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FREE March 5-11, 2026 • Vol. 51, No. 32

# Back in **business**

Following a prison sentence, engineer collects nearly \$1.5 million from same state agency he was convicted of defrauding

**13 ENVIRONMENT** | Dilpreet Raju



# A Six-Step Plan to End Toenail Fungus

Toenail fungus, or onychomycosis, affects approximately 14% of Americans—over 35 million people. The condition is even more prevalent among seniors, with over 50% of those over age 70 suffering from it. While many over-the-counter creams and oral medications promise a quick fix, these conservative approaches are often marginally effective and can carry health risks.

According to Dr. John M. Sigle, DPM, “Achieving clear nails requires a multi-faceted, customized approach.” The Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois uses a combination of diagnostics, and what Dr. Sigle considers to be the best of class products, medications, and state-of-the-art technology to combat the condition. If you want healthy nails by summer, here is the proven six-step plan that offers effective results:

## Step 1: Accurate Diagnosis

The process begins with a professional consultation. To ensure the correct treatment, the doctor may send nail clippings or debris to a laboratory to confirm the presence and type of fungus.

## Step 2: Nail Preparation

Before treatment, infected nails are trimmed, debrided, and filed down. This preparation allows medications and laser treatment to penetrate the nail plate and nail bed more effectively.

## Step 3: Laser Therapy

The laser kills the fungus immediately without damaging the surrounding skin. A typical course involves an initial session followed by two additional treatments over 60 days. Each session lasts 15 to 30 minutes, is pain-free, and requires no downtime.

## Step 4: Keryflex Nail Restoration

For patients embarrassed by the appearance of their nails, the Keryflex system provides an immediate cosmetic solution. A medical-grade resin is applied and hardened with UV light, creating a natural-looking nail while the real nail grows out underneath. Dr. Sigle notes that this innovation has significantly improved the confidence and quality of life for many patients.

## Step 5: Science-Backed Topicals

The plan includes the use of Tolcycen®, a topical medicine that is a physician-dispensed, over the counter (OTC) antifungal, cosmetic, and nail renewal solution designed to treat nail fungus and improve nail appearance. Dr. Sigle notes that Tolcycen® is a revolutionary product that provides superior penetration to the nail plate.

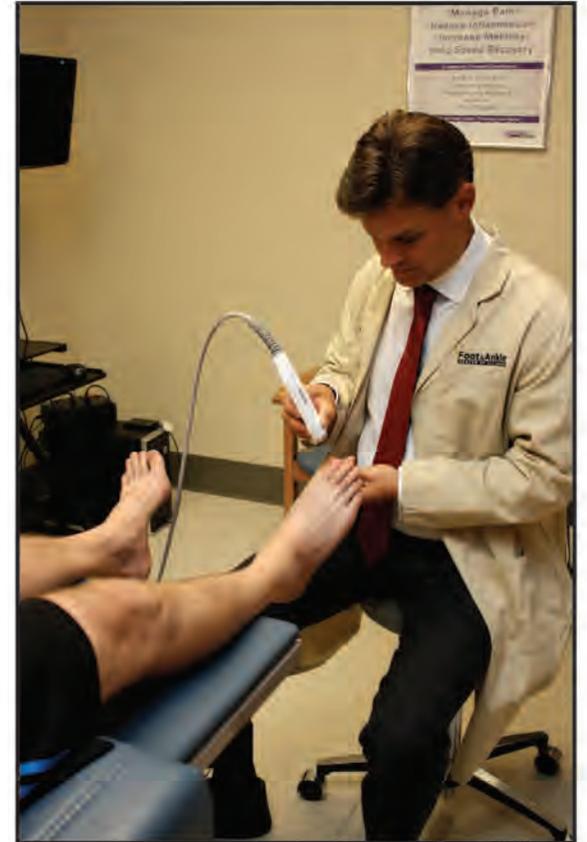
## Step 6: Sanitizing Footwear

The final line of defense is the SteriShoe® sanitizer. There is little point in treating a foot only to place it back into a contaminated shoe. This UV light device eliminates 99% of germs and bacteria in just 15 minutes, ensuring your footwear remains sterile and odor-free.

## Summary

Managing toenail fungus is a marathon, not a sprint. Success depends on a correct diagnosis and a multi-faceted, customized approach using the best products, medications, and state-of-the-art technology to combat the condition. While laser treatments are often an out-of-pocket expense, some insurance carriers are beginning to provide coverage. Now is the ideal time to start treatment so your feet are healthy and ready for sandal season.

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## LASER THERAPY

BEFORE



AFTER  
9 MONTHS



## KERYFLEX

BEFORE



IMMEDIATE  
RESULTS



# Data center project moves forward

Sangamon County Board will take a final vote on CyrusOne zoning plan March 23

ENERGY | Dean Olsen

Opponents of a proposed \$500 million data center in southwestern Sangamon County went away disappointed and angry but unbowed, while officials from a Dallas-based company left smiling, after a pair of nonbinding votes by county officials Feb. 19.

“This is a long-term catalyst for the labor and construction industry,” Bradd Hout, location and power strategy director for CyrusOne, said before the Sangamon County Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted 5-0 to support the company’s request.

CyrusOne wants to build the data center in an agricultural zone and is requesting approval for the project as a conditional permitted use.

But opponents said their concerns remain about how the 634-megawatt data center would create noise, take prime farm ground out of production, disrupt the environment and become part of a data center boom across the county that is contributing to electric rate increases and perpetuating the use of climate change-causing fossil fuels.

“These companies only care about money,” Jill Krippel of Springfield said. “They don’t care about us.”

Gary Schulze, who lives about a mile from the proposed data center, said he worries there will be a constant buzzing from the site. Data centers, he said, “are only good for the people with deep pockets.”

Don Hanrahan, member of the Coalition for Springfield’s Utility Future, said low-frequency noise from data centers will create long-term health hazards, a claim dismissed as unsubstantiated by CyrusOne officials.

But Darrel Thoma, a spokesman for business groups related to Dowson Farms of Divernon that own the land to be sold to

CyrusOne, told county officials, “to get an investment like that into Sangamon County is absolutely tremendous.”

Company officials estimate the data center would generate an additional \$5 million to \$6 million in new property taxes each year once the complex, to be built in segments, is complete in the next four or more years.

The ZBA vote by chairperson Charles Chimento and ZBA members George Petrilli, JD Sudeth, Tony Mares and Richard Thompson will be considered by the County Board when it meets at 6 p.m. March 23 at the BOS Center to take a final vote on the CyrusOne zoning plan.

By voting in favor of the request, ZBA members said they agreed with a recommendation from the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission staff that the CyrusOne request complied with the county’s zoning ordinance.

The ZBA vote on Feb. 19 followed a 4-5 advisory vote that same day by a County Board committee to not support a proposal for a six-month moratorium on any final zoning decisions for data centers.

Voting in favor of a moratorium were Republican County Board member David Mendenhall and Democrats Reggie Guyton and Linda Douglas-Williams. Voting against were Democrat Kevin McGuire and Republicans James Schackmann, Jeff Thomas, Greg Stumpf and Tom Rader.

County Board member Marc Ayers, who proposed the moratorium, said he had expected a favorable vote from the Zoning and Land Use Committee but plans to ask the full County Board to vote on the moratorium March 23.



**Bradd Hout, location and power-strategy director for CyrusOne, speaks at the Sangamon County Zoning Board of Appeals on Feb. 19 before the board conducted a 5-0 non-binding vote recommending that the County Board approve CyrusOne’s request for zoning approval to build the proposed \$500 million complex. PHOTO BY DEAN OLSEN.**

Guyton said he and other County Board members don’t yet have enough information to make “informed decisions.”

But Springfield attorney Kyle Barry, who is representing CyrusOne, told the ZBA that opponents are using “a lot of hearsay” to make accusations. He added that opponents’ pleas of “just give us more time” aren’t justified for a project that has been evaluated by county officials since the fall.

“This project has been vetted,” Barry said. “There’s no reason at this point to delay things, and it probably would be legally inappropriate.”

The proposed data center, to be built on a 280-acre site currently farmed in the 13000 block of Thayer Road in Talkington Township, would provide rented space for computer servers owned by companies that help to power the internet and artificial intelligence, CyrusOne officials said.

The company hasn’t revealed the data center’s potential clients. CyrusOne has said the project would create 100 permanent full-time, on-site jobs – with average annual salaries of \$83,000 – more than 500 temporary construction jobs and ongoing support for local vendors to keep the sprawling complex operating.

Hout told *Illinois Times* after the ZBA vote that he didn’t know how the proposed Power Act – contained in bills pending in the Illinois House and Senate – would affect the CyrusOne project.

He said he also didn’t know how or whether the Sangamon County project, which has the support of local building trades unions, would be affected by Gov. JB Pritzker’s proposed two-year pause on sales-tax incentives for new data centers. The governor told lawmakers he supports the pause to allow for more study of the impact of data centers on energy supplies and the economy.

Hout said, “Everything we’ve worked on is intended to comply with the rules and regulations in effect today.”

The Power Act legislation, according to the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, would “protect Illinois families, communities and our climate from the growing impacts of energy- and water-intensive data centers.” The legislation would require data centers to “bring new clean-energy resources to the grid” and prohibit data centers “from shifting infrastructure and capacity costs onto everyday consumers,” according to a coalition news release.

Plans from CyrusOne currently call for the company to build four 450,000-square-foot, one-story buildings to house computer servers rather than the originally proposed six 230,000-square-foot buildings.

Each building would have 105 diesel-powered electric generators, each the size of a semi-trailer, for a total of 420, with each generator operating an average of 15 hours per year.

The reduction in the number of buildings, which increases the total square footage from 1.39 million to 1.8 million, was done to set aside more space for native landscaping and wildlife, Hout said. The company said in its zoning application that the change will allow for a bigger setback from Thayer Road and reduce projected water consumption by 24%.

Unlike some data centers that use large amounts of water for cooling computer equipment, CyrusOne says this data center would use “closed-loop” technology to recirculate about 280,000 gallons of water that would be trucked in from elsewhere.

The 2,800 gallons of water needed each day at the site for restrooms, humidification and other basic operations would be comparable to a regular office complex and would come from the Apple Creek Water Cooperative, which gets its water from Waverly Lake.

CyrusOne officials said they are discussing plans for the company to fund improvements to the lake and system upgrades within Apple Creek’s territory. □

## Editor’s note

“Yes, we may be speaking to the choir,” said Dr. Kelly Hurst, a leader of the Massey Commission, to the March 2 quarterly meeting of Kenniebrew-McNeese Community Forum. “But remember, the choir needs rehearsal.” The “choir” here was doctors, hospital workers, social service providers, city officials and staffers and other community members who care about doing a better job of making Springfield healthier. Among the topics discussed by panelists and in breakout sessions during the two-hour forum were homelessness, substance use and mental health. I was in the mental health breakout, where there was general agreement that the referendum to create a “708” Community Mental Health Board must be approved in the March 17 election. That would provide more funding for mental health services, but it won’t be a panacea. The Massey Commission has offered a blueprint for closing gaps in mental health care. The homelessness group recommended not only “intentional referrals,” but also faster follow-through. Housing for people just released from incarceration was brought up as a problem area. A common theme, for all the topics discussed, was there are good people doing good work, but many needing help still don’t know where to turn. Helping agencies need to collaborate, increase outreach and provide more information about available resources. — *Fletcher Farrar, editor*

# Urban League has ambitious development plans

Will conduct community surveys of east-side residents

DEVELOPMENT | David Blanchette

“At a time when it’s easy to take a step back, the Urban League is stepping up.”

Those were the words of Springfield Urban League President and CEO Dr. Marcus Johnson during a Dec. 2 Springfield City Council meeting. Johnson was trying to convince the alderpersons to sell eight city-owned parcels of land on Springfield’s east side for \$4,000 to the Urban League for future revitalization.

The City Council tabled the matter that night because the request took many by surprise, including two of the aldermen who represent the area. But the land purchase was approved unanimously by the City Council several weeks later, and now the Urban League is moving forward with an ambitious plan to determine what the community wants to happen with those eight lots plus other Urban League-owned properties in the area. Once those desires are determined, Johnson said work will begin to make things happen.

“We are the architects of our own revitalization, and we have matched our vision with our resources,” Johnson told the City Council. “I don’t think I have to convince anybody here of the potential in Springfield.”

The eight newly acquired properties plus 11 additional vacant lots the Urban League already owns will anchor an urban initiative in the Central East Cultural District within the 50 contiguous blocks around the organization’s headquarters at 100 N. 11<sup>th</sup> St.

“The eight lots are intended to be a catalyst for affordable home ownership, cultural tourism and community-serving spaces that support the Central East Cultural District and help stabilize this historic Black neighborhood,” Johnson said. “These lots also sit within a broader vision that links the Urban League with Route History, Lincoln Colored Home, the Black firehouse and the new transportation hub, creating a walkable story of Black resilience and innovation in Springfield.”

Johnson expects funding to come from a mix of public and private sources, including grants, philanthropic support and the Urban League’s own reserves. Because the final mix of housing, cultural and community spaces is being driven by ongoing planning and survey data, Johnson said the Urban League will develop cost estimates “once those program decisions are clear, instead of guessing and risking misinformation.”

The City Council’s initial reluctance to act on the land purchase was led by Ward 2 Ald.



The Springfield Urban League, headquartered at 100 N. 11th St., has acquired 19 vacant lots to anchor an urban redevelopment project within the 50 contiguous blocks around the organization’s headquarters. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

Shawn Gregory, in whose ward the eight parcels were located, because “I am the elected official for Ward Two, and this is the first that I am hearing about these great plans,” Gregory said when the plan was first brought to the council. “I would like for the community to tell us what they want there first. It seems like there are a lot of steps to go through.”

Johnson verified that community input is a critical step in the process and that surveys of residents and business owners in the area will commence in earnest during the next several months.

“We began by supporting a housing stock survey and community needs assessment with our partners, and we will follow that with a neighborhood survey scheduled to launch in the second quarter of this year,” Johnson said. “Community input is essential because no single person or organization should decide where and how people live. Our decisions must be grounded in what residents tell us today, and in the resources that are actually available to address those needs, so that development reflects what residents say they need, not what

others assume they need.”

Ward 3 Ald. Roy Williams was skeptical, both during the December City Council meeting and later after the land sale was approved, about the need for additional surveys.

“How many times do you need to survey the east side, and who are you surveying?” Williams said. “There have been three or four plans that Sangamon County Regional Planning did over the years – I think I just saw one that was dated in 1992 and another from 2012. This tells me they are just making up plans and never act on them.”

Johnson acknowledged that conducting another survey may give people pause, but it’s an essential part of the process.

“I completely understand why people feel skeptical when they hear about another survey. In a lot of places surveys were done, reports were written, and then nothing visible changed,” Johnson said. “That is a real experience for many communities, and I do not dismiss it.”

But Johnson said this process is different.

The surveys which will soon begin are tied directly to partners like the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and its community revitalization work, which means the results feed into formal plans, funding strategies and tools such as tax credits and grants. “It will not be just a report on a shelf,” he said.

Williams appreciated that the community will have input from the surveys, but the fact that IHDA is involved doesn’t impress him because “IHDA backed the tiny homes that went there, and they knew very well that the people in those areas didn’t support it,” he said, referring to another recent development project to build tiny homes on the east side to house homeless veterans. “Because if we are going to survey, I know they are not going to hear, ‘We want tiny homes.’”

