of Lanphier and our students, even the ones who don't always make the best choices," Miller said. "I always tell them they have a purpose, and we're going to work with them to see them through."

Miller maintains that Lanphier is a "great place" and she is encouraged by the school's recent Report Card scores.

"I'm excited for our growth because

Terrance Jordan slated for superintendent

EDUCATION | Dilpreet Raju

The Springfield Public Schools District 186 Board of Education has recommended Terrance Jordan to serve as the next superintendent, succeeding Jennifer Gill. He joined District administration in 2021 and currently serves as the assistant superintendent of family, community and school leadership.

Gill announced at the Aug. 18 school board meeting that she would retire June 30. She has spent the past 12 years as superintendent. The Board is expected to vote on Jordan's appointment at an upcoming meeting.

Jordan, 48, one of three finalists for the position, said becoming a superintendent was not part of his original career plan when he first became a kindergarten teaching assistant at Feitshans Elementary School in 2003.

"Maybe back then it was, 'I don't want to be superintendent; I saw how hard it was,'" Jordan said at a Jan. 16 press conference. "Over the years, I saw the impact that the superintendent can make on students in every position I've taken... In this role, I'll be able to impact almost 13,000 students, so I'm excited about that."

The selection process included about six separate interviews, according to Jordan. The District 186 Board of Education used the Illinois Association of School Boards, a nonprofit group that has members across the state, to search nationally for candidates. Ken Gilmore, board member and former principal, said the search committee also fielded responses from community groups that cover varied parts of Springfield.

"He really rose to the top in all the categories," Gilmore said of Jordan. He "had the highest scores for the ratings that were given from the community groups."

Gilmore also said Carmen Ayala, who now works for the Illinois Association of School Boards as a consultant and previously served as the state's superintendent, helped with the search.

Gill said she was Jordan's mentor when

he became a school principal and she then asked him to join her cabinet in 2021.

Gill also acknowledged that the school district's budget will be constrained for the upcoming year.

"We'll be, of course, designing and planning out budget, which is a little tight this year, and making a lot of decisions along that," Gill said.

Jordan emphasized a cautious approach to the transition and potential upcoming

educational leadership, Jordan served as a guidance dean at Washington Middle School. In 2014 he was named principal of Black Hawk Elementary, where he served for seven years and was recognized with the District 186 Administrator of the Year Award and the Illinois State Board of Education Award of Excellence. Jordan was also named one of *Springfield Business Journal's* Forty Under 40. Jordan went on to earn a doctorate from St. Louis University.

Board representative Buffy Lael-Wolf said in a written statement that Jordan stood out from a broad slate that included both internal and external candidates.

"We are confident that the best candidate rose to the top after a competitive search that included surveys, interviews and focus groups involving staff, families, students and community members," she said.

She noted that Jordan consistently demonstrated the priorities identified by the Board, including community connection, strategic leadership and a focus on student achievement.

"Dr. Jordan brings both vision and heart to this role," Lael-Wolf added. "He understands our district because he has lived our work. He knows our students, our families and our schools, and he has earned trust through years of service. We are confident he will lead District 186 with integrity, purpose and unwavering commitment to student success."

Jordan has served as a youth coach and board members for numerous civic and nonprofit organizations. He currently serves on the Heartland Continuum of Care Youth Homelessness Task Group, the Community Health Roundtable and the Faith Coalition for the Common Good Education Task Force. He is a graduate of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Springfield program and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Pending Board approval, Jordan will begin his role as superintendent on July 1.



PHOTO COURTESY DISTRICT 186

budget issues.

"It's not catching me off guard. I knew even when I applied that (the budget) was going to be one of the challenges facing the district, so we are ready for that," he said.

Jordan began his career with District 186 in 2003 as a kindergarten teaching assistant, later serving as a library technology specialist and parent educator. He then taught first and third grade at Dubois, Feitshans and Enos elementary schools while earning his administrative license and received the Horace Mann Rising Star Teaching Award.

After earning a master's degree in



Resource teacher Jamie Hasquin and first-grade teacher Ashley Barham pose with Butler Elementary School students.



Southeast High School Principal Cody Trigg talks to students Nevaeh Lathan and Arden Jones.

often you see or hear negative things in the community or in the news or social media that doesn't reflect what's really taking place in our building," Miller said. "The kids know, the parents know. We have amazing kids and amazing staff. How do you like us now?"

**Butler Elementary School
"This is why we do what we do."**

Butler Elementary School went up from targeted to commendable in the 2025 Report Card. Butler had no underperforming student groups, and one or more groups of students earned between 98-100% of the possible points for proficiency in one or more of the Report Card testing areas of English language arts, math and science.

Butler's previous state Report Card showed that the school had two targeted groups that needed improvement in their scores, Black students and students with disabilities. That's when the school administrators and educators started the instructional practice of co-teaching.

Within Butler classrooms there is one general education teacher and one special education teacher providing instruction. First-grade teacher Ashley Barham is part of a co-teaching classroom.

"Often students who are identified as needing additional support in one area are higher performing in other areas, and having the co-teaching model allows us to have those flexible groupings and meet the kids where they are," said Barham, who has been a teacher for 21 years. "This allows for two professionals to provide instruction to not just special education students, but all students in the classroom. As long as both teachers are invested in the process and understand the outcome, we've seen really great success with it."

Co-teaching involves a lot of planning and flexibility.

"A day or two in advance we'll meet and discuss who will work with students on the carpet and who will work with them at the small group table. Other times we'll look at each other in the middle of a class and pivot," Barham said. "Some days are hard, but it's wonderful to see when all of the hard work is paying off."

That payoff is what educators like Barham live for.

"When you see them make that first connection or read that first passage independently, and the joy that they have when they learn to love reading, it's amazing," Barham said. "When you give them free choice time and they choose to read a book rather than use technology, and several kids sit down to read their books together, that's when it's 'oh my gosh, this is why we do what we do.'"

Jamie Hasquin has been a resource teacher

for 11 years and is part of a Butler co-teaching team.

"I have a girl that didn't know letters and sounds at the beginning of the year, but she has just grown by leaps and bounds," Hasquin said. "Now she can do something that she couldn't do before, and I'm proud of her."

Hasquin said the relationships between co-teaching team members and the students are critical to the plan's success.

"Those relationships matter, transferring that ownership to the kids themselves, letting them know they can do this," Hasquin said. "They know it may be hard, but we show them that they have this ability, they are smart, and they can learn."

Sarah Beveridge, who previously served four years as Butler's assistant principal and has now been principal for five years, has made continual improvement a top priority at the school. That means time must be deliberately carved out during the day for planning.

"Embedded within our schedule is time for teachers to look at and analyze the data and make plans for instruction," Beveridge said. "If necessary, I will cover their classrooms because I love being in a classroom, and I'm a teacher first."

Time is also scheduled to address student needs.

"Each grade level has a 30-minute intervention time; we call it 'what I need' or WIN time," Beveridge said. "During that time classroom teachers and service providers come in to provide small group individualized instruction to students. We have focused our systems of support, both academics and behavior, to make sure every student receives exactly what they need to be successful."

"Instructional minutes matter in our building from the time the first bell rings to the end of the day. Every instructional minute is intentionally planned," Beveridge added. "When you walk in, instruction begins at nine o'clock and goes until 3:30. Often I'm the one having to tell teachers that we need to get the kids outside, we have to end the day. All teachers will say there's never enough time in the day."

Like all District 186 schools, Butler's educators and students take the Panorama Survey to measure the culture and climate of the school. Beveridge said the survey shows that Butler staff value continual professional learning, trust each other, and have a sense of belonging.

"We trust each other a lot. When someone has an idea, we try it and see if it works, we have open conversations about it and solve problems together," Beveridge said. "A teacher shares that joy and says, 'I did this and it felt good and it worked,' and then a teacher comes and says, 'Can I come and watch you?' They're sharing their successes with each other."

"We are leading with grace at Butler and

we have high expectations,” Beveridge said. “Students know we love them but we’re going to make them work, because they are here to learn and grow.”

Southeast High School “I’ve always called this process ‘rank and spank.’”

Southeast High School’s designation dropped from commendable to targeted in the latest state Report Card rankings, but its cumulative scores went up. Scores improved in graduation rate, freshmen on track, literacy and math skills, but because its children with disabilities subgroup did not meet proficiency in math and English, the school’s designation dropped to targeted.

“It’s infuriating because we’ve actually gone up almost 9% over two years,” said Southeast Principal Cody Trigg. “When your graduation rate’s gone up 4% and your freshmen on track has gone up 9%, but you drop in designation, I need the state to explain how that makes sense.”

