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33 ART | Gallery 1624



17 EVENT | Women owned businesses

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Phoenix Center facing closure

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NONPROFIT | Dean Olsen



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Sangamon County approves data center

“Energy production is more or less infinite,” CyrusOne president tells board members

DATA CENTERS | Dilpreet Raju

Sangamon County Board members voted 17-10 to approve a \$500 million data center project on April 7, just weeks after the board tabled the proposal following hours of constituents' complaints. Once again, the meeting was moved to the BOS center with hundreds of residents turning out, many holding signs or speaking in opposition to the project.

Democrats Marc Ayers, Linda Douglas-Williams, Reggie Guyton and Vera Small voted against it, as did Republicans Pam Deppe, Abe Forsyth, Craig Hall, David Mendenhall, Cathy Scaife and Tracy Sheppard. Republican Jeffrey Thomas abstained.

Democrats Sam Cahnman, Tony DelGiorno, Kevin McGuire and Gina Lathan voted in favor, along with Republicans Casey Constant, Justin Davsko, Jennifer Deaner, Harry Fraase Jr., Annette Fulgenzi, Tim Krell, Tom Madonia Jr., Brad Miller, Tom Rader, James Schackmann, Greg Stumpf, Joel Tjelmeland Jr., and Paul Truax.

County approval comes as the country hits a boiling point over the idea of data centers, with technology executives suggesting the idea of building the massive projects in space to avoid resident pushback and an Indianapolis council member's residence being shot at after that council approved a data center.

The motion to remove CyrusOne's zoning proposal from its tabled status passed with a 23-5 vote. Democrats Marc Ayers, Linda Douglas-Williams and Reggie Guyton were joined by Republicans Annette Fulgenzi and David Mendenhall in voting against bringing the proposal back up for discussion.

During the March County Board meeting, it took two votes to table the proposal, following an emotional plea from District 7 board member Craig Hall, a Republican who represents Talkington Township, where the data center would be located.

After the April 7 vote to bring the CyrusOne proposal forward again, Hall made a motion to postpone the final vote. It failed by a vote of 17-11, with several board members commenting that the project deserved a final vote.

Democrats Sam Cahnman, Tony DelGiorno, Gina Lathan and Kevin McGuire voted against postponing the vote, along with Republicans Casey Constant, Justin Davsko, Jennifer Deaner, Harry Fraase Jr., Tim Krell, Tom Madonia Jr., Brad Miller, Tom Rader, James Schackmann, Greg Stumpf, Jeffrey Thomas, Joel Tjelmeland Jr.



The April 7 Sangamon County Board meeting was held at the BOS Center to accommodate the large public turnout. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

and Paul Truax.

More than 60 people were signed up to speak, and the public comments began with statements from Ryan McCrady, president and CEO of the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance, and Aaron Gurnsey, president of the Central Illinois Building & Trades Council and a Growth Alliance board member. The two men, who spoke in favor of the project, were responsible for a mass text message sent to many Sangamon County residents last week expressing union support for the CyrusOne project.

Tensions ran high during the public comment portion of the meeting, and multiple opponents of the project were escorted out after disrupting the proceedings. Board chair Andy Van Meter announced public comments would be capped at one hour, unlike the March meeting. Board member Reggie Guyton, a Democrat representing District 21, made a motion to extend public comments for another 30 minutes. The vote was 14-14, but Van Meter broke the tie with a vote against extending the comment period.

The one-hour cap resulted in approximately a dozen public speakers, mostly union leaders or workers, sharing support for the project. Just three opponents of the proposal were able to speak during the shortened public comment period.

Board member Marc Ayers, who stepped down from his seat at the conclusion of the meeting, mentioned an email that was sent to

him indicating that CyrusOne asked at least one union, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, to “sign up early for this to try and take the oppositions (sic) spots in the order.”

CyrusOne officials, when questioned by Ayers, admitted to requesting unions sign up for public speaking spots.

Ayers decried the decision to limit public comment.

“This is a stain on this body,” he said. “We should be allowing public comment, we should be allowing that.”

Campaign donations

Only two board members, District 18's Sam Cahnman, a Democrat, and District 9's Tom Madonia, Jr., a Republican, have received campaign contributions from local unions since March, according to Reform for Illinois' Sunshine database.

Cahnman, who lost his primary election on March 17, received \$2,000 total from Local 137 and Operating Engineers Local 965 on March 23, the date of the County Board's March meeting. Cahnman initially voted against tabling the CyrusOne proposal at that meeting, but by the time of the second vote he was a yes.

Cahnman emailed *Illinois Times* after the April 7 meeting, writing that the donations “were reporting errors that are being corrected on my quarterly report, which will be filed on or before” April 15. “The monies reported on the Illinois Sunshine website were never deposited in

my campaign account.”

Madonia, who is not up for reelection until 2028, received \$1,500 total from IBEW Illinois and Operating Engineers Local 965 on March 29, about a week after the County Board voted to table the proposal. Madonia voted against tabling the proposal during both votes that night.

Madonia told *Illinois Times* the donations stemmed from fundraising and had no influence on his votes. He said he's proud to have union support.

“(Just) because I had a fundraiser a month ago, it has nothing to do with the data center,” he said.

Madonia said he was fundraising even though he's not in an election cycle “because you always need money. It helps keep your opponents leery of running against you when they see you have money in the bank.”

Investment

CyrusOne president John Hatem said the Sangamon County project would bring billions of dollars in investment, much of which is expected to be exempt from state taxes. He acknowledged the company has spent “tens of millions of dollars” to address noise complaints in Aurora for a center that's about one-fourth of the size of the project proposed in Talkington Township.

“That billions of dollars of investment will bring economic growth. We've been doing this for 25 years. We've done this in other communities – noted, we did have our issues in Aurora,” Hatem said. “And I've sat in front of the community in Aurora and told them the same thing, and we talked to them every month.”

When asked by County Board members about how the new data center might contribute to heat waves amplified by corn sweat and national energy demands, Hatem said that is not an issue.

“I can't speak to climate change. I can speak to the fact that energy production is more or less infinite, right? If there is demand for electricity, generation is built. Solar farms, wind farms, nuclear, gas plants – so it's not a limited resource from a perspective of, if CyrusOne uses some, there's not going to be any left for anybody else,” he said. “If all of these AI data centers show up and use the power, more generation will be built to support that. The grid has grown for 100 years. Demands of electricity have grown for 100 years – generation has always followed that.” □

Social service concerns mount

Hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans may lose SNAP benefits in coming months as federal changes take effect

STATE | Dilpreet Raju

The federal budget's sweeping changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, including additional work requirements and shifting age bracket qualifications, could lead to nearly 20% of Illinois SNAP recipients – as many as 340,000 people – losing benefits in the coming months, according to state estimates and local agencies.

Adults from the ages of 18 to 64 (rather than 54) with dependents over the age of 14, or without dependents, will be required to work or volunteer in order to receive SNAP benefits. The previous age cap for dependents was 18 years. The increased challenges to access federal social security programs come as prices at the gas pump and supermarket keep climbing after U.S. military strikes and sanctions on Iran drove up oil and crop fertilizer costs.

While the changes began on Feb. 1, those not in compliance with the federal government's requirements are allowed to receive benefits for "three months within a fixed three-year period," according to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. "People who are not exempt from the work requirements, are not meeting the work requirements, and have already received three months of SNAP benefits will no longer be eligible to receive SNAP benefits for the remainder of the fixed three-year period," though anyone can regain eligibility by proving one month's worth of work, training or volunteer status.

Jorge Arteaga, Midwest advocacy manager for national nonprofit Young Invincibles, told *Illinois Times* that young adults who utilize social service programs from the federal government could see drastic differences in access soon.

"SNAP cuts are going to come down and probably be hitting in the next two to three months," he said. "May, June (we) should be



Advocates and concerned citizens gathered in Springfield on the 16th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act to warn of changes coming to federal health care programs. From left to right: Hue Douglass, Jorge Arteaga, John Paschedag, Kimberly Mercer-Schleider, Linda Canter and Valorie Broderick. PHOTO COURTESY DILPREET RAJU

seeing a lot of impacts across young adults and people across our state and country, where they will be losing some of those benefits."

Since SNAP is a federally funded but state-operated program, the increase in expected redeterminations could impact state dollars in multiple ways. The federal government has put increased pressure on how each state manages its SNAP error rate for determining eligible amounts of benefits.

"(Error rate requirements) are a way for our federal government to start putting a lot more of the financial burden onto our states when it comes to staffing individuals to ensure that our error rate can stay under the percentile that they would like to see it," Arteaga said. "If we are not able to, there comes a cut in dollars that will be directed to our state. It will be either the option of: utilizing state dollars to beef up our systems and keeping the dollars that we are getting, or try to continue to administer our program the way that we have been doing but potentially lose out dollars from our federal government."

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates Illinois would be on the hook for roughly \$666 million if the error rates don't

improve. Illinois's SNAP assistance for the 2025 calendar year totaled nearly \$4.5 billion. Only four other states would be responsible for a larger cost if 2024 error rates held steady.

Kimberly Mercer-Schleider, director of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, an independent state agency that is federally funded, said the staffing required to comply with new regulations put a strain on the program instead of allowing the system to reach beneficiaries.

"We're experiencing SNAP changes right now... the state will now have to increase our workforce to cover the new requirements, like increased redeterminations," Mercer-Schleider told *Illinois Times*. "The way that the state is going to have to staff up for that would pay for the program, and that is the most frustrating thing... this is just for SNAP, we haven't even gotten to Medicaid yet, that's coming."

She pointed out how lowering dependents' age eligibility implies teenagers ought to purchase their own groceries.

"If I'm a mom and I have my son, we could both receive SNAP benefits up until the age of 18. Now it's 14, so that automatically

makes the assumption that my 14-year-old is going to be able to go out and work and make enough money that's going to provide the groceries that we had before," she said.

John Paschedag, a Cook County resident who participated in a recent press conference in Springfield, said he fears ripple effects from additional regulations might impact his ability to receive weekly care from direct support professionals he typically relies on.

"These cuts will be bad not just for me, but for many people. Many people would get hurt," Paschedag said. "The disabilities community is tough. We have fought for many things that help us to live our lives, we will continue to fight."

Barring last-minute congressional intervention, major Medicaid changes are coming in 2027, and with them, a forewarned cascade of change to the U.S. health care industry. The Affordable Care Act, or ACA, provides a separate avenue to health care for those who work jobs without insurance benefits or make too much money to qualify for Medicaid.

Arteaga said the expiration of federal tax credits that made ACA plans affordable will have a big impact on young adults.

"From a young adult perspective, it's very concerning," he said. "Many (of them) are thinking about and hearing what's happening in the news while very much considering what is going to happen to them when they do come off their parent's insurance."

Mercer-Schleider explained how, 16 years later, the ACA has become a lifeline for both patients and provider systems.

"It was the very first program that made health care accessible for everyone, and was it perfect? No, but also it's an underpinning of our system that once that unravels, everything else kind of unravels with it," she said. □



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A battle for control

City Council members want more representation on potential Capital Area Tourism Authority board

DOWNTOWN | Dilpreet Raju



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At the March 31 Springfield City Council meeting, several members expressed discontent with what they feel is a lack of sufficient city representation for a potential new government authority that would be responsible for managing the construction of a new downtown hotel and expanding the BOS Center.

Earlier that day, a bipartisan group of elected officials held a press conference at the BOS Center to support Senate Bill 3499, introduced by state Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield. Only one city official, Mayor Misty Buscher, was in attendance. The bill would create a new governing board, the Capital Area Tourism Authority, responsible for promoting business development and tourism in downtown Springfield.

Ward 3. Ald. Roy Williams said he was irritated that the bill would give the city only one appointed member on the board – the same number as the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority – while the Sangamon County Board gets three appointees.

“Let’s be clear with the citizens that we need to stand up to this mayor and to our state senator, if we have to, that we’re not happy,” Williams said. “Sixty percent of the hotels, motels are in the city, who do they think they’re fooling?”

The \$200 million project would be funded by utilizing Sales Tax and Revenue (STAR) bonds as a community reinvestment tool. It’s a strategy the Pritzker administration has been encouraging across the state for communities to spur economic growth.

At the press conference, Sangamon County Board Chair Andy Van Meter said that Turner “has packed this bill with a number of levers for revenue: the building (of) the hotel itself, revenue from a potential additional hotel/motel tax, revenue from the incremental sales tax that will be generated by the hotel and expanded convention center.”

The bill’s current language would “impose a tax under a specified provision of the Counties Code on all hotel operators who engage in business as a hotel operator within a STAR bond district that is established in the territory of the Authority.” That territory would be bounded by “Walnut Street on the west, North Grand Avenue on the north, 11th



Ward 3 Ald. Roy Williams, pictured at the March 31 Springfield City Council meeting, expressed concerns that the city would only have one seat on a proposed Capital Area Tourism Authority board. PHOTO COURTESY ZACH ADAMS

Street on the east, and South Grand Avenue on the south.”

Williams said the bill, as it is currently written, would allow the Capital Area Tourism Authority to work on multiple projects, weakening local control over redevelopment of downtown.

“When you finish, that’s just one project – that parking lot, that expansion, that’s just one project. The legislation says projects within the zone,” he said. “We have to take a serious look, and get serious about this. And if they want to do it, fine, but we have to be in the driver’s seat as the City Council or else they just diluted a whole lot of power.”

The bill does not explicitly limit the number of projects the authority may engage in at a time.

Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory, whose ward includes a portion of downtown, said he had been in touch with Turner about his opposition to the bill and argued it would be an overreach. Gregory also filed a formal witness slip as an opponent to the bill.

“These are expansive governmental powers, including fiscal and land-related authorities.

Critically, the list of powers do not contain any requirement that the city of Springfield must approve of these actions,” he said. “It’s something that we as a community are going to have to look into from not only an aldermanic standpoint, but even a class action (perspective).”

Gregory also noted that Sangamon County owns the land where the hotel would be built.

“We understand the county owns that (parking) lot; that’s a payday for them,” Gregory said.

Last year, the county, city and SMEAA fielded proposals for bidders to fulfill those plans. It’s unclear if another request for proposals will be posted or if elected officials have identified companies from responses to the initial RFP.

Senate Bill 3499 remains in the Senate Revenue committee. Another bill, Senate Bill 2829, which would expand the powers of the Mid-Illinois Medical District and is also part of what Turner called “the downtown reinvestment package,” is awaiting assignment.

□

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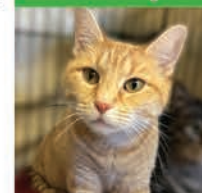
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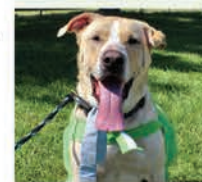
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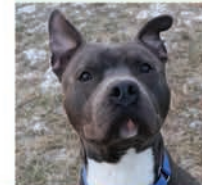
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UIS union begins strike

EDUCATION | Scott Faingold

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Members of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) Tenure / Tenure Track union of University of Illinois Springfield officially began a strike April 3 after nearly a year of negotiations with university administration. A rally including a picket line was held beginning at 9:30 a.m. Friday. According to a UIS United Faculty social media post, the decision to strike was reached following upwards of 10 hours of negotiations on April 2, where the administration “made no serious effort to settle a fair contract” and instead offered “ultimatums, backtrack(ing) on previously agreed proposals and outright refus(al) to negotiate mandatory subjects of bargaining.”

According to a statement provided by the UIS administration, “the University of Illinois Springfield respects the right of the UPI Local 4100 tenured and tenure-track faculty to choose a work stoppage, but is disappointed that union members have chosen this course of action. Our faculty colleagues play a valuable role on our campus and contribute meaningfully to the student experience. The University and the Union have met for 18 bargaining sessions, including a 10-hour session last night, where we communicated our readiness and willingness to continue meeting in mediation. We remain hopeful the union will return to the table so negotiations can continue.”

Bargaining sessions have been ongoing since the strike began but had failed to end the stalemate as of this writing. Illinois State Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, and U.S. Rep Nikki Budzinski, D-Springfield, each showed their support for the union with separate appearances at campus rallies on April 3 and April 6, respectively.

April 10 will mark a full week of the strike, with all classes taught by members of the tenure and tenure-track union remaining on hiatus. Non-tenure track instructors have a separate union and contract and will continue to teach classes during the strike, as will adjunct instructors.

The UIS administration is posting updates regarding the negotiations on its website: uis.edu/hr/labor-employee-relations/uis-bargaining/tenure-tenure-track-chapter-upi-local-4100.



State Sen. Doris Turner joins Dathan Powell, chapter president of UIS United Faculty, at a rally held April 3 to begin the strike.
PHOTO COURTESY UIS UNITED FACULTY

“Why the UIS faculty are on strike,” an op-ed piece from John Miller, the statewide president of the University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100, is posted at illinoistimes.com. □

Scott Faingold is a former instructor at University of Illinois Springfield, where he helped form the non-tenure track union in 2023. He was the founding editor of Activator magazine and has been a staff reporter for Illinois Times and co-host of Old School Bleep, a music-centered podcast. He can be reached at scottfaingold@gmail.com.

OPINION

LETTERS We welcome letters. Please include your full name, address and telephone number. We edit all letters. Send them to editor@illinoistimes.com.

WE'RE ALL COMPLICIT

These data centers concern me. The only thing I feel a rational person can do is significantly reduce their reliance on them. Until a person does this, they are complicit in their construction. I have to scratch my head when someone tells me that they are using the very infrastructure that data centers support (social media, namely) to oppose data centers. The response I've gotten is that it is difficult to get the word out in any other way.

Therein lies the problem. When we collectively decided to hollow out the means of communication that we had come to develop — newspapers, radio, etc. — we unknowingly voted for these data centers.

There are two main groups opposing these data centers: people who are afraid of the effects near them (NIMBYs — “Not In My Back Yard”) and people who don't want them built at all (BANANAs — “Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone”). I actually have more respect for the second group, because for them it's about the future of our society. The first group, the group that has no problem utilizing data centers so long as they're not built near them, rattle me a bit.

I truly think the best response to these data centers is to rely on them significantly less. It's not just AI. It's social media. It's streaming. Admittedly, I have had less connection with people since leaving social media once and for all. But that's not because social media is necessary — it's because I had become too reliant on it for too long. Now it's back to old-fashioned blogs, email, websites and RSS feeds. Oh, and newspapers like *Illinois Times*.

*Steven Simpson-Black
Springfield*

HOLD YES VOTES RESPONSIBLE

I am horrified that the Sangamon County Board zoning vote for the CyrusOne data center passed April 7. Tabling or voting no were legitimate options to allow us time to put guardrails on data centers coming into our community and to allow time



Following another contentious meeting in front of a packed room at the BOS Center, the Sangamon County Board voted April 7 to approve the zoning to allow CyrusOne to construct the area's first data center. Public comments were capped at one hour, and several opponents of the project who disrupted the meeting were removed. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

for state legislation to catch up to ensure environmental and health protections are in place. To the board members who decided, against all evidence presented to the contrary, to vote yes — shame on you.

Now that you've allowed this to happen, the rest of the process will undoubtedly occur at a quick pace. Your groveling to the Growth Alliance and CyrusOne have invited more data centers to set their sights on our county.

Those who voted yes are directly responsible for destroying the environment in our county for generations; increasing health and safety risks for community members and their subsequent health care costs; and utility rate increases.