Gregory agreed the community does not want additional tiny homes, and he is confident the Urban League’s plans are “definitely very different from tiny homes. There’s a moratorium on tiny homes right now in the community, so it won’t be that at all,” he said.

Johnson said the Urban League is committed to showing residents what they learn from the surveys and how that feedback will shape decisions about housing, investment and priorities going forward.

“When surveys are used this way, they are not just paperwork. They are one of the most effective ways for residents to set the agenda and help us go after the resources to make that agenda real,” Johnson said. “We will only talk numbers that the community can bank on. As the vision for these lots is finalized with residents, the dollars and timelines we share will be tied to real plans and real funding, not wishful thinking.”

Once the community surveys are completed, analysis, formal reports, approvals and construction will follow in later phases.

“In the meantime, we are already building the kind of ecosystem that responsible developers look for – cultural tourism, preserved historic assets and stronger local businesses,” Johnson said. “New homeowners, active cultural destinations and growing small businesses all contribute to a healthier local economy, and those are precisely the conditions that attract mission-aligned developers over time.”

Although Gregory was unaware of the Urban League’s plans when the matter was first

brought before the City Council, he is now an enthusiastic supporter of the organization’s vision for the vacant east side parcels of land.

“We are really working hard to change the narrative, and at times that brings about some uncomfortable conversations between the government and the community,” Gregory said. “But it’s well worth it for the change that this community deserves, and we will accept nothing less.”

Amy Rasing, the director of the city’s Office of Planning and Economic Development, is also a supporter.

“The city is all for this kind of development project, no matter where it’s located in the city,” Rasing said. “The city will continue to support the Urban League and their mission.”

The Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance has met with the Urban League to discuss the pros and cons of what could potentially happen on the lots that the organization owns, according to president and CEO Ryan McCrady. He said the Urban League has a track record of thoroughly examining all aspects of a project before proceeding.

“One of the most important things in economic development is understanding the goals and priorities of the community.

Any time I talk to community leaders about economic development my first question is,

‘What do your constituents want? How would they define success for the development?’” McCrady said. “The Urban League has a great reputation of being very responsible and responsive to constituents in this way.”

During 2024, the state of Illinois announced the establishment of 10 “cultural districts” in Chicago, Champaign and Springfield, a designation that opens doors to potential funding through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The Springfield Project is the host entity for the local Southtown Cultural District, while the Springfield Urban League is the host entity for Springfield’s Central East Cultural District, in which the Urban League-owned parcels are located. Johnson feels the cultural district’s state designation may lead to additional state-local partnerships and funding.

Other partners that Johnson listed for the Urban League development include Route History, neighborhood associations, local businesses and elected officials. Route History helped to develop the Imagine Route History Experience on East Cook Street and the Lincoln Colored Home at 427 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street as major cultural destinations.

“Each partner plays a specific role, from lifting up resident voices to advancing preservation projects and aligning local, state

and federal resources so that the neighborhood truly benefits from investment,” Johnson said. “With that being said, if we go against the community as a trusted messenger of 99 years, that goes against who we are. We would never work against the community.”

The Springfield Urban League will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Since opening its doors in 1926, the organization has worked to advance equity through programs in education, workforce development, health, justice and community empowerment. The Springfield Urban League supports more than 23,000 individuals each year in local neighborhoods through skill-building programs, digital education, economic development efforts, wellness resources and youth-focused services.

Johnson said the Urban League’s vision on Springfield’s east side aligns with the core values and mission that the organization has had for nearly a century.

“Our vision is a walkable, living cultural district that preserves Black history, grows local jobs and tourism, and creates real pathways to ownership so current residents can stay, build wealth and tell their own story,” Johnson said. “We are not simply trying to add buildings, we are working to strengthen our community that has carried this history for generations.” □

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# An overview of Springfield's finances

Three council members vote 'no' on new city budget, some cite concerns about a structural deficit

CITY | Dean Olsen

Several of Springfield's city council members voiced concern that the city's rate of spending could lead to future shortfalls, but a majority still approved a new fiscal year budget of almost \$203 million.

The new corporate fund budget for fiscal 2027, which supports most city functions, such as road repairs and police and fire protection, stands at almost the same level proposed by Mayor Misty Buscher in January.

"This year is going to be important to watch," Ward 10 Ald. Ralph Hanauer said before the City Council voted 7-3 for a final fiscal 2027 budget on Feb. 17.

Hanauer voted for the \$202.9 million budget, which covers March 1 through Feb. 28, 2027, even though he said it's unknown whether a hoped-for boost in tourism-related sales taxes associated with the Scheels Sports Park at Legacy Pointe will materialize as the venue fully opens later this year.

Depending on the level and time frame for that revenue, Hanauer said some budgeted spending on new fire trucks and police squad cars, among other plans, may have to be curtailed when the council votes later on those separate purchases.

Likewise, Ward 9 Ald. Jim Donelan encouraged Buscher to be less than aggressive in filling all of the new and vacant positions provided for in the budget. The budget includes an increase of 84 employees over the current total of about 1,410, an increase of 6%.

Donelan voted in favor of the spending plan – a 7.5% increase over fiscal 2026 spending – as did Ward 8 Ald. Erin Conley, who said it was a "fairly conservative budget

## Corporate Fund Overview



	FY2025	FY2026 curr bud	FY2026 est	FY2027 proj	FY2028 proj
Corp. Fund Beginning Bal	\$ 61,071,648	\$ 59,077,060	\$ 67,976,642	\$ 71,177,500	\$ 46,896,983
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 182,386,866</b>	<b>\$ 172,795,126</b>	<b>\$ 177,537,705</b>	<b>\$ 176,738,788</b>	<b>\$ 175,378,742</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 175,481,873</b>	<b>\$ 186,911,127</b>	<b>\$ 174,336,847</b>	<b>\$ 201,019,305</b>	<b>\$ 202,519,636</b>
Favorable/(Unfavorable)	\$ 6,904,994	\$ (14,116,001)	\$ 3,200,858	\$ (24,280,517)	\$ (27,140,895)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 67,976,642	\$ 44,961,059	\$ 71,177,500	\$ 46,896,983	\$ 19,756,088
% of Expenditures	38.7%	24.1%	40.8%	23.3%	9.8%

FY2026 lapse in spending	
Vacancy hiring lag	\$ 4,047,035
Timing of multi-year grants	\$ 6,708,224
Fire Engine ordered not delivered	\$ 1,165,298
Reappropriation for Fire BOLT vehicle	\$ 336,902
All other expense lines	\$ 316,821
<b>Total lapsed spending</b>	<b>\$ 12,574,280</b>

FY2027 Budget vs. FY2026 Curr Budget	
Regular Salaries	\$ 2,348,239
Public Safety Pension increase	\$ 2,415,105
Workers Comp funding increase	\$ 1,670,684
Employer Health Insurance increase	\$ 1,531,660
IMRF Pension increase	\$ 200,450
All other Personal Services increase	\$ 1,450,991
Awards and Grants increase-95% reimb	\$ 2,122,922
Transfers Out to Library increase	\$ 1,600,000
Equipment	\$ 1,395,849
All other expense lines	\$ (627,722)
	\$ 14,108,178

Mayor Misty Buscher presented this overview of the city's finances in January, and the numbers were virtually unchanged in the final fiscal 2027 budget approved by the Springfield City Council on Feb. 17.

in a lot of ways."

Conley was referring to Buscher's decision not to propose the city enact its own 1% grocery tax to replace the 1% statewide grocery tax that was eliminated, effective Jan. 1, because of action by the General Assembly and Gov. JB Pritzker.

The result will be a loss of between \$5 million and \$6 million per year in revenue for city coffers, according to Springfield's Office of Budget and Management.

Buscher didn't receive any pushback from the City Council when she opted in the fall not to propose a grocery tax for Springfield

to replace the statewide 1% grocery tax that expired at the end of 2025 because of action by the Illinois General Assembly and Gov. JB Pritzker. Springfield and Chicago are the only communities with more than 100,000 residents that opted not to replace the statewide tax with a grocery tax of their own.

The other "yes" votes on the budget came from alderpersons Jeff Cox of Ward 1, Lakeisha Purchase of Ward 5, Jennifer Notariano of Ward 6 and Brad Carlson of Ward 7. Voting "no" were alderpersons Shawn Gregory of Ward 2, Roy Williams Jr. of Ward 3 and Larry Rockford of Ward 4.

Williams said he voted against the budget because of what he considers the city's structural deficit and its potential to whittle down the city's budget surplus in the next few years if current spending and revenue trends don't change.

Buscher has said the city doesn't have a structural deficit but could face problems in future years if the legislature doesn't change the way the increasingly expensive municipal police and fire pension costs are financed.

The fiscal 2027 budget is considered balanced because it uses about \$24 million from the current \$71 million in reserves for operations. The Buscher administration anticipates needing to use another \$27 million from the surplus to balance the budget for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2027.

However, Jeff Egizii, the budget office's fiscal services assistant director, said it's likely, because of delays in hiring and other spending, that not all of the budget surplus will be used in fiscal 2027.

Egizii pointed out that in the most recent fiscal year, none of the \$14 million from the surplus budgeted to be spent was actually used. In fact, he said \$3.2 million in unspent funds from that budget year was added to the surplus.

Williams said the council seems to have abandoned its traditional financial oversight role in favor of supporting the mayor. He said he agrees with the concerns raised in *Illinois Times* interviews with Bill McCarty, the city budget director under former mayors Jim Langfelder and Mike Houston. Buscher defeated Langfelder in the 2023 municipal election. □

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**MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS**

Sangamon County faces a clear choice: continue treating mental health as optional – or recognize it as essential public infrastructure for families, employers, schools and public safety.

A yes vote on the March 17 referendum will create a local Mental Health Board to provide dedicated funding for behavioral health, substance use disorder and intellectual/developmental disability services. Today, Sangamon County is – by far – the largest county in Illinois without this dedicated, locally controlled funding body. The vast majority of Illinois counties have already made this investment. It's time we do the same.

This referendum reached the ballot only after a yearlong study and a unanimous,

bipartisan vote of the Sangamon County Board. Leaders across the political spectrum agree: the need is too great to ignore.

Untreated mental health challenges can wreak havoc in our ERs, courts and jails – and also in our classrooms, workplaces and streets. When services are underfunded, costs don't disappear; they shift to police, nurses, doctors and taxpayers in far more expensive ways.

If passed, the referendum would dedicate local funding – half of 1%, or one cent on a \$2 sale (excluding groceries, medicine and services). It is expected to generate more than \$14 million annually. Every dollar stays in Sangamon County and is subject to public accountability and annual audits.

This effort has earned broad community support, including from the Sangamon County Farm Bureau, the Sangamon County Medical Society, American Legion Post 32 and our sheriff and state's attorney. Public safety, medical, agricultural and business leaders alike recognize that stronger mental health services make for a safer, healthier and more economically stable community.

Independent voters can request a nonpartisan, referendum-only ballot and vote on this question without declaring a party. Vote yes for mental health – and for a stronger, safer Sangamon County.

*Sergio "Satch" Pecori, chair and CEO of Hanson Professional Services*

*Ryan Croke, Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission president*

**NO NEW TAX**

Let the cannabis users pay the mental health tax ("Creation of mental health board will be up to voters," Feb. 5). They create a problem, then want us to fix it with more money. It's like going to dinner, ordering up everything, then letting the other guy pay for it.

*Barry Fitzgerald  
Springfield*

**HIGH HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE**

I'm writing in support of House Bill 3799 to address rising insurance rates in Illinois, especially State Farm's 27% home insurance rate increase ("Bill to regulate homeowners'



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 meeting 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

insurance rates could reemerge this session," Feb. 13). As a former 20-year-plus State Farm customer, I want to share the horrendous experience I faced and why this legislation is needed.

On June 29, 2023, my house in Chatham sustained severe exterior and interior damage caused by the impact of fallen trees and branches from the tornado force winds across Sangamon County that day. In the coming days and weeks my neighbors with other insurance companies quickly got their properties inspected and their claims resolved. But like a bad neighbor – State Farm was not there.

Over the two-year process, State Farm delayed, lied about and partially denied my

claim – while increasing my homeowners' and automobile insurance rates. Because of our current weak insurance oversight in Illinois, the Department of Insurance was powerless to do anything.

I know that I am not alone in my struggles. The Illinois Department of Insurance received more than 2,100 complaints between July 2, 2023, and April 16, 2025, about State Farm.

State Farm now wants even more money, while it continues to deny and underpay claims. HB 3799 is the first step to give the Illinois Department of Insurance and Illinois insurance customers a stronger voice against unnecessary and unjustified rate increases.

*Scott T. Musser  
Chatham*

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to force its way amongst its  
jostling siblings to reach a tit  
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is brought into the Big House  
and kept warm in a box behind  
grandma's wood stove. Once,  
my sister Pat was sleeping  
in an improvised bed in the  
Big House living room so  
that whatever she had she  
wouldn't give to her siblings  
in the Little House nearby.  
That illness morning my grandpa  
tipped toed in and tucked a runt  
pig in the bed beside my sleeping  
sister and the two of them cuddled  
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2026 Jacqueline Jackson

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# Pritzker's contribution to Croke

POLITICS | Rich Miller

Illinois comptroller candidate state Rep. Margaret Croke (D-Chicago) reported receiving the maximum campaign contribution of \$72,800 from Gov. JB Pritzker on Feb. 19. Since then, Pritzker has appeared in some Croke campaign ads.

The day before the Pritzker contribution was reported, I spoke with incumbent Comptroller Susana Mendoza about the governor's support of Croke – who once worked in Pritzker's administration and has been a legislative ally – and the near certainty at the time that Pritzker would be contributing to Croke's campaign.

Mendoza has prided herself on being independent of Pritzker, and noted that she has never accepted contributions from the governor because of that, even when he offered to contribute.

While stressing that she has worked with the governor in the past, and saying "Honestly, all of the people running are good people," Mendoza said, "I've always been super clear that I work for the taxpayers and any appearance of not full independence coming from the controller's office is, I think, unhealthy for Illinoisans," adding, "I would not have accepted money from the governor." Mendoza defeated appointed Republican Leslie Munger, who then-Gov. Bruce Rauner once called his "wingman," so she's sensitive to this stuff.

Mendoza also admitted that she considers Democratic comptroller candidate Holly Kim a friend and "mentee," who would make "a great comptroller." Kim is the Lake County treasurer. Mendoza has not yet made an official endorsement as of this writing.

So, I asked Croke for a response. She told me during an interview that the comptroller is an "independent office," adding, "I've always been very vocal on where I stand on things. I mean, I'm the youngest of three. I've had to assert myself a long time. I think that the governor endorsing me is a reflection of the fact that I've worked incredibly hard on this campaign, and he knows that I'm going to do a good job."

Croke said that Pritzker's chief of staff Anne Caprara (who has, um, a quite persuasive style) is a "great example," of how Pritzker "doesn't surround himself with 'yes people.' And I am not a 'yes person.' I think that he appreciates independence. I think he appreciates strong leadership. But what frustrates me sometimes is that people conflate independence with being adversarial, and that's just not my style. I've always been someone who is collaborative."

"I would argue that Susana likes to make

her position, especially when it is adversarial to any constitutional officer, like she wants to make sure everyone knows about it," Croke continued. "I'm someone who I feel like we can get things done, that we can collaborate and everyone can know exactly where I stand at the same time."