Trigg, in his sixth year as principal, praised the school’s special education department because they go the extra mile for the 400 of Southeast’s 1,200 students who must be taught in different ways because they have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

“Not every student with an IEP is a cookie cutter, it’s not a one-size-fits-all fix,” said Trigg when addressing the cause for the school’s state Report Card designation drop. “In education today they always try to find ways to criticize teachers and education for what they’re not doing, but I could look at any school in our district and talk about the great things they are doing.”

“I’ve always called this process ‘rank and spank,’ where you rank us and then tell us what we did wrong,” Trigg added.

Trigg pointed to the school’s improved literacy scores, with the English Department leading the way, as one example of what Southeast is doing right. A key player in that effort is English teacher Karmen Goodrich,



Literacy coach Emily Drennan congratulates a student at Enos Elementary School.

a 23-year veteran who has helped to infuse literacy efforts into all of the school’s departments.

“Everyone has jumped in, the history and math departments are using more text-dependent questions, and even gym class has a reading component,” Goodrich said. “In English we’re doing a lot with thesis writing, the kids are doing analysis trying to understand the author’s purpose, so they can really understand all types of texts when they get out into the world.”

Goodrich is especially proud that the students themselves are suggesting novels that the class should read, a clear indication that the kids are excited about reading. But improving literacy is a constant struggle when

many Southeast students don’t come to class every day.

“If they’re not in their seats, they can’t learn. I have students that miss because they have to work, and that’s really sad,” Goodrich said. “Southeast is an amazing school. The teachers care, they’re working every day trying to better the kids, and I think eventually the Report Card scores will reflect these efforts.”

Principal Trigg agreed that truancy remains a concern at Southeast, and the issue will continue to be a primary focus. The school has a truancy coach whose job is to help remove attendance barriers such as transportation, child care arrangements or homelessness. A parent has been designated as a “face liaison” to work with other parents on family

engagement with the school.

Still, daily attendance remains an uphill battle for Southeast, and Trigg pointed to recent snowfalls as an example of the challenges faced by the school.

“Sidewalks weren’t shoveled and kids weren’t coming to school because they couldn’t get on the sidewalk, or we had kids walking in the middle of the street,” Trigg said. “That’s not a district problem, that’s a city problem, because there’s an ordinance that requires you to shovel your sidewalks. I have teachers telling me that they picked up students because they didn’t want to see them walking in the streets.”

“It takes a village, but sometimes that village feels like it’s just the school district. For some families, education is not at the top of their priority list,” Trigg added. “Any type of barrier for one day can be a huge determining factor for success in students, especially students who may be struggling with school.”

Trigg is proud of the Southeast graduation rate, which was 75% in 2025, up from 70% in 2024 and 60% in 2023. Realizing that not every high school graduate will choose to attend college, Trigg said the school is “meeting the kids where they’re at” to facilitate post-high-school plans, whether that means higher education, trade school or joining the workforce.

“Graduation is fantastic, but what are those students doing the day after graduation?” Trigg said. “You have 704 days of high school, but what are you doing on day 705?”

The teacher retention rate at Southeast High School is 93%, another figure to which Trigg points with pride, and said it is an indication of the “can-do” attitude at the school.

“If you get them in the doors, our educators will take care of the rest. We will make sure they are included, they’re cared for, they’re loved, and we’re setting them up to be lifelong citizens, not just graduates,” Trigg

 An advertisement for the Spring Home & Garden Issue. The background features a cozy outdoor patio with a fire pit, lounge furniture, and potted plants. The text is overlaid on the image.

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said. “People want to be here. The kids want to be here. The environment that kids are surrounded with here at Southeast is second to none.”

**Enos Elementary School
“That report card is not a true depiction of what happens within these walls.”**

Enos Elementary School dropped from commendable to targeted on the state Report Card, a move that doesn't sit well with educators at the school.

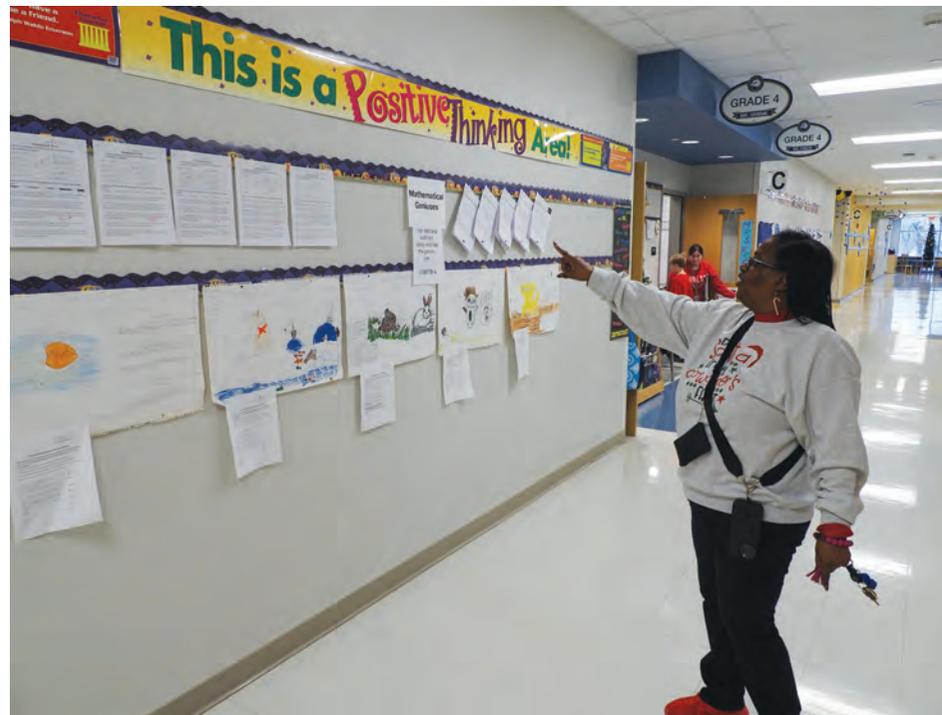
“They use standardized testing because it's cheap and fast and easy to implement, and then they can give everybody a number,” said Enos Elementary School teacher Nathan Grieme. “But children don't work that way. You can't quantify a child with a number.”

Grieme, a fourth-grade teacher with 23 years of experience, said the primary reason that Enos dropped in the state Report Card rankings is because of the school's high population of students with special needs.

“A lot of my kids are reading three to four years behind. If I am able to raise that kid up one level, like taking him from a first-grade reading level to second-grade, that kid has made more growth than he's ever made throughout his educational history,” Grieme said. “But the students still don't get credit for it, so we should be able to look at some kind of improvement score. Assessing a child's ability to read in 40 to 50 questions does not show true overall reading ability.”

Reading ability is the focus of Enos' literacy coach, Emily Drennan, who has been at Enos for six years and has been a teacher since 2008.

“I work with small groups of students for reading. Right now my fourth-grade group is working on words with a silent E, and we have been practicing the same skill every day,” Drennan said. “Today we were reading a passage with a lot of silent E words, many of them more complex and multi-syllable, and



Principal Claudia Johnson points to students' work that is highlighted in the hallways at Enos Elementary School.

the students got it. It made everyone really excited, we got fist bumps going, and we celebrated this small win together.”

Drennan said each week Enos students have been focusing on a specific standard related to the tests the students take for the state Report Card rankings. This teaches students the skills they need to know, but will also help to ensure a more accurate score when the next round of testing occurs.

“That way when students get the test, it's familiar to them and they won't be surprised by the vocabulary in it and what they are asked to do,” Drennan said.

Claudia Johnson has spent 22 years in District 186 school administration, 15 of which have been as Enos principal. She has been the main force behind the push to improve literacy skills at the school.

“Prior to seeing the scores, we had already identified writing as one of our deficit areas. We had already started a writing plan and have been working with our collaborators monthly,” Johnson said. “We also have resource teachers that work with all of the children, so you'll never know which students have services because everyone gets the same amount of attention, care and instruction. The teachers switch in and out as needed.”

The primary challenge, which Johnson and her colleagues are meeting head-on, is the fact that many Enos students who come into the school are already far behind.

“We have students that enter the building in fourth grade and they're reading at kindergarten level, yet they are still expected to test at a fourth-grade level,” Johnson said. “We are seeing growth in the students, but

you wouldn't be able to see that because you don't know where we started, you are only looking at the end.”

“It's always disappointing because the report card only gives you a snapshot of one week and that's what everyone sees, but we get to see the growth that takes place every day here,” Johnson added. “People on the outside only see the school report card, but that report card is not a true depiction of what happens within these walls.”

Johnson said the school celebrates each student's accomplishments, no matter how big or small that progress may be. Students who do well on a test or paper may have their work posted outside of the classroom for others to see, or highlighted on Thrill Share, a messaging system for District 186. Johnson often gives students a “shout out” over the school intercom for their achievements.