I am 100% pro-union, despite the condescending, smug comments made by union leadership at the April 7 meeting that those of us against the data center are “unprofessional” and “anti-union.” Those of us against the data center know CyrusOne will not hold true to their vague promises made to unions, just as they've done at every other build. We want our locals to have good jobs with respectable companies.

Shame on the board members who voted yes and were so willing to sell out the rest of the county.

*Claire D. Heffron-McKinney
Springfield*

HYPOCRITE

I attended the public comment portion of the April 7 County Board meeting. Brad Schaive was one of the union leaders who spoke, representing Local 477, although he did not give a substantial reason why the data center would be a benefit for his union brothers and sisters.

Instead, he asked the board members to vote based on the behavior of the room. He highlighted the “decorum” and “professionalism” shown in the room during the public hearing as “all these men and women (from labor) sit here quietly.” He said that these people were not disturbing the

peace, and those in opposition were hypocrites and caused chaos. He ended his time asking the board members to “stand up for order, and say no to chaos.”

Then while leaving the podium, he turned to a group of citizens sitting in the front (including me), and said, “Shut the fuck up.” It was appalling to see a leader represent a union based on “professionalism,” then immediately abandon the principle once off mic. This undermines his message and calls his integrity into question. His actions show he is a hypocrite.

*Rachael McMillan
Springfield*

Lord of the Rings

I sought and found a certain grave in North Oxford. J.R.R. Tolkien's headstone read simply “Beren” and his wife's read “Luthien.” I found a pair of those special dice some of you will know well, hidden in the leaves, a gift from another pilgrim.

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OPINION

Poll: Affordable housing needed

POLITICS | Rich Miller

A YouGov poll conducted last month shows Illinois registered voters overwhelmingly believe that the cost of renting and buying a home is a problem in Illinois, think that there aren't enough affordable homes for average folks and want the state legislature to take action.

The poll of 806 Illinois registered voters was taken March 1-9 and has a margin of error of +/-3.8 percent. The survey was conducted on behalf of YIMBY Illinois, a nonprofit which "advocates for abundant housing and sustainable, inclusive cities throughout Illinois." But, the questions look legit and the poll even tests some opposing arguments, although no questions about our high property taxes were asked.

The poll was released as Gov. JB Pritzker and others are pushing a plan to build "missing middle" residences, including multi-family developments and "granny flats" throughout the state. But proponents must overcome strong opposition from many municipal governments which do not want to give up their control of local zoning.

Eighty-four percent of those polled said the cost of renting or buying a home was a "major problem" (47 percent) or "somewhat a problem" (37 percent). That majority held up in every state region and demographic. Even 76 percent of those who approve of President Donald Trump's job performance said it's a problem (39 percent major, 37 percent somewhat, with 17 percent saying it's a minor or not really a problem). Just a reminder that subsets have a higher margin of error than the overall survey.

Another 67 percent of respondents said Illinois does not have "enough homes that are affordable for average people to buy or rent," while 18 percent said there were enough and 16 percent weren't sure or didn't know. Again, every region and demographic agreed with the position, including 54 percent of Trump approvers.

A sizable 82 percent said state legislators should "take action" to address the housing shortage and costs of housing in the state (49 percent strongly agreed and 33 percent somewhat agreed). Even 68 percent of Trump supporters either strongly (35) or somewhat (33) agreed, while just 20 percent disagreed (8 percent strongly).

Voters were somewhat split when asked to rate their city or town's efforts to keep housing affordable, with 47 percent rating it positively, including 3 percent "very good," 11 percent "good" and 33 percent "acceptable." Another 40 percent rated it negatively, with 10 percent

saying it's "very poor" and 30 percent calling it "poor." Those results were roughly similar throughout regions and all other demographics.

Perhaps the most surprising result was when voters were asked, "even if it isn't exactly right," which of the following came closer to their opinions: 61 percent said it was "more important to build more homes in my neighborhood so that people who work in my community can afford to live here, than it is to protect the neighborhood from change," while 27 percent said it's "more important to protect my neighborhood from change than it is to build more homes that working people can afford." Even a plurality of 47 percent of Trump supporters agreed with building more homes in their communities so people could afford to live where they work, while 40 percent said protecting their neighborhood from change was more important.

Sixty-five percent said they agreed that "Building more affordable housing is more important for Illinois," and 27 percent said "Protecting the character of neighborhoods from change is more important for Illinois" was closer to their opinion.

And despite a plurality narrowly approving

of their local governments' ability to keep housing affordable, 65 percent (including 57 percent of Trump supporters) said "Illinois state legislators should prioritize building more homes and bringing down housing costs," while just 18 percent said "Illinois state legislators should prioritize preserving the power city governments have over what types of homes can be built and where." Another 17 percent were unsure.

The poll also tested various ways of building more affordable housing and all had majority support, although all had more "somewhat" support than "strong" support.

Sixty-three percent supported allowing construction of "granny flats" or other accessory dwelling units. 69 percent supported building townhomes and small apartment buildings "on all residential lots." 66 percent said they supported allowing homes to be built on lots that are just 1,500 square feet. 74 percent said faith groups should be allowed to build low-income housing.

While the numbers don't show voters want to give the state carte blanche, these results are much more positive than many Statehouse types probably expected. □



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A.



KIM JONG UN

B.



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C.



"BAGHDAD BOB"

D.



RAMBO

1. "GOD WILL ROAST THEIR STOMACHS IN HELL."

2. "DON'T PUSH IT, OR I'LL GIVE YOU A WAR YOU WON'T BELIEVE."

3. "YOU SHOULD... TOTALLY CUT THEIR WINDPIPES AND THUS CLEARLY SHOW THEM WHAT A REAL WAR IS LIKE."

4. "I AM ALTERING THE DEAL. PRAY I DON'T ALTER IT ANY FURTHER."

5. "[THEY] WILL BECOME GOOD FOOD FOR THE SHARKS."

6. "OPEN THE F#@*&N' STRAIT, YOU CRAZY BASTARDS, OR YOU'LL BE LIVING IN HELL."

7. "[THE BEST IN LIFE IS] TO CRUSH YOUR ENEMIES, SEE THEM DRIVEN BEFORE YOU, AND TO HEAR THE LAMENTATIONS OF THEIR WOMEN."

8. "IF YOU START THROWING HEDGEHOGS UNDER ME, I SHALL THROW A COUPLE OF PORCUPINES UNDER YOU."

E.



CONAN THE BARBARIAN

F.



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G.



TRUMP

H.



DARTH VADER

ANSWER KEY: 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-H, 4-H, 4-H, 5-F, 5-F, 6-G, 6-G, 7-E, 7-E, 8-B

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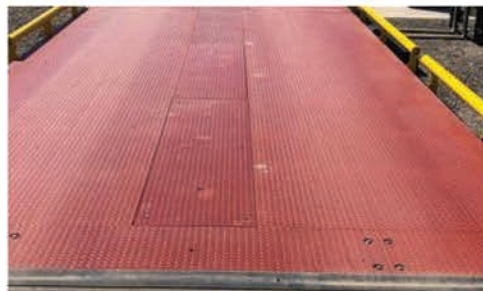
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Teresa Silva, executive director of the Phoenix Center in Springfield, says center officials submitted a corrective action plan to the state more than a year ago to have grant funding restored but haven't heard back. PHOTO COURTESY ZACH ADAMS

Phoenix Center facing closure

Grant fraud investigation threatens future of 25-year-old LGBTQ+ nonprofit

NONPROFIT | Dean Olsen

Two years after Sara Bowen-Lasisi began working for the Phoenix Center, she realized the Springfield nonprofit appeared to be overbilling the state for grant-supported HIV testing.

But Bowen-Lasisi said the questionable practice was openly admitted and encouraged by the former executive director, Jonna Cooley.

According to Bowen-Lasisi, Cooley said, “We were doing the work, so we deserve the money.”

Bowen-Lasisi told *Illinois Times* that Cooley “didn’t think she would be caught. And quite frankly, she never would have been caught.”

Bowen-Lasisi, who was assistant director of Phoenix Center before being fired in fall 2023 amid what she called a hostile work environment, said she was the person

who exposed the alleged 10-plus years of grant fraud in complaints to the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Office of the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor.

Those complaints apparently are what led the state in May 2024 to suspend about \$1 million in annual grant funding for the center, which provides social, clinical, residential and harm-reduction services to members of the queer community and other at-risk groups throughout central Illinois. The center operates out of a building at 109 E. Lawrence Ave. and at its Out on Second site at 120 E. Scarritt St.

The new executive director told *Illinois Times* that the cutoff of funds, which also has spawned an ongoing criminal investigation by the Illinois State Police focusing on Cooley’s conduct, will jeopardize the nonprofit’s

existence in the next 12 months if the agency’s financial quandary isn’t resolved. Cooley hasn’t been charged with any crimes related to the recent investigations.

“Things weren’t really adding up”

Duane Williams is the co-owner of Fluid, a bar in downtown Springfield that caters to LGBTQ+ clientele, a hairdresser and former operations coordinator of Phoenix Center. He said state officials told the staff and the center’s board in 2024 that the suspected grant fraud amounted to between \$500,000 and \$1 million over a 10-year period.

Williams said Cooley told officials at the time that she and the agency shouldn’t be punished because the overbillings were mistakes that the state should have caught and corrected early on.

“She did everything to blame everybody

else,” Williams said of Cooley, whom he used to consider a close friend.

Williams, who volunteered for Phoenix Center before becoming an employee in January 2024, said he lost trust in Cooley. He said he has been interviewed twice by a representative of the inspector general.

Williams was fired in November 2024 for “mishandling and destroying Phoenix Center records in coordination with other Phoenix Center employees without the knowledge or consent of the Phoenix Center Board of Directors,” according to his termination letter.

But Williams said the IG investigator assured him that he wasn’t responsible for the alleged fraud because he was just following orders.

Williams said empty file folders that helped to document the alleged fraud were destroyed at Cooley’s direction before he



Former Phoenix Center executive director Jonna Cooley sits in front of a computer screen in May 2022 during a training session with Southern Illinois University School of Medicine students regarding LGBTQ+-affirming care. PHOTO COURTESY SARA BOWEN-LASISI

realized their importance. He and another employee sifted through and organized paper testing records by the state after the fraud investigations began.

Cooley “used me to destroy the evidence,” Williams said. “Once I got behind the walls of the Emerald City, I realized the wizard really wasn’t the wizard, because things weren’t really adding up.”

Karen Reynolds, a research instructor at SIU Medicine, was Phoenix Center’s board president in November 2024 when Williams was fired and when Cooley retired. Reynolds declined comment when contacted by *Illinois Times*. Reynolds would only say she served on the board for eight years, the last two as president, and left the board in January 2026.

Teresa Silva became interim executive director after Cooley, 64, abruptly retired after 18 years at the helm of an organization that, at its peak, operated with a \$1.5 million annual budget and 18 to 20 full-time staff.

Silva has worked for the agency since 2022 and was named permanent executive director by the Phoenix Center board in February 2026.

When asked whether Cooley retired under threat of being fired, Silva didn’t address the question directly but offered this reply: “She’s not dumb, right? And so, I think she made some decisions because some decisions were about to be made for her.”

Cooley, a Springfield resident, was paid \$111,440 in 2024, according to Phoenix Center’s most recent IRS 990 report.

Cooley hasn’t been charged with any

crimes in connection with the investigations by IDPH, Inspector General and State Police. She didn’t respond to phone messages or a note left on the door of her home, which abuts Lake Springfield, by an *Illinois Times* reporter on March 31.

Cooley was employed by Illinois College in Jacksonville from January 2025 to March 2026, according to IC spokesperson Bryan Leonard. He wouldn’t say why Cooley left or what she did at the private college.

Until a few days ago, the college’s website listed Cooley as “Empower Your Life Program Coordinator” in the Chesley Health and Wellness Center. Her LinkedIn profile says she holds a master’s degree in mental health counseling and a doctorate degree in psychology.

The State Journal-Register published an article about the alleged grant fraud March 23.

A troubled past

Cooley was first hired by the Phoenix Center in 2006 as its funding development director, and later named executive director, while she was under investigation for allegedly misusing funds at the Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center while she was executive director. The Advocacy Center coordinates investigations of child sexual abuse.

John Kerstein, then-fiscal officer of Phoenix Center’s board of directors, defended the hiring of Cooley in 2006. He told *The State Journal-Register* at the time, “I was under the impression that, here in the U.S.,

you are innocent until proven guilty. She has had a long career in social services and did tremendous things for the Child Advocacy Center.”

Kerstein, who posted the \$1,000 bail to get Cooley out of jail after her arrest in 2008, didn’t respond to an interview request from *Illinois Times* regarding the ongoing investigations.

Cooley kept her job at Phoenix Center even when she was charged in 2008 with nine felony counts of theft and official misconduct and three felony counts of forgery. According to the *SJ-R*, “Authorities say she requested reimbursement for trips that never happened and improperly used the agency’s credit card.”

Cooley also kept her job when, as part of a plea deal to settle the case, she pleaded guilty in 2009 to one count of forgery. She was sentenced to 30 months of probation, fined \$1,500 and was ordered to pay \$8,000 in restitution to the Advocacy Center, a department of Sangamon County government.

public health department, Bowen-Lasisi said.

“So essentially for one test, let’s say, I think it was like \$150 for the reimbursement,” Bowen-Lasisi said. “So instead of getting \$150, she would essentially get \$600 if it involved four grants.”

The state’s computer system for submitting reimbursement requests was antiquated and could be easily manipulated by those who wanted to defraud the state, said Bowen-Lasisi, who has been interviewed by state police.

She said she didn’t realize this practice was inappropriate at first. Later, she said she kept doing it because she “believed in the agency” and believed in the agency’s mission, especially its harm-reduction work.

“I’m sad to this day that I’m not doing that, because it was incredible,” Bowen-Lasisi said. Between Phoenix Center’s locations in Springfield and the multi-county rural area, she said the agency was serving 1,000 people each month.

Cooley’s ego loomed large over the staff, Bowen-Lasisi said.



Former Phoenix Center operations coordinator Duane Williams, shown in front of Fluid, a bar he co-owns in downtown Springfield, says the center’s leadership shouldn’t have waited so long to be transparent with the public about its financial problems. PHOTO COURTESY ZACH ADAMS

“People don’t want to admit they got took”

Bowen-Lasisi said she began working for Phoenix Center in 2019 as director of clinical outreach and administered its harm-reduction services, which were ground-breaking in downstate Illinois and probably saved lives. Instructed by Cooley, the staff requested reimbursement for HIV testing in multiple pay-for-performance grants through the state

“I don’t think that anybody understands how hostile a work environment we were under,” Bowen-Lasisi said. “Jonna was demeaning, degrading.”

State Police spokesperson Melaney Arnold said in an email that there is an “open and active investigation into allegations of fraud involving the Phoenix Center.”

Arnold added, “IDPH referred the allegations to ISP for investigation. The Inspector General is aware of ISP’s

investigation.”

Neil Olson, the Inspector General office’s general counsel, wouldn’t confirm or deny the existence of an investigation. The office can issue administrative penalties and disciplinary actions against state agencies, state employees and nonprofits.

IDPH spokesperson Charity Greene said in an email that IDPH has entered into an agreement with Phoenix Center to recover the disputed funds that have been identified so far. She said the center owes the state about \$600,000.

“IDPH relies on valued partners throughout the state to provide community-based health programming and services to Illinois residents,” Greene said. “Upon discovering discrepancies in billing at the Phoenix Center, IDPH launched an investigation which ultimately stopped payments to the organization. IDPH referred the matter to the Illinois State Police for further investigation.”

Greene added, “IDPH does not tolerate fraudulent actions of grantee organizations. Misusing taxpayer resources – especially funds meant to improve public health among marginalized communities – betrays the mission of the department and its partners.

We will work closely with law enforcement as appropriate on next steps.”

Williams, the former operations coordinator, faulted the current leadership of Phoenix Center for not being truthful and open with donors and the rest of the public until recently about the reason for the center’s financial problems.

“People don’t want to admit they got took,” he said.

Silva said it wasn’t the agency’s intention to mislead anyone. But agency officials don’t want to compromise the investigations, she said, so she declined to comment on how the fraud occurred and the statements of previous employees.

But Silva said the center recently received advice on communications and decided to make more public comments.

“There was always a want to be transparent,” she said. “We want to talk about this. We want to tell everything, but we can’t right now.” She added that there was “maybe some misinformation. I’m not sure.”

Silva said the agency submitted to the state a “corrective action plan” in February 2025 that would allow the state to restart grant funding, but state officials haven’t signed off on the plan.

The plan included putting in place policies and procedures to prevent any recurrence of grant fraud, she said. Phoenix Center would hire an accounting firm as a “fiscal agent” to offer additional oversight, she said.

For now, Silva said, the agency is operating with a \$25,000 grant from the Chicago-based Pritzker Foundation for harm reduction, a \$100,000 grant from Sangamon County for Narcan distribution, and private donations.

“We have 10 board members now; eight of them are new,” she said. “We’re relying quite a bit on private donations.”

But Silva said she knows it may be hard for the public

to trust the Phoenix Center again.

“I want people to understand that there has been significant change from the board on down,” she said. “We have every intention to keep up the change and to make things more accessible and inclusive for all people, especially people who did not feel included before.”

The aftermath

According to Williams, Phoenix Center’s board questioned him and Cooley on the same day in November 2024 about the agency’s practices for requesting state reimbursements for HIV testing. It was shortly before Williams was put on administrative leave and then fired.

Later that day, Williams said, Cooley showed up at his Springfield home.

According to Williams, she stood on his front porch and screamed, “What in the hell did you tell them?”

Williams said he replied to Cooley, “Well, I told them the truth.”

He said Cooley then told him, “I fucking lied to them. I’m fired now.”

Williams said Cooley didn’t say what she lied about. Cooley would end up retiring, not being fired.

Williams criticized the board for a lack of oversight, noting that Cooley remained as executive director for almost a year after board members learned about the state investigations.

Many people in the LGBTQ+ community refuse to accept that Phoenix center’s financial problems were of its own making, Williams said. Some blame him, and those rumors have depressed business at Fluid, he said.

Williams questioned whether it’s a conflict of interest for Josh Wright, owner of the downtown bar Clique, to serve as Phoenix Center’s current board president while many social activities are held at Clique and financially benefit the bar.

Wright didn’t respond to a request for comment.

Silva said Phoenix Center officials received advice – she wouldn’t say from whom – to avoid hosting events at Fluid because Williams and the bar’s co-owner, Jaime Estell, have been questioned as part of the investigations.

When the investigations are complete, the center would be open to working with Fluid, Silva said.

The alleged grant fraud involving HIV testing may have been small compared with the agency’s overall funding, but it now threatens the future of the 25-year-old organization.

This year’s Springfield PrideFest celebration, which is sponsored every year by Phoenix Center, is self-supporting and will

take place May 16 downtown as planned, Silva said.

But many other services have seen drastic reductions.

Only two full-time employees and a few part-time staff remain. Harm-reduction services such as free clean needles, Narcan and other supplies to help intravenous drug-users avoid overdoses and medical complications so they can live long enough to consider rehabilitation have been downsized.

Harm reduction only is offered in Springfield now, and no longer in the 13 mostly rural counties that were part of Phoenix Center’s territory, including the counties of Menard, Logan, Christian and Morgan.