And Croke noted that other Democratic constitutional officers have received campaign contributions from Pritzker and nobody is questioning their independence. After she said that, I pointed out that Attorney General Kwame Raoul has received huge contributions from Pritzker (totaling almost \$4 million), and Croke asked rhetorically, "And then do we question what cases Kwame decides to bring or not bring because of that?" Good point.

I asked the other Democratic comptroller candidates to comment on Gov. Pritzker's contribution and Croke's independence. Here are some excerpts:

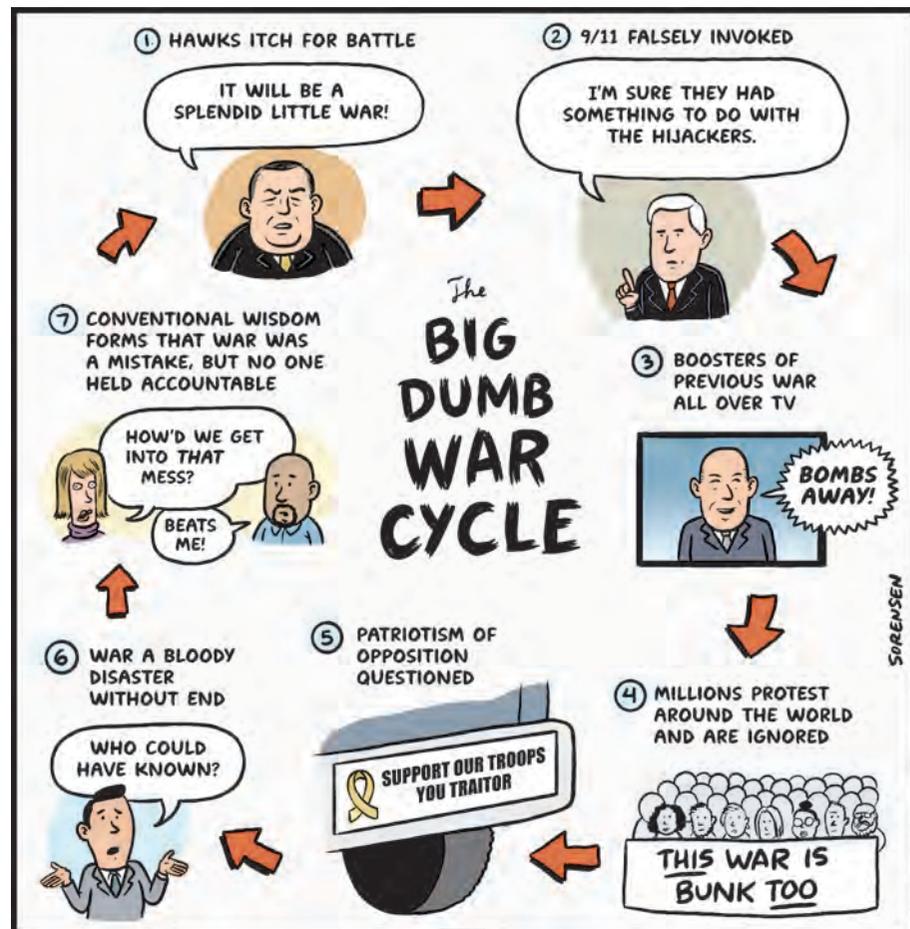
- Rep. Stephanie Kifowit appeared to criticize Pritzker's endorsement earlier in February, obliquely pointing to Rauner's backing of Munger. "Accepting money and support from the Governor is not something that shows the public an independent

Comptroller," she said in a statement.

- Holly Kim replied with a statement: "The Comptroller is supposed to be an independent watchdog, not an extension of the governor's political operation. When Rep. Croke, or any candidate, is being bankrolled by the same Governor she may need to challenge, it's safe to assume she'll be paying for it with her loyalty later." Kim then pointed to the Senate Democrats' funding of Sen. Karina Villa, and the support Villa and Rep. Kifowit both received from Speaker Michael Madigan. "None of my opponents have ever run independent campaigns – they're political insiders who rely on insider relationships," she said.

- Villa said Mendoza is "right to be concerned," about the Pritzker support, but pointed to what she said were "tens of thousands" of dollars from "from right wing MAGA donors," concluding, "If you want Democrats to trust you to be the last line of defense against Trump's cuts, you probably shouldn't be cozying up to his donors." □

Rich Miller also publishes *Capitol Fax*, a daily political newsletter, and *CapitolFax.com*.



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# A life well written

A central Illinois doctor goes to war

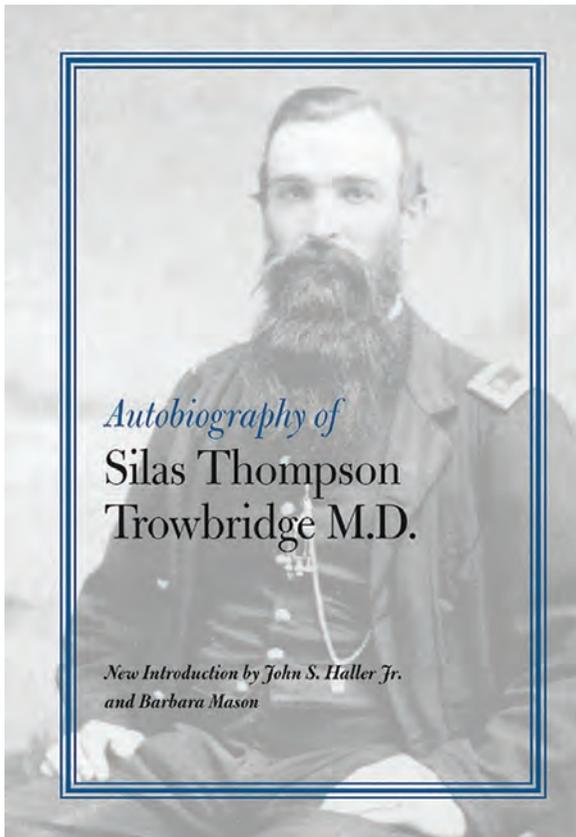
KROHE | James Krohe Jr.

It is a rare male who, having achieved some success of the usual sort, can resist the conclusion that it must be because he is very intelligent or very virtuous. And being public-spirited, such a man is eager to make his wisdom available to family and friends. He thus develops a reputation as a dull person. Sometimes he is tempted to put his wisdom in a book about his life and thus develops a new reputation as a dull author. Such accounts litter the closets and attics of Illinois.

One author who is not dull is Silas Thompson Trowbridge (1823-1896) of Decatur. An Indianan by birth, Trowbridge practiced medicine without a license in small towns before settling in Decatur. After training in Chicago, he signed up as an Army surgeon. He was well regarded by peers medical and military and later was chosen president of the Illinois State Medical Society and U.S. Consul to Vera Cruz, Mexico, before retiring, as any sensible person would, to Napa Valley, California.

By turns eccentric, eloquent and informative, the book has a dozen faults typical of a DIY autobiography and a couple that are unique to it. A devoted family man, Trowbridge had purchased for his children a hand printing press and to give them something to print he wrote up his life's adventures. (This is a rich subgenre; *A Woman's Story of Pioneer Illinois*, Christiana Holmes Tillson's record of her life in Montgomery County, also was written for her children.) So eager were these "busy fingers" to see the book on the printed page that they set his draft into type as fast as he wrote it. Thus the book survives – his draft with all its faults, their text with all their typos. The result was the *Autobiography of Dr. Silas Thompson Trowbridge, M.D.* It was published privately in 1874, but a reprint edition came out in 2004 as one of the excellent Shawnee Classics series from the Southern Illinois University Press and is still in print.

The main event in this life was our great Civil War, which Trowbridge experienced in both its glorious and its gruesome aspects. He served for three years and four months as a regimental surgeon with U.S. Grant's western army during such decisive battles as Fort Donelson and the siege of Vicksburg. His version corrected from memory then-accepted accounts of some



*Autobiography of Dr. Silas Thompson Trowbridge, M.D.*, Southern Illinois University Press, 2004

battles, settled a few scores and recalled in detail the state of the art, if it can be called that, of the military medicine of that day.

Trowbridge also witnessed the often-antic nature of combat. One senior officer had a shell burst in his tent while he was in it, "perfectly demolishing every thing but himself, he stepping out of the midst of the ruins and swearing that if he was not

one of the best Christians in the world he would have been killed outright. But when he discovered a fine gold watch, a present from his father, totally ground to atoms I thought his Christianity the most vehement and demonstrative I had ever seen."

Even readers jaded by graphic modern films are likely to find his lively accounts of the realities of combat disturbing. About the fighting around Corinth, Mississippi, he recalled that he and his colleagues operated nonstop for two weeks before the battlefield was cleared of wounded, their hands so continuously in blood that "they were crisped and wrinkled like a washerwoman's after a day in her suds."

The doctor's postwar life was less bloody but not much less eventful. He watched a crew fend off the hijacking of a steamboat by brigands on a river trip to New Madrid, Missouri, promoted a couple of eccentric pet causes (he was against the wearing of mourning clothes) and strengthened his wife's weak lungs by organizing a brass band for her to play in. He also accompanied (in his medical capacity) a trainload of newspaper editors on a railroad publicity junket. Such trips were undergrad spring vacations for men past their prime who reveled in drinking and cosplay. (The entertainment included staged Indian attacks.) Trowbridge accurately described this one as a "grand cavalcade of sensationalists on a rampage."

In a world full of unread books, why read this one? To vicariously live a bit of the past, for one, or to learn about war and our own nation's great rebellion. And because through Trowbridge we learn a bit about the unnamed Illinois men (and boys) who served and suffered with him in the 8th Illinois Volunteers. They, like the author, were made military men by events but undertook the danger, the drudgery and the separation from family and livelihood willingly. Today's readers might pause to reflect whether they and their neighbors might be willing to spend as much if asked to help settle a civil war that now is in its 166th year. □

*James Krohe is the author of Corn Kings & One-horse Thieves, a lively history of Illinois' middle third.*

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# Learning begins at home

Parents, not teachers, have the greatest impact on a child's education

GUESTWORK | Melissa Hostetter

Each year, *Illinois Times* publishes an article on the status of Springfield District 186 Schools. Across the district, teachers, staff and administrators give their all, pouring their heart and soul into our students' futures. Many of our students make gains, but not the dramatic grade-level jumps necessary for major changes to the Illinois Report Card.

The unfortunate truth is that many schools across the district, state and nation are at an incredible disadvantage when it comes to raising scores. The most crucial window of learning for a child – ages zero to three – occurred before they ever walked in our doors. Many children begin their academic career playing catch-up. According to Zero to Three, a policy advocacy organization focused on infancy, this period is considered a “sensitive” time. Hearing, language and higher cognitive sensory pathways develop and peak during the first three years of life. The term “brain architecture” refers to the structure that begins to form in the womb. According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, a major influence on brain architecture is interaction with caregivers.

Not long after birth, gaps between babies with and without economic advantages begin to show. According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), by 18 months, children across socioeconomic groups show dramatic differences in vocabulary. By 24 months, low-income children are already six months behind more advantaged peers in language processing skills. By age 4, children from low-income families fall an average of seven months behind in mathematical knowledge. What happens – or does not happen – at home before a child begins school often sets a trajectory that is difficult to change.

If students are reading at grade level around the age of 8, most school districts can keep them on track. According to Elliot Regenstein, an expert on educational policy, very few districts can help struggling students catch up before the end of high school. Other research indicates that children who are ready for school at age 5 are less likely to drop out of high school. They are also likely to have lower rates of chronic disease and substance abuse.



Establishing a strong brain foundation in early childhood has lifelong impacts.

How can a parent build their child's brain? The Basics, a research-based early childhood initiative that helps families support healthy brain development in young children, suggests the following five tenets: maximizing love and minimizing stress; talking, singing and pointing; counting, grouping and comparing; exploring through movement and play; and reading and discussing stories.

Not all parents engage in these practices with their children, likely because they were never taught to do so. According to Dr. Dana Suskind, author of *Parent Nation: Unlocking Every Child's Potential, Fulfilling Society's Promise*, we may believe that parenting is intuitive, but it is not. Her team at the TMW Center for Early Learning and Public Health developed SPEAK – the Scale of Parent/Provider Expectations and Knowledge. Her team took SPEAK into the hospital and interviewed mothers who had recently given birth about their knowledge of the infant brain. They asked questions like: Is educational TV good for learning language? Is there language development in the first six months of life? Is a baby's brain born

or built? They discovered that parents with more education knew more about how a baby's brain develops.

Across the country, numerous programs support early parent education. Springfield District 186 implements the Parent as Teachers program, an evidence-based home visiting program. Decatur has a similar program, Baby TALK. Sangamon County utilizes Nurse-Family Partnership. Some states have launched more comprehensive programs, like Georgia's Talk With Me Baby and California's First 5. For greater continuity, we need a large-scale public health campaign from the federal government, much like past campaigns on handwashing and seat belt use. Much of this research has been known for decades. In a world of fractured media sources, we now struggle to share information in a way that reaches the greatest number of people.

Dr. Suskind and The Basics suggest that pediatricians weave this education into well-visit appointments. Of course, this is difficult as pediatricians have so much to discuss with parents in a limited time. Another possibility is to establish infant and toddler literacy as part of school-based literacy or reading nights during the school year. The infant and toddler siblings of our current students will be at our schools soon enough. Sessions on the power of reading to your child, teaching the alphabet beyond the ABC song, and how to talk to your infant could help raise awareness among parents. Libraries could provide similar educational opportunities through story time.

As a community, we must begin to focus on prevention, also known as starting upstream. A quote often attributed to Bishop Desmond Tutu states: “There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in.”

Strengthening how parents interact with their babies may be one of the most attainable ways to chart a different course for many of our children. □

*Melissa Hostetter is a science teacher at Franklin Middle School. She is a certified academic language practitioner and tutors at the Children's Dyslexia Center of Springfield.*



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# Back in **business**

Following a prison sentence, engineer collects nearly \$1.5 million from same state agency he was convicted of defrauding

ENVIRONMENT | Dilpreet Raju

When *Illinois Times* last wrote about environmental engineer Michael Keebler in August 2015, his situation was grim. The U.S. government had filed seizure notices for multiple assets, including his home, around the same time he was sentenced to five years in federal prison for defrauding the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency out of \$13 million. The Illinois Department of Professional and Financial Regulation suspended his engineering license.

At the time of his sentencing, U.S. Central District Judge Sue Myerscough said the fraud involving fake invoices for work never performed on leaking underground storage tanks was “breathtaking in scope.”

But a little more than a decade later, things seem to have returned to normal for Keebler. His engineering license was reinstated in April 2021. He kept his home in Sherman and one of his companies, which continues to do business with the IEPA. Since 2015, Keebler has collected nearly \$1.5 million from the same state agency he was sent to prison for defrauding.

Keebler has even sought additional reimbursement from the state’s underground storage tank fund by appealing more than 15 of the IEPA’s final reimbursement notices. His most recent appeal, which remains open, requests a \$21,000 payment be added to nearly \$393,000 already received for cleanup of a Vermilion County property. And it’s unclear if the state has improved its system of checks and balances to verify the accuracy of invoices submitted since Keebler’s return to the profession. However, Keebler has not been accused of further wrongdoing since his previous case was settled.

The IEPA began to investigate issues with Keebler’s work for property owners who were trying to get their leaking underground storage tanks cleaned up after a 2010 visit to a McLean County site showed no remediation had occurred. By the time federal attorneys indicted Keebler in 2013, he was accused of being the ringleader of a scheme that had gone on for 12 years and involved multiple people.