“We have a good time here at Enos, and we come in each day giving all that we have to give,” Johnson said. “Your child's growth may not show up on the Report Card tests, but I can guarantee they'll learn more than when they started.”

Grieme, the fourth-grade teacher, wiped tears away as he recalled one recent instance of a breakthrough moment he had with one of his students who was “really close to being functionally illiterate” at the beginning of the school year.

“This kid was a champion at just sitting and staring at you for hours, waiting you out, because he knew if he waited long enough, he wouldn't have to do anything,” Grieme said. “But recently the kids wrote about their favorite teachers and gave those writings to the teachers as Christmas presents. This kid worked with his resource teacher and knocked out five paragraphs about me.”

“We immediately walked around the entire building and showed everybody, because he did something he never thought he could,” Grieme recalled. “If my kids can do that, it's a beautiful thing. That's why I do this.” □



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Braised lamb shanks

This stick-to-your-ribs meal is perfect comfort food for a snowy winter afternoon

FOOD | Ashley Meyer

Meltingly tender and deeply aromatic, a meal of slow-braised lamb shanks provides a generous serving of stick-to-your-ribs comfort food on a snowy winter afternoon. A meaty cut from the lower part of the leg, the tough, hardworking muscle is laden with connective tissue that breaks down during long, slow cooking to yield a succulent and flavorful forkful of meaty goodness. After a quick sear on the stove, they settle in for a long session in the oven, enrobed by aromatics and a generous splash of whatever you have lying around. You're then free to read a book or go play in the snow while the shanks bubble away in the oven, melting the tough rubbery cartilage into a generous, collagen-rich sauce.

Pork and veal shanks are another beloved cut for a cold winter braise but can sometimes be harder to source (Humphrey's Market in Springfield regularly carries all three in its freezer case). Lamb shanks are smaller and can be served whole as a generous single portion, whereas pork and veal shanks are generally much larger and have a milder flavor. They can be braised whole and served pulled off the bone, or they can be crosscut into thick two-inch sections for individual servings. While traditionally cooked in a low oven, shanks can also be made in a slow cooker set on low for six to eight hours. The sauce will not reduce as much in a slow cooker however, so you may want to reduce the braising liquid in a saucepan over the stovetop before serving.

Lamb shank preparations can be found across the globe, from a straightforward English style braise served with mashed potatoes and peas to heady Moroccan spiced tagine studded with dried fruits and nuts. Here we offer a master recipe along with a few internationally inspired variations.

Braised lamb shanks master recipe

Serves 4-6

Ingredients:

4 lamb shanks
Salt and pepper
1 tablespoon olive oil or bacon fat
1 onion, diced
2-4 cloves of garlic, minced
1 bay leaf
2-3 cups stock, wine, beer or water
Herbs such as fresh or thyme and rosemary, delicious but optional

Preheat the oven to 275 degrees. Generously



sprinkle the shanks with salt and pepper. Heat a Dutch oven or oven-safe skillet over high heat and brown the shanks on all sides, working in batches if necessary. Remove the shanks to a plate and set aside. Reduce the heat and add the onions and garlic and sauté briefly until they are fragrant and begin to soften. Return the shanks to the pot along

with the bay leaf and pour in your liquid of choice, cover and transfer to the oven. Bake for three to four hours, turning the shanks halfway until the meat is falling off the bone. Add water to the pan as needed if the braising liquid begins to dry out. You can choose to either pull the meat off the bone or serve the shanks whole, drizzled with the pan juices.

Variations:

Alla Milanese

Traditionally prepared with veal shanks, this classic preparation is also delicious made with either pork or lamb shanks.

To the diced onions add ½ cup each diced carrots and celery. For the liquid use 1 ½ cup white wine and 1 ½ cup unsalted stock, along with 1-15 ounce can of peeled whole tomatoes. Serve the shanks drizzled with gremolata (a fresh herb relish made by combining 1-2 cloves minced garlic, the grated rind of one lemon, ⅓ cup minced parsley and a generous pinch of salt). Serve over saffron risotto.

Moroccan-style tagine

Generously rub the shanks with a paste made from 4-5 cloves minced garlic, 1 tablespoon grated ginger, 1 tablespoon paprika, 2 teaspoons cumin and 1 teaspoon salt. Let the shanks marinate for an hour at room temperature or cover and refrigerate overnight. Brown the lamb shanks over medium heat (rather than high) so as not to burn the spice paste. Add 1 tablespoon tomato paste to the softening onions along with a pinch of saffron (optional but very delicious), a cinnamon stick, and ½ cup pitted, chopped dates, (Pit them and chop them yourself, don't use pre-chopped dates which taste like cardboard and are coated with added sugar and anti-caking agents.) Use water as the braising liquid. Serve the braised shanks garnished with golden raisins, pomegranate seeds, toasted almonds and cilantro alongside fluffy steamed couscous.

Adobo-style lamb shanks

After browning the shanks, add one-two tablespoons canned chipotle in adobo (to taste) to the sautéed onions and garlic along with a tablespoon of dried oregano, two teaspoons cumin, ⅛ teaspoon ground cloves, one tablespoon of brown sugar, one tablespoon cider vinegar, a cinnamon stick and a bay leaf or two. Nestle the shanks in the spiced onions and use two cups of orange juice as the braising liquid. Nestle the shredded meat in warm corn tortillas, topped with pickled onion and chopped cilantro. □

Ashley Meyer is a chef and freelance writer based in Springfield.

THE HOOGLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS
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January music finish

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

As we work our way through the last weekend in January, Old Man Winter and all his relatives have chimed in to remind us just what they can do when they've set their minds to it. With nothing ahead but a frozen flourish of a freeze-out, it's time to deal with it and go for the cold. Be safe and stay warm, then say hello to the old man and his kinfolk but don't get too friendly. Let's see what's out there in the calendar.

First up this week, let's jump to next Thursday, Feb. 5, for a highlight career moment for one of our own who's done well up in Chicagoland. Andon Davis (still known as Ted to many around here) took his guitar, killer chops and all, up to the Windy City back in the early 1990s and made a home and name for himself in the busy and competitive world of the big city. While living here during the 1980s, "Ted" played in Cats on Holiday, one of the most popular local bands ever, and in several well-respected, original groups before that such as Horse Creek and The Plains.

During his time in Chicago, Andon not only gigged with several well-known groups including Anna Fermin's Trigger Gospel, Heartsfield, the Riptones and the Real Pretenders, he became a top-shelf luthier and guitar repair guy, plus a staple on recording sessions, which is quite a big deal as well.

Now on to next Thursday when Andon is releasing music of his own making – an eight-song album using many of the musicians he's played with during his Chicago tenure – and Feb. 5 is the celebration date with a live show at the famous FitzGerald's Historic Nightclub. So get tickets to go if you can. Send a message of congrats to Andon on this accomplishment if you can't. And by all means, find a way to get your hands on the music for a listen to one of the best of the best from our scene. Then let's see if we can get our pal back down here for an album release party after things thaw out.

Back in the world of bands and bars, acts and artists, doings of duos and other such representations of music-makers, Thursday looks a little quiet in the cold, but things heat up (only gig-wise) over the weekend.

Friday gives us bunch of good stuff, including classic jazz by the Blue Note Quintet at Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, original Americana from OAT at Harvest Market, Robert Sampson serving up the songs at Mother Road Diner, Square of the



Joe Black plays at the Buckhart Tavern this Sunday afternoon.

Roots getting around at George Rank's and For the Love of Lennon beating the Beatles bandwagon at the Curve Inn, while Chris Camp & his Blues Ambassadors negotiate Lime Street Cafe (Saturday, too) and Travis Ried Band goes blues heavy at Butternut Hut.

By Saturday we're rockin' and sockin' to the tune of nearly 40 listings including a home turf visit to the Backroom Lounge in Riverton by the Wolf Crick Boys, Astrofix cueing up at Mowie's, a Nirvana tribute called Nirvani at Danenberger Family Vineyards and Harris Trio cruising into The Stadium.

Sunday is still our Funday (also the first day of February) with plenty of happenings around the area, such as Sista and the Mistas at Hill Prairie Winery near Oakford, Joe Black at Buckhart Tavern, Molly Seaton at Edmo's in Edinburg, Hippies of the Heartland at South Fork Pub in Kincaid and California Jeff & Jen with 4th St. Forty at Golden Fox Brewery in Decatur.