Thousands of people aren’t getting help, Silva said. The center used to provide 300,000 to 400,000 free needles and syringes each year before cutbacks began in 2024, she said.

And the number of people receiving housing assistance dropped from 30 to 13, Silva said.

Bowen-Lasisi said she hopes Cooley faces criminal charges.

“She’s done a lot of harm in the LGBTQ+ community, a lot of harm in the communities that we served at the Phoenix Center, whether they be people using drugs or residents. ... It’s terrible how she treated people and got away with it. She was so arrogant, and like nothing could ever happen to her, especially from the board. She always referred to them as her board. And there really wasn’t any oversight.”

Bowen-Lasisi said public trust in Phoenix Center has been so damaged by the latest controversy that the organization may need to disband.

“This is a burn-down-and-build-back-from-the-ground-up situation,” she said.

Williams said, “I don’t want our LGBTQ center to close, but what I do want is to be honest.”

Silva said Phoenix Center has name recognition and a connection with clients and the queer community that should be preserved as reforms continue to be put in place.

“At the end of the day,” she said, “I can go to a funder and say, ‘We’ve got 25 years of experience, and here are all of the amazing things that we’re doing.’ Or I can go to a funder and say, ‘We’re brand new, and we don’t have anything, any data to back us up, because we can’t use the Phoenix Center’s data.’”

“Lots of people find value in the Phoenix Center.”

Dean Olsen is a senior staff writer with Illinois Times. He can be reached at dolsen@illinoistimes.com, 217-679-7810 or www.x.DeanOlsenIT.



Former Phoenix Center executive director Jonna Cooley poses with a unicorn during Springfield PrideFest in 2022. PHOTO COURTESY SARA BOWEN-LASISI

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What I wish more women knew before starting a business

By Kelly Gust

A few years ago, I did what many women consider at some point in their careers. I stepped out on my own and built a consulting business. I craved a sense of control, autonomy and the chance to work with leaders who truly wanted to “buy what I was selling.”

For six years, I ran that human resources consulting business successfully. It was profitable. It grew (sometimes in stops and starts, but it grew consistently). It gave me flexibility and new opportunities. It also allowed me time at home during the pandemic with young children.

But recently, I made a decision I hadn't expected when I started: I returned to a full-time role inside an organization. Not because I failed, but because my priorities shifted and I had the clarity to recognize it. This experience has given me perspective. If I could sit down with every woman starting her own business, here's what I'd want her to know:

1. Busy is not a business model

In the early days of self-employment, being busy felt like validation. A full client load, constant work, and always on the move! But over time, I realized something important: my business depended almost entirely on me. My time. My availability. My energy.

That works... until it doesn't.

If stepping away creates stress, lost revenue, or a backlog you dread coming back to, that's not freedom. A sustainable business isn't measured by how busy you are, but rather by how well it works without requiring all of you, all the time. What can you delegate, outsource or scale back on?

2. Growth isn't always the goal

There's a lot of pressure to grow by adding services, taking on more clients, hiring staff, or expanding: bigger, better, faster, stronger. But one of the most valuable phases of my business wasn't growth, it was the sense of stability. Consistent clients, predictable income, a clear scope of work, and an “emergency fund” that ensured I could endure

slower seasons without panicking.

Before adding, I made sure what I already had was working well and profitable. Growth without stability is chaos, not success.

3. Revenue is important. Cash flow is everything.

One of the reasons my business gave me options was that I paid attention to the financial side early. Not just revenue, but profitability, cash flow and establishing a financial cushion. I avoided taking on more debt than necessary, especially in the beginning.

When you understand your numbers and build a buffer, you create flexibility and give yourself the ability to make decisions based on what's right, not just what's urgent.

4. Doing it all yourself is expensive

many owners, I did everything myself, especially early on. I felt efficient. Responsible. But over time, the tradeoffs became clear. Every hour spent on administrative work was an hour of higher-value work missed. Even small shifts like outsourcing marketing tasks

or providing self-booking for clients made a huge difference. Doing everything yourself might save money, but it can quietly limit your success.

5. Do you have a time problem, or a decision problem?

There were plenty of moments where I felt stretched thin. But when I look back, it was more about decision-making than time management. What was I saying yes to? What boundaries was I letting slip? What wasn't defined clearly enough? What was on my plate too long?

Clarity around services, boundaries, priorities and communication solved these problems faster than working long hours ever did.

6. Confidence comes after you start, not before

There were many times when I didn't feel ready, or worse, when I felt like an imposter. Decisions such as rate-setting, taking on larger clients or making changes tempted me to second-guess myself.

But confidence doesn't show up first, it comes from doing the work. It comes from navigating challenges and proving that I could handle more than I thought. I see many women business owners waiting until things are “just right” before acting. One more website tweak, one more piece of marketing SWAG, etc. Some of these decisions just need to be “good enough to get going.” If you're waiting for complete confidence before making a move, you'll be waiting a long time. Action builds confidence.

7. Local advantage is real

One of the most rewarding parts of my business was being rooted in the community. Relationships and reputation matter. Take pride in being known and knowing others.

In a place like Springfield, local connection is a real advantage. It creates trust, opens doors and leads to opportunities you won't find online. Take the time to attend local events and build relationships.

Final thoughts

Starting a business gave me more than just income. It gave me experience, perspective, options, and ultimately the clarity to make a different choice when the time was right.

Success doesn't always mean growing, scaling or staying on the same path. Sometimes, success is building something strong, running it well and then choosing what's next with intention.

If more women focused on being stable, profitable and sustainable I believe we'd see more businesses not just succeed, but truly support the lives that women entrepreneurs were meant to live.

Kelly Gust is the founder and CEO of HR Full Circle, a Springfield-based consulting firm. She now supports talent development at O'Shea Builders, focusing on coaching, learning and building people programs that help individuals and teams succeed. For the past several years, she has written a monthly professional development column for Springfield Business Journal.



Kelly Gust leads a training session for HR Full Circle, her Springfield-based consulting firm. PHOTO COURTESY KELLY GUST



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Female business owners, co-owners and nonprofit leaders are invited to take part in Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI), which holds monthly business meetings with engaging speakers as well as social events.



Find information on upcoming WE-CI events, plus other professional development opportunities, networking events, business workshops and more at springfieldbusinessjournal.com. Choose “calendar” and filter by date, category or keyword.

Gracie Barra Springfield will offer a free women’s self-defense class from 1-2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 3. Learn real-world skills in a safe, supportive environment designed to build confidence and awareness. No experience needed. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle. Must RSVP to 630-440-7816 or GBspringfield22@gmail.com.



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Helping female entrepreneurs grow

Why SBA 504 loans are a powerful tool

By Sara Vanhala



An SBA 504 loan allowed Life Balance Counseling & Wellness, Inc. in Peru, Illinois, to expand into its own building. A ribbon cutting was held Oct. 3 for the new facility. PHOTO COURTESY GROWTH CORP

Women entrepreneurs are one of the fastest-growing forces in the American economy. Yet when it comes time to scale – buying a building, expanding a facility or investing in equipment – many founders run into a familiar obstacle: access to the right kind of capital.

I am president of Small Business Growth Corporation, an SBA 504 lending expert. Here's why the structure of financing matters and why the SBA 504 loan program has become such a powerful growth tool for women-owned businesses.

Q: Women entrepreneurs are driving a lot of economic growth right now. What trends are you seeing?

Women entrepreneurs are reshaping the business landscape in a meaningful way. Today, there are more than 14 million women-owned businesses in the United States, including about 1.4 million employer firms. That means women-owned companies represent nearly 40% of all U.S. businesses.

Across industries – from health care and child care to manufacturing and professional

services – women founders are building companies, creating jobs and strengthening communities.

But what I often see is that as these businesses reach the expansion stage, they encounter a challenge that isn't always obvious at the beginning: access to long-term growth capital.

Q: What do you mean by “growth capital”?

Early in a business's life, entrepreneurs are often focused on startup funding or working capital...things like inventory, payroll or short-term operating needs.

But eventually, a business reaches a point where it needs to make larger investments. That could mean purchasing commercial real estate, expanding into a larger facility or buying major equipment.

Those are the types of investments that can fundamentally change the trajectory of a company.

The challenge is that many traditional financing options aren't structured particularly well for those kinds of investments.

Q: How do conventional business loans typically work in those situations?

Most conventional commercial real estate loans require 20% to 25% down payments, often have variable interest rates, and sometimes include balloon payments after five to 10 years.

For a growing business, that structure can create pressure on working capital.

If an entrepreneur has to put a large amount of cash into a down payment, that's capital they can't use to hire employees, expand marketing, invest in technology or grow their operations.

So sometimes the issue isn't whether financing exists – it's whether the structure of the financing supports growth.

Q: And that's where the SBA 504 loan program comes in?

Exactly. The SBA 504 program was designed specifically to help small businesses invest in long-term assets such as commercial real estate and equipment while preserving working capital.

The way it works is unique. Instead of a

single lender, the financing is structured as a partnership.

Typically:

- A bank or credit union provides 50% of the financing
- A Certified Development Company backed by the SBA provides up to 40%
- The borrower typically contributes about 10% equity
- The SBA portion of the loan is fixed for 20 or 25 years, which gives business owners predictable payments and protection from interest rate volatility.

Q: That lower down payment sounds significant.

It can make a huge difference. Let me give you an example.

One project we worked on involved a professional therapy practice that wanted to expand into its own building. The total project cost was about \$550,000.

Under the SBA 504 structure, the owner contributed \$55,000, the bank financed half of the project, and the SBA portion covered the remaining 40%.

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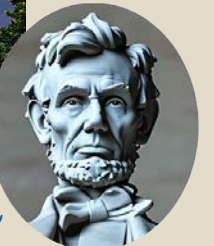
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If that same project had been financed conventionally, the entrepreneur likely would have needed \$110,000 to \$137,500 up front.

That difference can determine whether a business expands now or has to wait several years.

Q: Why is facility ownership so important for many entrepreneurs?

A lot of businesses start by leasing space, which makes sense early on. But ownership changes the equation in several ways.

When you own your building, you're turning a monthly expense into an asset. Over time, you build equity as the property appreciates.

Ownership can also stabilize occupancy costs and strengthen a company's balance sheet, which can make future financing easier.

For many entrepreneurs, buying their facility becomes a turning point in their business journey.

Q: Why do you think this program is particularly relevant for women entrepreneurs?

Women-owned businesses are incredibly innovative and resilient, but they often start with smaller initial capitalization and may rely more heavily on personal credit when launching their companies.

Because of that, preserving working capital during expansion becomes even more



Sara Vanhala chairs the board of the National Association of Development Companies, which is the trade association for Growth Corp. PHOTO COURTESY SARA VANHALA

important.

Programs like the SBA 504 loan help level the playing field by offering financing structures that allow entrepreneurs to invest in growth without tying up a huge amount of cash upfront.

While there are no specific rebates, fee reductions or special rates for women in any of SBA's loan programs, SBA does help fund Women's Business Centers, a national network

of over 140 educational centers designed to help women start and grow small businesses. The federal government has a goal of awarding at least 5% of federal contracting dollars to women annually, which SBDCs can help them learn how to access.

Q: Beyond individual businesses, what kind of economic impact do these loans have?

The impact goes far beyond the individual

entrepreneur.

When businesses expand their facilities, they often hire more employees, purchase more equipment and increase their economic activity in the community.

These projects can help revitalize commercial corridors, support local job creation and strengthen regional economies.

So when you help a small business access the right kind of capital, you're not just supporting one company, you're supporting an entire local ecosystem.

Q: For entrepreneurs who may not have heard of the SBA 504 program, what's the key takeaway?

The biggest thing I'd say is that the structure of capital matters.

If you're a business owner looking to purchase real estate or invest in equipment, the SBA 504 program can provide a financing structure that's designed specifically for long-term growth.

It allows entrepreneurs to move from leasing to owning, stabilize their occupancy costs, preserve cash for expansion and build equity in their businesses over time.

For many founders, it's the tool that turns expansion plans into reality.

Read more about Growth Corp and the SBA 504 Loan Program at www.growthcorp.com.

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Showcasing women's stories

Local photographer documents life stories of area women

By Tamara Browning



Photographer Zach Adams started a video series last year that highlights a different local woman every day during Women's History Month in March. PHOTOS BY ZACH ADAMS

Physician and public health professional Dr. Kemia Sarraf ("Dr. K") with no regret shares with the world her experience with impostor syndrome through a video noting Women's History Month in March.

Sarraf, CEO of the trauma-responsive coaching and consulting business Lodestar, shares her life's mission and how at times she doesn't feel "up to the task" in a video series posted on 1221 Photography's Facebook page.

As owner of 1221 Photography, Zach Adams gets the first look at Sarraf's vulnerability-made-public: her self-doubt and fear of being exposed as a "fraud," despite her competence and success.

"You should feel like an impostor when you're first learning how to save or heal another human being," Sarraf says in the video. "That's a big responsibility. If you don't feel unequal to the task, you did not understand the assignment. You're supposed to feel that way.

"The assignment is probably bigger now than it's ever been in my lifetime. I think what shifts when you get old, or older, I think what shifts is, you start to get right-sized in relation to the task ... The very best thing that I can do is commit myself to the task that's right in front of me."

And for Sarraf, the task at the time was to engage with Adams for his video series highlighting women, giving them a voice.

Adams is a professional photographer who works as the digital media coordinator for *Illinois Times* and *Springfield Business Journal* in addition to having his own business. 1221 Photography's Facebook page has featured the video stories of women in the community for

each day in March 2025 and 2026.

"I was raised by a lot of women, so I have a big respect for women," Adams says. "It seemed like women were being silenced more than usual, or maybe it was because I was just now paying more attention to it. ... At first, it was just going to be pictures, but I'm like, 'I feel like I can tell a better story or let them tell their stories if it were video.'"

The 'impostor'

A question Adams poses to women he interviews for the video series is one that asks how they handle impostor syndrome.

Shatriya Smith, executive director of the Garvey Tubman Cultural Arts & Research Center in Springfield, says her impostor syndrome will never go away.

But that's a good thing.

"Impostor syndrome and self-doubt are a big issue for me because I can convince myself that I am the problem and believe it," Smith says in her video. "I'm just honest that I have that issue ... and denounce the issue because right now, when you say I'm an impostor, I breathe through it and I get through the meeting or I get through the moment and then I sit in the car, and I might cry because of the fact that I feel like I shouldn't be in that space."

Smith calls someone to talk through her feelings.

"So that I can get it off my chest because most of the time my mental fear is mine, and if I speak it out loud, I can dispel any of those energies that falsely make me believe that's true," Smith says.

Empathetic photographer

Adams, 40, was true to himself when he pivoted from what he thought was his dream career.

Born and raised in Peoria, Adams moved to Springfield in 2008. He graduated from the dental assisting program at Midwest Technical Institute and then tried to find a job as a dental assistant.

"They'd say they were hiring, but when I showed up, it kind of seemed different," Adams says. "I would show up, and they would be like, 'We already interviewed everybody. Sorry to waste your time,' and so after a couple of those, I'm just like, 'Maybe it's not for me.'"

Although he's done photography all his life, Adams started his business' Facebook page in 2018.

Adams worked at a dental lab, helping to make dentures and crowns. Eventually, he was a car detailer at car dealership and doing photography on the side when the coronavirus pandemic hit.

"Photography has always been the dream. I just didn't see a way to make it happen until COVID," Adams says. "When everything shut down, it gave me an opportunity to focus solely on photography, and from there, I've been doing it ever since."

Illinois' stay-at-home order due to COVID-19 took effect at 5 p.m. March 21, 2020.

"The Illinois State Museum was asking people to turn in pictures and art and poetry of what COVID looked like to them, so pretty much every day I turned

in 20 or 30 pictures of just life – streets shut down, signs, parks closed," Adams says. "I didn't hear anything for maybe four or five months, and they contacted me, and they were like, 'Hey, we want to give you your own exhibit from everything you turned in.'"

The Illinois State Museum's "Journal of a Plague Year: Illinois in 2020" exhibition showcased submissions from its COVID-19 collecting initiative and featured Adams' photography. Adams' work is in "Illinois Digital Archives": www.idaillinois.org/digital/collection/p16614coll64



Interviewee: Chitaia Andrewin-Stover, social worker.

Video posting date: March 11, 2026

Summary: Andrewin-Stover says that as a mom she looks to the example of her late mother who endured struggles while a single mother of six children.

"I have two kids. I have a 5-year-old and a 3-year-old, and one of my kids struggles with anxiety and the other one struggles with anger," Andrewin-Stover says in her video interview.

"A moment for me that changed was one day there was a meltdown going on. The house was chaotic. Everybody was just all over the place, super nervous, and I had that moment of frustration in me and then I looked at them and I recognized a lot of myself. And in that moment, I was able to calm down," Andrewin-Stover says. "I was like, 'Holy, holy crap. You are me. That is all me. I get to take this moment and choose to accept you just the way that you are and help you through this and not blame you or shame you or tell you just get over it. I get to be here for you,' and then that changed a lot of things for me. A self-acceptance and self-love and also knowing that they're never going be too much, not to me."

“Most people found me from either the exhibit or there was a little girl who died of a rare cancer,” Adams says. “Her Make-A-Wish was to have a parade, and so her family asked me to document that because they didn’t know how long she had. A lot of people also know me from following her journey.”



Women’s journeys

Adams initiated his project for Women’s History Month in 2025 with friends, acquaintances and family, such as his daughter, Kinley Adams, who is now 10, and his fiancée Ashlyn Yates.

“It’s allowed me to see women differently, to hear their stories, to hear some of the things that they’ve been through, how they’ve persevered through it,” Adams says. “Some talk about sexual assault, dealing with stuff like that from men.”

After regular photography sessions with women and hearing their stories, Adams wanted to do something different “to lift women up.”

Powerful women highlighted include the late mother of social worker Chitaia Andrewin-Stover.

Andrewin-Stover says in her video interview that her late mother inspires her because she was a single mother of six children who persevered through life’s difficulties.

“Being a powerful woman to me is showing up for yourself and also showing up for other people,” Andrewin-Stover says in her video. “I don’t think you can wholly show up for yourself, and I don’t think you can wholly show up for other people. I think there needs to be some sort of balance between the two ... It’s not a competition. It’s not this person pitted against that person. We have to work together for the common goal.”

Interviewee: Dr. Kemia Sarraf (“Dr. K”), physician and public health professional who founded the trauma-responsive coaching and consulting business Lodestar in 2016.

Video posting date: March 11, 2025

Summary: Sarraf’s desire is to be a part of a force for healing in the world – to do good things and to take good care of other people.

“I don’t remember ever wanting to do anything other than be a doctor,” Sarraf says in the video. “When I finished my public health degree and then went on to medical school, I realized that those two fields were so inexorably entwined with each other. That we can’t take the patient out of the context. You are not ‘you’ by yourself. You are with all those people around you in the community and the environment that you’re in.”

Interviewee: Shatriya Smith, executive director of the Garvey Tubman Cultural Arts & Research Center, Springfield.

Video posting date: March 20, 2025

Summary: Smith says she’s her own “hurdle” because she’s afraid of the future.

But trusting herself helps her overcome self-hurdles.

“My own insecurities. That’s the hurdle. That’s the biggest. People can put hurdles in front of you, and you will succeed them or leave them alone,” Smith says in her video interview. “The hurdles that you place in front of yourself are the most difficult because you have to climb those walls internally, mentally, emotionally.”