Keebler owned Environmental Management, Inc., a Springfield-based company that did work statewide and employed as many as 50 people. While some of the fraud involved billing for work



that hadn’t been performed, Keebler would also create fictitious companies to avoid competitive bidding requirements and inflate invoices, paying subcontractors a lesser amount than what he billed the state.

According to the 2013 indictment, Keebler “established the corporation ‘JK-Five Construction, Inc.’ This corporation, while established in the name of Michael R. Keebler’s spouse, was completely controlled and operated by Michael R. Keebler.”

Keebler’s brothers created shell businesses “to purchase properties which either had been contaminated by one or more leaking underground storage tanks” that would then be cleaned up by businesses they also were connected to in order to “disguise and inflate invoices from subcontractors and submit these fraudulent invoices to Illinois EPA for payment from the LUST Fund.”

Five other people ultimately pleaded guilty to fraud, although they received much

smaller penalties based on their lesser roles in the scheme. EMI founder Joel Andrews of New Berlin, his brother Eric M. Andrews of Springfield, and Keebler’s brothers, Duane T. Keebler of Missouri and Joseph R. Keebler of Carbondale, were all ordered to pay restitution along with Jeremy L. VanScyoc of Springfield, an EMI engineer.

Joel Andrews and Eric Andrews were sentenced to three years and two-and-a-half years in prison, respectively, while VanScyoc only received a one-day sentence. Keebler’s brothers were both sentenced to two years of probation with conditions, including the first three months in home confinement.

## Same players, different name

Illinois has one of the highest motor fuel tax rates in the country. Consumers in the state pay about 85 cents in taxes for every gallon of non-diesel gasoline purchased.

Packaged inside those various state and

federal taxes is a tax amounting to three-tenths of a cent on every gallon of gasoline purchased that is earmarked for the state’s Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) fund. When property owners have tanks of oil stored underground that have begun to leak and need to be removed, they can apply to the LUST fund to be reimbursed for the cleanup costs.

Across the state, there are thousands of these oil tanks buried underground, many on the sites of former businesses such as gas stations and industrial parks. Such tanks, most buried for decades, have been found to leak and contaminate the surrounding soil. The process of removal and cleaning up the affected area can cost anywhere from thousands of dollars to hundreds of thousands.

A property owner in the Metro East told *Illinois Times* about his unexpected encounter with Keebler and his previous company, Environmental Management, Inc., in 2014. *IT* agreed to identify the property owner only

as “John” since the remediation work is not yet complete.

“Somebody had hired them, or they knew that there was a leaking underground storage tank on the adjoining property. Two tanks were on my property – this was one parcel at one time and then was split off,” John said. “Somebody showed up and a neighbor called me and said, ‘Hey, they got a drilling derrick set up on your property.’ I ran down there and told the people to leave (because) they didn’t have my permission.”

An apologetic Keebler told John his property, next to the property Keebler was hired to clean up, was also contaminated. John asked Keebler how he knew that.

“He said, ‘Well, we took samples’ – I was by that property every day, two, three times a day, and my property was never sampled,” John said.

“I started getting documents, information and saw that it was Michael Keebler of Environmental Mangement, Inc. out of Springfield. I talked to a friend of mine who was an engineer and he said, ‘The state is watching him. He’s being investigated.’ That made me perk up and I just kept following it,” John said.

John eventually managed to speak with people involved with investigating Keebler, including the FBI, regarding his own property. “They didn’t care,” John recalled. “They said, ‘We’ve got enough on him. We got four or five (properties), we don’t care.’”

Left with questions about his property’s contamination, John eventually talked to state employees about getting his land tested by the IEPA.

“He’s never tested my property,” John told state workers involved with the remediation of leaking underground storage tanks. “All you got to do is test my property. If it’s clean, I’m happy, but I don’t think it’s clean.”

Finally, John convinced the state to sample his property in 2023 and found that it was indeed contaminated.

The investigation into Keebler’s company and his subsequent prison sentence had halted the cleanup work on the property adjacent to John but years later, that property owner decided to finish the remediation work.

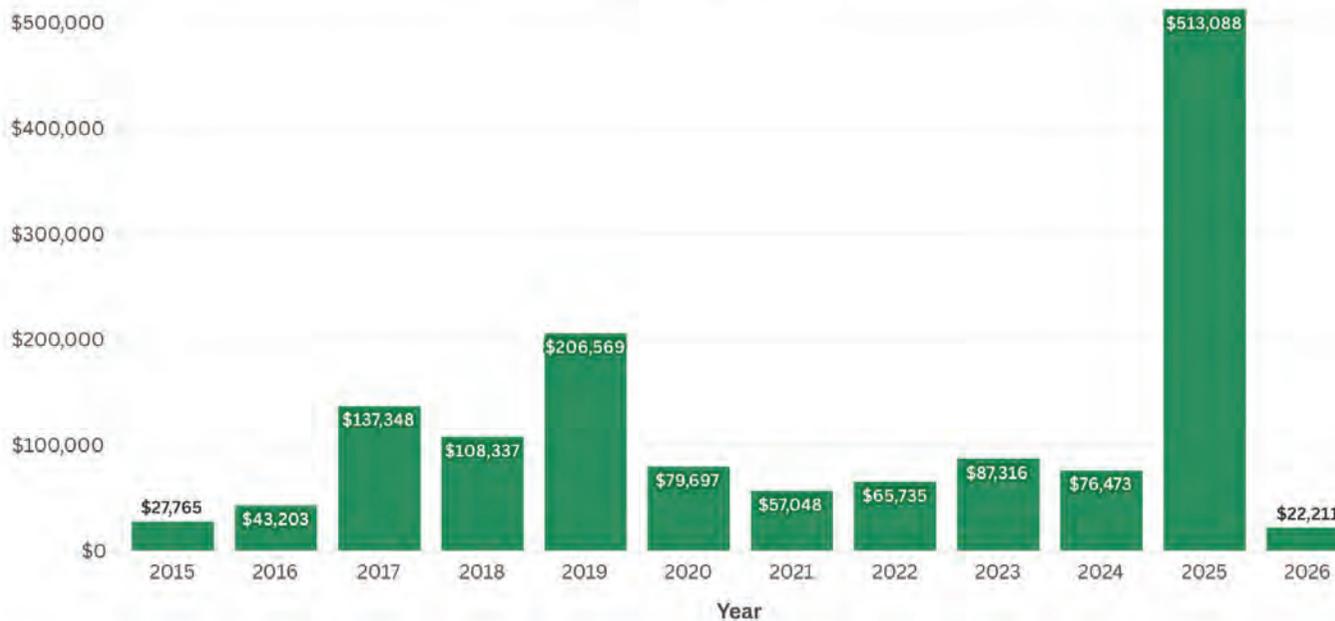
“Next thing I know, it’s Perry Environmental (who comes out to do the work),” John said. “I had done enough investigating to find out that all of Keebler’s previous employees at Environmental Management were now employed by Perry Environmental. Players are the same, it’s just a different name.”

In late August 2015, during the weeks between her husband being sentenced and entering prison, Keebler’s wife, Julie, incorporated a new company, Perry Environmental. It has remained active as a business remediating leaking underground storage tanks for property owners.

Perry Environmental began work in 2016,

## GBL Properties has been paid nearly \$1.5 million over the past decade

Since Michael Keebler entered federal prison in 2015, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has paid his wife’s company, GBL Properties, almost \$1.5 million from the leaking underground storage tank fund, including more than \$1.1 million since his release in 2019. The fund utilizes money from a gasoline sales tax as a means to help property owners pay for costly repairs associated with cleaning up underground storage tanks.



Source: Records requested from Illinois Office of the Comptroller • Keebler entered prison September 2015 and exited January 2019.

with Josh Fortado listed as a point of contact for the company in more than a dozen Illinois Emergency Management Agency records. A LinkedIn account under Fortado’s name lists Environmental Management, Inc. as an employer beginning in 2006, the same year Michael Keebler became majority owner and president. Neither Fortado nor Julie Keebler hold engineering licenses.

Another business in Julie Keebler’s name, GBL Properties, was registered with the Illinois Secretary of State in June 2008. The forfeiture action taken by the federal government in 2015 included “any and all assets of GBL Properties,” but the company itself was never dissolved. GBL Properties has been paid nearly \$1.5 million by the state since Keebler entered prison in 2015, with the latest reimbursement being sent out in February, according to the comptroller’s office. The company has also purchased more than 60 leaking underground storage tanks in various parts of the state, beginning in 2008 when it was first incorporated and as recently as 2022.

### Restitution and return

Keebler and his attorneys managed to negotiate down the final restitution judgment from over \$13 million to just more than \$7.75 million after requesting additional audits and appeals of the work that the EPA claimed was fictitious or overblown.

That final restitution payment was split

among Keebler and his codefendants, largely through assets the federal government seized and subsequently liquidated, including more than two dozen bank accounts.

Keebler’s restitution posted with the court neared \$3 million in 2016, according to federal court filings, while Eric Andrews posted roughly \$2.5 million and Joel Andrews posted close to \$750,000. VanScyoc faced a significantly smaller penalty of about \$175,000, which was posted in full.

In January 2018, the federal government filed a motion to vacate against seven different seized properties, including Keebler’s personal residence. The U.S. Attorney’s Office filed a motion that explained the government’s reasoning behind the reduced judgment, which then led to a surplus of assets seized.

“At the suggestion of this court, the victim in this matter, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, has accepted several million dollars’ worth of claims from Michael Keebler and EMI, which had previously been denied or had not yet been submitted,” the motion reads. “When it became clear that the amount of forfeited property... would extinguish the remaining restitution obligation, the government requested that this court vacate the forfeiture judgments regarding certain properties (such as the defendants’ homes) to mitigate any over-collection.”

Another result of the reduced restitution amount meant Keebler was able to get the

government to waive a probation requirement.

“Keebler seeks to eliminate the conditions of supervised release requiring him to provide the U.S. Probation office with financial information ‘until restitution and any fines have been paid in full.’ The government affirms that once this court applies the funds with the clerk to the remaining restitution, the restitution and fines will have been paid in full, and therefore has no objection to modifying the conditions of supervised release,” Milhiser wrote.

Chip Mulaney, a partner at Chicago-based law firm Goldberg Kohn and an attorney who specializes in white-collar fraud, said it’s unlikely that Keebler’s federal probation office would have released him if they knew about his return to the cleanup work.

“All this indicates to me that they were not aware that he was going back into doing exactly this kind of work,” Mulaney told *Illinois Times*. “If you’re back in the field that you were originally convicted of fraud in, I think the probation office, and likely the government, would have opposed early termination of supervised release.”

Keebler was released from federal prison in January 2019, although his engineering license remained suspended until April 2021.

Despite the suspension, Keebler’s name appears as the “authorized representative” of Perry Environmental on two 2020 underground storage tank removal applications that were approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Steven Johnson, public information officer for Illinois Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, informed *Illinois Times* that suspended engineers must petition for a reinstatement of license privileges.

“There is nothing in law that would strictly prohibit a professional engineer who has been suspended or revoked from being reinstated. However, to restore their license, the engineer would need to file a petition for restoration with the department,” Johnson wrote in an email. “The petitioner must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that they have been sufficiently rehabilitated and that their restoration is in the public interest.”

Since returning to work in 2020, Keebler is listed as the point of contact for more than 100 contaminated sites from St. Clair County all the way to Cook County in Illinois Emergency Management Agency logs. And once again, there are multiple business entities that overlap. In 2024, Perry Environmental cleaned up multiple tanks owned by GBL Properties, which then submitted payment requests to the state. Both companies list Julie Keebler as president and registered agent.

“Me and a whole bunch of other people are still wondering how he was able to keep working,” a central Illinois subcontractor who asked to not be identified due to being in the same line of work as Keebler told *Illinois Times*. “He never should have gotten his license back.”

## State oversight

As is the case with most government environmental operations, removal (and installation) of these tanks is done by certified contractors on behalf of property owners.

CSD Environmental Services is a

Springfield-based civil and environmental engineering and contracting firm. Senior project manager Shane Thorpe told *Illinois Times* that the IEPA has no control over who property owners hire for removal of underground storage tanks. However, he said it would be unusual for the company doing the remediation to also own the tank.

“Consultants do not typically own the tanks, but consultants do perform work and then the owners assign their rights to reimbursement from the LUST Fund to them,” Thorpe said of the process.

He acknowledged that there are some circumstances where the entity performing the work also owns the leaking tank. “I wouldn’t say it’s normal, but it does happen,” Thorpe said, citing examples of some large oil companies that buy and remediate land.

Kim Biggs, public information officer for IEPA, told *Illinois Times* the agency does not maintain a list of approved consultants, so it is up to property owners to identify a company to do the work. Biggs said the agency recommends evaluating a firm’s experience and capability, willingness to explain cleanup operations so owners can make informed decisions and the project timetable and price.

“However, a licensed professional engineer or a licensed professional geologist registered in the state of Illinois must certify all reports, budgets and applications for payment...only a licensed professional engineer may certify the Corrective Action Completion Report,” she wrote in an emailed response.

IEPA did not respond to a follow-up question from *IT* about how often the state agency audits the corrective action plans that are submitted before issuing payment.

However, there are not a significant number of applications to the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Fund.

“In FY24, the Board had 21 (Underground Storage Tank) cases, in FY25, the Board had nine, and so far in FY26, we have received five. As far as Mr. Keebler, we have no comment on his practice either in his private practice or any possible contracts with IEPA,” Marie Tipsord of the Pollution Control Board wrote in an email response to questions from *IT*.

Despite receiving nearly \$1.5 million in state payments since Keebler’s sentencing, one of his wife’s companies, GBL Properties, has sought additional reimbursement from the state’s underground storage tank fund by appealing more than 15 of the EPA’s final reimbursement notices with the Illinois Pollution Control Board. The IPCB is an independent agency created in 1970 by the Environmental Protection Act that adjudicates non-criminal complaints related to the act.

Filings from the time between Keebler’s indictment and sentencing show GBL Properties requested \$390,000 in additional payments for costs associated with cleaning up tanks on eight different properties, although the company later dropped the appeal request.

Each appeal, aside from one filed in January 2025 that remains open, was eventually dropped by GBL Properties. The complaint from last year requests an additional \$21,000 be added onto a nearly \$393,000 state payment for a Vermilion County property that was cleaned up by Perry Environmental, another of Julie Keebler’s companies.

*Illinois Times* contacted Patrick Shaw, a Springfield lawyer who is listed as representing

GBL Properties at the Illinois Pollution Control Board. Shaw filed, and eventually dismissed, at least a dozen appeals with the IPCB on behalf of Keebler. He declined to comment on the multiple appeals.

Since opening the latest appeal more than a year ago, which was filed by Stephen Hedinger of Springfield law firm Sorling Northrup, GBL Properties has agreed to delay a final decision from the IPCB four times as GBL “is awaiting an additional agency determination” for the Vermilion County facility in question.

## The aftermath

*IT* reached out to Keebler numerous times by phone, email and a certified letter through contact information listed in public records to request comment but never received a response.

Joel Andrews declined an interview request from *IT* and said he is no longer in contact with Keebler. “I don’t have an opinion or care what he’s doing now. He put a lot of people in a bad situation is all I have to say,” Andrews wrote in an emailed response.