Let's look for a warmer next week and say hello to February. □

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6th annual **WOMEN'S BUSINESS SHOWCASE**

Thursday April 16, 2026 3:30 - 7 PM

- Networking 3:30-4:30
- Open to the public 4:30-7

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Registration: wecspringfield.org/showcase




TWISTED TREE MUSIC HALL

1061 EAST MORTON AVENUE • JACKSONVILLE

Saturday, January 31 • 7:00pm

Decade of Decadence

FREE SHOW!




WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL of Central Illinois

For more information and recordings visit mywacci.org

Mexico

A Conversation with Ambassador Reyna Torres Mendivil

Thursday, February 19, 2026 • Illini Country Club
Reception: 5:30pm • Dinner 6:15pm • **FREE** Program 7:00pm

Please join us for an informative program and conversation with Ambassador Mendivil who will discuss how the Government of Mexico works with the U.S. and other countries on migration, counter-narcotics, trade and development and other issues.

Dinner reservations are required and due by February 10. Cost of dinner is \$45 members of WACCI, \$55 non-members. Prepayment is required. Make reservations online at mywacci.org. The Presentation is **FREE** and open to the public



Notice of Funding Opportunity

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Help your organization take action and make a difference with funding support from the Community Development Block Grant

The City of Springfield's Office of Planning and Economic Development is accepting applications for inclusion in its 2026 Action Plan.

Projects must address the housing and community development needs presented in the City of Springfield's Consolidated Plan and the project must benefit the low to moderate income community.

- Improve Public Services
- Provide Youth Services
- Improvements to Community Facilities
- Affordable Housing
- Support/Services for the Unhoused
- Increase Economic Opportunities

Application Due March 2, 2026



For an application and list of required supporting documentation contact:
The Office of Planning and Economic Development
217-789-2377 ext. 5471 julia.cave@springfield.il.us

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MUSIC

Live music within 40 miles of Springfield. Dates, times and locations are subject to change, so we suggest calling before attending an event.

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

Thursday Jan 29

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

Gates of Hell, Mauled, Sawed Off, Extort, Nullify
Dumb Records, 7pm

Karaoke
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm and 7pm

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

Al and Kathy Kitchen
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

Mike Anderson
Soap Co. Coffee House, Jacksonville, 11am-1pm

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 Topsy Toad, 8pm-12am

Friday Jan 30

Justin Wells
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

Frank Powell Duo
Boone's, 5:30-8:30pm

Pickin' & Grinnin'
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

Karaoke with Party Time DJ
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 8pm

Travis Ried Band
Butternut Hut, 8-11pm

For the Love of Lennon
Curve Inn, 6:30-9:30pm

Claire Taylor Jazz featuring Kyle Nicholson and Ben Taylor
Decatur Brew Works, Decatur, 7-9pm

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

Square of the Roots,
George Rank's, 8-11pm

Jeff Newman
Guse's Pub & Eatery, Jacksonville, 8-10pm

OAT
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Chris Camp and His Blues Ambassadors
Lime Street Cafe, 7-10:30pm

Noise Pollution
Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 7-10pm

Karaoke
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Robert Sampson
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

Blue Note Quintet
Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, 6-8pm

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

Karaoke
Pier 55 Lounge, 8pm

Saturday Jan 31

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

Wolf Crick Boys
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

99 Proof
Barb's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

Larry Watson
Boone's, 6-9pm

Billy Strums
Brentford Distillers, Decatur, 6-9pm

West End Boogie Project
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7-10pm

Positively 4th Street
Cafe Amulet, Petersburg, 3-6pm

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

Blue Sky Revival
Curve Inn, 6:30pm

Nirvani
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8pm

Karaoke
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm

Sequoia Drive
The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 8pm-12am

Square of the Roots
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Chris Camp and His Blues Ambassadors
Lime Street Cafe, 7-10:30pm

Kortney Leatherwood
Legendary Small Town Trading Co., Taylorville, 6-9pm

Hi-Tek Redneck Karaoke
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 9pm-1am

Astrofix
Mowie's Cue, 8pm

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

Doug Brant
Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, 3-5pm

Lady Luck
Pop's Place, Decatur, 8-11pm

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

Harris Trio
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 6:30pm

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

Midwest Revival
The Shed, Pawnee, 9pm-12am

Karaoke by Future Entertainment
The Thirsty Rooster, Middletown, 8pm

Decade of Decadence
Twisted Tree Music & Event Hall, Jacksonville, 7-10pm

Sunday Feb 1

Joe Black
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Molly Seaton
Edmo's, Edinburg, 2-5pm

California Jeff & Jenny with special guest 4th St. Forty
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 4-7pm

Sista and The Misters
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 1-4pm

OAT
It's All About Wine, 3-6pm

Mandy Rose
Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, 12-2pm

Ghost Town Blues Band
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

Open blues jam featuring B Douglas and The Travelers for Peace
Sky Lounge, First Sunday of every month, 5-8pm

Hippies of the Heartland
South Fork Pub, Kincaid, 1-4pm

Robert Sampson
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-6pm

Monday Feb 2

Billy Galt & The Blues Deacons
The Alamo, 7pm

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

Tuesday Feb 3

Karaoke Night hosted by Alan Livengood
Fluid Lounge, 7pm

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

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

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

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

Wednesday Feb 4

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

The Red Ribbon Revue
Obed & Isaac's The Cider, 6-8pm

Roger & Mandy's Open Mic
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 7-10pm

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Who? High school seniors from Sangamon County who plan to enter college in Fall 2026 to pursue a career in healthcare

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How? Visit OCIF.net to download the application for more info.

Deadline: February 13, 2026



**ONLINE CALENDAR
SUBMISSION**

**Friday by 5pm for the
following Thursday issue**

Event organizers are welcome to post events via our online calendar entry system.

It's fast and easy.

Go to www.illinoistimes.com
Click on "Submit an event"



Urban Wildlife talks
Thu., Jan. 29, 5:30 and
6:30 p.m.
Dana-Thomas House
217-782-6776

OUTDOORS | Photographer to discuss his images of local bald eagles and more

it In two short programs, local wildlife photographer Brian Bowles will present his images and talk with participants about how they can find and identify local wildlife themselves. Bowles has been photographing wildlife for about 15 years and is interested in eagles, hawks, blue herons and turkey vultures. Bowles describes what he does as “drive-by photography” – basically taking his images from his car in order to not disturb the birds. The free talks are part of a new series of evening events at the Old State Capitol and Dana-Thomas House. Learn more at <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/historic-sites-evening-events-4805582>.

Special Music Events

Wicked Good Drag - Adult only show
Sat., Jan. 31, 7-10pm. This is an 18-plus *Wicked* and *Wizard of Oz*-themed performance. Are you a friend of Dorothy or Elphaba? Features performances by Mahogany Knight and the team at Knight Entertainment. ID required. No children will be admitted. \$35. Pole Barn Chic, 4491 Old Chatham Road, 217-528-5253.

Wicked Good Drag Show - Family Show
Sat., Jan. 31, 4-5:30pm. This *Wicked* and *Wizard of Oz*-themed performance is for families to enjoy together. Features performances by Mahogany Knight and the team at Knight Entertainment. Families-only event. No adults admitted without a child present. An 18-plus event follows at 7pm. \$15/\$20. Pole Barn Chic, 4491 Old Chatham Road, 217-528-5253.

Books & Authors

Blind Date with a Book-First

Choice
Wed., Feb. 4, 5-7pm. Participants will get the first choice of our new collection of blind dates. The genre and the first line of the first chapter will be the only clues participants will receive before purchasing. Young adult and adult books available. springfieldart.org. SAA members \$12; non-members \$15. The Corkscrew Wine Emporium, 2625 Chatham Road, 217-523-2631.

Society of Midwestern Authors
First Tuesday of every month, 6-7:45pm. Love to write? Check out this skilled, supportive group of local writers for critiques of your work, discussion and networking. chathamlib.org. Free. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce St., 2174832713.

Theater & Comedy

The Outsiders
Fri., Jan. 30, 7:30pm, Sat., Jan. 31, 7:30pm and Sun., Feb. 1, 3pm. Based on the coming-of-age novel about two rival gangs in 1960s Tulsa, Oklahoma. Presented by the

young artists of Active Creative Teen Theatre. \$15. Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Second City Laughing for All the Wrong Reasons

Sat., Jan. 31, 7pm. The Second City Comedy Troupe will make a return visit to the capital city. Members of the company will present an improv workshop earlier in the afternoon on Jan. 31. Reservations will be limited for the workshop, so email info@hcfta.org and the Hoogland will make sure to let you know more information as it becomes available. \$30-\$38. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Dance

Adult Aerial Silks Short Term Class

Thu., Jan. 29, 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.

Line Dancing Lessons

First Monday of every month, 7-9pm. Mrs. Debbie is teaching the lessons. All ages welcome. Kick up those heels and dance. Free. Coghlan's Hideout LLC, Bulpitt, 201 Main St.