“My hurdles are being afraid of the future. I have nothing to fear, but I am still afraid of the future. Trust yourself to know that you can overcome all of these, even the self-hurdles, but the self-hurdles are more recurring than the hurdles anyone else will put in front of you. My hurdle is Shatriya.”

Women in history “whose names no one knows” are the women Sarraf would have liked to have met.

“History is filled with the legacies of people whose names we will never know,” Sarraf says. “They were never written down. Not because what they did wasn’t important. Not because what they did didn’t change the trajectory. They just were right-sized. They were the small movers of the way things happened over time.”

Adams moved Sarraf out of her comfort zone, and for that, she is thankful.

“This is not the kind of thing I do. It’s not the kind of thing I like to do. I don’t,” Sarraf says about her video interview. “It was something I needed to do for a lot of different reasons, and so as I was talking about this project and this process and pushing myself to do something different and important ... There is literally no one, other than Zach, I would do this with today.”

Tamara “Tammie” Browning is a freelance writer and reporter from Petersburg. She has a weekly newsletter “Mother Road Moves” on Substack that chronicles the people, places, things and happenings on Route 66 – from Illinois to California.



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Empowering growth

How the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance supports women and minority-owned businesses

By Shelley Tulo

In communities that are growing and thriving, opportunity is not reserved for a select few, it is cultivated intentionally, shared broadly and supported through meaningful partnerships. At the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance (SSGA), that belief is central to our mission. While our work often focuses on attracting new businesses and supporting major economic development projects, we are equally committed to ensuring that women and minority-owned businesses have access to the tools, resources and connections they need to succeed.

A strong, inclusive economy is one where entrepreneurs from all backgrounds can launch, grow and sustain their businesses. In Sangamon County, that vision is taking shape through collaboration, programming and a deep commitment to elevating diverse voices within our business community.

Leading by example

At SSGA, our commitment to supporting women in business starts within our own organization. Seventy-five percent of our staff are women – professionals who bring diverse perspectives, leadership and expertise to the work we do every day. This representation matters. It informs how we approach partnerships, programming and outreach, ensuring that the needs of women entrepreneurs are not only understood but actively prioritized.

Beyond our internal team, SSGA is proud to be actively involved in organizations that uplift women across central Illinois. We are longstanding supporters of Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL) and Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI), two organizations that play a vital role in advancing leadership, mentorship and visibility for women in business.

Each year, SSGA sponsors the IWIL Women's Symposium and the WE-CI Business Showcase, events that provide powerful platforms for networking, learning and celebrating the achievements of women entrepreneurs. These sponsorships are more than symbolic; they reflect our belief that investing in these spaces strengthens the entire regional economy.

Connecting entrepreneurs to real resources

For many small business owners, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, access to reliable information and trusted connections can be one of the biggest barriers



At the March meeting of Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois, Abby Powell from Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance shared a comprehensive overview of the tools and services available to entrepreneurs in our region. PHOTO COURTESY SSGA

to growth. SSGA works to remove those barriers by serving as a connector and resource hub.

At a recent WE-CI meeting, SSGA's Abby Powell shared a comprehensive overview of the tools and services available to entrepreneurs in our region. Her presentation focused on practical, actionable support – resources that business owners can use immediately to make informed decisions.

These include assistance with site selection, helping entrepreneurs evaluate locations based on customer traffic, accessibility and long-term viability. Through advanced market data platforms like Placer.ai, SSGA can also provide insights into consumer behavior, foot traffic trends and competitive landscapes, information that is often out of reach for small businesses but critical for strategic planning.

Equally important is our ability to connect entrepreneurs with local and state resources. Whether it's navigating incentive programs, identifying funding opportunities or building relationships with key partners, SSGA helps business owners access the broader ecosystem that supports growth.

For women and minority entrepreneurs, these connections can be transformative – opening doors that might otherwise remain closed and creating pathways for sustainable success.

Education and access

One of the most impactful ways SSGA has supported minority-owned businesses in recent years is through targeted programming designed to meet entrepreneurs where they are.

In partnership with The Springfield Project at CAP 1908, SSGA launched a series of free workshops focused on empowering

small business owners, entrepreneurs and community members. These sessions were intentionally designed to be accessible and inclusive, with a particular focus on supporting minority-owned businesses while remaining open to anyone interested in learning.

The workshops covered a range of topics essential to business success, from understanding economic development and site selection to navigating available incentives and resources. Each session featured experts, partners and peers who shared practical insights and real-world experiences.

More than just informational sessions, these workshops created space for dialogue, collaboration and relationship-building. They reinforced the idea that economic development is not something that happens in isolation, it is a collective effort that benefits from shared knowledge and mutual support.

The success of this series has laid the foundation for future programming. SSGA is currently planning additional sessions for summer and fall 2026, with topics such as small business insurance strategies, leveraging local library resources for business growth and updates on new state incentive programs. These offerings will continue to prioritize accessibility and relevance, ensuring that entrepreneurs have the tools they need to navigate an ever-changing business landscape.

Opportunities for professional growth

In addition to direct programming, SSGA also supports ongoing professional development opportunities for women in business through strategic partnerships.

Since 2022, SSGA has proudly sponsored the monthly Professional Women's Event Calendar in the Springfield Business

Journal. This initiative highlights upcoming events focused on leadership development, networking and skill-building for professional women across the region.

By helping to promote these opportunities, SSGA plays a role in ensuring that women have access to the resources and connections that can accelerate their careers and expand their impact. Visibility matters, and by elevating these events, we contribute to a more connected and empowered professional community.

A broader vision for inclusive growth

At its core, SSGA's work with women and minority-owned businesses is about more than individual success stories. It is about building a stronger, more resilient regional economy.

When diverse entrepreneurs thrive, they bring new ideas, perspectives and innovations to the marketplace. They create jobs, activate neighborhoods and contribute to the vibrancy of our community. Supporting their growth is not just the right thing to do, it is essential for long-term economic prosperity.

That is why SSGA remains committed to fostering an environment where all businesses have the opportunity to succeed. Through partnerships, programming and ongoing engagement, we will continue to listen, adapt and invest in the needs of our community.

Moving forward together

The work of economic development is never finished – it evolves alongside the communities it serves. As Springfield and Sangamon County continue to grow, SSGA is proud to stand alongside organizations like IWIL and WE-CI, as well as countless entrepreneurs, business owners and community leaders who are shaping the future of our region.

Together, we are building more than a strong economy. We are building a community where opportunity is accessible, success is shared and everyone has a place to thrive.

To learn more about SSGA's programs, resources and upcoming events, visit Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance and explore how we are working to support businesses at every stage of their journey.

Shelley Tulo is director of marketing and communications for the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance.

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Strawberry season

FOOD | Ashley Meyer

Many may be surprised to learn that strawberries are not technically a fruit or even a berry. Botanically, strawberries are classified as a pseudocarp, or “false fruit.” The juicy, red part that we eat is referred to as the receptacle, or the part of the plant that produces the fruit, rather than the fruit itself. The little brown specks that most folks think are seeds are known as achenes and are the actual botanical fruit of the plant.

Technicalities aside, fresh, juicy strawberries are indeed one of the most eagerly anticipated produce items of spring. Whether eaten out of hand or sprinkled onto morning yogurt, peak season strawberries are a joy to use in the kitchen. Some of my favorite ways to enjoy them are exceedingly simple and require little or no real preparation, such as sugar macerated strawberries spooned over ice cream or layered onto a slice of baguette that’s been smeared with whipped ricotta.

When it comes to cooking and baking, strawberries require some special consideration thanks to their especially high water content. Some preparations, like my grandmother’s strawberry preserves, lean into this reality and make good use of all that liquid by simply simmering strawberries and sugar together to make a ruby hued syrup. The sugar poached strawberries and syrup can then be packed into jars, ready to drizzle over pancakes or grace a flakey biscuit.

In other instances, cooks can work to manage all that extra moisture to create the perfect bake. I often do this when preparing a strawberry pie by lightly roasting the strawberries in a hot oven first to concentrate their flavors and pull out some of the liquid, which I drain off and use to make syrup. In other instances, I avoid using fresh strawberries altogether, instead opting for freeze dried strawberry powder to imbue cakes, cookies and frosting with vibrant, tangy flavor. The freeze-drying process concentrates the berries’ flavor



Strawberry preserves. STOCK IMAGE

but it does not remove acids, meaning that adding the dried berry powder will increase the acidity in the recipe and will alter the way it reacts with alkaline leavening agents. For this reason, it’s important not to add more than one ounce of dried berry powder to a single cake recipe in order to avoid over-leavening the cake, which can cause it to collapse while baking.

GG’s strawberry preserves

6 cups hulled strawberries, whole
5 cups sugar, divided
3 tablespoons white vinegar or lemon juice
1 tablespoon butter

Combine the berries, three cups of the sugar and the vinegar in a non-reactive pot and bring to a boil. Boil for five minutes, then remove

from the heat and add the remaining two cups of sugar and the tablespoon of butter, then return to the heat and boil five minutes more. Remove from the heat and allow it to cool, shaking the pan occasionally until it’s fully cooled to room temperature (GG emphasized that this is an important step). Transfer the cooled mixture to freezer safe jars and refrigerate or freeze.

Strawberries and cream cake

Ingredients for the cake:
1 ounce freeze dried strawberries, plus more for decorating
2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
2 cups granulated sugar

1 teaspoon kosher salt (¾ teaspoon regular salt)
3 eggs, at room temperature
1 tablespoon brandy or vanilla
1 cup sour cream, at room temperature
Pink food coloring, optional

Ingredients for glazing the cake:
¾ cup strawberry syrup from strawberry preserves, above

For the icing:
1 ½ cups powdered sugar, sifted
A pinch of salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 tablespoons heavy cream

For decorating:
Additional crushed, freeze-dried strawberries and fresh berries for garnish

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour a 10-cup Bundt pan (or a 9-inch by 13-inch pan) and set aside.

Blitz the freeze-dried berries in a blender or food processor then sift them into a bowl along with the flour and baking soda.

Combine the butter, sugar and salt in the bowl of a mixer and beat until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating until fully incorporated, then mix in the brandy or vanilla.

Add half the flour and mix in gently, then mix in the sour cream. Add the remaining flour and mix gently until combined. Transfer the batter to the prepared bundt pan and bake in a preheated oven for 60 to 70 minutes (40 to 45 minutes for a 9-by-13-inch pan). Remove from the oven and let cool for five minutes before inverting onto a cooling rack.

While the cake is still warm, brush the syrup all over the cake. Allow the syrup to sink in and then continue brushing on more glaze, continuing until all the glaze is used up.

Allow the cake to cool fully before serving and icing. To make the icing, whisk together the powdered sugar, salt and vanilla until smooth to create a thick, barely pourable glaze. Drizzle it over the top of the cake and serve. □

Less is more at Gallery 1624

ARTS | Scott Faingold

If you're passing by the corner of West Laurel Street and Holmes Avenue in Springfield, you might happen to notice what looks like a miniature house with windows and solar panels standing on a post in the yard of 1624 Holmes Ave. A closer look will reveal an intricate, dollhouse-like interior, designed to showcase tiny works of art which are mounted throughout the diminutive structure. A QR code on the support post will lead interested viewers to an Instagram account with information on Gallery 1624 as well as details about the works on display and their creators.

"As far as I know, this is the only mini-art gallery in downstate Illinois," said Seth Leary, the owner, operator and designer of Gallery 1624. He opened the tiny gallery on his front lawn in October of 2025.

"It has a footprint of about two square feet. I've tried to scale everything to make it proportionate," he said. The design and color scheme of the gallery intentionally complements that of Leary's home, and includes features such as actual tiny gutters and a little concrete stoop in front of the door, where a miniature jack-o-lantern resided for several weeks (miraculously unmolested) this past Halloween season. "It was a good opportunity to overthink a whole lot of things," Leary said.

The idea for the gallery was inspired by Gallery 1619 in the Andersonville neighborhood of Chicago, which Leary had discovered via Instagram and subsequently visited.

Leary's background makes him uniquely suited to running a tiny art gallery. A career in developing traveling exhibitions for museums and science centers (such as "Spider-Man: Beyond Amazing," currently on display at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry) grew from his childhood experience as the son of Richard Leary, who was curator of geology at the



Seth Leary installed Gallery 1624 on his front lawn and is now hosting exhibits from other artists. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

Illinois State Museum for decades.

"I grew up behind the scenes of the museum, and I got to see the whole process of how exhibits were developed," he said. "That always stuck in my head – I just thought, man, the storytelling of doing an exhibition is really cool."

Leary also has a degree in art education and currently works as a substitute teacher in Springfield, in between managing touring exhibitions and maintaining his tiny art space. "The gallery doesn't make any money," he said

wryly. "I mean, if all the joy that it brought to the world would pay the bills, then I'd be rich, rich, rich."

Currently on display at 1624 is "Heart-Shaped World," a solo exhibit by Kristan Kelly, a photographer based in southern Oregon. "I find the beauty in the small details, and capture the moments people experience," she said in an artist statement. "A heart-shaped rock on the beach, a cloud drifting by over the mountains or even the simple curve of food on a plate. These

small discoveries feel like reminders that love and connection are present everywhere if we take the time to look."

"I would really like to get Springfield artists involved," said Leary. "Either working in a group show with maybe a dozen or more people each contributing a little tiny piece to it – or if somebody has a body of tiny work and wants to do a solo show. I want to highlight local artists but also it's super fun to bring in people from far away." □

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Mary Lincoln's dress of defiance

HISTORY | Tara McClellan McAndrew

In May 1861, Mary Lincoln posed for what was likely her first official portrait as first lady with the highly respected Washington, D.C., photographer Mathew Brady. He would become renowned for stark Civil War battlefield photos. Before that he was known for photographing America's leaders and well-known figures.

Mary chose a black silk dress embroidered with purple berries, a white lace collar, and green and purple silk ruffles on the sleeves. Crowning her head, as was the style, was a matching headpiece. The photo and so-called "strawberry dress," which is rarely displayed due to its fragility, are currently on exhibition at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Was Mary sending a message with her dress, or two or three?

Critics derided the Lincolns, especially Abraham, as country bumpkins from the wild and uncivilized west. Detractors included the press, "many of Lincoln's political opponents, and southerners," says Ian Hunt, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's chief of acquisitions and special projects. Abe's habit of telling off-color jokes and his often-unkept appearance only fueled their prejudice.

While dining at a Manhattan hotel in January 1861 (two months before Lincoln was inaugurated), Mary overheard easterners bashing him, according to Catherine Clinton's book *Mary Lincoln: A Life*. They questioned if he could "with any honor, fill the presidential chair? Would his western gaucherie disgrace the nation?" Washington society proved equally judgmental, with women snubbing Mary at her first state dinner.

"Mary was determined to set a high standard and prove her refinement," wrote Clinton.

One way was to equal or best them in fashion, a key metric of fine society. Mary went on shopping trips to New York and Philadelphia. She interviewed D.C. seamstresses the day after the inauguration. In late 1861, Mary penned two letters to a New York hatmaker to make a headpiece



Mary Lincoln's first portrait as first lady was taken in May 1861, two months after Abraham Lincoln's inauguration. The strawberry dress she wore is part of a new exhibit at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. PHOTO COURTESY ALPLM

— possibly to match her strawberry dress, according to Hunt. She wrote: "I want it the exact shade of this purple...a little green and gilt would not hurt it...I want a lovely affair...the velvet gracefully twisted...to be made in your handsomest style...without they are of the best and most stylish, I do not want them."

Fashion wasn't Mary's only challenge in the nation's capital. Because she had married a northerner who frowned on slavery, southern women there considered her a traitor to her native

South, where she was born and raised on a slave-owning estate in Lexington, Kentucky. On the other hand, "northern women thought Mary was clearly a spy who had been sent on behalf of the Confederacy to report back," Hunt says. "She couldn't win."

Add to this Mary's alleged longtime desire to be a president's wife and her astute political interest and acumen. She advised her husband on politics and policy and wrote letters to peers on his behalf. This was heretical for a good 19th century woman.

Given her circumstances, was the (probably) carefully selected strawberry dress and matching headband Mary's "up yours" to haters?

"I think it represents her efforts to demonstrate to Washington that she and Mr. Lincoln had 'arrived,'" says Hunt. "I would hate to simply attribute her intentions solely to overcoming the country bumpkin stigma. She was the first lady, and everyone was to know about that."

While Hunt thinks Abe wasn't bothered by the criticism and won over his critics within a couple years, he says Mary never overcame the harsh judgements.

In the end, who knows what Mary was trying to say with her strawberry dress? What we do know is life goes downhill for the Lincolns after May 1861, especially for Mary. The war, first predicted to be short, drags on for four years and splits America in two. When it finally ends, Mary witnesses her husband's assassination, then loses one of her two remaining sons. Later, she is institutionalized and has a strained relationship with her only surviving son, Robert. She even flees to Europe for a while to escape. She's never the same.

Maybe the strawberry dress originally represented spite or success, or both, to Mary. Later, it surely represented a happier time.

It is one of a few Mary Lincoln dresses still in existence. She gave it to her family, who passed it down. Wear and tear on the much-repaired dress suggests they "nearly wore it out," according to a recent ALPLM video about it on YouTube. In 1963, Alvin S. Keys, grandson of Levi O. Todd, the youngest of Mary's four brothers, presented it to the Illinois State Historical Library.

A Feb. 24, 1963, *State Journal-Register* article quotes him: "Mrs. Lincoln was very reluctant to have her picture taken. She posed once with her sons, Willie and Tad, and several times in dresses that she particularly liked and that was all."

You can see the strawberry dress at the ALPLM through April 26 in an exhibit called "Lincoln: A Life and Legacy that Defined a Nation." □

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Thursday Apr 9

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

Marty Ryan
Copper and Oak, Lincoln, 5:30-8:30pm

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

Fatal Dose, Augment, xCommandx, Severance
Dumb Records, 7pm

Karaoke Night
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm

Line dancing lessons
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 7-9pm

Hippies of the Heartland
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

Karaoke at The Cidery
Obed & Isaac's The Cidery, 6-8pm.

Thursday Night Live
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 6-9pm

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

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

Karaoke
The Tippy Toad, 8pm-12am

Friday Apr 10

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

Starlight Karaoke
Area 51 Bar & Grill, Jacksonville, 9pm-1am

Tom Irwin & Amy Battles
Bloom Wine Bar & Florals, 6-8pm.