*IT* also reached out to VanScyoc, who was given the lightest sentence in the 2015 case, but did not receive a response. According to his LinkedIn profile and other publicly available information, he has worked for Springfield-based Fuhrmann Engineering since 2016.

*IT* contacted numerous state agencies on multiple occasions, including IDPFR, the state fire marshal and IEPA, with follow-up questions regarding the public records related to Keebler.

Kim Biggs, the public information officer for IEPA, provided *IT* with what she characterized as a “joint statement” from the three agencies. “LUST program payments are completed through owners and operators, not contractors or subcontractors. Owners and operators are solely responsible for selecting the contractors and subcontractors who perform decommissioning duties,” she wrote. “However, we are concerned by the recent information brought to our attention. The state will be evaluating the scope of this individual’s alleged role in this work and determine whether any appropriate action can be taken.”

Mark Rossow, a professional engineer who taught civil engineering at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, authored an online continuing education course on engineering ethics, “Case Studies of Theft through Fraud.” The first case study in his course revolves around Keebler’s past scheme.

“The type of fraud that Keebler committed – submitting invoices for work that was inflated in reported cost or never done at all – seems to be a common type of industrial or commercial fraud now and in the past, probably because it is so easy to do: Just prepare a piece of paper (an invoice for fictitious work done), send it in, and hope that the defrauded party doesn’t have the manpower or the will to inspect the work,” Rossow wrote to *Illinois Times*. □



Perry Environmental, a company owned by Julie Keebler, removed three condemned tanks from the former Ayerco gas station at 2727 S. MacArthur Blvd. in Springfield in March 2025. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

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# How to make exceptional chicken stock

FOOD | Peter Glatz

Freezers shouldn't be packed more than 75-80% full to allow optimal airflow. Mine's about 95-98% full, mostly with one-cup containers of various stocks. Stocks are a cornerstone of my cooking, and I am obsessive about maintaining an adequate supply.

I find the rich, savory flavor of chicken stock indispensable. I routinely use it as the primary cooking liquid for grains such as lentils or quinoa; it infuses them with a depth of flavor that water cannot. Furthermore, chicken stock is absolutely crucial for any risotto I make. The slow absorption of the warm, seasoned liquid gives the rice its characteristic creamy texture. Having high-quality, homemade stock on hand is, for me, a non-negotiable part of good cooking.

Homemade stocks are vastly superior to commercial box products. The latter are often thin, overly salted and artificially flavored — I would prefer using plain water. USDA guidelines permit an astonishingly low ratio of core ingredients, allowing less than one ounce of animal product (meat, bone or fat) per gallon of water, a shocking 135-1 water-to-animal product ratio. The sparsity of real flavor components means that manufacturers have to rely on artificial ingredients to enhance the taste profile. These ingredients include high amounts of salt, MSG or other flavor enhancers, yeast extracts, caramel coloring and various natural and artificial flavorings to simulate the complex taste that comes from hours of simmering real ingredients.

Making homemade stock is a wonderful way to embrace a “zero-waste” philosophy, going beyond just adding flavor and nutritional value to meals. I keep a resealable bag in my freezer specifically for vegetable scraps, collecting all the skins, peels and trimmings from onions, garlic, celery, carrots and even parsley stems. A separate bag is for bones: wing tips from our wing nights, the remains of a Sunday roast chicken, the carcass from a store-bought rotisserie chicken and even the bones leftover from a Thursday night Track Shack carry-out chicken dinner.

For years, I've based my approach to stock-making on what I've observed in restaurant kitchens: a large stockpot on a back burner, filled with whole chickens, chicken parts, mirepoix (onions, carrots and celery) and seasonings (bay leaves, black peppercorns), simmering away on a low flame overnight. At home, I use my Crock-Pot. It simmers overnight, filling the house with wonderful roast-chicken aromas. The result is a decent stock superior to store-bought.

Achieving a truly excellent homemade stock



Stock from a rotisserie chicken in an Instant Pot. PHOTO BY ANN SHAFFER GLATZ

hinges upon the balanced presence of three core elements: umami, gelatin and fat. Umami, or savory flavor, is the stock's deep, delicious foundation. It comes from the amino acid glutamate naturally released during the slow-cooking of bones and meat. Gelatin provides the stock's unctuous mouthfeel. It comes from the breakdown of collagen found in connective tissue. Fat serves two vital functions: it locks in the stock's flavor by forming a protective “cap” on the surface. The ultimate goal is a perfectly balanced stock: one that offers a pleasing body from the gelatin without becoming overly greasy or rubbery.

The best parts for chicken stock are the backs, carcasses, necks and feet. Chicken feet are especially valuable; their exceptionally high collagen content is key to creating a stock with an intense, silky and gelatinous texture. As the collagen breaks down during simmering, it lends a rich mouthfeel, a “gel” consistency when cooled, and contributes deep flavor, added body and essential nutrients. Locally, I obtain chicken feet from the Asian Market and Magro's Meat. When using feet, you need to snip off the nails, transfer them to a pot of cold water, bring the water to a boil, remove the feet, discard the water and rinse the feet thoroughly.

Mirepoix, the aromatic base for many stocks, is a 2-1-1 mixture ratio of onions,

carrots and celery. This combination provides a subtle, balanced and savory depth, enhancing the stock's overall flavor profile. Onions and carrots contribute sweetness, while celery adds a mild, herbaceous or earthy note.

For a richly colored, deep-brown stock, roast the chicken parts at 400 degrees F until deeply browned and caramelized, about 40-60 minutes. Next, transfer the chicken pieces, along with the rendered fat and accumulated juices, to the stockpot and cover them with fresh, cold water.

The best vessel for making stock at home is a heavy-bottomed, eight-quart stainless steel or enameled cast-iron pot. A heavy-bottomed pot minimizes scorching. Aluminum pots should not be used. Acidic ingredients react with aluminum, affecting flavor and causing metal leaching.

Stock should be started with cold water and slowly brought to a bare simmer (180-212 F). Slow heating draws out flavor, and the fat cap helps prevent flavor dulling. Peak flavor is achieved with a six-eight-hour simmer. Contrary to the restaurant practice of overnight cooking, longer cooking diminishes flavor. Vegetables should be added during the last hour or two.

Stock must be cooled quickly. Reduce the temperature from 140 F to 70 F within two

hours, then to 40 F within the next four hours. Transfer the stock to shallow pans (2-3 inches) and place in an ice bath, or cool down with ice or previously frozen stock. Never cool hot stock in the refrigerator.

I recently discovered a very cool kitchen hack for transforming a store-bought rotisserie chicken into two quarts of amazing roast chicken stock in less than an hour using an Instant Pot. Pressure cooking is unparalleled for speed and for extracting deep, rich flavor. The high heat and pressure, reaching up to 250 F, trap aromatics and flavors, guaranteeing a superior body and significantly accelerating gelatin extraction. This cuts the usual eight-12-hour simmering time down to a mere 40 minutes. The process efficiently pulls everything from the meat and bones without the risk of scorching or boiling over.

## Easy, quick roast chicken stock in an Instant Pot

Adapted from an Instagram reel @ ChrisYoungCooks

Ingredients:

- ½ carrot
- ½ medium onion
- 2 cloves garlic, smashed
- 1 rotisserie chicken
- Optional: ½ pound of cleaned, blanched chicken feet
- 2 tablespoons neutral oil
- 2 quarts of water, preferably filtered

Preparation:

- Peel and thinly slice half a carrot and half an onion. Smash the garlic cloves.
- Shred the rotisserie chicken.
- Add the oil to the Instant Pot's inner pot. Using the sauté function, lightly brown the vegetables.
- Add the shredded chicken, bones, feet (if using) and two quarts of water into the inner pot of the Instant Pot.
- Pressure cook on high for 40 minutes.
- Allow the pressure to self-release.
- Strain and cool. □

*After retiring from a 40-year career in dentistry at age 66, Dr. Peter Glatz embraced his lifelong dream of becoming a professional chef. For the next seven years, he gained hands-on experience in highly regarded kitchens nationwide. His transition from the exacting world of dentistry to the inventive world of culinary arts is a testament to the possibility of reinvention at any age. He now shares his passion by teaching cooking classes at Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery in Champaign.*

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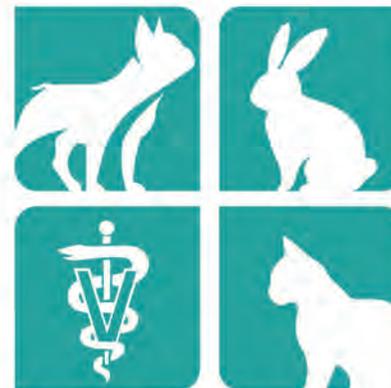
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# Moving forward, looking back

A stunning return for *The Last Five Years*

THEATER | Courtney R. Wick

*The Last Five Years* is back and impressive as ever at The Hoogland Center for the Arts. After a seven-year hiatus, the two-person musical has returned with the same cast of Mary Kate Smith and Damien Kaplan, along with director Craig Williams. All parties involved wanted to rekindle their past show magic with a fresh take and the wisdom only age can bring.

“Seven years of life and maturing have helped give us a new lease on our characters, so the show feels like it’s matured as well,” Kaplan said.

The story unfolds through the separate timelines of Cathy (Smith) and Jamie’s (Kaplan) love story. The structural brilliance of the show allows us to witness the heartbreak of their demise as we are simultaneously swept up in the thrill of their beginning. Both characters are young, aspiring artists – driven by the idealism of their early 20s – who find their relationship being ripped apart by the challenges of a long-distance connection and the unbalanced scales of their professional success.

Previous versions often utilize traditional staging, but Williams’s vision was to provide the audience a stripped-down set in the round that illuminates this playful movement through time. Williams cleverly creates a unique physical space to display this.

“From the audience’s perspective, the stage stretches to your seat with the present at your feet, while you look upstage into the past,” he said.

The catwalk the actors walk through and on is even reminiscent of clock faces and hands, and the band is highlighted onstage, as the music is an unnamed character in this intimate musical. This, along with the beautiful lighting and small choreographed movements, all work exceptionally well. Without the frill of the unnecessary, it allows the audience to feel present in the characters past.

Kaplan and Smith are both a few decades beyond Jamie and Cathy’s scripted ages, so casting these seasoned performers also strips away youthful naivety. What remains is a raw, sophisticated, and deeply lived-in portrait of two people who aren’t trying to find themselves, but are struggling to reconcile with who they’ve become and the person they chose to love.

“Since the show plays freely with time, it’s like we are reliving the past with the person, so I think anyone at any age can play these roles,” Williams said.

Smith’s hope is that members of the audience see themselves in these characters.

“There are people getting married at 40, grappling to understand partners at 50 and starting over. Maybe younger people will find solace in knowing that older humans don’t have it all figured out yet, either,” she said.

It’s also helpful that both of these actors can belt out this difficult score like they’re being paid well to do it. When Smith opens the show with the reading of her divorce letter, “Still Hurting,” it doesn’t feel like the sting of a first breakup. Her visceral performance carries the weary resonance of a woman facing the collapse of a foundation built over a lifetime. Her exceptional vocal prowess and characterization highlight the specific, quiet grief of recognizing the “next 10 minutes” she promised herself years ago are gone.

The same is true for Kaplan, who plays Jamie with a charismatic but complicated maturity. In his portrayal, the struggle to balance Jamie’s unexpected literary success with a strained marriage feels less like accidental neglect and more like a conscious, tragic decision. Kaplan especially shines in the sprawling, nine-minute Jewish folk-tale “The Schmuely Song.” Beyond Kaplan’s impressive technical precision, there is a profound emotional layer to his theatrical storytelling. It felt as if the audience were in a trance, and that’s no easy feat – because it’s a marathon.

A notable highlight of the finale is the show’s violinist, Meredith Crifasi. As she performs the closing solo, the emotional output of her instrument is palpable. Crifasi is close to Cathy’s scripted age, and her presence creates a striking visual and auditory metaphor, as if the audience is witnessing Cathy’s younger spirit narrating the tragedy through nostalgic strings. It is a brilliant piece of theater – accidental or not – that elevates this production’s final moments.

*The Last Five Years* at the Hoogland feels like a fully fleshed-out tragic memoir. It is visually stunning and full of powerhouse performances that reminds us love doesn’t get easier with age. It only gets deeper, and the wisdom gained from its loss is all the more bittersweet. □

*The Last Five Years continues its run at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Peggy Ryder Theatre March 6-8. Friday and Saturday performances start at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinee begins at 3 p.m. Tickets are available by calling 217-523-2787 or visiting [hcfta.org/tickets](http://hcfta.org/tickets).*



Mary Kate Smith, left and below, and Damien Kaplan portray a couple whose relationship blooms and withers over the course of five years. PHOTO BY EMILY NOEL



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## MUSIC

# March music is on

**NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin**

Here we go taking a stroll through the first full weekend of March, with a whole bunch of happenings and heralding, notes and news, write-ups and rundowns, plus much music being made. Let's march on down the column to find out the what, when and where of it all.

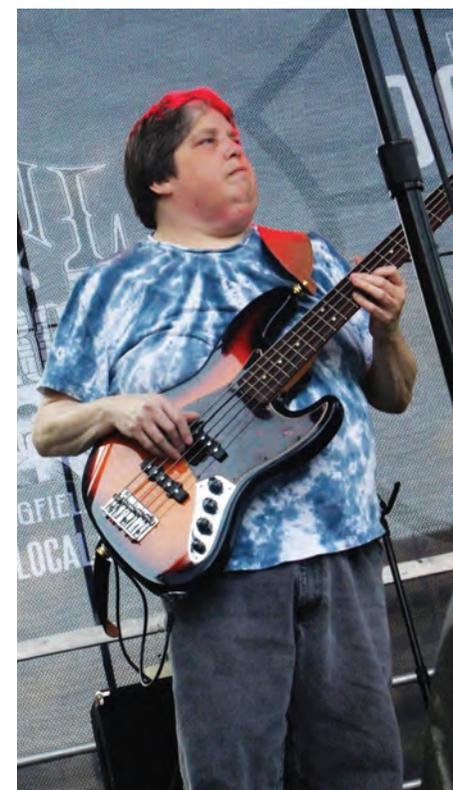
We begin with sad news of the passing of a few music folks from the area. Lynna Thornhill, bassist in the local original band Thornhill, left this world recently. Her twin sister Laura passed in 2021. Tina, another sister and the main songwriter and singer in Thornhill said, "She was not only my sister and friend, but one of the most rock steady bass players. I will miss her with every note. Whenever she talked about local musicians, she would always call them 'my good friend' and insert the name." On March 13 (yes, it's Friday the 13th and anyone that knew Lynna would know she'd appreciate that) the family will host a gathering and visitation at Staab Funeral Home from 4 to 6 p.m. with a service and burial planned for Memorial Day weekend at the original Thornhill hometown in Ohio.

Last Saturday, Feb. 28, Rob Sokolis, a solid drummer in many local rock and country bands, as well as a member of the Springfield Municipal Band, passed away. Known as the guy always ready with a smile, his wife Deb and the family will hold a celebration of life this Sunday, March 8, at the VFW Post on Stockyards Road from 2 to 7 p.m.

On Jan. 26, Regina Mahoney-Lock, wife of bluesman Springfield Shaky, died after years of battling cancer. Anyone who knew her was well accustomed to her wicked sense of humor and dry as a bone wit that came in quite handy for many a situation. A celebration of life is planned in the near future.