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. 31, 12-3pm. Participants will learn the basic stitches involved in a cross-stitch beginner project. By the end of the two-day SAAMplifier, 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.

Make & Mingle

First Wednesday of every month, 5:30-8:30pm. An open studio experience in the Condell Studio. Bring a project and make new friends, discuss ideas, tackle project challenges and mingle with other art-minded individuals. No instruction or materials provided. No reservations needed. Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Meet n’ Greet with artist Roz Dimon

Fri., Jan. 30, 10-11am. Artist Roz Dimon will discuss the inspiration of the project, her approach to creating art and then take questions. Afterward, be sure to visit the museum where 12 of Dimon’s digital portraits of

Abraham Lincoln, inspired by Alexander Gardner’s famous 1863 photograph, are currently featured on the museum’s West Corridor Wall. Reservations not required. presidentlincoln.illinois.gov. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

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

Lee

Sun., Feb. 1, 1-3, 4-6pm and Tue., Feb. 3, 7-9pm. War correspondent Lee Miller travels to the front lines of World War II to embark on a mission to uncover the hidden truths of the Third Reich. But in the wake of betrayal, a reckoning will come over the truths of her own past. Third film in this year’s annual Molly Schlich International and Independent Film Series. The series is presented by Exciting Windows! by Susan Day and the Springfield Art Association. springfieldart.org. Adults \$10, students \$5. AMC Classic Springfield 12, 3141 Mercantile Dr., 217-523-2631.

Auditions

Muni Audition Workshop

Sat., Jan. 31, 10am. Attend this workshop 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. Participants can ask specific questions, as well as receive a QR code to access audition forms. Adult auditions will be held Friday Feb. 21-22 and 28 with callbacks on March 1. Children’s auditions are March 7. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Food & Drink

Lake Council Chili Challenge South Regional

Sun., Feb. 1, 12pm. 17th annual event. Doors open at noon with

tasting starting at 2pm. Proceeds will be donated to Springfield Zoological Society. Chili Challenge finals set March 1 at Prop Club. Springfield Ski and Boat Club, 268 Maple Grove Lane, 217-529-9090.

Springfield Mac Down

Sat., Jan. 31, 12-2pm. Sample a variety of creative, mouthwatering vegan mac n’ cheese dishes made by talented local chefs. Attendees will taste and vote to decide who will take home the title of Best Vegan Mac in Springfield. Presented by Vegan Outreach. veganoutreach.org. \$15. Erin’s Pavilion, 4965 S. 2nd St, Springfield, IL 62703, (217) 585-2941.

Fundraisers and Galas

15th Annual Crime Stoppers Trivia Night

Sat., Jan. 31, 6:30pm. Presented by Crime Stoppers of Sangamon & Menard Counties. Huge prizes and 50-50 raffle. Concessions, beer and cocktails for sale. Joe Crain, John Spalding and Sam Madonia will host the event. \$15 per player, \$150 per table. BOS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, 7th & Adams- outdoor, 217-622-9547.

BCG PTO Dueling Pianos Night

Fri., Jan. 30, 7-10pm. Event features dueling pianos showdown with Howl at the Moon, silent auction, wine pull, music bingo, raffle and more. Proceeds support Ball-Chatham School District elementary schools. Event presented by Ball Chatham Glenwood PTO. ballchathamglenwoodpto.org. \$25 per person. Pole Barn Chic, 4491 Old Chatham Road, 217-725-3886.

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala

Fri., Jan. 30, 6-9:30pm. An evening of celebration as the chamber reflects on the accomplishments of 2025 and looks ahead to the opportunities and momentum 2026 holds for the Springfield business community. Presented by HSHS St. John’s Hospital. Visit gsc.org to register or call. \$105, nonmembers \$150 - non-member. Crown Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-525-1173, ext. 216.

YMCA Winter Soiree: Havana Nights

Sat., Jan. 31, 6-11 p.m. Enjoy a night of live music by Lustre Lights, silent and live auctions, a wine pull and Cuban flair. \$50. Hamilton’s Catering, 110 North East St., Jacksonville, 217-473-5969.

Lincoln Library 140th birthday

Mon., Feb. 2, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Celebrate 140 years of stories, learning and community at this

event in Carnegie Room North. Guests will enjoy cake, the opening of the 1976 cornerstone time capsule and a slideshow. Free. lincolnlbrary.info. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

■ Community Organizing

Free Meal Distribution

Sat., Jan. 31, 4-6pm. Food Not Bombs SPI's next free public vegan meal distribution. Bring food containers/travel mug. Warm hats, gloves and socks also will be given out. No questions asked, all are welcome. Email foodnotbombs.spi@proton.me with questions. Free. Meal Distribution Site, Southwest corner of Seventh Street and Capitol Avenue.

Sonya Massey rally

Thu., Jan. 29, 8am. Participants will stand in solidarity with the Massey Family and demand that Sean Grayson receive the maximum sentence in the killing of Sonya Massey. Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth St., 217-753-6700.

Standing in the Gap Night Prayer Vigil

Fri., Jan. 30, 7 p.m. Springfield faith communities are coming together in unity to pray for our nation and stand together to demand accountability after all the lives lost by ICE. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., 217-528-4311.

■ Nature, Science & Environment

Introduction to Beekeeping

Thu., Feb. 12, 6-7:30 p.m. Register by Feb. 2 to explore the fascinating world of honey bees and beekeeping in this six-part series designed for anyone interested in beekeeping or honey bees. The series will be offered in person and via Zoom from 6 to 7:30pm Thursdays from Feb. 12 to March 19. Register online at the Illinois Extension website. \$45. The \$45 fee includes a copy of the book *First Lessons in Beekeeping*. <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2026-02-12-introduction-beekeeping>. University of Illinois Extension, 700 S. Airport Drive, 217-782-4617.

■ Children's Corner

Funshop: Little Chefs

Thu., Jan. 29, 5:30-6:30pm. In this four-week hands-on program, our littlest chefs will explore the world of cooking through simple, safe and tasty recipes. Children will mix, measure and create

fun snacks while learning about healthy foods, kitchen safety and basic cooking skills. Each week features a new recipe. All classes blended ages 3 to 5 years. Activity #150968. Register at bit.ly/Funshop_LittleChefs1. Residents \$75, Non-residents \$85. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

Weekend Play & Stay at Funshop

Saturdays, 9:30-11:30am. Through Jan. 31. Dive into two hours of playful discovery. From building block towers to creative play and interactive storytime, every week brings new ways to spark imagination and connect with other families. For ages 16 months to 5 years with a caregiver. \$10 per child when you register online, \$10 per child day-of when you bring a friend, \$20 per child day-of for drop-ins. Register at bit.ly/SPD_Funshop-Sat. Varies. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

Yoga for Kids

Sat., Jan. 31, 10-10:45am. This kid-friendly, three-week yoga class builds strength, balance, focus and calm through movement, play and mindfulness. \$60. Springfield Dance, 5531 International Pkwy., 217-483-3623.

■ Lectures & Meetings

Expungement Summit

Sat., Jan. 31, 10am-2pm. Learn how felony, misdemeanor or municipal ordinance violations can be expunged or sealed. Presented by Visions Second Chance Program. Refreshments will be served. Free. Visions 1908, 801 S. 11th St., 847-473-5501.

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.

■ Bulletin Board

Bridal Showcase

Sun., Feb. 1, 1-4pm. This

spectacular bridal showcase will feature a variety of vendors dedicated to making a wedding, reception or rehearsal dinner truly memorable. Event designed to inspire and assist in planning that perfect day. Free. The Brinkerhoff Mansion, 1500 N. 5th St., 217-361-5555.

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 registration information. thefoundationacademyllc.com. Free. Kumler United Methodist Church, 600 N. Fifth St., 217-523-2046.

Springfield Comic Book Convention

Sun., Feb. 1, 10am-4pm. A huge variety of new and old comic books, as well as toys and related collectibles for sale. Dealers are also interested in buying old comic books. Call for more information. Free admission. Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, Southern View, 625 E. St. Joseph St., 309-657-1599.

Mobile DMV

Fri., Jan. 30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Get help with driver's licenses, state identification cards (first time, renewal, duplicate and corrected), vehicle registration and license plate stickers. For appointments, contact Juan Huerta, jhuerta@ilsos.gov or call 217-782-8895. The Salvation Army of Springfield, 1600 Clear Lake Ave.

■ Sports

Hot Stove Social

Thu., Jan. 29, 5:30-8:30pm. Meet World Series champion and former St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Ricky Horton. Includes appetizers and Q&A. \$55, \$65 at door. Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-679-3511.