Silas Tockey
Boone's, 5:30-8:30pm

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

Not Petty
Butternut Hut, 7-10pm

Mid-October
Decatur Brew Works, Decatur, 7-9pm

Positively 4th Street
George Rank's, 7-10pm

Polly Launay
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 7-10pm

Dreamers and Doers
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Carl Bopp and Ed Smith - Sound Decision
Lime Street Cafe, 7-10pm and April 11, 7-10pm

Harriet
Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 7pm

Barbed Rose
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 8pm

Karaoke
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Meet Up at Main Gate 8
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 8-11pm

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

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

Joel Honey
The Range Bourbon & Brew, Chatham, 8-11pm

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

Grounded
The Blue Grouch, 7-10pm

Salmon Creek
The Shed, Pawnee, 8-11pm

Hippies of the Heartland
The Thirsty Rooster, Middletown, 8pm

Them Dirty Roses with The Filthy Heathens
Twisted Tree Music & Event Hall, Jacksonville, 7-10pm

After School Special
Walby's Place, Ashland, 7pm

Saturday Apr 11

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

Molly Seaton
The Backyard, Taylorville, 6-9pm

Larry Watson
Boone's, 5:30-8:30pm

Ashley Riley
Brentford Distillers, Decatur, 6-9pm

Afternoon Delight
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Tom Grassman Band
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7pm

Pimpin' Henry
Butternut Hut, 7-10pm

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

Matt Mifflin
Copper and Oak, Lincoln, 6:30pm

Karaoke Night
Crazy Dog Saloon, Cantrall, 7-11pm

All American Throwbacks
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8pm

Jacob Cutler
Edmo's, Edinburg, 8-11pm

Blackout Betty: Armed & Dangerous
Foxhole Pub N Grub, Lincoln, 4-7pm

FlashBang
The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 7pm

Grand Theft Audio
The Hangout Bar & Grill, Jacksonville, 8-11pm

The Speakeasy Trio
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

The Remedy
The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, 8-11pm

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

Heartache Tonight - A Tribute to the Eagles
Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 7pm

Sunbeam and Moonlight
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 7-10pm

Jaigh Lowder and Jill Manning
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

BüK
Mowie's Cue, 8-11pm

Renegade Karaoke
Northern Lights Lounge, 8:30pm-1am

Kortney Leatherwood
Patriots Pub, Waverly, 8-11pm

The Warped Kids, UNCHAINED, Granny Square
Pizza Records, Jacksonville, 6:30pm

AllNighter
Pop's Place, Decatur, 8-11pm

Silas Tockey
The Railyard,

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

Springfield Uketopians
Stella Coffee & Tea, Second Saturday of every month, 12-2pm

Around The Bend
The Bird Tavern, 7-10pm

Lick Creek
Twisted Tree Music & Event Hall, Jacksonville, 7pm

Robert Sampson
AMVETS Post 100, Jacksonville, 8-11pm

The Red Ribbon Revue
West of Wise Winery, Petersburg, 1-4pm

Jason McKenzie
Whiskey Ridge Saloon, Breckenridge, 1-4pm

Sunday Apr 12

Keith & Gary
American Legion Post 279, Jacksonville, 3-6pm

John Drake
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3pm

Joe May
Camouflage Bar, VFW Post 99, Decatur, 2-4pm

Andre Wilke
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 5-7pm

Hipbone and The Joints
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 2pm

Jay & Kimberly
It's All About Wine, 3pm

Carl Bopp and Ed Smith - Sound Decision
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 5-8pm

Denise La Grassa
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

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

Triple Threat Trio
The Tippy Toad, 2-5pm

Casey Cantrall and friends
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3pm

Monday Apr 13

Bex Marshall
The Alamo, 7-10pm

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 Apr 14

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

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

Wednesday Apr 15

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

Butter Jam Wednesday
Butternut Hut, 7-10pm

Karaoke
Clique, 9pm-1am

Midweek Music Meetup open mic with Tom Irwin
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

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

Open mic with Thomas J Beverly
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 7pm

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MUSIC



British blues rocker Bex Marshall drops into The Alamo this Monday while on tour in the states.

Bring on April music

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

For some reason things feel like they're moving rapidly right now as we are set up to get into the second full weekend in April already. Time marches on and I guess we just have to keep up with the beat and follow on through to the other side. And, of course, enjoy the many different and diverse forms of live music available to us every day of the week in the area.

Last column we took an adventure into our Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights so let's continue in that progression to take a gander at this Thursday. It's all flying by as I mentioned earlier, so we're here on the second Thursday of the month in a flash and that gives us two regularly scheduled programs on tap.

The Pharmacy Gallery downtown delivers the Art of Jazz with Max Beckman on double bass curating this month's lineup of three trombones with a rhythm section to support the "Mother Road" theme in exhibits and music. Out at Motorheads on Toronto Road, Thursday Night Live, the continuing showcase of local music with different artists in various combinations includes guests Kylan Davis, 2nd Street Harmony (Lisa Lowe, Albert Capati), the Greg Bickers Band (Bruce Horn, Ed Dingedine, Greg Cramer, Jeff Kunzeman and Greg Bickers), Gary Davis, Roger Wainwright, Cydney Long and Jim McCann.

Along with a hardcore punk concert at Dumb Records with aspiring acts Fatal Dose (it's FD's final show), Augment, xCommandx and Severance, plus Hippies of the Heartland at Mother Road Diner, we have a couple of regular open mics, four karaoke nights, line dancing lessons at Locals in Pawnee and even more shows in small towns around the capital city for just a whole bunch of stuff to do on this busy Thursday night.

Rushing off to Friday after we catch our breath, I spy several acoustic-based performances

happening in the city including Not Petty at Butternut Hut (it's birthday time for Jen!), Silas Tockey at Boone's, Amy Battles and myself at Bloom Wine Bar, Dreamers & Doers trio at Harvest Market and Jim Ackerman with Casey Cantrall at The Alamo.

You can venture out of town to catch violinist Polly Launay at Golden Fox Brewery in Decatur, After School Special at Walby's Place in Ashland, Joel Honey at The Range Bourbon & Brew in Chatham and Salmon Creek at The Shed in Pawnee.

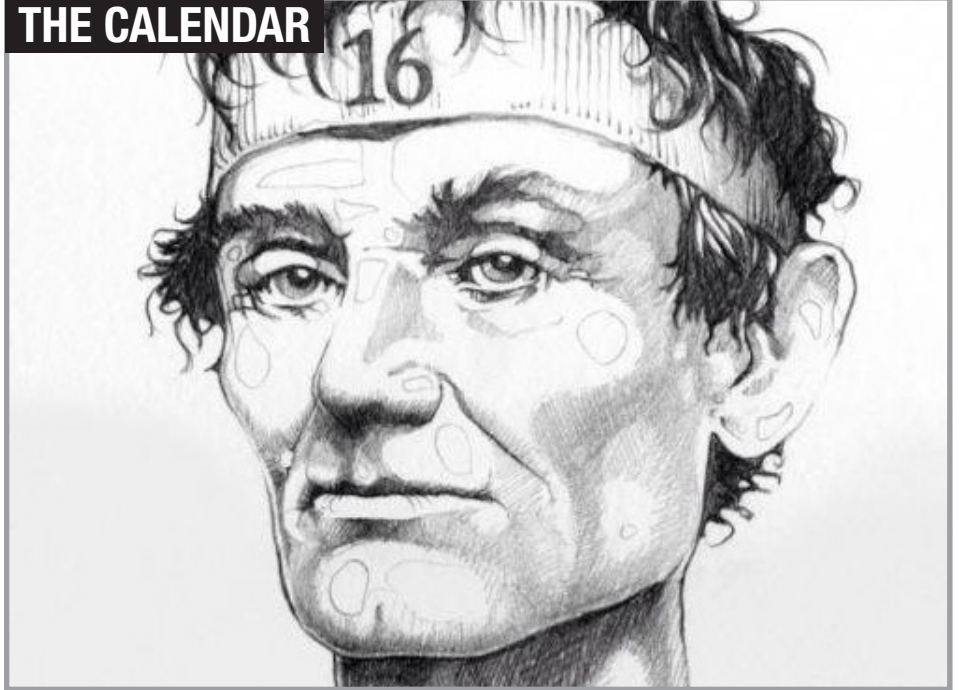
Bands playing include Grounded rocking it at the Blue Grouch (almost beer garden time there) and Positively 4th Street doing Dylan and more at George Rank's while Blue Note Quintet jazzes up Pease's at BUNN Gourmet. Add to that the monthly Meet Up hip hop show at Main Gate and there's a plentiful pile of music to get through with even more in the listings.

Saturday awaits with over 40 music-related calendar items starting at noon with the monthly gathering of your Springfield Uketopians at Stella Coffee & Tea, where all uke players from beginners to masters are welcome to join in. Check out the fairly new group, the Speakeasy Trio, with veteran musicians, Gary Davis, Dan Luparell and Joe Kath at Harvest Market, while Jaigh Lowder and Jill Manning bring their marvelous music and world-class playing to Mother Road Diner as Sound Decision (Carl Bopp and Ed Smith) conjures a lifetime of music-making at Lime Street Cafe.

Sunday is still our main Funday with plenty to do, but Monday is no slouch when you consider The Alamo features U.K. blues rocker Bex Marshall in house. Bex is touring the U.S. in support of *Fortuna*, her most recent, acclaimed blues release.

Well, that does it for me. See you around the square. □

THE CALENDAR



Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon | Sat., April 11, 7:30am | Old State Capitol

SPORTS | Run where Lincoln walked on Saturday

it This annual event immerses runners in Lincoln history unlike any other race! The race starts and finishes at the Old State Capitol where Lincoln gave his House Divided speech and near his former law office. The course also goes by his home, through Oak Ridge Cemetery and other sites with ties to Lincoln. Hosted by Springfield Road Runners Club. It's not too late to register to run or be a volunteer. It costs \$90 to run, \$40 to volunteer. Learn more at srrc.net. From 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, participants can attend an expo at the Old Capitol, get their packets, and get info and giveaways from various vendors.

Special Music Events

The Art of Jazz - Max Beckman
Thu., April 9, 7-9pm. See and hear a program that, like many things at the Pharmacy Gallery this year - is all about Route 66. Max Beckman, double bass, curates the Art of Jazz Mother Road. pharmacygallery.com. \$10 donation at door. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 217-622-7903 or 217-622-1154.

Gospel Concert and open mic
Sat., April 11, 6-8pm. The gospel concert (7-8pm) will feature Pam and Mark Fisher of Springfield. An open mic will precede the concert from 6 to 7pm. Free, donations accepted. Kumler United Methodist Church, 600 N. Fifth St., 217-523-2046.

Michael Hall: Voices Ringing with Power
Sat., April 11, 3-4:15pm. Violist Michael Hall will perform in the Senate Chamber of the Old State Capitol. The performance will feature works from Stacy Garrop, Michelle McQuade Dewhirst., Nico Muhly, Györgi Ligeti and others. Free. Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-782-6302.

Simple Gifts, Illinois Symphony Orchestra

Fri., April 10, 7:30 p.m. Experience the spirit of America in this show featuring George Walker's touching Lyric for Strings; Ernest Bloch's energetic Concerto Grosso No. 1, where Baroque form meets 20th-century boldness; and Aaron Copland's iconic Appalachian Spring. \$30. ilsymphony.org. First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., 217-206-6160.

Rent Romus

Fri., April 10, 7pm. Part of the Get Free Music Series. Free, donations accepted. UIS Field Station at Lake Springfield, 9 Club Area, Clubhouse Dr., 217-206-6240.

UIS Community Concert

Sun., April 12, 6pm. Featuring winners of the UIS Solo Competition and UIS Jazz Ensemble, UIS Flute Choir, UIS Community Music School and UIS String Academy students. uis.edu/music/. UIS Student Union Ballroom, 2251 Richard Wright Dr., 217-206-6240.

Books & Authors

Ashley Rescott book signing and musical performances
Sat., April 11, 3-5pm. Professional violinist and teacher Ashley Rescott will talk about her new novel, *Sunflowers in Paris*. During the event, Rescott and other musicians

will perform. Free. Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, 2941 Plaza Dr., 217-793-1840.

Theater & Comedy Express Yourself! Acting & Improv Class

Mon., April 13, 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.

James Yon

Fri., April 10, 8pm and Sat., April 11, 7:30pm. James Yon brings his brand of comedy to the Donnie B's Comedy Club. \$27-\$29. Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 2200 S. Meadowbrook Road, 217-891-4858.

Jeff Dunham

Sat., April 11, 5pm. Get ready, Springfield, comedian Jeff Dunham is coming to town as part of the Artificial Intelligence Tour. \$77. BOS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, 7th & Adams- outdoor, 217-788-8800.

Johnny Beehner with special guest Tim Laffey

Sat., April 11, 8-9:30pm. Johnny Beehner, who made his network television debut in 2015 as one of the last comedians to appear

on the Late Show with David Letterman, brings his unique style of comedy to Mason City. to the stage. \$22.50. Mason City Limits Comedy Club, Mason City, 114 E. Chestnut St., 217-482-5233.

■ **Dance Diamond Ball**

Sat., April 11, 6-10pm. The Springfield Area Arts Council presents the Diamond Ball in honor of its 50th anniversary. Wear Regency-inspired attire for an evening of music, dancing, tarot readings, and more. Proceeds support the Springfield Area Arts Council's community arts programming and regional grantmaking. springfieldartsco.org. \$50. Pasfield House, 525 S. Pasfield St., 217-753-3519.

■ **Art & Architecture "Meditations" Opening Reception**

Fri., April 10, 5:30-7:30pm. Celebrate the opening of "Meditations," featuring photography by David Ross and ceramics by Carl Kamp. Artist talk at 6pm. Refreshments will be served. Free. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

■ **"Spare Time: The Life & Work of Karen Shiman" opening reception**

Fri., April 10, 5-7pm. Though she never exhibited or sold her work, reef builder Karen Shiman produced more than 2,000 pieces over decades - painting, sculpting and drawing with discipline and purpose. On display from April 7 to 23. Half of all print sales will be donated to the DAAC. karenshiman.com. Free. Decatur Area Arts Council, Decatur, 125 N. Water St., 217-423-3189.

■ **Friday Night Studio Sessions**

Fridays, 6-8:30pm. Through April 24. This is a relaxed acrylic painting class designed for all skill levels. Each class features a new design with guided, step-by-step instruction, making it easy for beginners while engaging for returning painters. Supplies included. No experience necessary. Wear paint clothes. \$35-\$125. Studio on 6th, 215 S. Sixth St., 217-220-5334.

■ **Paint the Town Saturday Night**

Saturdays, 6-8:30pm. Through May 4. A fun, feel-good night out - paint, laugh, snack, sip, repeat. No experience needed. Participants are guided step-by-step so they can relax and enjoy the night and leave with something they love. Wear paint clothes. \$35-\$120. Studio on 6th, 215 S. Sixth St., 2172205334.

■ **Slow Art Day**

Sat., April 11, 12-6pm. Celebrate

Slow Art Day by slowing down and discover the joy of art at the Pharmacy Gallery and other central Illinois locations. This is the Pharmacy's first year participating in the event which is marking its fifth year after originating in Bloomington. pharmacygallery.com. Free. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 217-622-7903.

■ **Thursday Makers at The Dana Thomas House**

Thu., April 9, 5:30-7:30pm. Step inside this Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece and spend the evening creating something unique. Each session features a different hands-on project - painted hats, storybook stacks, glowing lanterns, resin art, doormats and more. No experience needed, all supplies included. \$35-\$180. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-220-5334.

■ **Film & Television**

History in Film: North by Northwest
Wed., April 15, 5-7:30pm. See this 1959 spy thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock that features a cross-country chase. With digital surround sound. Presented by the Sangamon Valley Collection and the State Historic Sites at Springfield. Event includes some history of Route 66 and travel in Springfield. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 2177855030.

■ **Food & Drink**

A Taste of Arab American Culture
Sat., April 11, 11am-1pm. A community celebration centered on the flavors of the Middle East. Enjoy a variety of traditional foods while learning about the cultures, traditions and histories they represent. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce St., 217-483-2713.

■ **History**

Annual President Lincoln Death Day Ceremony
Wed., April 15, 11-11:30am. This annual ceremony honors President Abraham Lincoln on the day of his death. It is hosted by the Lincoln Death Day Association. It is open to the public. Free. Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site, 1500 Monument Ave., 217-785-5030.

■ **Holiday Happenings Easter Egg Hunt**

Sat., April 11, 10:30am. This 11th annual event features egg hunts for three age groups, face painting, a magic show, chances to win bikes and an easter basket and more. Children up to age 3 will hunt at 11:15am followed by children 4-6 at 11:40am and children ages 7 and older

at noon. Farmersville City Park, Farmersville, Downtown.

■ **Egg Hunt**

Thu., April 9, 5-7pm. This is a new date for the egg hunt. Food and games provided. The Outlet, 3306 S. Sixth Street Road, 217-843-7475.

■ **Not Your Average Easter Egg Hunt**

Sat., April 11, 10am. Celebrate the Easter season with the whole family at two egg hunts - for ages 1-6 and 7-9. Dress comfortably and bring a bag. Registration required. Free. Corpus Christi Priory, 4867 Laverna Road, 217-606-1627.

■ **Fundraisers & Galas Team Lincoln Trivia Night 2026**

Sat., April 11, 6-10pm. Proceeds from this event will benefit the ALPLM Public Trust Fund. Teams will be quizzed on a variety of topics and questions - from the Lincoln legacy and Civil War to Illinois History, America 250, the full gamut of pop culture and more. Tables \$150. Limited individual seats available. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

■ **Community Organizing**

Free Hot Meal
Sat., April 11, 12-2pm. Food Not Bombs SPI will provide a free, hot, vegan meal and fresh produce. All are welcome, no questions asked. If possible, bring reusable bags, to-go containers and travel mugs to help reduce waste. Meal Distribution Site, Southwest corner of Seventh Street and Capitol Avenue.

■ **Sign Making & Speech Writing Party**

Sun., April 12, 12-3pm. Join the Land of Lincoln DSA at Out on Second to make signs and write speeches to support the boycott, divestment and sanctions referendum at the Capitol Township annual meeting on Tuesday, April 14. See more details on Facebook. Phoenix Center: Out On Second, 120 E. Scarritt St., 2175285253.

■ **Local Government**

Springfield City Council Committee of the Whole
Tue., April 14, 5:30-9pm. The Committee of the Whole meets twice a month at 5:30pm on Tuesdays. Municipal Center West, 300 S. Seventh St., 217-789-2151.

■ **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. Register at bit.ly/Funshop_KidsClub1. Activity #140910. \$30 residents, \$35 non-residents for 1 day only. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

■ **Funshop: Little Chefs**

Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm. Through April 30. In this four-week, hands-on program, our little chefs will explore the world of cooking through simple, safe and tasty recipes. All classes blended ages 3 to 5. Activity #150968. Register at bit.ly/Funshop_LittleChefs1. Residents \$60, non-residents \$70. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

■ **Funshop: Little Creators**

Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm. Through April 28. Young children explore colors, textures and materials through painting, sculpting and more. Caregivers can join in. All classes blended ages 3 to 5 years. Activity #150971. Register at bit.ly/SPD_Art-Explore-1. Residents \$60, non-residents \$70. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

■ **Junior Historians - Citizen**

Sleuths: Flatboat Trips and Transportation in the 19th Century
Sat., April 11, 10-10:30am. Dive into the exciting story of young Abraham Lincoln's flatboat adventure and discover how it helped shape his journey toward leadership. This program is for third- through fifth-graders. presidentlincoln.illinois.gov. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

■ **Junior Historians - Lasting Leaders: Growing Through Civil Discourse**

Sat., April 11, 1:30-3pm. This program, for high school freshmen through seniors, is an interactive session focused on learning about what civil discourse is and building effective communication skills - essential for the workplace and everyday life. Advance registration is required. presidentlincoln.illinois.gov. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

■ **Nature, Science & Environment**

April Nature Walks
Sat., April 11, 10am, 2pm. Nature lovers can enjoy guided wildflower and bird walks on historic Elkhart Hill, enjoying the beauty of blooming flowers and the songs of returning birds. Lunch options available. Walks leave from The Country Bumpkin.