The Illinois Central Blues Club celebrates a milestone anniversary marking 40 years as one of the oldest blues societies anywhere with a big party at Casey's Pub in the K of C Hall out west on Meadowbrook and Iles this Saturday night. Always a fantastic gathering of good friends and good music for good times, this year features the Cash Box Kings at 6 p.m. with the Wayne Baker Brooks Band to follow around 8:30.

Not only does the ICBC throw an annual birthday party, but remember every Monday night they host world-class blues bands, including local, regional, national and international groups, at The Alamo for



Lynna Thornhill, bassist of the band Thornhill, passed away recently. PHOTO BY CAROL WEEMS

a \$5 cover. Plus, it produces the Blues in the Schools program available at no cost to area schools, all done to keep the blues alive.

And while we're on the blues subject, congratulations are in order for our hometown celebrated songwriter, band leader, vocalist and harmonica hero Brandon Santini for four nominations from the 2026 Blues Foundation's Blues Music Awards. This is a prestigious honor to be nominated and winning comes from public voting. You have until March 18 to go to blues.org and support this hardworking, well-deserving, talented musician.

With all that news we don't have a lot of room left for our actual music listings, but I can guarantee you that with more than 20 gigs on Friday, nearly 40 on Saturday and a dozen or more on Sunday, plus a smattering of shows throughout the week, you'll have no problem finding what you want to hear, when you want to hear it at the place of your choosing. So march on out there and support live, local music for you, for the musicians, for the venues and for a long while to come. □

# 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](http://www.illinoistimes.com) or by email [calendar@illinoistimes.com](mailto:calendar@illinoistimes.com).

## Thursday Mar 5

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

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

**Karaoke Night**  
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm

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

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

**Julie Krehbiel**  
Stella Coffee & Tea, 10am-12pm

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

**Karaoke**  
The Topsy Toad, 8pm-12am

## Friday Mar 6

**Molly Seaton**  
48 Inn Sports Bar & Grill, Decatur, 8-11pm

**Jim Ackerman and Casey Cantrall**  
The Alamo, 5:30-8pm

**Kayla Ray**  
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

**Positively 4th Street**  
The Backyard, Taylorville, 6-9pm

**David McEathron Quartet**  
Boone's, 5:30-8:30pm

**Downstate**  
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

**Mic Drop Showdown Karaoke Contest qualifier**  
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 8-11pm

**First Friday**  
Butternut Hut, 4pm.

**West End Boogie Project**  
Camouflage Bar, VFW Post 99, Decatur, 7-10pm

**Eric Johanson**  
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8pm

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

**Bruiser Queen with Doom Buggy and Evan Mitchell One Man Band**  
George Rank's, 8pm

**Natu Visinia**  
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 7-9pm

**Joel Honey**  
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

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

**Carl Bopp and Ed Smith - Sound Decision**  
Lime Street Cafe, 7-10pm

**Karaoke**  
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

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

**Black Velvet**  
The Railyard, 6-9pm

**Keith Dunlap**  
The Shed, Pawnee, 7-10pm

## Saturday Mar 7

**Karaoke**  
AJ's Corner, Chatham, 8pm-1am

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

**99 Proof**  
Barb's Place, Decatur, 2-5pm

**it Rhythm of Reverie**  
Bloom Wine Bar & Florals, 5-7pm

**Thomas G.**  
Boone's, 6-9pm

**Leighton Ewers**  
Brentford Distillers, Decatur, 6-9pm

**Jeff Young and the Bad Grandpas**  
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7-10pm

**Joel Honey**  
Butternut Hut, 7-10pm

**Ethan Taylor Stephenson**  
Cafe Amulet, Petersburg, 3-6pm

**Hat Trick**  
Camouflage Bar, VFW Post 99, Decatur, 7:30pm

**Wayne Baker Brooks Band, Cash Box Kings**  
Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 6-10:30pm

**Sarah's Place**  
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8pm

**Rick Mari Band**  
DH Brown's, 7-10pm

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

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

**Jonny Vodka with special guest Afterthought**  
Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 7pm

**Lick Creek**  
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 9pm

**DreamCatchers**  
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

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

**Silas Tockey**  
The Railyard, 6-9pm

**Hippies of the Heartland**  
The Range Bourbon & Brew, Chatham, 7pm

**Courtney and the Meeks**  
Rocco's, Decatur, 8-11pm

**Neon Rodeo**  
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 8pm

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

**Nova**  
Stella Coffee & Tea, 10am-12:30pm

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

**Brushville**  
Twisted Tree Music & Event Hall, Jacksonville, 7pm

## Sunday Mar 8

**West End Boogie Project**  
American Legion Post 279, Jacksonville, 3-6pm

**Hipbone and The Joints**  
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

**The Tangents**  
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 1-4pm

**Devin C. Williams**  
It's All About Wine, 3pm

**Kortney Leatherwood**  
Legendary Small Town Trading Co., Taylorville, 10:30am-1:30pm

**Larry Watson**  
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 5-8pm

**Candy Foster**  
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

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

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

**Devin C. Williams**  
Whiskey Ridge Saloon, Breckenridge, 1-4pm

## Monday Mar 9

**Mike Morgan**  
The Alamo, 7pm

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

**Rockin' Robin Karaoke**  
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

## Tuesday Mar 10

**Karaoke Night hosted by Alan Livengood**  
Fluid Lounge, 7pm

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

**Open jam with Living Bratz**  
George Rank's, 8pm

**Karaoke with Debbie Cakes**  
The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, 7-11pm

**Karaoke**  
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 7-10pm.

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

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

## Wednesday Mar 11

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

**Butter Jam Wednesday**  
Butternut Hut, 7-10pm

**Karaoke**  
Clique, 9pm-1am

**Permanent Disfigurement, Torment Trap, Barbed Wire Sandwich, M.O.A.B.wich**  
Dumb Records, 7pm

**Brown Bag Concert**  
First Presbyterian Church, 12:15-12:45pm

**Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo**  
Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm

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

**Dreamers and Doers**  
Obed & Isaac's The Cidery, 6-8pm

ELIZABETH PACKARD:  
The Woman Who Would Not Be Silenced  
March 9 | 6:00pm






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# THE CALENDAR



**Springfield Pillsbury Plant – The Early Years 1929-1949**  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum  
Ongoing through end of May

## HISTORY | New exhibit features Pillsbury artifacts

**it** The old Pillsbury Mills plant is being razed on the north end. Meanwhile, artifacts from the plant have gone on display in a new exhibit at the ALPLM. Moving Pillsbury Forward, in conjunction with the ALPLM, developed this exhibit focused on the early years of the plant. “The exhibit represents an era in local manufacturing that provided hundreds of good jobs during the Great Depression and set the stage for future expansion at the plant in the 1950s and 60s. And it highlights the huge ripple effect of economic activity that came to our community with industrial scale flour manufacturing,” Moving Pillsbury Forward said in a release. Among the items on display are a wooden barrel, custom grain scoop, antique hand card, 100-pound Sno-Sheen Flour sack, Winn “Wilky” Wilkins cartoons and a 1940 aerial view of the plant. The barrel was donated to Moving Pillsbury Forward after the Adams Street fire destroyed many artifacts. The exhibit is just outside of the *Ghosts of the Library* Holavision Theater within the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Visitors can view the exhibit at the standard full-museum admission or a special admission rate for just the Pillsbury exhibit.

musicians to perform at his home. Part of the annual Molly Schlich International and Independent Film Series. Presented by Exciting Windows! by Susan Day and the Springfield Art Association. Rated PG-13. [springfieldart.org](http://springfieldart.org). Adults \$10, students 5. AMC Classic Springfield 12, 3141 Mercantile Dr., 217-523-2631.

## History

### Edwards Place Historic Home Guided Tours

Tuesdays-Saturdays, 1-2, 2-3pm. Take this guided tour through the newly-restored first and second floor. The home, interpreted to 1857, is furnished with examples of Victorian furniture including many pieces that belonged to the Edwards family. [edwardsplace.org](http://edwardsplace.org). \$12 adults/ \$10 SAA members, military and seniors; children younger than 10 free. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

### Elizabeth Packard: The Woman Who Would Not Be Silenced

Mon., March 9, 6-7pm. Laura Keyes will portray Elizabeth Packard, unjustly committed to Jacksonville State Hospital in 1860. Inspired by Kate Moore’s *The Woman They Could Not Silence*, the performance depicts Packard’s fight against wrongful institutionalization and her advocacy for women’s rights. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

### Game Nights at Dana-Thomas House

Thursdays, 5:30-7pm. Through March 26. Bring a favorite board game and some family and friends for an evening of fun at one of the tables in a historic room. Non-alcoholic drinks and/or light snacks are allowed. Reservations are required due to limited space. [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-785-5030.

### Petersburg Pint Talks – “1851 – John Marbold’s Vision”

Thu., March 5, 7pm. The Historic Marbold Farmstead Association will present “1851 – John Marbold’s Vision.” Historian Barbara Van Dyke Brown will explore German immigrant John Marbold’s arrival in 1851, his innovative farming practices and the early development of the Elmwood estate. Part of Hand of Fate’s history series. Early arrival is encouraged. Free. Hand of Fate Brewing Company, Petersburg, 107 E. Douglas St., 217-691-1098.

## Film & Television

### The Ballad of Wallis Island

Sun., March 8, 1-3, 4-6pm and Tue., March 10, 7-9pm. In this movie, eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island tries to make his fantasies come true by getting his favorite

## Winter Date Nights

Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm and First Thursday of every month, 6:30-7:30pm. Through March 26. Each week, couples can experience a special evening program at the Dana-Thomas House featuring a different program topic or theme. Reservations required. See Eventbrite for program listings and to make reservations. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-785-5030.

## Fundraisers and Galas

### 4th Annual APL Dueling Pianos

Fri., March 6, 7:30pm. This annual event once again will feature the talents of Felix and Fingers Dueling Pianos from Chicago. Event presented by Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc., sponsored by Tito’s Handmade Vodka and supported by R. Watts Electric Inc. \$20. Reserve a table of 10 for \$200. Prairie View Reception Center, Chatham, 8855 State Route 4, 217-544-7387.

### AgeLinc’s 5th Annual Mardi Gras Gala

Sat., March 7, 6-10pm. This event brings together community leaders, philanthropists and changemakers to celebrate AgeLinc’s mission and raise critical funds for senior services in the community. [agelinc.org](http://agelinc.org). \$75. Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-787-9234.

### Black Tie and Black Jack: A Night of Hope

Sat., March 7, 5:30pm. An evening of glamour, gaming, and giving back at Hope’s newest signature fundraising event. Cocktail reception at 5:30pm. Program starts at 6:15pm. followed by gaming. Dress code: Formal attire (black tie optional). \$125. LRS Hangar, 820 S. Capital Airport Dr., 833-585-5437.

### Theatre in the Park trivia night

Sat., March 7, 6pm. This trivia night fundraiser will benefit New Salem’s Theatre in the Park. Call for tickets. \$15 per player or \$100 per table. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2300 Wilshire Road, 217-725-0239.

## Community Organizing

### Good Trouble Alliance Meeting

Every fourth Saturday, 12-1pm. The Good Trouble Alliance strategizes bold, creative, nonviolent initiatives to challenge local institutions that weaken democracy. Join the fight against authoritarianism. Bring ideas. Snacks provided. Lincoln Library,

## Special Music Events

### Brown Bag Concert

March 11, 12:15-12:45 p.m. This week features Dennis Jones on trumpet with Nichol DelGiorno, organ. Brown bag lunch available for purchase or bring your own lunch. [lincolnschurh.org](http://lincolnschurh.org). First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., 217-528-4311,

## Theater & Comedy

### Express Yourself! Acting & Improv Class

Mon., March 9, 5-6:30pm. by Springfield Park District Special Recreation. Residents \$8, non-residents \$10.50. Erin’s Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-585-2941.

### The Last Five Years

Fri., March 6, 7:30pm, Sat., March 7, 7:30pm and Sun., March 8, 3pm. Jason Robert Brown’s drama is an emotionally powerful and intimate musical about two New Yorkers who fall in and out of love over the course of five years. This encore production, directed by Craig

Williams II, once again stars Damien Kaplan and Mary Kate Smith. [hcfta.org](http://hcfta.org). \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

### Carl Giannetto

Sat., March 7, 8 p.m. Comedian Carl Giannetto brings his comedy show to Edinburg. Free. Edmo’s, 106 West Washington St. Edinburg, 217-230-9046.

## Art & Architecture

### “Awakening” featuring Joan Burmeister

Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11am-5pm. Through March 25. The Underground gallery to the SAA Collective presents mixed media works by juried artist Joan Turner Burmeister. Free. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

### “Underfoot” Art Exhibit

Mondays-Fridays, 8am-5pm. Through April 10. “Underfoot” features artwork by Illinois-based painter Kevin Veara. The exhibit is open for viewing weekdays at the

Trutter Museum & Murray Gallery from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except during mid-semester break March 7-15. The museum and gallery are located on the upper level of Menard Hall. [www.llcc.edu/trutter-murray](http://www.llcc.edu/trutter-murray). LLCC Trutter Center, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-786-2200.

### 6x6 Art Raffle

Wednesdays-Fridays, 11am-5pm and Sat., March 7, 11am-5pm. Through March 19. Adult and youth artists were invited to create 6”x6” artworks in support of the operations and programming for the SAA Collective gallery. This year, 150 entries were received. This raffle is an opportunity to acquire local artwork for a collection, as a gift, or simply to support the community’s artists. Free to view. \$3 per raffle ticket. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

### Art Nights at Dana-Thomas House

Wednesdays, 5:30-7pm. Through March 25. Evenings of art and creativity at the Dana-Thomas House each Wednesday in

326 S. Seventh St., 217-801-0209.

### ■ Children's Corner

#### Funshop Kids Club

Fridays, 3:30-6pm. Through April 24. This is a fun and welcoming drop-off program where children ages 6 to 12 explore themes through crafts, STEM projects and interactive play. It includes group games, hands-on stations and active play. Pack a snack or light meal for your child. Register at [bit.ly/Funshop\\_KidsClub1](http://bit.ly/Funshop_KidsClub1). Activity #140910. \$30 residents, \$35 non-residents for 1 day only. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

#### Funshop: Little Chefs

Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm. Through March 26. 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. All classes blended ages 3 to 5 years. Activity #150968. Register at [bit.ly/Funshop\\_LittleChefs1](http://bit.ly/Funshop_LittleChefs1). Members \$75, non-members \$85. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

#### Weekend Play & Stay

Sat., March 7, 9:30-11:30am. At Weekend Play & Stay, little ones and their caregivers can 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 children ages 16 months to 5 years with caregiver. No class Feb. 14. \$10 per child when registered online, \$10 per child day-of when bringing a friend, or \$20 per child for drop-ins. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

### ■ Nature, Science & Environment

#### Maple Syrup Time Demonstrations

Sat., March 7, 1, 2:30pm and Sun., March 8, 1, 2:30pm. Demonstrations will show the entire syrup making process from tree tapping to boiling the sap down into syrup. Dress for the weather as this program is hands-on and involves a trek to one of the garden's many sugar bushes. Demonstrations start at Nature Center [lincolnmemorygarden.org](http://lincolnmemorygarden.org). Free. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301

E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

### ■ Lectures & Meetings

#### Dominican Sisters Brown Bag Series

Thu., March 5, 12pm. Join the Dominican sisters for lunch and discussions on two topics. March 5: Acting justly toward Earth. March 12: Approaching AI ethically. For more details and to register, visit [springfieldop.org/events](http://springfieldop.org/events). Bring your lunch. [springfieldop.org/events](http://springfieldop.org/events). Sacred Heart Convent, 1237 W. Monroe St., 217-787-0481.