Regional Special Olympics Basketball Tournament qualifier

Sun., Feb. 1, 9 a.m. Scheels Sports Park, 3751 Imagineer Drive. Games will be inside the Springfield Clinic Dome. Gold medalists will advance to the 2026 Illinois State Special Olympics Basketball Tournament in Normal. Doors open at 8:30am. Free.

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2026 CLONE MADNESS RAFFLE!

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2nd prize - \$5,000 . 3rd prize - \$2,500 . 4th prize - \$1,000

Winners will be drawn Friday, February 20th at 9am and the drawing will be streamed live on the SHG FB page.

All winners will be notified that day by phone.

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To purchase tickets, scan the QR code, visit shg.org or call 217.787.9732 (Mon-Fri 7:30am-4pm).

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The Wedding Issue

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Real Estate Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS WEST CENTRAL BANK, an Illinois banking corporation, Plaintiff,

v. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF STEVEN W. WOOD, a/k/a STEVEN WAYNE WOOD, deceased, CARRIE HUMES, MINDY DAVIS, JACLYN WOOD, KAYLA WOOD, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, and THEODORE J. HARVATIN, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR STEVEN W. WOOD, a/k/a STEVEN WAYNE WOOD, Deceased, Defendants.

Case No. 2025FC000177

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered by the Court on the Complaint for Foreclosure 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.

(A) The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: West Central Bank, Attn: Kris Krones, 3600 Wabash Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62711; Telephone: (217) 726-9600

(B) The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is: 3137 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62703

(C) A description of the improvements on the real estate is: Single family residence.

(D) The real estate may be inspected prior to sale at the following times: Not applicable.

(E) The time and place of the sale are: 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026; Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701

(F) The terms of the sale are: 10% cash or certified funds at the time of sale; balance within twenty-four (24) hours of sale. Plaintiff may credit bid at the sale. The successful bidder will receive a Certificate of Purchase following the sale and a Sheriff's Deed upon confirmation of the sale by the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois.

(G) Title will be conveyed subject to real estate taxes for 2025 and subsequent years and special assessments, if any; to building restrictions and restrictive covenants of record; to easements of record or in place; to rights of way for roads, streets, and highways; to rights of tenants in possession, if any. Sale is subject to approval of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois. Any real estate transfer tax which may be due as a result of the sale shall be paid by the purchaser. 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 8051-961454

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Estate of: DANNY EARL DALTON, Deceased. NO. 2024-PR-429 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Danny Earl Dalton of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 24, 2024, to Steven Gene Whitcomb, 609 Cypress Drive, 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 28, 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 21st day of January, 2026. Randy S. Paswater - 06283705 Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP P.O. Box 79 Springfield, IL 62705 (217) 544-4868 paswater@barberlaw.com 356027

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Marilyn Elaine Franklin Deceased.

Case No. 26-PR-3

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Marilyn Elaine Franklin, Deceased Notice is given of the death of the above. Decedent departed this life on November 23, 2025.

Letter of Testamentary were issued on January 15, 2026. Independent Personal Representative: Stephen Blazis.

Attorney for the Estate: Thomas H. Wilson HeplerBroom, LLC 4340 Acer Grove Drive Springfield, IL 62711 T: (217) 528-3674 F: (217) 528-3964 thw@heplerbroom.com

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Probate Division, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street Springfield IL 62701 or with the Personal Representative or both, on or before July 29, 2026 and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the Circuit Court Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney of Record, if any, within 10 days after it has been filed and the claimant shall file with the Court proof of any required mailing. Stephen Blazis, Independent Personal Representative of the Estate of Marilyn Elaine Franklin

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

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

In the matter of the estate of: Jean L. Reavis, Deceased

Case No. 2026-PR-000011

Claim Notice

Notice is given of the death of Jean L. Reavis. Letters of Office were issued on Jan. 20, 2026 to Christopher K. Reavis as Executor, 22752 Liberty Ave., Athens IL 62613. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the Executor, on or before, July 29, 2026. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the executors within 10 days after it has been filed.

Joseph B. Roesch Clerk of the Circuit Court

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF SANGAMON IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DOUGLAS BENINATO, DECEASED.

NO. 2025-PR-505

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - UNKNOWN HEIRS AND ESTATE CLAIMS Notice is given of the death of DOUGLAS BENINATO, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 15, 2026, to ANGELINA BARTOLOMUCCI-BOLLERO, 319 South Park Ave., Springfield, IL 62704. The attorney for the Independent Administrator is DelGiorno Law Office, LLC, P.O. Box 52, Springfield, IL 62705. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of the Court.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Building Complex, 200 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois or with the

representative, or both, within 6 months from the 29th day of January 2026 being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to the unknown heirs of the decedent, if any, as the names or addresses of one or more heirs may be unknown or cannot be ascertained after diligent inquiry; and that, unless you file an appearance in this proceeding or otherwise make your interest known to the Court within six months from the date of the order appointing the administrator of the estate, you may be defaulted and bound by any orders of court entered in this estate, including any order declaring heirship and orders approving accountings and distributions, as provided by the Illinois Probate Act of 1975.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. Dated this 15th day of January 2026 ANGELINA BARTOLOMUCCI-BOLLERO, Independent Administrator of the Estate of DOUGLAS BENINATO, Deceased BY: /s/DelGiorno LAW OFFICE, LLC By: /s/Anthony J. DelGiorno Anthony J. DelGiorno, of Counsel Attorneys for Estate of DOUGLAS BENINATO: Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney IARDC No. 6277358 DelGiorno LAW OFFICE, LLC P.O. Box 52 Springfield, IL 62705 Tel. 217-773-5337 Fax. 855-461-3250 Email: tony@delgiornolawoffice.com Service: service@delgiornolawoffice.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF SANGAMON IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROGER LARUE REDEFORD, JR., DECEASED.

NO. 2026-PR-18

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES

Notice is given of the death of ROGER LARUE REDEFORD, JR., of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 15, 2026 to BONNIE LOU REDEFORD of 215 S. Glenwood Ave., Springfield, IL 62704, whose attorney is DelGiorno Law Office, LLC; P.O. Box 52, Springfield, IL 62705.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the 29th day of January, 2026, being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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

talk with your local circuit clerk's office. You also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1) and pursuant to Section 6-11 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-11) to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within 6 months after admission of the Will to probate.

Dated this 16th day of January 2026 BONNIE LOU REDEFORD, Administrator of the Estate of ROGER LARUE REDEFORD, JR., Deceased BY: DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC By: /s/ Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney Attorneys for Estate: Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney IARDC No. 6277358 DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC P.O. Box 52 Springfield, IL 62705 Tel. 217-773-5337 Fax. 855-461-3250 Email: tony@delgiornolawoffice.com Service: service@delgiornolawoffice.com

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 file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. 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 Independent 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 217t824-8107

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@barberlaw.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

Divorce

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Jonace Walker, Petitioner
And
Dilshod Abdulloev, Respondent
Case No. 2025-DN-000140
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Dilshod Abdulloev,
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 1st day of March, 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
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 mar-
riage 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 mar-
riage and other relief may be granted as
prayed for in the Petition.
Joseph B. Roesch
Circuit Clerk

Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
WEST CENTRAL BANK, an Illinois banking
corporation,
Plaintiff,
v.
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF
STEVEN W. WOOD, a/k/a STEVEN WAYNE
WOOD, deceased, CARRIE HUMES, MINDY
DAVIS, JACLYN WOOD, KAYLA WOOD,
UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD
CLAIMANTS, and THEODORE J. HARVATIN,
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR STEVEN W.

WOOD, a/k/a STEVEN WAYNE WOOD,
Deceased,
Defendants.
Case No. 2025FC000177
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that
pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure
entered by the Court on the Complaint for
Foreclosure 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.
(A) The name, address and telephone
number of the person to contact for infor-
mation regarding the real estate is:
West Central Bank, Attn: Kris Kroner,
3600 Wabash Avenue, Springfield, Illinois
62711; Telephone: (217) 726-9600
(B) The common address and other
common description, if any, of the real
estate is:
3137 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois
62703
(C) The legal description of the real
estate is:

Lot Five (5) in Block Eleven (11) of Golden
Gardens Annex "C".
Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas
and other minerals underlying the land
which have been heretofore conveyed
or reserved in prior conveyances, and
all rights and easements in favor of the
estate of said coal, oil, gas and other
minerals, if any.
Situating in Sangamon County, Illinois.
(D) A description of the improvements on
the real estate is:
Single family residence.
(E) The real estate may be inspected prior
to sale at the following times:
Not applicable.
(F) The time and place of the sale are:
9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026;
Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S.
Ninth Street, 2nd Floor, Committee Room
223, Springfield, Illinois 62701
(G) The terms of the sale are:
10% cash or certified funds at the time
of sale; balance within twenty-four (24)
hours of sale. Plaintiff may credit bid
at the sale. The successful bidder will
receive a Certificate of Purchase following
the sale and a Sheriff's Deed upon confir-
mation of the sale by the Circuit Court of
Sangamon County, Illinois.