To reserve a spot, call or visit elkharthistoricalsociety.org. Adults \$15, children \$10. The Country Bumpkin, Elkhart, 103 Gov. Oglesby St., 217-947-2238.

■ **Bird Hike**

Sat., April 11, 8-9:30am. Local birder Kevin Veara will lead the group in search of migrating birds. Hikes start at the Nature Center and are open to the public. lincolnmemorygarden.org. Free. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

■ **Herpetology Program**

Thu., April 9, 7-8pm. Scott Ballard, herpetologist with the IDNR, will discuss the illegal reptile trade in Illinois. lincolnmemorygarden.org. Free. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

■ **STEAM Saturday: Digging into the Past!**

Sat., April 11, 9:30am-12pm. Dig into the Past this STEAM Saturday. Take a journey through time and learn how paleontologists try to reconstruct ancient beasts. Learners ages 5 -11 will get to experience hands-on and minds-on science activities. Presented by the Illinois State Museum and the Abraham Lincoln Scouting Council. illinoisstatemuseum.org. Scouts \$35, non-Scouts \$30. Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring St., 217-782-0061.

■ **Lectures & Meetings**

■ **"Why Foreign Assistance Matters: American Leadership in a Changing World"**

Tue., April 14, 7pm. Chris Milligan, retired senior foreign service officer with USAID, will give the program. Reception at 5:30pm, dinner at 6:15pm and program at 7pm. Cost for dinner is \$45 for WACCI members and \$55 for non-members. The program is free to attend. Presented by the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois (WACCI). wacci.org. Illini Country Club, 1601 S. Illini Road, 546-4614.

■ **Balancing Innovation and Impact: Confronting the Environment and Health Consequences of Artificial Intelligence and Data Center Development**

Wed., April 15, 6-7:30pm. Dr. Mary D. Willis will talk about data centers and how more research is needed to understand their potential environmental and health effects and create strategies for balancing innovation and impact. uis.edu/speaker-series. Free. UIS Brookens Auditorium, One University Plaza, 217-206-6245.

■ **Companion Animal Grief Support Group**

Sat., April 11, 12-2pm. The group

provides grief education and peer support to those who have lost or anticipate losing their companion animal. Leigh Steiner, an end of life doula, and Christina Holbrook, veterinarian, facilitate the group. Free. Capitol Illini Vet Clinic, 1711 Wabash Ave., 217-725-9366.

■ **Lincoln Tomb Ceremony**

Sat., April 11, 10am. Event will commemorate the 161st anniversary of Lincoln's death. Music will be provided by the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band. Program sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. suvcw.org. Free. Lincoln's Tomb State Historic Site, 1500 Monument Ave., 847-910-0164.

■ **Bulletin Board**

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

■ **Henson Robinson Zoo Opening Weekend**

Sat., April 11, 10am and Sun., April 12, 10am. Get ready for a wild adventure as the zoo kicks off another incredible season. Bring the whole family for a day full of fun, excitement and animal encounters. The animals have missed you. Adults: \$7.50, Seniors age 62 up/Kids 3-12: \$5.50, 2 & Under: FREE. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

■ **Spring Fling**

Sat., April 11, 10am-4pm. Event includes a craft fair, cruise in, food, raffles, face painting and more. Presented by the Southern View Neighborhood Watch. Free.

■ **Spring Market**

Sat., April 11, 9am-3pm. Shop the expanded market at the mansion and Becker Library. More than 40 local vendors will be on hand offering handmade goods, art, jewelry and more. Brinkerhoff Mansion, 1500 N. Fifth St., 217-361-5555.

■ **Trading Hands Spring/Summer Sale**

Thu., April 9, 9am-7pm and Fri., April 10, 9am-7pm. Shop this huge multi-family garage sale with items from 425 families. Features thousands of items for kids from birth to tweens. Wednesday pre-sale \$7-\$10 unless new parents, first responders or veterans. Other days free entry. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-8047.

MARKETPLACE



Ron & Paula's Ballroom Dance classes (IN SPRINGFIELD)

Located at 1401 E. Cottonwood Street
(Corner of 14th & Cottonwood)
Tuesdays, April 14 – May 19,
2026

Basic Rhumba -
6:00 – 7:00 pm

East Coast Swing/

Jitterbug 1 -
7:15 – 8:15 pm

Basic Tango -
8:30 – 9:30 pm

Ron & Paula's Ballroom Dancing

(217)553-0446

(www.RonAndPaulaDance.com).

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427 E. Washington St.
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The more interesting, and exciting your life has been, the greater the possibility we can exceed that plateau.

After all, common sense would dictate that two very curious people could get in much more trouble than either one by themselves.

If this is you, call 217-488-6520

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217-741-1340

Real Estate Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD
ILLINOIS

New American Funding, LLC
Plaintiff,
vs.

Mark G. Maddox, III; Carol E. Herren; City of Springfield; Illinois Department of Revenue Defendants.

Case No. 2025FC000146

625 East Wood Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702

Judge Adam Giganti

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on January 14, 2026, Paula Crouch will on May 12, 2026, at the hour of 9:00AM at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, in person only at 200 S. 9th St, 2nd Floor Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Commonly known as 625 East Wood Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702
Parcel Number(s): 14-22.0-180-041

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount.

The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The subject property 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. The property will NOT be open for inspection. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the 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 YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), 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 FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, MDK Legal, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 25-016531.

Edward R. Peterka

MDK LEGAL

Attorneys for Plaintiff

One East Wacker, Suite 1250

Chicago, IL 60601

Telephone: 312-651-6700

Fax: 614-220-5613

Attorney. No.: 6220416

Email: statee-file@mdklegal.com

8051-963597

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF Sangamon - Springfield,
ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST
Plaintiff
vs.

PATRICK G. O'DONNELL; VERA M.

O'DONNELL; ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF

REVENUE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

Defendant

25 FC 188

CALENDAR

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Inter-county Judicial Sales Corporation will on May 6, 2026, at the hour 9:00 a.m., Harvatin Law Office, 1100 South 5th Street, Springfield, IL 62703, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-23.0-201-016.

Commonly known as 2029 NORTH 23RD STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702.

The real estate is: single family residence.

If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments

required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 25-333594

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

intercountyjudicialsales.com

13284137

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2005-OPT4, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-OPT4, PLAINTIFF

VS.

JOHN E BEDOLLI, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT, INC., DEFENDANTS

Case No.: 2025FC000168

Property Address:

1837 Reed Ave

Springfield, IL 62704

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is given that pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause on November 12, 2025, the Sangamon County Sheriff will on April 28, 2026, at 9:00 am, at the Sangamon South, 1 Copley Place, Springfield, IL 62701, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 22-08.0-105-005

COMMON ADDRESS: 1837 Reed Ave, Springfield, IL 62704

Terms of all sales are ten percent (10%) of the opening bid.

Failure to pay the remaining balance within the twenty-four (24) hours shall result in the forfeiture of the ten percent (10%) down payment.

No Refunds.

The property offered for sale is subject to 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. The improvement on the property consists of: Owner-Occupied Single Family

The entered judgment amount was \$117,605.55.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, LLC, 200 N. LaSalle St., Suite 1880, Chicago, IL 60601. 312-236-0077. KLG: SMS001574-25FC1 SMS001574

8051-963161

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WEST CENTRAL BANK, an Illinois banking corporation, Plaintiff,

vs.

RYAN E. LOUIS, a/k/a Ryan Louis, GROW PROPERTIES, LTD., an Illinois corporation, HRL PROPERTIES & MANAGEMENT, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, KARA VERCHOTA, MICHAEL VERCHOTA, JUDITH LOUIS, a/k/a Judith L. Louis, FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, STATE BANK OF BEMENT, LONGVIEW BANK, CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a municipal corporation, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No. 2020CH000134

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the court on Count V of the Complaint for Foreclosure in the above-

entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

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

(B) The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is: Single family residence.

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

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

(E) The time and place of the sale are: 9:00 AM on Tuesday, April 28, 2026; Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701

(F) Title will be conveyed subject to real estate taxes for 2025 and subsequent years and special assessments, if any; to building restrictions and restrictive covenants of record; to easements of record or in place; to rights of way for roads, streets, and highways; to rights of tenants in possession, if any. Sale is subject to approval of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois. Any real estate transfer tax which may be due as a result of the sale shall be paid by the purchaser. BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP Emmet A. Fairfield Registration No. 6180505

(G) Title will be conveyed subject to real estate taxes for 2025 and subsequent years and special assessments, if any; to building restrictions and restrictive covenants of record; to easements of record or in place; to rights of way for roads,

streets, and highways; to rights of tenants in possession, if any. Sale is subject to approval of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois. Any real estate transfer tax which may be due as a result of the sale shall be paid by the purchaser. BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP Emmet A. Fairfield Registration No. 6180505 205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000 P.O. Box 2459 Springfield, IL 62705 (217) 544-8491 efairfield@bhsllaw.com 8051-963134

24-102286

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. PLAINTIFF,

-vs-

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF SHIRLEY A. LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN CARTER A/K/A SHIRLEY CARTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF KELLY CARTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF MICHELE LOSEMAN A/K/A MICHELE L. LOSEMAN, DECEASED; JUSTIN LOSEMAN; JAMES R. CARTER; KIEM A. CARTER; GOODLEAP, LLC.; MICHAEL J. DIAZ, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SHIRLEY A. LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN CARTER A/K/A SHIRLEY CARTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS DEFENDANTS

NO. 24 FC 188

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above entitled matter on February 11, 2026; Jack L Campbell, Sheriff, #1 Sheriff's Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, will on April 28, 2026 at 9:30 AM, at Sangamon South, 1 Copley Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, sell to the highest bidder for ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.

Said sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and any prior liens or 1st Mortgages. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title or recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition.

Upon the sale being held and the purchaser tendering said bid in certified funds, a receipt of Sale will be issued and/or a Certificate of Sale as required, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed upon confirmation of said sale by the Court. Commonly known as 2043 Scarbrough Road, Springfield, IL 62702

Permanent Index No.: 14-24-126-020

Improvements: Single Family Residential

The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.

The judgment amount was \$73,218.54. Prospective purchasers are admonished to check the court file and title records to verify this information. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), 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 FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Bid Amount contact:

Sale Clerk

LOGS Legal Group LLP

2801 Lakeside Drive, Suite 207

Bannockburn, IL 60015

ILNOTICES@logs.com

(847) 291-1717

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

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

8051-963133

24-102286

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

WEST CENTRAL BANK, an Illinois banking corporation, Plaintiff,

vs.

RYAN E. LOUIS, a/k/a Ryan Louis, GROW PROPERTIES, LTD., an Illinois corporation, HRL PROPERTIES & MANAGEMENT, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, KARA VERCHOTA, MICHAEL VERCHOTA, JUDITH LOUIS, a/k/a Judith L. Louis, FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, STATE BANK OF BEMENT, LONGVIEW BANK, CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a municipal corporation, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No. 2020CH000134

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the court on Count V of the Complaint for Foreclosure in the above-

entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

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

(B) The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is: Single family residence.

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

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

(E) The time and place of the sale are: 9:00 AM on Tuesday, April 28, 2026; Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701

(F) Title will be conveyed subject to real estate taxes for 2025 and subsequent years and special assessments, if any; to building restrictions and restrictive covenants of record; to easements of record or in place; to rights of way for roads, streets, and highways; to rights of tenants in possession, if any. Sale is subject to approval of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois. Any real estate transfer tax which may be due as a result of the sale shall be paid by the purchaser. BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP Emmet A. Fairfield Registration No. 6180505

(G) Title will be conveyed subject to real estate taxes for 2025 and subsequent years and special assessments, if any; to building restrictions and restrictive covenants of record; to easements of record or in place; to rights of way for roads,

streets, and highways; to rights of tenants in possession, if any. Sale is subject to approval of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois. Any real estate transfer tax which may be due as a result of the sale shall be paid by the purchaser. BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP Emmet A. Fairfield Registration No. 6180505

205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000

P.O. Box 2459

Springfield, IL 62705

(217) 544-8491

efairfield@bhsllaw.com

8051-963133

24-102286

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. PLAINTIFF,

-vs-

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF SHIRLEY A. LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN CARTER A/K/A SHIRLEY CARTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF KELLY CARTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF MICHELE LOSEMAN A/K/A MICHELE L. LOSEMAN, DECEASED; JUSTIN LOSEMAN; JAMES R. CARTER; KIEM A. CARTER; GOODLEAP, LLC.; MICHAEL J. DIAZ, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SHIRLEY A. LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN CARTER A/K/A SHIRLEY CARTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS DEFENDANTS

NO. 24 FC 188

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above entitled matter on February 11, 2026; Jack L Campbell, Sheriff, #1 Sheriff's Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, will on April 28, 2026 at 9:30 AM, at Sangamon South, 1 Copley Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, sell to the highest bidder for ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.

Said sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and any prior liens or 1st Mortgages. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title or recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition.

Upon the sale being held and the purchaser tendering said bid in certified funds, a receipt of Sale will be issued and/or a Certificate of Sale as required, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed upon confirmation of said sale by the Court. Commonly known as 2043 Scarbrough Road, Springfield, IL 62702

Permanent Index No.: 14-24-126-020

Improvements: Single Family Residential

The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.

The judgment amount was \$73,218.54. Prospective purchasers are admonished to check the court file and title records to verify this information. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), 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 FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Bid Amount contact:

Sale Clerk

LOGS Legal Group LLP

2801 Lakeside Drive, Suite 207

Bannockburn, IL 60015

ILNOTICES@logs.com

(847) 291-1717

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP

Emmet A. Fairfield

Registration No. 6180505

205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000

Bannockburn, IL 60015
(847) 291-1717
ILNOTICES@logs.com
Randal S. Berg (6277119)
Michael N. Burke (6291435)
Christopher A. Cieniawa (6187452)
Laura J. Anderson (6224385)
Thomas Belczak (6193705)
Debra Miller (6205477)
Amy Aronson (6206512)
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF YOUR PERSONAL LIABILITY FOR THIS DEBT HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY OR BY AN ORDER GRANTING IN REM RELIEF FROM STAY, THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED SOLELY TO FORECLOSE THE MORTGAGE REMAINING ON YOUR PROPERTY AND IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE DISCHARGED PERSONAL OBLIGATION.
8051-963057

NOTICE OF SALE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
CHRISTY STUBBS, MORTON COMMUNITY BANK SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO MARINE BANK, SPRINGFIELD AND HICKORY

POINT BANK AND TRUST,
Defendants.
CASE NO. 25-FC-199
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
1515 S 7TH ST.
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on December 17, 2025, the following described real estate, to-wit:
Permanent Index Number: 22-03.0-105-010
Commonly known as: 1515 S 7th St., Springfield, IL 62703
will be offered for sale and sold at public vendue on May 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the Sangamon County Complex, County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois.

The Judgment amount is \$76,233.21. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Sheriff of Sangamon County. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale

or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the mortgaged real estate arose prior to the sale. 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 the 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 shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.
For information contact Plaintiff's Attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, 601 East William Street, Decatur, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719
The purchaser of a condominium unit at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, who takes possession of a condominium unit pursuant to a court order or a purchaser who acquires title from a mortgagee shall have the duty to pay the proportionate share, if any, of the common expenses for the unit which would have become due in the absence of any assessment acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the collection of

assessments, and which remain unpaid by the owner during whose possession the assessments accrued. If the outstanding assessments are paid at any time during any action to enforce the collection of assessments, the purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title. If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1).
If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
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 FORECLOSURE LAW.
Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that the Law Firm of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
Kristin J. Conwell (#6294931), Its Attorney

Of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC
Kristin J. Conwell (#6294931)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
Attorneys at Law
601 East William Street
Decatur, IL 62523
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Telephone: (217) 422-1719
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754
8051-961040

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
RAYMOND C. MORRIS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendant(s).
CASE NO. 2025FC000183
Property Address: 908 N. 4th St. Springfield, IL 62702
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on February 11, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on May 19, 2026, commencing at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Building, Sangamon South Auditorium, 1 Copley Plaza (Old SJR Building) 1st Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit:

Commonly known as: 908 N. 4th St., Springfield, IL 62702
P.I.N.: 14-27.0-155-024
First Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$58,264.48
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.
Terms of Sale: CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is: Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit www.dallegal.com 24 hours prior to sale. This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC
1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120
Naperville, IL 60563
(630) 453-6960
midwestpleadings@dallegal.com
8051-963731

PUBLIC NOTICES

Death Claim

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CARL A. SCHMITT, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-78
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of CARL A. SCHMITT. Letters of Office have been issued to MARY LYNN HOFFER, 23019 Joyce Lane, Naperville, IL 60564, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Administrator, or both, on or before October 15, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Administrator and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 1st day of April, 2026.
Patrick J. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217)544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF:
DONNA COLLINS,
Deceased.
Case No. 2026-PR-118
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the death of DONNA COLLINS. Letters Testamentary were issued on March 31, 2026, appointing GREGORY A. BRIDGWATER, 1675 Grace Ridge Road, New Berlin, IL 62670, as Executor, 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, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 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 Circuit Court Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed with the Circuit Court Clerk.
E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local Circuit Clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your Circuit Clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Dated: March 31, 2026
Attorneys for Estate:
Creighton R. Castle, ARDC No. 6215856
rcastle@gwcbllaw.com
Matthew A. Cook, ARDC No. 6347528
mcook@gwcbllaw.com
GIFFIN, WINNING, COHEN & BODEWES, P.C.
efile@GiffinWinning.com
900 Community Drive
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 525-1571
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Sangamon County, Illinois
8051-963624

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN D. SGRO, Deceased
NO. 2026PRO00119
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of John D. Sgro, Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on March 31, 2026, to Michael T. Sgro, 2458 Arrowhead Drive, Springfield, IL 62702, 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 13th day of October, 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 31st day of March, 2026.
Gregory P. Sgro
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP
1119 S. Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 789-1200

Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, Illinois
Estate of Elizabeth Marie Maher, Deceased
No. 2026-PR-000120
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Elizabeth Marie Maher. Notice is given to all creditors of Elizabeth Marie Maher that Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Elizabeth Marie Maher Deceased were issued on March 30, 2026, to Mary Coker, 190 Craven Rd. Springfield IL and Judith Maher, 7025 Pet Haven Lane Boise ID 83716 as Co-Executors. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County, 200 South Ninth, Springfield IL 62701 or with the Co-executors or both within 6

months from the date of the first publication of this notice, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Co-Executors within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 30th day of March, 2026
Daniel Maher, Attorney, 412 East Lawrence, Springfield IL 62702, 217-522-4575
dan.maher@sbcglobal.net

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
NEWREZ LLC,
Plaintiff,
Vs.
DENNIS L. GERMANN, et. al.,
Defendants.
Re: Estate of JERI L. GERMANN,)
Deceased.
2026-FC-36
NOTICE
TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JERI L. GERMANN (a/k/a JERI L. LoPINTO):
Notice is given of the death of Jeri L. Germann (a/k/a Jeri L. LoPinto). The Court has appointed Dan E. Way as Special Representative for Jeri L. Germann, deceased, in the above-entitled cause seeking a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale on property located at 3140 S. Allis St., Springfield, IL 62703
The address of the Special Representative is Way Law Offices, LLC, 1100 S. Fifth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. You may direct any questions you have to him, or you may retain counsel of your own choosing, or represent yourself, or do nothing.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.
/s/ Dan E. Way
Special Representative for
Jeri L. Germann, deceased