#### Mental health board information session

Sat., March 7, 12-1:30pm. Learn about the proposed Mental Health "708" Board on the 2026 primary ballot. Meeting will include a presentation and overview, viewpoints of elected officials, Q&A session and light snacks. African American History Museum Springfield, 1440 Monument Ave., 217-391-6323.

#### Sangamon Valley Iris Society meeting

Fri., March 6, 6:30pm. Debra Miller will present "Siberian Iris Rock!" Learn about this iris variety from A to Z. Free. Rochester Community Room, Rochester, 1 Community Dr., 217-529-8014.

### ■ Bulletin Board

#### Alpaca Show and Fiber Fest

Sat., March 7, 9am-5pm and Sun., March 8, 9am-1pm. They're back! The alpacas ... at the Livestock Center. ... See seminars on alpacas, competitions, fiber arts demonstrations and more. [railsplittershow.com](http://railsplittershow.com). Free. Livestock Center, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 217-632-2590, 217-414-0266.

#### Coffee and the World: A Global Story in Every Cup

Tue., March 10, 5:30, 7pm. This World Affairs Council of Central Illinois program will be an informative conversation with Blanca Maria Castro, executive director of the International Women's Coffee Alliance (IWCA) and Sharon Riechers, the president of the IWCA board of directors. Learn more about what this nonprofit organization does and the Springfield coffee connection. [www.mywacci.org](http://www.mywacci.org). Free. Illini Country Club, 1601 S. Illini Road, 546-4614.

#### Illinois Product Expo

Sat., March 7, 10am-5pm and Sun., March 8, 10am-3pm. Explore Illinois food with free samples from vendors. Discover new products, relax in the Illinois Wine Garden and stock up on longtime favorites. \$5, veterans, teachers, first responders and children 10 and younger free. Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-558-0788.

#### Special Recreation Cooking Class

Wed., March 11, 5:30-6:30pm. This inclusive cooking class is a fun, hands-on experience designed for individuals of all abilities. Participants will build confidence, independence and creativity in the kitchen. Each week, the class will make a simple, tasty recipe with guidance from instructors and volunteers. Register at [bit.ly/SPD\\_SpecRec\\_CookingClass](http://bit.ly/SPD_SpecRec_CookingClass). Activity #170205. [ahawkins@springfieldparks.org](mailto:ahawkins@springfieldparks.org). Residents \$5, non-residents \$7.50 per session. Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-585-2941.

#### Freedom in Holiness Mission Easter basket distribution

Sat., March 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Drinks at the Cross/Robes to Fit. Fifty Easter baskets filled with assorted drinks and house robes for men, women and children will be distributed. Robe donations needed as well as volunteers for the event. Volunteers should arrive before the event. Freedom in Holiness Mission, 1430 Loveland Ave., 217-522-2527

#### Coffee with Friends

Mon., March 9, 8:30-11 a.m. Pridelinc and the Phoenix Center present the first Coffee with Friends - doughnut (and dish) group for LGBTQIA folks 55+. Enter door with the rainbow ramp. [phoenixcenterspringfield.org](http://phoenixcenterspringfield.org). Free. Phoenix Center: Out On Second, 120 E. Scarritt St., 217-528-5253.

### ■ Health & Fitness

#### Free Colorectal At-Home Cancer Screening Kit Pickup

Wed., March 11, 4-6pm. Free colorectal cancer at-home screening kits available in this drive-thru pickup event. Kits available while supplies last and must be returned within 10 days of pickup. Free. Simmons Cancer Institute of SIU School of Medicine, 315 West Carpenter St., 217-545-7495.



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**CALL FOR EXHIBITORS!**

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

Be seen. Be supported. Be remembered.

Meet new customers, make real connections, and grow your business at the Women's Business Showcase!

Registration: [wecispringfield.org/showcase](http://wecispringfield.org/showcase)



**TWISTED TREE MUSIC HALL**

1061 EAST MORTON AVENUE • JACKSONVILLE

Saturday, March 7 • 7pm

**BRUSHVILLE**

**FREE SHOW**

TWISTED TREE MUSIC HALL JACKSONVILLE, IL  
LIVE MUSIC • EVENTS • GOOD TIMES



Notice is given of the death of Elaine E. Birtch of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 26, 2026, to Eric Birtch, 7921 S. Madison Street, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527, 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 September 2, 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 26th day of February, 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 In the matter of the estate of: Claudia Marie Kieffer, Deceased Case No. 2026-PR-000049 Claim Notice Notice is given of the death of Claudia Marie Kieffer. Letters of Administration were issued on Feb. 14, 2026 to Claudia Marie Kirby as Executor, 3961 Mill Stone Drive, Springfield IL 62711. 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 Sept. 5, 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 Administrator within 10 days after it has been filed. Joseph B. Roesch Clerk of the Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF STEPHEN P. ROMER, Deceased Case No. 2025-PR-112 NOTICE OF PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of STEPHEN P. ROMER on October 9, 2024. Letter of office were issued on July 29, 2025 to RICHARD F. ROMER, as Independent Administrator of the STEPHEN P. ROMER Estate, whose attorney is James Alexander Pappas, 915 S. Second Street, Springfield, IL 62702. 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, 62701, or with the representative, or both within six 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. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. Dated Jan. 29, 2026 Independent Administrator Richard F. Romer 2119 Briarcliff Drive

Springfield, IL 62704 James Alexander Pappas Attorney at Law 915 S. Second Street Springfield, IL 62704 japlaw@comcast.net Dated: January 30, 2026 Respectfully Submitted: ESTATE OF STEPHEN P. ROMER Deceased By: James Alexander Pappas Attorney at Law

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In Re the Estate of: RHONDA KAY SKAGGS, Deceased. Case No.: 2026PRO00026 CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of Rhonda Kay Skaggs, of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 2, 2026, to Kash A. Skaggs, as Independent Executor, whose address is c/o his attorney of record, Barry O. Hines, 1224 Centre West Drive, Suite 200A, Springfield, Illinois 62704. The Estate will be administered without Court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (75 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 Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before September 7, 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 ten (10) days after it has been filed. Dated this 25th day of February 2026 Kash A. Skaggs Independent Executor Barry O. Hines - 01220918 Attorney at Law 1224 Centre West Drive, Suite 200A Springfield, IL 62704 Telephone: (217) 698-8444 Email: Barry@HinesLaw.net

STATE OF ILLINOIS SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of GEORGE L. CRIMINGER, Deceased. NO. 2025-PR-445 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of George L. Criminger, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 21, 2026, to Gerlad Williams, P.O. Box 563, Litchfield, IL 62056 and Chris Criminger, 615 S. Main St., Brownstown, IN 47220 as Independent Co-Administrators, whose attorney is Erik Hyam of Hyam Law Office, P.C. of 606 N. State Street, Litchfield, IL 62056. Claims may be filed within six (6) months from the date of publication and any claim not filed within that period is barred as to the estate which is inventoried within that period. Claims must be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois, and copies mailed or delivered to the Co-Administrators and to their attorney. Erik Hyam IL Bar No. 6311090

Attorney for Co-Administrators Hyam Law Office, P.C. 606 N. State St. Litchfield, IL 62056 Phone: (217)324-4001 erik@hyamlaw.com 8051-962324

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the Matter of the Estate of Ann L. Dondanville, Deceased. IN PROBATE No. 2026-PR-55 DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Ann L. Dondanville, deceased. Letters of Office were issued on February 17, 2026 to Patricia D. Berman, as Executor, whose attorney is Harvey B. Stephens, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 9th day of September, 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 18th day of February, 2026. Harvey B. Stephens Registration No. 2724170 205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000 Springfield, IL 62705-2459 Telephone: (217) 544-8491 Facsimile: (217) 544-9609 hbstephens@bhsllaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the Matter of the Estate of JANET STEINHOOR, Deceased. IN PROBATE No. 2026-PR-58 DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Janet Steinhour, Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on February 17, 2026, to Julie Davis, as Executor, whose attorney is Brandon R. Clark, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 9th day of September, 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 19th day of February, 2026. BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP Brandon R. Clark Registration No. 6329553 205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000 P.O. Box 2459 Springfield, IL 62705-2459 (217) 544-8491

bclark@bhsllaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the matter of the estate of: Carolyn A. Ferrel, Deceased Case No. 2026-PR-000040 Claim Notice Notice is given of the death of Carolyn A. Ferrel. Letters of Administration were issued on Feb. 11, 2026 to Corinne M. Davis-Corr as Executor, 7 Sebring Road, Springfield IL 62707. 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 Aug. 19, 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 Administrator within 10 days after it has been filed. Joseph B. Roesch Clerk of the Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS BANK OF SPRINGFIELD, an Illinois banking corporation, Plaintiff, v. KENNETH G. ADAMS, SR., Deceased, ALEXA ADAMS, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF KENNETH G. ADAMS, SR., Deceased UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. Case No. 2025-FC-119 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE To: The Unknown Heirs and Legatees of KENNETH G. ADAMS, SR., Deceased TAKE NOTICE that, on December 3, 2025, the Honorable Adam Giganti appointed Patrick J. Sheehan, III as Special Representative of KENNETH G. ADAMS, SR., Deceased, pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/13-209. A mortgage foreclosure complaint was filed in Sangamon County Circuit Court on June 23, 2025 as Case #2025-FC-119. IF YOU FEEL YOU HAVE A VALID DEFENSE TO THE FORECLOSURE, YOU MUST ASSERT SUCH DEFENSE AND CONTACT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY. Please govern yourself accordingly. Patrick J. Sheehan, III (#6317916) Special Representative SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C. 1215 South 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 544-0701 | jr@sheehanlaw.net

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS BANK OF SPRINGFIELD, an Illinois banking corporation, Plaintiff, v. MICHAEL CAVE, Deceased, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF MICHAEL CAVE, Deceased UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. Case No. 2025-FC-159 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE To: The Unknown Heirs and Legatees

of MICHAEL CAVE, Deceased TAKE NOTICE that, on November 18, 2025, the Honorable Adam Giganti appointed Patrick J. Sheehan, III as Special Representative of MICHAEL CAVE, Deceased, pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/13-209. An amended mortgage foreclosure complaint was filed in Sangamon County Circuit Court on August 29, 2025 as Case #2025-FC-159. IF YOU FEEL YOU HAVE A VALID DEFENSE TO THE FORECLOSURE, YOU MUST ASSERT SUCH DEFENSE AND CONTACT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY. Please govern yourself accordingly. Patrick J. Sheehan, III (#6317916) Special Representative SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C. 1215 South 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 544-0701 | jr@sheehanlaw.net

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MELBA J. TINSLEY, Deceased No. 2025PRO00395 AMENDED DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of MELBA J. TINSLEY, Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on October 8, 2025, to James Tinsley, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. 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, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the day of April 17, 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 8th day of October, 2025. Gregory P. Sgro Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP 1119 S. Sixth Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the matter of the estate of: Daniel K. Davis, Deceased Case No. 2025-PR-000344 Claim Notice Notice is given of the death of Daniel K. Davis. Letters of Administration were issued on Sept. 8, 2025 to Amy L. Barnes as Executor, 400 Burr Oak Drive, Williamsville, IL 62693. 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 Aug. 19, 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 Administrator within 10 days after it has been filed. Joseph B. Roesch Clerk of the Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT JOSEPH IPPERT JR, Deceased NO. 2026-PR-50 DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of ROBERT JOSEPH IPPERT JR, Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on February 11, 2026, to Joanna Hale 1307 Crestview Drive, Springfield, IL 62702, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Alex B. Rabin, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. 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, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before August 12, 2026 or six (6) 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 11th day of February, 2026. Alex B. Rabin Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin, & Reinbold, LLP 1119 S. Sixth Street Springfield, IL 62703 217-789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS Estate of: BLAKE T. ROSS, Deceased. NO. 2026-PR-51 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of Blake T. Ross of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 10, 2026, to Sara Ross, 7918 Farmington Cemetery Road, Pleasant Plains, Illinois 62677, 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 August 18, 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 11th day of February, 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: CHERYL LEE PACE, Deceased. Case No. 2026-PR-48 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is hereby given of the death of CHERYL LEE PACE. Letters of Administration were issued on February 10, 2026, appointing JAMES SCOTT PACE, 113 East Wineman Street, Auburn, Illinois 62615,

as Administrator, whose attorney is Matthew A. Cook of Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C., 900 Community Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703, Phone: (217) 525-1571.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 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 must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated: February 10, 2026  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701

Prepared By:  
Matthew R Trapp, ARDC No. 6284154  
mtrapp@gwcbllaw.com  
Matthew A.Cook, ARDC No. 6347528  
mcook@gwcbllaw.com  
Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.  
efile@gwcbllaw.com  
900 Community Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 525-1571  
8051-962111

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

In the matter of the estate of:  
Sharon VanEman, Deceased  
Case No. 2026-PR-000038  
Claim Notice

Notice is given of the death of Sharon VanEman. Letters of Administration were issued on Feb. 10, 2026 to Brenda VanEman as Executor, 423 Brian Lane, Dawson, IL 62520. 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 Aug. 20, 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 Administrator within 10 days after it has been filed.

Joseph B. Roesch  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

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

In the matter of the estate of:  
Louis Curtis, Jr., Deceased  
Case No. 2026-PR-000037  
Claim Notice

Notice is given of the death of Louis Curtis, Jr. Letters of Administration were issued on Feb. 9, 2026 to Curt Stephens as Executor, 201 N. Cedar, P.O. Box 322, New Berlin, IL 62670. 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 Aug. 19, 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 Administrator within 10 days after it has been filed.

Joseph B. Roesch  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

#### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
JOHN J. GERDING, Deceased  
NO. 2026PR000045

#### DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of John J. Gerding Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on February 5, 2026, to John C. Gerding, 7 Hickory Ridge Lane, Springfield, IL 62707, and Gina M. Sullivan, 2009 S. Whittier, Springfield, IL 62704, as Co-Executors, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. 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, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 14th day of August, 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 5th day of February, 2026.  
Gregory P. Sgro  
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP  
1119 S. Sixth Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 789-1200

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

Estate of:  
FRED D. QUATTRIN,

Deceased.  
NO. 2026-PR-44  
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Fred D. Quattrin of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 5, 2026, to David Quattrin, 147 N. Meadowbrook Road, Springfield, Illinois 62711, 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 August 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 February, 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

#### Adoption STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY  
George Caples, Petitioner  
and

Kayleigh Helverson, Respondent  
Case No. 2024-FA-000117

#### NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Notice is given you Kayleigh Helverson, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced and you are summoned

to a child custody case and for other relief. Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, 200 South Ninth Street, Room 405, Springfield, Illinois on or before the 12th day of March, 2026, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.  
Joseph B. Roesch  
Circuit Clerk

Foreclosure  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
UNITED COMMUNITY BANK, an Illinois  
banking corporation,  
Plaintiff,

v.  
ANTHONY J. ALBANESE, JANE E. ALBANESE,  
UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD  
CLAIMANTS,  
Defendants.  
Case No. 2026FC000033  
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION  
Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS of the real estate described below, Defendants in the above-entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-206, 15-1218 and 15-1502 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Defendants is April 3, 2026.

Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on February 20, 2026.  
1. The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: United Community Bank, an Illinois banking corporation; 2026FC000033.

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: Anthony J. Albanese and Jane E. Albanese

4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:  
Lot Four (4) of the Original Town of New Berlin, also Lot Ninety-seven (97) of Yates' Addition to the Village of New Berlin. Subject to easements, covenants and restrictions of record.  
Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.

5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows:  
106 Birch Street, New Berlin, Illinois 62670  
6. The Tax Identification Number for the real estate is as follows: 20-19-496-010  
7. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:

Name of Mortgages: Anthony J. Albanese and Jane E. Albanese  
Name of Mortgagee: United Community Bank  
Date of Mortgage: March 4, 2005  
Date of recording: March 17, 2005  
County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois  
Recording document identification: Document No. 2005R10177

/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  
8051-962436

#### Notice by Publication

Ted Cole, last known address: 2048 S 5th St., Springfield, IL  
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 the payment is not received in full by 1:30 pm, March 13.  
Cash, Cashier's Check or Money Order will be accepted.

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE MATTER OF  
Amanda L. Furrell, Minor Child  
No. 2026-GR-000011  
To: Keyra Grover and All Persons Having A Right To Notice:  
Please be notified that Victoria Schrock has filed a Petition for the Guardianship of the Estate and Person of Amanda L. Furrell a minor child.  
You are required to answer said Petition before April 5, 2025 or be defaulted by the Court thereafter.  
Dated: March 5, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
BANK OF SPRINGFIELD, an Illinois  
banking corporation,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
HEIRS AT LAW OR LEGATEES  
OF MICHAEL CAVE,  
UNKNOWN OWNERS; and NONRECORD  
CLAIMANTS,  
Defendants.  
Case No. 2025-FC-000159  
AMENDED NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF  
ACTION

NOTICE is hereby given to UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants in the above-entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of 735 ILCS 5/15 1218 and 15 1502 and Sec. 2 206 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 said Defendants is March 31, 2026.

The Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on August 26, 2025.

(i) The names of all Plaintiffs and the case number are as follows: Bank of Springfield, an Illinois banking corporation - Case No. 2025-FC-000159.

(ii) The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois

(iii) The name of the title holder of record: Michael Cave

(iv) Legal description and common address of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty are as follows:  
The East Three Hundred Ninety-Six feet (396') of the South two Hundred Forty Feet (240') of the following described tract:  
That part of the Southeast Quarter of Section Thirty-Two (32) bounded as follows:

Beginning at a point in the North line of said Quarter Section Eight (8) Chains West of the Northeast corner thereof, and running thence West Twelve Hundred Eighty-Four feet (1284'), thence South Two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-eight and One-Half feet (2198 1/2'), thence East Eighteen Hundred Twelve Feet (1812') to the East line of said Quarter Section, thence North Sixteen Hundred Seventy and One-Half feet (1670 ½'), thence West Five Hundred Twenty-eight feet (528'), thence North Five Hundred Twenty-eight feet (528') to the place of beginning, all being in Township Sixteen (16) North, Range Four (4) West of the Third Principal Meridian.

Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any.

Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois  
(2) Common address or location of mortgaged premises:

865 S. Oaklane Rd., Springfield IL 62712  
(v) Identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:  
Name of mortgagor: Michael Cave  
Name of mortgagee: Bank of Springfield, an Illinois banking corporation  
Date of mortgage: July 8, 2021  
Date of recording: July 21, 2021, with the Recorder of Deeds

County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois  
Recording document identification: Document No. 2021R19016  
Joseph B. Roesch  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
SORLING NORTHROP, Attorneys  
Brian D. Jones, of counsel – ARDC #6286510  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 5131  
Springfield, Illinois 62705  
Telephone: (217) 544 1144  
E-Mail: bdjones@sorlinglaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS  
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Plaintiff,  
vs.

2020 Mercedes-Benz A220  
VIN #WDD3G4EB3LW040123  
Mikyle Burke  
No. 25-MX-1094  
25-AF-102

#### NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the People of the State of Illinois, ex rel. John C. Milhiser, State's Attorney for Sangamon County, filed the above-captioned matter on November 6, 2025. UNLESS YOU file a verified Claim with the State's Attorney of Sangamon County, Illinois at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Room 402, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, within 45 days of this publication, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT OR DECREE MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR FORFEITURE OF THE ABOVE ASSETS PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS FORFEITURE LAW.

Joe Roesch  
Clerk of Court  
J.W. Pierceall  
Assistant State's Attorney  
200 S. 9th Street, Room 402  
Springfield, Illinois 62701

(217) 753-6690  
Sangamoncounty.SAO.civil@sangamonil.gov

To enforce Self Storage Lien in default of payment of rent a private auction will be held on Saturday March 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 March 18, 2026.

No personal checks will be accepted for storage units that are in lien.  
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STORAGE UNIT AUCTION

Rosemarie Smith	Unit 1-7
Rosemarie Smith	Unit 1-15
Rosemarie Smith	Unit 2-26
Rosemarie Smith	Unit B-10
Kyle Rutherford	Unit 1-44
Mhynessa Day	Unit 4-5
Rosalind Cameron	Unit 7-5
Danny Crawford	Unit 10-5
Shermita Dixon	Unit 10-9
Timothy Willett	Unit 3-26
Eva Coleman	Unit 4-26
Tabatha Busch	Unit 4-37
Terry Broida	Unit 9-37
Shermita Dixon	Unit 11-11
Todd Pulliam	Unit H-9
Teresa Sample	Unit I-6
Michael Lusk	Unit H-2

#### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
In the Matter of the Estate of  
ROSE E. CESSNA, Deceased.  
IN PROBATE  
No. 2026-PR-72  
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Rose E. Cessna, Deceased.

Letters of Office were issued on February 26, 2026, to John H. Cessna, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Brandon R. Clark, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 19th day of September, 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 27th day of February, 2026.  
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP  
Brandon R. Clark  
Registration No. 6329553  
205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000  
P.O. Box 2459  
Springfield, IL 62705-2459  
(217) 544-8491  
bclark@bhsllaw.com

#### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COMMUNITY LOAN SERVICING, LLC F/K/A  
BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC  
Plaintiff,

-v.-  
KALL RESTAURANTS, LLC, AN ILLINOIS  
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, KEITH  
EUGENE LOUKINEN (GUARANTOR), LAURIE  
ANN LOUKINEN (GUARANTOR), ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, WARREN  
STISKA, UNKNOWN OWNERS-TENANTS  
AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS  
Defendant

2025 FC 000094  
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that  
pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and  
Sale entered in the above cause on Febru-  
ary 25, 2026, an agent for The Judicial  
Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on April  
6, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S  
6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at  
public in-person sale to the highest bidder,  
as set forth below, the following described  
real estate:

LOT FOUR (4) OF CHARLES S. RIDGELY'S  
ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD.  
ALSO, THE NORTH 35 FEET OF THE EAST  
184.90 FEET OF LOT FIFTY-FIVE (55) OF  
ASSESSOR'S SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTH-  
EAST QUARTER OF SECTION 33 AND PART  
OF THE WEST HALF OF THE NORTHWEST  
QUARTER OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 16  
NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST OF THE THIRD  
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SITUATED IN SAN-  
GAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 517 S. 4TH STREET,  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

Property Index No. 14-34.0-156-023

The real estate is improved with a com-  
mercial property.

The judgment amount was \$182,828.92.  
Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than  
the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid  
by certified funds at the close of the sale  
payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation.  
No third party checks will be accepted. The  
balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer,  
is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The  
subject property is subject to general  
real estate taxes, special assessments,  
or special taxes levied against said real  
estate and is offered for sale without any  
representation as to quality or quantity of  
title and without recourse to Plaintiff and  
in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further  
subject to confirmation by the court.  
Upon payment in full of the amount bid,  
the purchaser will receive a Certificate of  
Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a  
deed to the real estate after confirmation  
of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspec-  
tion and plaintiff makes no representation  
as to the condition of the property. Pro-  
spective bidders are admonished to check  
the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the  
purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure  
sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the  
assessments and the legal fees required  
by The Condominium Property Act, 765  
ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property  
is a condominium unit which is part of  
a common interest community, the pur-  
chaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale  
other than a mortgagee shall pay the as-  
sessments required by The Condominium  
Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).  
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-  
OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN  
IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER  
ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C)  
OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLO-  
SURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued  
by a government agency (driver's license,  
passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into  
our building and the foreclosure sale room  
in Cook County and the same identification  
for sales held at other county venues  
where The Judicial Sales Corporation  
conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact NOONAN &  
LIEBERMAN Plaintiff's Attorneys, 33 N.  
LaSalle Street, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL,  
60602 (312) 431-1455. Please refer to file  
number 1353-455-3.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chi-  
cago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE  
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Cor-  
poration at [www.tjsc.com](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status  
report of pending sales.

NOONAN & LIEBERMAN

33 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 1150  
Chicago IL, 60602

312-431-1455

E-Mail: [intake@noonanandlieberman.com](mailto:intake@noonanandlieberman.com)

Attorney File No. 1353-455-3

Case Number: 2025 FC 000094

TJSC#: 46-473

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collec-  
tion Practices Act, you are advised that  
Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt  
collector attempting to collect a debt and  
any information obtained will be used for  
that purpose.

Case # 2025 FC 000094

8051-962648



**Legals  
Deadline,  
Thursdays  
at 4pm**

**Call Daron at  
217-679-7801**

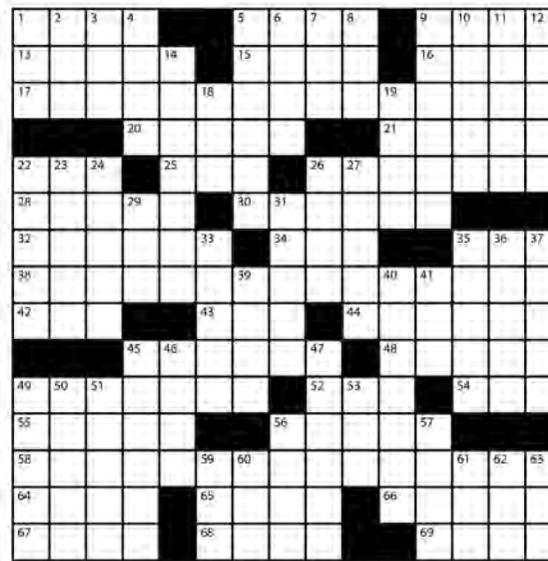
or email

[legals@illinoistimes.com](mailto:legals@illinoistimes.com)

## Mixed tenses Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 935

Across

1. Chowder morsel
5. New York's \_\_\_ Field
9. Hockey fake
13. Jordan's most-visited  
tourist site
15. Raggedy \_\_\_ (classic  
dolls)
16. Pizzazz
17. Looking through  
photo albums,  
perhaps
20. Most common last  
name in Brazil
21. Critic, at times
22. Diminish
25. Chicken \_\_\_ king
26. "Puh-lease!"
28. React to, as an online  
joke
30. Most sensible
32. Provider of contacts,  
informally
34. Accomplished
35. Dairy farm sound
38. Like real danger
42. A Kennedy
43. Expire
44. Like a short play
45. Exerts
48. Concert hall, e.g.
49. Rehab attendees
52. Hawaiian dish
54. "\_\_\_ out!" (lump's  
call)
55. Instant
56. Pandemonium
58. Classic Michael J.  
Fox movie
64. Some chips, maybe
65. Caboose
66. Less risky
67. Little hopper
68. Go out with
69. Secretly includes, in  
a way

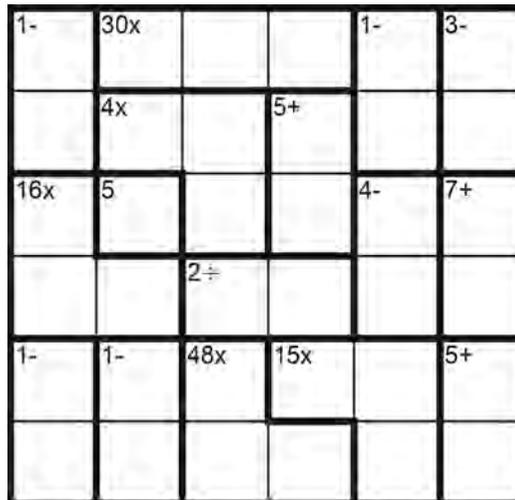


Down

1. Lifeguard's skill, for  
short
2. Attorney F. \_\_\_  
Bailey
3. It borders Fla.
4. CT scan alternatives
5. Sail material
6. Actress Swenson
7. Blast maker
8. Common language  
suffix
9. Take off
10. Thrill
11. Casey of radio  
countdowns
12. \_\_\_ nous
14. The Red Baron, for  
one
18. Under the weather
19. Baseball stats
22. Vote into office
23. Peter of "Everybody  
Loves Raymond"
24. Run, as dye
26. Barbershop sound
27. Pitcher Martinez
29. Driller's org.
31. Threw in
33. Citadel student
35. No Mr. Nice Guy
36. At the right time
37. Sleek swimmer
39. Zeros, in soccer
40. Green, in a way
41. "Comprende?"
45. Like the Witch of the  
West
46. "Law & Order:  
SVU" actor
47. Globe
49. Chance for a hit
50. Alternative to a  
snake
51. Mandates
53. Bonehead
56. Chew the fat
57. Knife wound
59. Chicago airport code
60. Contents of some  
bags
61. Mixed martial arts  
org.
62. \_\_\_ room
63. Hosp. areas

## JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 935

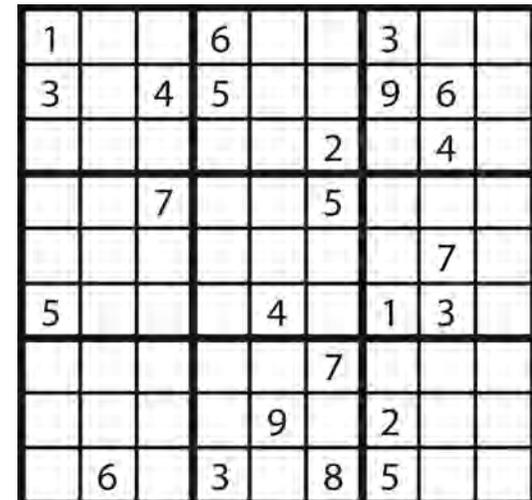
Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column,  
and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the  
target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or  
division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.



Difficulty medium

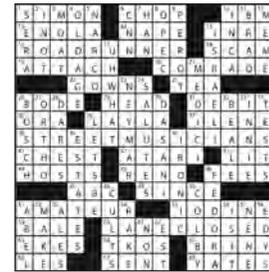
## Sudoku No. 935

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

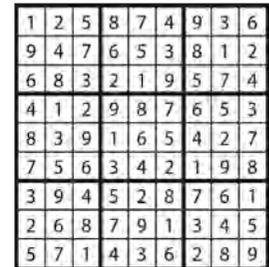


Difficulty hard

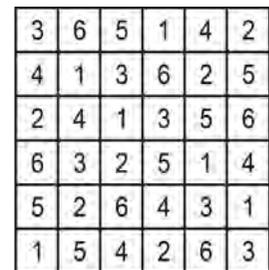
## Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #934



Sudoku answers from #934



JoshJosh answers from #934

# Spring

## LAWN & GARDEN SALE

March 28-29, 2026

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Sunday 9am - 3pm

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