(H) Title will be conveyed subject to real
estate taxes for 2025 and subsequent
years and special assessments, if any; to
building restrictions and restrictive cov-
enants of record; to easements of record
or in place; to rights of way for roads,
streets, and highways; to rights of tenants
in possession, if any. Sale is subject to
approval of the Circuit Court of Sangamon
County, Illinois. Any real estate transfer
tax which may be due as a result of the
sale shall be paid by the purchaser.
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
8051-961454

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.P. LUMBER CO., INC., an Illinois corpora-
tion,
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 CLAIM-
ANTS 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 South
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.
Situating 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: Docu-
ment 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

Notice by Publication

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a public hear-
ing will be held by the Sangamon County
Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday,
February 19th, 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 CSMB Invest-
ments LLC, contract purchaser of property
commonly known as 3491 Cockrell Lane,
Springfield, IL 62711 and:
Parcel Identification Number: 21-13.0-
100-045

Petitioner requests for Proposed Parcel 1:
pursuant to Chapters 17.68 and 17.28,
a rezoning from "A" Agricultural District
to "I-1" Restricted Industrial District;
pursuant to Chapter 17.58 and section
17.28.020 a Conditional Permitted Use for
garages for storage, repair, and servicing
of motor vehicles, including body shops
and spray painting, with accessory towing
services; and pursuant to Chapter 17.66,
a variance of Chapter 17.04 (lot depth)
to allow the lot depth to be greater than
two and one-half (2.5) times the lot width.
Also in attendance to hear the testimony
will be the members of the Zoning & Land
Use Committee of the Sangamon County
Board.
Dated this 22nd day of January, 2026
Sangamon County Zoning Board of
Appeals
CHARLES W. CHIMENTO, CHAIRMAN

LEGAL NOTICE

FY'25 AUDIT
Notice is hereby given that the FY'25
Audit for the Springfield Metropolitan Ex-
position & Auditorium Authority has been
completed by Eck, Schafer & Punke, LLP.
The audit is available for public review at
www.theboscenter.com or in person at
the Bank of Springfield Center, 1 Conv Ctr
Plz, Springfield, IL, 62701 between the
hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM on regular
business days.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday,
February 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the City
Council Chambers, third floor, Municipal
Center West, 300 S. Seventh Street,
Springfield, Illinois, a public hearing

will be held to consider an annexa-
tion and annexation agreement for the
property located at Farmland at the NW
Quadrant of I-55, Exit 90, Toronto Rd at
parcel 22-27.0-300-013. The annexation
consists of territory legally described as
follows: Five and 13/100 (5.13+/-) acres
of undeveloped real property located at
the northwest quadrant id I-55, Exit 90,
Toronto Road, Springfield, Sangamon
County, Illinois, comprising tax parcel 22-
27.0-300-013; PT SW ¼ SW ¼ (Lying w
of Canadian Cross Dr) 27-15-5, Non-Farm
Acres 0.0, Farm Acres 5.13.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Mayor And
Aldermen of The City of Springfield will
conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed
Annual Appropriation Ordinance for The
City of Springfield for the twelve month
fiscal year commencing March 1, 2026,
through February 28, 2027. The public
hearing will take place:
TUESDAY, February 10, 2026, 6:30 pm
City Council Chambers
Municipal Center West
3rd Floor
300 South Seventh Street
Springfield, IL.

The proposed FY2027 Municipal Budget
is available for review by the public in
the Office of the City Clerk, Room 106,
Municipal Center West, Springfield, IL or
online at <https://www.cityclerk.springfield.il.us/Government/Budgets.aspx>. The City
welcomes your written and verbal com-
ments concerning the proposed municipal
budget.

Dated: Thursday, January 29, 2026
Office of Budget and Management
City of Springfield
In accordance with the provisions of
the Americans with Disabilities Act, any
individual who is in need of a reasonable
accommodation in order to participate
in or benefit from attendance at a public
hearing of the City of Springfield should
contact ADA Coordinator, at (217) 789-
2270 prior to the meeting date.

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 FOR THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF ILLINOIS, SANGAMON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
MARGARET STUBER and TODD A. MONI-
CAL,
Plaintiffs,
v.

RUSSELL T. SCHROEDER,
(deceased)
RUBY SCHROEDER,
(deceased)
CAROL JEAN ANGELES,
(Putative Heir at Law – deceased)
LOUIS LEROY ANGELES
(Putative Heir at Law)
UNKNOWN OWNERS
and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.

Case No.
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION TO
QUIET TITLE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU, RUS-
SELL T. SCHROEDER (deceased), RUBY
SCHROEDER (deceased), CAROL JEAN
ANGELES (Putative Heir at Law - de-

ceased), LOUIS LEROY ANGELES (Putative
Heir at Law), UNKNOWN OWNERS and
NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants in
the above-entitled cause, that said action
to quiet title in favor of the Plaintiffs was
filed on December 30, 2025 and is now
pending.

THEREFORE, unless you, RUSSELL T.
SCHROEDER (deceased), RUBY SCHRO-
EDER (deceased), CAROL JEAN ANGELES
(Putative Heir at Law - deceased), LOUIS
LEROY ANGELES (Putative Heir at Law),
UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS, Defendants, file your answer
to this cause or otherwise make your
appearance therein, in the Circuit Court
of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon
County, Illinois, held in the Sangamon
County Courthouse, in the City of Spring-
field, on or before February 26, 2026,
default may be entered against you and
each of you at any time after that day.
Riley P. Hamilton (#6348477)
GATES WISE SCHLOSSER & GOEBEL
Attorneys at Law
1231 South Eighth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
Telephone: (217) 522.9010

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.

DELORES E. BURNES, JP MORGAN BANK,
HOUSEHOLD FINANCE CORPORATION
III, SANGAMON COUNTY AS TRUSTEE,
UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS,
Defendant(s).
No. 25-MR-594
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO, DELORES E. BURNES,
JP MORGAN BANK, HOUSEHOLD FINANCE
CORPORATION III, UNKNOWN OWNERS
and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, that a
complaint has been filed in the above
named court on December 17, 2025 for
demolition of the structure or structures
located on the real estate commonly
known as 1203 S. 12th St, Springfield,
Illinois, and legally described as:
THE SOUTH 40 FEET OF LOT 5 IN BLOCK 1
OF OUT LOTS OF BARRETT'S ADDITION TO
THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
(Permanent Parcel No. 14-34-453-026);
and for other relief.

UNLESS DELORES E. BURNES, JP
MORGAN BANK, HOUSEHOLD FINANCE
CORPORATION III, 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 Build-
ing, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield,
IL 62701, on or before March 2, 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

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. ABSOLUTE PERFECTION II INC., WARREN-BOYNTON STATE BANK, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

No. 25-MR-516
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO, ABSOLUTE PERFECTION II INC., Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, that a complaint has been filed in the above named court on October 31, 2025 for demolition of the structure or structures located on the real estate commonly known as 1020 N. 4th Street, Springfield, Illinois, and legally described as:

THE NORTH 28 FEET OF LOT 2 OF KIRSCH ESTATES SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 51, 52, AND 53 OF THE ASSESSOR'S SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE WEST HALF OF SECTION 27 AND PART OF THE EAST HALF OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 16 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN. ALSO THE SOUTH 6 FEET OF LOT 6 OF THE SECOND PARTITION OF THE ESTATE OF LEWIS KIRSCH, DECEASED, MADE UNDER A DECREE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AT THE FEBRUARY TERM 1885, IN THE CAUSE OF BARBARA ANN KIRSCH, ET AL, VS, MARY THOMAS, ET AL, BEING PART OF LOT 9 OF THE ASSESSOR'S SUBDIVISION OF THE PART OF THE WEST HALF OF SECTION 27 AND PART OF LYING EAST OF FOURTH STREET IN THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD. (Permanent Parcel No. 14-27.0-105-013); and for other relief.

UNLESS ABSOLUTE PERFECTION II INC., 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 March 2, 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, Assistant Corporation Counsel ARDC #6309668
800 East Monroe Street, Room 327
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 789-2375
kateah.mcmasters@springfield.il.us

To enforce Self Storage Lien in default of payment of rent a private auction will be held on Saturday February 21, 2026, at 9:00a.m.

Northend Storage is located at 1907 North Grand East, Springfield, IL 62702
This is a private auction. In order to attend you must call 217-544-4521 a week prior to the auction date.