Dan E. Way #6204735
WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC
1100 S. Fifth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
Ph.: 217-525-7003
dan@danwaylaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD W. HOAGLAND, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-113
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of DONALD W. HOAGLAND. Letters of Office have been issued to JENNIFER FERNANDES, 8 Pine Cone Dr., Jacksonville, IL 62650, and RACHEL HOAGLAND, 969 E. College Ave., Jacksonville, IL 62650, as Independent Co-Administrators, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Co-Administrators, or both, on or before October 9, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Co-Administrators and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 26th day of March, 2026.
William P. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217)544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ZALAR,
Deceased.
Case No. 2026 PR 000111
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of Elizabeth Zalar. Letters of Office were issued to Amy Heaton, as Independent Executor, whose address is 1025 Red Clover Drive, Aurora, IL 60504. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 2, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered such notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Dated: March 24, 2026
Attorneys for Independent Executor:
Sorling Northrup
Aaron D. Evans, Attorney (6305883)
1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200
P.O. Box 5131
Springfield, IL 62705
Telephone: 217-544-1144; Fax: 217-522-3173
E-Mail: adevans@sorlinglaw.com

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

RITA A. ISRAEL, Deceased
NO. 2024PRO00189
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Rita A. Israel, Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on May 2, 2024, to Ryan David Israel, 2001 15th Street N, Apt 719, Arlington, VA 22201, as Independent Executor, 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 5th day of October, 2026, or three months from the date the Representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 24th day of March, 2026.
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
DEBORAH BELLE POHL, Deceased
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NO. 2026PRO00109
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Deborah Belle Pohl, Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on March 23, 2026, to Ashley M. Harris, 19 Skyview Drive, Springfield, IL 62702, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 5th day of October, 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 23rd day of March, 2026.
Gregory P. Sgro
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP
1119 S. 6th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF:
JAMES L. MONTGOMERY,
Deceased.
Case No.: 2026-PR-108
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of JAMES L. MONTGOMERY of Chatham, Illinois, and that Letters Testamentary were issued on March 18 2026, to CINDY A. HILL, as Executor, of 27 Highland Lane, Chatham, IL 62629, whose attorney is Duane D. Young of Young Law Partners, P.C., 1300 South 8th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, , and with the offices of Young Law Partners, P.C., Attorneys for Executor, or both, within six (6) months from the date of publication and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representatives

and to their attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
CINDY A. HILL, Executor of the Estate of JAMES L. MONTGOMERY, Deceased
Attorneys' Address:
Duane D. Young
Registration No.: 3091457
YOUNG LAW PARTNERS, P.C.
1300 South Eighth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Telephone: (217) 544-8500
Facsimile: (217) 544-6200
8051-963258

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF:
DONALD M. BEATTIE III,
Deceased.
Case No. 2026-PR-70
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of DONALD M. BEATTIE III. Letters of Office were issued on March 18, 2026, to Cresswell A. Hizer, whose address is 5246 North Delaware, Indianapolis, Indiana 46220, as Independent Executor, and whose attorney is JAMES R. POTTER, P.C., 300 East Ash Street, Suite 1, Springfield, Illinois 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
DATED this 20th day of March, 2026.
JAMES R. POTTER, P.C.
300 East Ash Street, Suite 1
Springfield, IL 62703
Telephone: (217)544-9823
Fax: (217)544-9826
Email: bud@jrpotterlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
SANDRA MCAVOY,
Deceased.
2026-PR-107
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of Sandra McAvoy. Letters of Office were issued to Richard Hiatt, as Independent Executor, whose address is P.O. Box 198, Pontiac, Illinois 62764. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before September 26, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered such notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/> service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Dated March 19, 2026.
Attorneys for Independent Executor:
Sorling Northrup
Lisa A. Petrilli, Attorney (#6280865)
1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200
P.O. Box 5131
Springfield, IL 62705
Telephone: 217-544-1144; Fax: 217-522-3173
E-Mail: lapetrilli@sorlinglaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of:
Dorothy Cohn, Deceased
Case No. 2026-PR-000080
ESTATE OF:
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Dorothy Cohn Letters of Administration were issued on March 4, 2026 to David Cohn as Executor, 9 Barbara Court, Springfield IL 62704. 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. 26, 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 Executor 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
JACQUELINE D. HARMON, Deceased.
NO. 2026PRO00097
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Jacqueline D. Harmon, Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on March 17, 2026, to Kamyra Day, 1628 Toronto Road, Apt. 20, Springfield, IL 62712, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Benjamin M. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 28th day of September, 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 17th day of March, 2026.
Benjamin M. Sgro
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP
1119 S. 6th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Estate of:
CAROLINE A. BACHARZ,
Deceased.
NO. 2026-PR-106
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Caroline A. Bacharz of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 16, 2026, to Debra Bacharz, 827 Nettles Boulevard, Jensen Beach, Florida 34957, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Bernard G. Segatto, III, 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 24, 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 17th day of March, 2026.
Bernard G. Segatto, III - 06190753
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705-0079
(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
GARETH L. GOLAY, Deceased.
NO. 2026PRO00092
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Gareth L. Golay, Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on March 10, 2026, to L. Gary Brown, 7288 Brown Road, Cantrall, IL 62625, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 21st 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 17th day of March, 2026.
Gregory P. Sgro
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP
1119 S. 6th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
GEORGE J. ENDRES, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-103
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of GEORGE J. ENDRES. Letters of Office have been issued to DIANA PICKEL, 1944 S. Pasfield St., Springfield, IL 62704, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before September 30, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 16th day of March, 2026.
Patrick J. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARK GREGORY O'CONNOR, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-94
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of MARK GREGORY O'CONNOR. Letters of Office have

been issued to TORRIE KARHLIKER, 4040 Tuxhorn Road, Springfield, IL 62712, and KENNEDY GRACE O'CONNOR, 211 N. Fairway Ave., Decatur, IL 62522, as Independent Co-Administrators, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Co-Administrators, or both, on or before September 30, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Co-Administrators and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 16th day of March, 2026.
Patrick J. Sheehan, III
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217)544-0701 =

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JAMES B. LANGFORD, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-101
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of JAMES B. LANGFORD. Letters of Office have been issued to CYNTHIA KLASING, 3816 Bluestem Court, Springfield, IL 62712, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before September 30, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 16th day of March, 2026.
Patrick J. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
SCOTT A. KUNTZ, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-104
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of SCOTT A. KUNTZ. Letters of Office have been issued to CHRISTINE R. KUNTZ, 905 E. Spruce Street, Chatham, IL 62629 as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before September 30, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 16th day of March, 2026.
Patrick J. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217)544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JACQUELINE B. WRIGHT, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-100
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of JACQUELINE B. WRIGHT. Letters of Office have been issued to LINDA W. EARP, 3617 N. Grand Ave. East, Lot 224, Springfield, IL 62702, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before September 30, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 16th day of March, 2026.
Patrick J. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 544-0701

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JANET C. MCKINNEY, DECEASED.
NO. 2026-PR-105
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES
Notice is given of the death of JANET C. MCKINNEY, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on march 16, 2026 to MARTHA J. EYMAN of 720 N. Milton Ave., Springfield, IL 62702 whose attorney is DelGiorno Law Office, LLC; P.O. Box 52 Springfield, Illinois, 62705.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the 26th day of March, 2026 being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
You also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1) and pursuant to Section 6-11 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-11) to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within 6 months after admission of the Will to probate. Dated this 16th day of March 2026.
MARTHA J. EYMAN, Administrator of the Estate of JANET C. MCKINNEY, Deceased
BY: DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
By: /s/ Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney
Attorneys for Estate:
Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney
IARDC No. 6277358
DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
P.O. Box 52
Springfield, IL 62705
Tel. 217-773-5337
Fax. 855-461-3250
Email: tony@delgiornolawoffice.com
Service: service@delgiornolawoffice.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the Matter of the Estate of MATTHEW R. SUCHOMSKI, Deceased.

IN PROBATE NO. 2026-PR-31 DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of MATTHEW R. SUCHOMSKI, deceased. Letters of Office were issued on March 4, 2026, to MARY LISABETH GRANZEAU, Administrator, 1608 S. Willemore Ave., Springfield, Illinois 62704, whose attorney is Robert A. Stuart, Jr., Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 S. 5th St., Ste. 1000, P.O. Box 2459, Springfield, IL 62705.

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 September 1, 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. Dated this 16th day of March, 2026.

Robert A. Stuart, Jr.
ARDC # 2761122
Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP
205 S. 5th St., Ste. 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-8491

Divorce

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FAYETTE COUNTY

Re: the marriage of Michelle Lynn Davis, Petitioner And

Michael Adam Davis, Respondent Case No. 2025-DN-000034

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, Michael Adam Davis, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief. Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Fayette County, in Vandalia, Illinois on or before the 26th day of April, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition. Kathy Emerick Circuit Clerk

Name Change

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the matter of the Petition of Fred Jaydin Lee Simpson V For change of name to Jaydin Lee Simpson Case No. 2026-MR-000041 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on May 19, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Fred Jaydin Lee Simpson V to Jaydin Lee Simpson pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided. Dated: April 2, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the matter of the Petition of Liam Jacari Wade For change of name to Liam Luka Lewis and Grayson Reese Wade For change of name to

Grayson Reese Lewis Case No. 2026-MR-000089

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 2, 2026 we will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Liam Jacari Wade to Liam Luka Lewis and from Grayson Reese Wade to Grayson Reese Lewis pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided. Dated: April 2, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the matter of the Petition of Damaría TaLeeah Stowers For change of name to Damaría TaLeeah Stowers Austin Case No. 2026-MR-000055 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on May 5, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Damaría TaLeeah Stowers to TaLeeah Stowers Austin pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided. Dated: March 26, 2026

Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS New American Funding, LLC Plaintiff,

Mark G. Maddox, III; Carol E. Herren; City of Springfield; Illinois Department of Revenue Defendants.

Case No. 2025FC000146 625 East Wood Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702 Judge Adam Giganti

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on January 14, 2026, Paula Crouch will on May 12, 2026, at the hour of 9:00AM at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, in person only at 200 S. 9th St, 2nd Floor Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Lot Four (4) in Block Four (4) of Samuel Carpenter's Subdivision. Except all coal and other minerals underlying said lands, together with the right to mine and remove same.

Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.

Commonly known as 625 East Wood Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702

Parcel Number(s): 14-22-0-180-041

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The subject property 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. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the 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 YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), 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 FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, MDK Legal, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 25-016531. Edward R. Peterka

MDK LEGAL Attorneys for Plaintiff One East Wacker, Suite 1250 Chicago, IL 60601 Telephone: 312-651-6700 Fax: 614-220-5613 Attorney. No.: 6220416 Email: statee-file@mdklegal.com 8051-963597

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Sangamon - Springfield, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST Plaintiff

vs. PATRICK G. O'DONNELL; VERA M. O'DONNELL; ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant

25 FC 188 CALENDAR NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercountry Judicial Sales Corporation will on May 6, 2026, at the hour 9:00 a.m., Harvatin Law Office, 1100 South 5th Street, Springfield, IL 62703, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: THE SOUTH 33 FEET OF LOT 151 AND THE NORTH 22 FEET OF LOT 152 IN FRED W. WANLESS' EAST VIEW ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SECOND PLAT, EXCEPT THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE SURFACE OF SAID LAND AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS SAID COAL AND MINERALS.

P.I.N. 14-23.0-201-016. Commonly known as 2029 NORTH 23RD STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702. The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 25-333594 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3284137

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2005-OPT4, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-OPT4, PLAINTIFF VS. JOHN E BEDOLLI, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF

REVENUE, MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT, INC., DEFENDANTS Case No.: 2025FC000168 Property Address: 1837 Reed Ave Springfield, IL 62704 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is given that pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause on November 12, 2025, the Sangamon County Sheriff will on April 28, 2026, at 9:00 am, at the Sangamon South, 1 Copley Place, Springfield, IL 62701, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

THE EAST 65 FEET OF LOT 10 AND THE WEST 15 FEET OF LOT 9 OF LELAND ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD. EXCEPT ALL COAL AND MINERALS TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT OF MINE AND REMOVE SAME. P.I.N. 22-08.0-105-005

COMMON ADDRESS: 1837 Reed Ave, Springfield, IL 62704 Terms of all sales are ten percent (10%) of the opening bid.

Failure to pay the remaining balance within the twenty-four (24) hours shall result in the forfeiture of the ten percent (10%) down payment. No Refunds.

The property offered for sale is subject to 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. The improvement on the property consists of: Owner-Occupied Single Family The entered judgment amount was \$117,605.55. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, LLC, 200 N. LaSalle St., Suite 1880, Chicago, IL 60601. 312-236-0077. KLG: SMS001574-25FC1 SMS001574 8051-963161

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS WEST CENTRAL BANK, an Illinois banking corporation, Plaintiff, vs. RYAN E. LOUIS, a/k/a Ryan Louis, GROW PROPERTIES, LTD., an Illinois corporation, HRL PROPERTIES & MANAGEMENT, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, KARA VERCHOTA, MICHAEL VERCHOTA, JUDITH LOUIS, a/k/a Judith L. Louis, FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, STATE BANK OF BEMENT, LONGVIEW BANK, CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a municipal corporation, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No. 2020CH000134 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the court on Count IV of the Complaint for Foreclosure in the above-entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder. (A) The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: West Central Bank, 3600 Wabash Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62711; Phone: (217) 726-9600; Attn: Todd Threnn. (B) The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is: Parcel 1: 2167 East Adams, Springfield, Illinois; and Parcel 2: 1828 S. 16th Street, Springfield, Illinois (C) The legal description of the real estate is:

Parcel 1: Lot 3 of Charles S. Wanless' East Adams Street Subdivision to the City of Springfield, as platted by plat recorded in Book 15 of Plats at Page 17 in the Recorder's Office of Sangamon County, Illinois. Except all coal, minerals and mining rights heretofore conveyed or reserved of record.

Parcel 2: Lot Thirteen (13) in Block Three (3) in Spaulding's South Park Addition.

Except all coal and other minerals underlying said lands, together with the right to mine and remove same.

(D) A description of the improvements on the real estate is: Single family residences.

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

(F) The time and place of the sale are: 9:00 AM on Tuesday, April 28, 2026; Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701

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

(H) Title will be conveyed subject to real estate taxes for 2025 and subsequent years and special assessments, if any; to building restrictions and restrictive covenants of record; to easements of record or in place; to rights of way for roads, streets, and highways; to rights of tenants in possession, if any. Sale is subject to approval of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois. Any real estate transfer tax which may be due as a result of the sale shall be paid by the purchaser. BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP Emmet A. Fairfield Registration No. 6180505 205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000 P.O. Box 2459 Springfield, IL 62705 (217) 544-8491 efairfield@bhsllaw.com 8051-963134

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

vs. RYAN E. LOUIS, a/k/a Ryan Louis, GROW PROPERTIES, LTD., an Illinois corporation, HRL PROPERTIES & MANAGEMENT, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, KARA VERCHOTA, MICHAEL VERCHOTA, JUDITH LOUIS, a/k/a Judith L. Louis, FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, STATE BANK OF BEMENT, LONGVIEW BANK, CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a municipal corporation, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No. 2020CH000134 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the court on Count V of the Complaint for Foreclosure in the above-entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder. (A) The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: West Central Bank, 3600 Wabash Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62711; Phone: (217) 726-9600; Attn: Todd Threnn. (B) The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is: 833 N. Walnut, Springfield, Illinois 62702

(C) The legal description of the real estate is: Lot Six (6) and the South 1½ feet of Lot Five (5) in Block Five (5) of Frank Osburn's Addition to the City of Springfield.

Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois (D) A description of the improvements on the real estate is: Single family residence.

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

(F) The time and place of the sale are: 9:00 AM on Tuesday, April 28, 2026; Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701

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

(H) Title will be conveyed subject to real estate taxes for 2025 and subsequent years and special assessments, if any; to building restrictions and restrictive covenants of record; to easements of record or in place; to rights of way for roads, streets, and highways; to rights of tenants in possession, if any. Sale is subject to approval of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois. Any real estate transfer tax which may be due as a result of the sale shall be paid by the purchaser. BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP Emmet A. Fairfield Registration No. 6180505 205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000 P.O. Box 2459 Springfield, IL 62705 (217) 544-8491 efairfield@bhsllaw.com 8051-963133

24-102286 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. PLAINTIFF,

-vs- UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF SHIRLEY A. LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN CARTER A/K/A SHIRLEY CARTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF KELLY CARTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND OR LEGATEES OF MICHELE LOSEMAN A/K/A MICHELE L. LOSEMAN, DECEASED; JUSTIN LOSEMAN; JAMES R. CARTER; KIEM A. CARTER; GOODLEAP, LLC.; MICHAEL J. DIAZ, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SHIRLEY A. LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN LEONARD A/K/A SHIRLEY ANN CARTER A/K/A SHIRLEY CARTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS DEFENDANTS

NO. 24 FC 188 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above entitled matter on February 11, 2026;

Jack L. Campbell, Sheriff, #1 Sheriff's Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, will on April 28, 2026 at 9:30 AM, at Sangamon South, 1 Copley Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, sell to the highest bidder for ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Sangamon County, Illinois. Said sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and any prior liens or 1st Mortgages. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title or recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. Upon the sale being held and the purchaser tendering said bid in certified funds, a receipt of Sale will be issued and/or a Certificate

of Sale as required, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed upon confirmation of said sale by the Court.
Said property is legally described as follows: LOT 919 OF CHARLES S. WANLESS' NORTH-GATE ADDITION FOURTEENTH PLAT A PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 16 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 8, 1977 IN BOOK 23 OF PLATS AT PAGE 18 AS DOCUMENT NO. 390811.
EXCEPT THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE SURFACE OF SAID LAND AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID COAL AND MINERALS.
SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Commonly known as 2043 Scarbrough Road, Springfield, IL 62702
Permanent Index No.: 14-24-126-020
Improvements: Single Family Residential
The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. The judgment amount was \$73,218.54.
Prospective purchasers are admonished to check the court file and title records to verify this information. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), 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 FORECLOSURE LAW.
For Bid amount contact:
Sale Clerk
LOGS Legal Group LLP
2801 Lakeside Drive, Suite 207
Bannockburn, IL 60015
ILNOTICES@logs.com
(847) 291-1717
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys
LOGS Legal Group LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff
2801 Lakeside Drive, Suite 207
Bannockburn, IL 60015
(847) 291-1717
ILNOTICES@logs.com Randal S. Berg
(6277119)
Michael N. Burke (6291435)
Christopher A. Cieniawa (6187452)
Laura J. Anderson (6224385)
Thomas Belczak (6193705)
Debra Miller (6205477)
Amy Aronson (6206512)
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF YOUR PERSONAL LIABILITY FOR THIS DEBT HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY OR BY AN ORDER GRANTING IN REM RELIEF FROM STAY, THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED SOLELY TO FORECLOSE THE MORTGAGE REMAINING ON YOUR PROPERTY AND IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE DISCHARGED PERSONAL OBLIGATION.
8051-963057

NOTICE OF SALE
STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
CHRISTY STUBBS, MORTON COMMUNITY BANK SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO MARINE BANK, SPRINGFIELD AND HICKORY POINT BANK AND TRUST,
Defendants.
CASE NO. 25-FC-199
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
1515 S 7TH ST.
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on December 17, 2025, the following described real estate, to-wit:
Lot 4 in Block 4 in Elijah Iles' Subdivision of Lands Number 3 in the City of Springfield, as platted by the plat recorded in the Recorder's Office of Sangamon County, Illinois, in Book 71 of Deeds at Page 546.
Also, part of Lot 3 in Block 4 of said Elijah Iles' Subdivision of Lands Number 3 to the City of Springfield; commencing at the Southwest corner of said Lot 3, thence running East along the South line of said Lot 3 a distance of 33.75 feet to a point in said line marked by a drill hole in concrete driveway and designated Point "C" on plat hereinafter described thence North parallel with the West line of said Lot 3 a distance of 3.51 feet to a spike in concrete driveway designated Point "B" on said plat, thence West 33.75 feet to a point in the West line of said Lot 3 marked by a drill hole in concrete pavement and which is 4.25 feet North of the Southwest corner of said Lot 3, thence South along the West line of said Lot 3, 4.25 feet to the place of beginning; the plat of survey referred to above being one made by Morgan P. O'Brien during the Month during the Month of April 1950 and filed for record in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Sangamon County, Illinois on April 11, 1950, Document Number 2366534. 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.
Permanent Index Number: 22-03.0-105-010
Commonly known as: 1515 S 7th St., Springfield, IL 62703
will be offered for sale and sold at public vendue on May 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the Sangamon County Complex, County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois.
The Judgment amount is \$76,233.21.
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Sheriff of Sangamon County. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the mortgaged real estate arose prior to the sale. 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 the 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 shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information. For information contact Plaintiff's Attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, 601 East William Street, Decatur, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719
The purchaser of a condominium unit at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, who takes possession of a condominium unit pursuant to a court order or a purchaser who acquires title from a mortgagee shall have the duty to pay the proportionate share, if any, of the common expenses for the unit which would have

become due in the absence of any assessment acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the collection of assessments, and which remain unpaid by the owner during whose possession the assessments accrued. If the outstanding assessments are paid at any time during any action to enforce the collection of assessments, the purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title. If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1). If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), 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 FORECLOSURE LAW.
Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that the Law Firm of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
Kristin J. Conwell (#6294931), Its Attorney
Of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC
Kristin J. Conwell (#6294931)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
Attorneys at Law
601 East William Street
Decatur, IL 62523
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Telephone: (217) 422-1719
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754
8051-961040

Notice by Publication

Advertisement for Bid
Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) invites qualified GENERAL/SITE Contractors, to submit sealed bids to furnish all labor & material to complete requirements of bidding for LITCHFIELD TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING EXPANSION.
Sealed bids must be delivered to the attention of MR. TIM ERVIN, Director of Construction & EHS, Lincoln Land Community College, Construction & EHS Office – Mason Hall, 5250 Shepherd Road, Springfield, IL 62794-9256 (Southeast corner of the LLCC Main Campus), on or before THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026, at 2:00 PM Central Standard Time (CST), at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud. Faxed or e-mailed bids will not be accepted. Vendors are responsible for ensuring that bids are received by the above office prior to the deadline. Bids received after the deadline will not be considered. Contractors who have submitted a bid are invited, but not required, to attend the bid opening.
All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/) and the Drug Free Workplace Act (30 ILCS 580/). All contractors and subcontractors shall demonstrate experience on projects of similar size and type. While this project is not administered by the Capital Development Board all contractors and subcontractors must be pre-qualified with the CDB or IDOT for a minimum of 45 days.
This project is Public Works Project funded by State of Illinois Appropriated Capital Funds and is required to comply with the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative (30 ILCS 559/20-20 to 20-25) and the applicable

administrative rules at 14 Ill. Admin. Code Part 680. The goal of the Illinois Apprenticeship Initiative is that apprentices will perform either 10% of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less. Contractor must provide this information with their bid and with subsequent pay requests to allow the college to report back to the State of Illinois.
All contractor contact and questions regarding any matter concerning this Invitation to Bid must be submitted in writing to MARTIN ENGINEERING COMPANY, MR. ADAM PALLAI, 3695 SOUTH 6TH STREET FRONTAGE ROAD WEST, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703, BY MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026. Submittals of questions may be emailed to APALLAI@MARTINENGINEERINGCO.COM, please put "LITCHFIELD TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING EXPANSION" in the subject line.) No questions will be addressed after 12:00 PM (CST), on MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026. Other questions regarding the bid documents will be addressed at a mandatory pre bid meeting/site visit for contractors, which shall begin promptly at 9:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026, at the LLCC Litchfield Campus, 1 Lincoln Land Dr, Litchfield, IL 62056 in room L-111 in the Administration Building. Failure to be present when the meeting begins, may result in the bidder being disqualified. Contractors should have any sub-contractors present at the mandatory pre-bid meeting who may wish to view the site. Further information concerning the specifications of this invitation to bid resulting from questions submitted, either in writing or resulting from the pre bid meeting/site visit, will be communicated in the form of an addendum. E-mail or verbal responses to questions are not a part of the bid documents and only formal addendum will govern. Bid Documents will be available to qualified contractors from the offices of MARTIN ENGINEERING COMPANY on or before MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026. Qualified contractors may obtain documents by depositing \$50 per set, refundable upon return of documents in good condition within one week of Bid Due Date. The Central Illinois Builders' Non-Cash Security Method for request of documents will be accepted on this project, as well. The bidder shall furnish a bid deposit in the amount of 5% of the amount bid in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond, made payable to Lincoln Land Community College. LLCC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received, or to permit timely correction of minor deficiencies in bids whenever such rejection or waiver is in the interest of LLCC and to accept the bid or bids being most favorable to LLCC after all bids have been examined and evaluated.

To enforce Self Storage Lien in default of payment of rent a private auction will be held on
Saturday April 18, 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 April 15, 2026.
No personal checks will be accepted for storage units that are in lien.
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STORAGE UNIT AUCTION
Khalib Williamson Unit#9-6
Keyona White Unit#1-24
Dakota Willis Unit#6-29
Michael Weller Unit#11-42
Todd Pulliam Unit#H-9

Rosalind Cameron Unit#7-5
Linda Byrd Unit#9-3
Linda Byrd Unit#1-10
Linda Byrd Unit#10-34
Linda Byrd Unit#11-43
Linda Byrd Unit#11-45

SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
United States District Court
Central District of Illinois
Springfield Division
Case No. 3:26-cv-03061
Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company, LP v. Shaw Family Holdings, LLC, et al.
NOTICE OF SUIT
To: Unknown Owners having any interest in the following parcel in Sangamon County, Illinois
A Complaint for condemnation of real estate by eminent domain has been filed and is pending against you. You claim or may claim an interest in the following property located in Sangamon County, IL, which is the subject of this suit:
Beginning at a point on the West right-of-way line of a public road 1953.9 feet South and 14 feet West of the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼) of Section 19, Township 14 North, Range 5 West, Sangamon County, Illinois; thence South along said right-of-way line a distance of 150 feet; thence West a distance of 150 feet; thence North a distance of 150 feet; thence East a distance of 150 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.52 acres, more or less ("Property"). Said Property being entirely located within parcel 29-24.0-400-003, Sangamon County, Illinois.

The nature of the action filed against you is an action to condemn an easement interest in the Property (See Complaint). The authority for the taking is 15 U.S.C. § 717(h). The use for which the property is to be taken is the continued operation and maintenance of a measurement and regulation station on the Property. You may serve an answer to the Complaint in writing within twenty-one (21) days after being served with this notice; failure to do so constitutes consent to the taking and to the Court's authority to proceed with the action and to fix the compensation, if any, to be paid to you for the taking. A defendant who does not serve an answer may file a Notice of Appearance.
Plaintiff's attorney may be served at the following address:
Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company, LP,
Attn: Frank Ierulli, Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, P.C., 300 Hamilton Blvd., 2nd Floor, Peoria, IL 61602.
/s/ Frank Ierulli

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PHH Mortgage Corporation,
Plaintiff,
Vs.
Todd Wright, et. al.
Defendants.
Re: Estate of Terrance Wright, Deceased.
No. 2025-FC-230
NOTICE
TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF TERRANCE WRIGHT:
Notice is given of the death of Terrance Wright. The Court has appointed Dan E. Way as Special Representative for Terrance Wright, deceased, in the above-entitled cause seeking a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale on property located at 29 Glenwood Ln., Chatham, IL 62629.
The address of the Special Representative is: Way Law Offices, LLC, 1100 S. Fifth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. You may direct any questions you have to him, or you may retain counsel of your own choosing, or represent yourself, or do nothing.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To

e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit e-file.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.
/s/ Dan E. Way
Special Representative for Terrance Wright, deceased.
Dan E. Way, #6204735
WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC
1100 S. Fifth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
Tel. 217-525-7003
Fax. 217-525-7012
dan@danwaylaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Estate of:
SHERRY JO POWERS,
Deceased.
NO. 2026-PR-124
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Sherry Jo Powers of Glenarm, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 2, 2026, to Derek Powers, 1410 E. Knox, Springfield, Illinois 62703, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Bernard G. Segatto, III, 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 October 12, 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 3rd day of April, 2026.
Bernard G. Segatto, III - 06190753
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705-0079
(217) 544-4868
bsegatto@barberlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
RAYMOND C. MORRIS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendant(s).
CASE NO. 2025FC000183
Property Address: 908 N. 4th St. Springfield, IL 62702
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on February 11, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on May 19, 2026, commencing at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Building, Sangamon South Auditorium, 1 Copley Plaza (Old SJR Building) 1st Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to-wit:
THE SOUTH 24 FEET OF LOT 9 AND THE NORTH 8 FEET OF LOT 8 IN BLOCK 1 OF B.S. EDWARD'S SECOND NORTH ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as: 908 N. 4th St., Springfield, IL 62702
P.I.N.: 14-27.0-155-024
First Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$58,264.48
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-

1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(G) (5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.

Terms of Sale: CASH - 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County.

The person to contact for information regarding this property is: Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit www.dallegal.com 24 hours prior to sale.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC
1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120
Naperville, IL 60563
(630) 453-6960
midwestpleadings@dallegal.com
8051-963731

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE

Wishing to avail themselves of the provisions under the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, the below storage facility gives notice of the sale under said act; Monday the 27th day of April, 2026 at 10:00 AM, on that day will conduct a sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on lockerfox.com, and payment to seller via credit/debit card, the contents of spaces 10 Federal Storage, 2225 J David Jones Pkwy, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 600-2778 Greg Davis 498. Thomas Harris Jr 736. Marci Schneider 568. Louis Day 625/588. Breona Gaiter 232. Rachel Welch 609. Lynda Michelle Grant 509. Shane Wilkins P48/P49/P50/P51. Jasmine Campbell 709. Donte Hester 115. Chad Bergquist 283. Gregory Gordon P43. Corina Coffin 189. Hell Jackson 131. Jeremy Word 445/446. June Word 5. Janice Rutledge 532; 10 Federal Storage, 3500 South 6th Street, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 387-3951 Lakeisha Price A59. Candace Armstrong B192/B193/B194. Rhonda Wright A25/A26/A27. Erick Anderson A105; 10 Federal Storage, 900 E Straight St, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 286-1550 Gymelah Coleman 150. Ulises Leon F387. John DeGroot 147. Dexter Sisson 161. Carolyn Cummings 6. Austin Gutierrez 235. Annetta Robinson 2. Van Converse 157. Van Converse 159; 10 Federal Storage, 500 W Browning Rd, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 339-3865 Jacob Ray 19A. Allie Holmes 216D/217D

SECTION 001113

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals for the construction of the Curran Loop Watermain Extension for Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District, will be received by the OWNER until 10AM on April 30, 2026, at the office of Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District, CGTPWD, 3382 Hazlett Road, Springfield, Illinois 62707-2522, and will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after such date and time shall be returned unopened.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans and Specifications, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Payment Bond and other Contract Documents may be examined at the following:
CGTPWD, 3382 Hazlett Road, Springfield, Illinois 62707-2522

MECO Engineering Company, Inc., 1301 E. Washington, Pittsfield, IL 62363
Copies may be obtained at the office of MECO Engineering Co., 1301 E. Washington, Pittsfield, IL 62363.
Electronic copies may be obtained for no

cost by contacting: MECO Engineering Co., Inc., 1301 E. Washington, Pittsfield, IL 62363, Phone No. 217-285-2550; or MECO Engineering Co., Inc. 3120 Palmyra Road, Hannibal, MO 63401, Phone No. 573-221-4048. Also, paper copies of the Contract Documents, including Plans and Specifications may be obtained at MECO Engineering Co., Inc. Corporate Office at 3120 Palmyra Road, Hannibal, MO 63401, Phone No. 573-221-4048 for a non-refundable fee of \$250.00.

The Proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check drawn on a solvent Illinois bank or trust company made payable to the CGTPWD, or a Bid Bond issued by a surety licensed to conduct business in the state of Illinois and appearing on the U.S. Treasury Department's most current list (Circular 570, as amended), in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid. The Bid Bond may be retained by the Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District, as a guaranty that if the Proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the Contract and file an acceptable Performance Bond and Payment Bond within fifteen (15) days after the award of the Contract.

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12).

The award of Contracts on this project shall be predicated upon competitive bidding, with award being made to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. Said lowest Bidders shall be determined for each Contract by summarizing the applicable low base bids. Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive all informalities in the bids. No bids may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the specified time for receipt of bids.

Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District
Sangamon County, Illinois
Date April 6, 2026

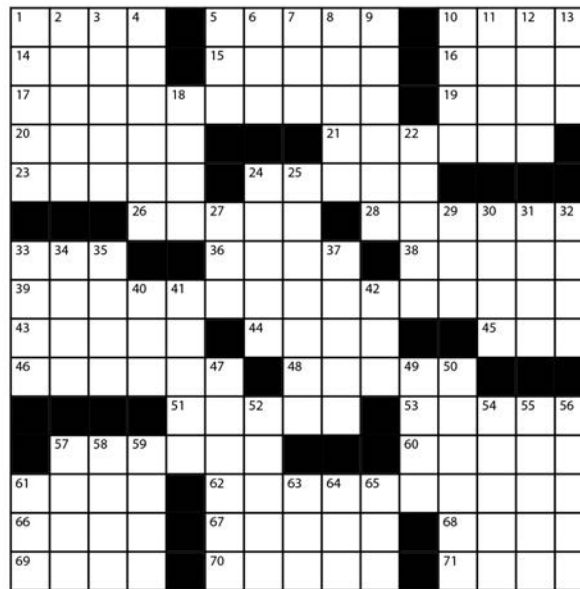
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT
MORTGAGE SERVICING,
Plaintiff,
v.
ESTATE OF BARBARA JO BROWN, Deceased;
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS;
GREGORY HULLUM; ADRIAN HULLUM;
CLYDE BROWN, JR.; ROBERT BROWN;
CHARLENE ALEXANDER; KAREN EUBANKS;
CARLA COOK; MARCUS BATES;
KAPRICE BATES; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF BARBARA JO BROWN, Deceased;
UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.

Case No. 2025-FC-83
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
To: The Unknown Heirs and Legatees of BARBARA JO BROWN, Deceased
TAKE NOTICE that, on January 14, 2026, the Honorable Adam Giganti appointed William P. Sheehan as Special Representative of BARBARA JO BROWN, Deceased, pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/13-209. An amended mortgage foreclosure complaint was filed in Sangamon County Circuit Court on January 27, 2026 as Case #2025-FC-83. 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.
William P. Sheehan (#6327880)
Special Representative
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 544-0701 | wps@sheehanlaw.net

Hot drinks Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 940

Across

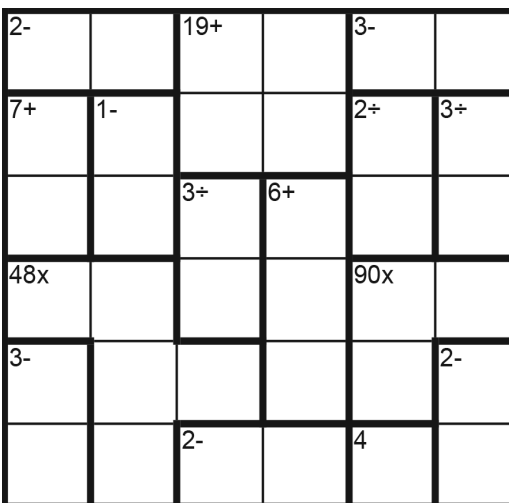
1. ___ carotene
5. Four-door
10. Comedian Carvey
14. ___ even keel
15. Track speedster beginning in 2000
16. Israeli carrier
17. General Mills product introduced in 1958
19. 50+ org.
20. Blockheads
21. Representative
23. Twisty turns
24. Turn ___ ear
26. Dictation taker
28. Like the Tin Man, upon discovery
33. HBO rival
36. A Turner
38. Power glitch
39. Picture-filled item often seen in a living room
43. Baseball's Doubleday
44. ___ lot (gorged oneself)
45. Austin-to-Dallas dir.
46. Stayed (with)
48. Title locale of five 1980s films: Abbr.
51. Cut out
53. Truman's birthplace
57. Shells and twists
60. Line to the audience
61. Old stories



62. Whistlers
66. Historic periods
67. Tony winner Uta
68. Sicilian resort
69. Understands
70. Rock
71. Small paving stone
10. Campus bigwig
11. Jai ___
12. D.E.A. agent
13. Austrian peak
18. Kind of D.A.
22. Valuable
24. "West Side Story" role
25. Gives
27. Summer in France
29. Relief
30. High-tech suffix
31. Designer von Furstenberg
32. Fake at the rink
33. Lasting effect
34. Bum kin
35. ___ concern
37. Poplar tree
40. Opposite of masc.
41. Build
42. On the ___ (fleeing)
47. Ends
49. Blind segment
50. Preferences
52. "Take ___"
54. Pooh's creator
55. Make ___ in
56. Met again
57. Sweat source
58. "I smell ___"
59. Cong. period
61. Chair part
63. Before now
64. Barbie's beau
65. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 940

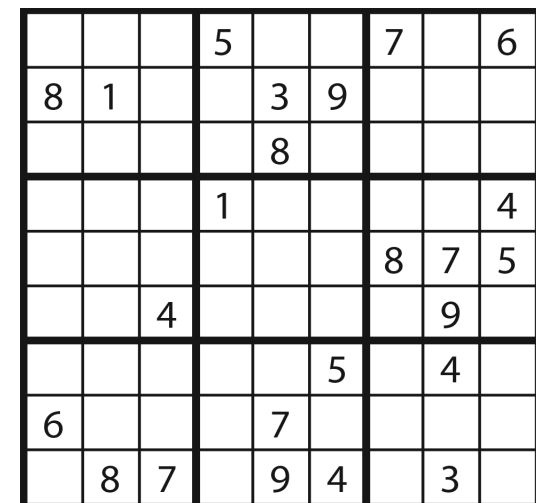
Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.



Difficulty hard

Sudoku No. 940

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



Difficulty hard

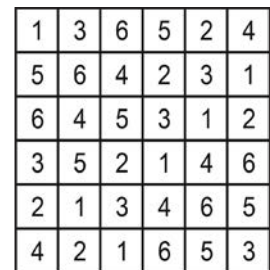
Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #939



Sudoku answers from #939



JoshJosh answers from #939

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APRIL 18, 2026 ▪ 10AM-2PM

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