Please leave your name, telephone number and an email address.
Cash is the only form of payment accepted for the auction.

Any individual wanting to retain their unit will need to pay their entire balance on or before Wednesday February 18, 2026.

No personal checks will be accepted for storage units that are in lien.

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STORAGE UNIT AUCTION
Shayla Shanklin Unit B-7

James Clark Unit J-27
Mhynessa Day Unit 4-5
Sheila Sullivan Unit 6-5
Khalib Williamson Unit 9-6
Bonnie Sutton Unit 1-28
Charles Jones Unit 1-41
Shannon Estes Unit 3-22
Laura Snyder Unit 3-23
Vernice Bailey Unit 5-22
Jennifer Staff Unit 5-23
Shalik Rhynes Unit 9-34
Mark Grier Unit 10-13
Lakaisa Tucker Unit 10-41
Brady Tyhurst Unit 10-44
Morgan Murawski Unit B-5
Michael Lusk Unit H-2
Angela Williams Unit H-8

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

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, February 19th, 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 I LLC, contract purchaser of property commonly known as the 13000 Block of Thayer Road, Waverly, IL 62692 and legally described as follows:

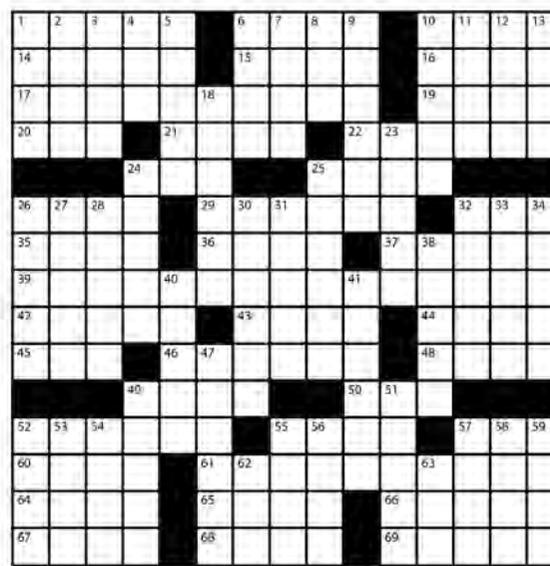
Parcel Identification Numbers: 33-29.0-200-001, 33-29.0-100-002, 33-20.0-400-002 & 33-20.0-300-003

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 22nd day of January, 2025
Sangamon County Zoning Board of Appeals
CHARLES W. CHIMENTO, CHAIRMAN

Snow day Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 930

- Across
1. Allow entry
6. Spanish salutation
10. Deep fryer liquids
14. School
15. Daft Punk and Outkast, for two
16. Together, musically
17. Thanksgiving-related race
19. Ticked off
20. "___ me anything"
21. Dallas squad, to fans
22. Uses TurboTax, perhaps
24. Video camera button
25. Speaker's spot
26. Herb in stuffing
29. Newspaper in Boston or Miami
32. Cow's chew
35. Off-kilter
36. Barbershop request
37. Demagnetize, as a tape
39. Diabetic's key health metric
42. Martini's partner
43. ___ stick
44. Singer Lovato
45. Farm mother
46. Show visible embarrassment
48. Poems of praise
49. Acquires
50. U.F.O. crew
52. Break free
55. ___pedi
57. Canine command
60. Crowd noise
61. Areas between sidewalks and porches
64. Aruba or Jamaica
65. Thick Japanese noodle

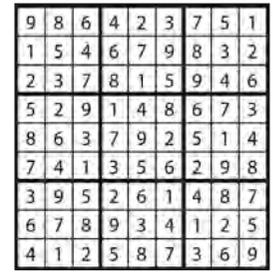


66. Group of cards in hearts or bridge
67. Seasonal malady, or a word that comes before each theme entry
68. Young fellows
69. Sounds of relief
Down
1. "___ boy!"
2. ___ex machina
3. Book between Matthew and Luke
4. Gross
5. Word with song or party
6. Purchase for a family room
7. Not just mine
8. John for Cleese
9. What bargain hunters look for
10. Desert watering hole
11. Object of adoration
12. Entice
13. Understands
18. Billionaire's boats
23. Cuba's Castro
24. Bank takebacks
25. Kind of control
26. Buffalo hockey player
27. Let happen
28. Bird in a gaggle
30. Explodes
31. Severity
32. Gave in
33. I'm here to help
34. Places to get Reubens
38. Second changes
40. Unearth
41. Woodchuck or chinchilla
47. All one can see
49. Revealed
51. Starts to fall
52. Clapton who sang "Layla"
53. "Eh"
54. Poker action
55. State of mind
56. Raggedy ___ (dolls)
57. Big gulp
58. Creep
59. Judgmental sounds
62. Food label fig.
63. Singer Grande, to fans

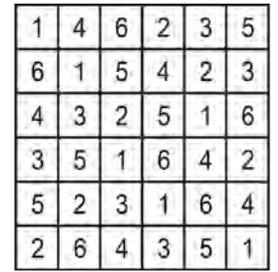
Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #928



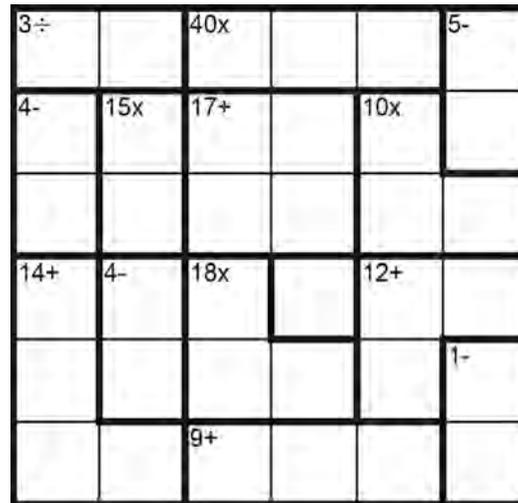
Sudoku answers from #928



JoshJosh answers from #928

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 930

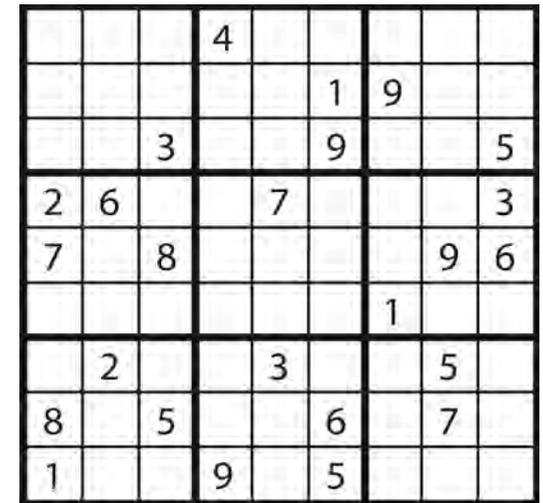
Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.



Difficulty hard

Sudoku No. 930

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



Difficulty hard

**Ansar Shrine Arab Patrol and
the Valley of Springfield Scottish Rite
are hosting their annual**

CHILI COOK OFF WEEKEND FOR THE BENEFIT OF



**Shriners Hospitals
for Children® — St. Louis**



VFW LAFORE LOCK POST 755 2211 OLD JACKSONVILLE RD., SPRINGFIELD, IL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

3rd Annual Abraham Lincoln Route 66 Chili Cook-Off

www.chilicookoff.com

Doors open at 11:00 AM Judging Begins at 3:00 PM

Raffles 50/50 Drawing

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

22nd Annual 'Mister Chilli Man'

Joe DeFrates Memorial Regional Chili Cook-Off!

<http://joedefrateschilicookoff.com>

GLOW BINGO and Dinner on Valentines Day!

**Valentines Day Pork Chop Dinner with Salad & Sides
serving 4 PM - 5:15 PM**



\$35 per Person

\$170 VIP Table (4 top)

\$340 VIP Reserved Table (8 top)

(includes Daubers, cards, hats & swag)



Sign-Up & Check-In 4 PM Bingo starts 6 PM DJ Music/Dance 9 PM-?

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

*2 sheets for \$1 Raffle BRING YOUR OWN SNACK - CASH BAR

*2 sheets for \$2 Raffle Game LICENSE #BL 53191

*5 - 50/50 Raffle Tickets To reserve your table or pre-register contact:
Cory Mitchell (217) 691-2800 or corymitchelle@gmail.com



**Just
Chili'n**



\$10 per person - all you can eat

'Chilli Man' Chili, Hot Dogs & Competition Samples

Doors open at 11:00 AM

Daytona Race on all TVs 1:30 PM

Chili Judging 3:00 PM

Multiple Raffle Items - Need not be present to Win

Baked Goods

50/50 Drawings

55" Samsung TV Raffle