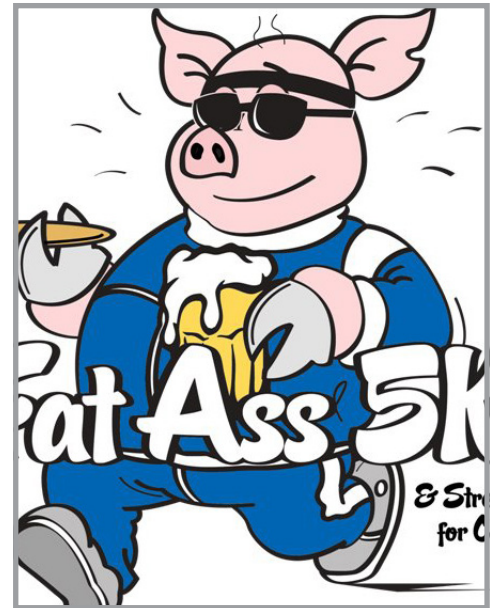




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FREE May 7-13, 2026 • Vol. 51, No. 41



PRISON OR TREATMENT?

Thousands participate in mental health courts.
Half graduate – and millions are left out
By Grace Hauck, Josh McGhee and Andrew Adams

The Animal Protective League's Upcoming Events

ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

STAR WARS THIS IS THE WAY TRIVIA NIGHT



- 9 rounds of general trivia, and one Special Prize Round of Star Wars themed trivia. *Each member of the victorious team in the Star Wars round will receive a prize basket from Pease's at BUNN Gourmet!*
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\$20 per person at the door

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Reserved table for 8-10
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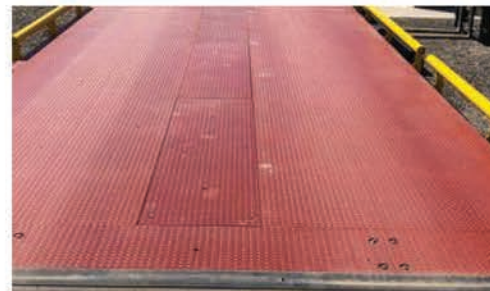
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“It didn’t have to end like that”

Jury awards \$3 million to family of man who died in custody at Jacksonville Correctional Center

COURTS | Scott Reeder

A federal jury in the Central District of Illinois has awarded \$3 million to the family of a man who died while incarcerated at Jacksonville Correctional Center, concluding that a prison doctor and a private medical contractor were negligent in failing to treat a life-threatening condition.

The verdict followed a weeklong trial in U.S. District Court in Springfield in the case of *Catrina Larkin vs. Wexford Health Sources Inc. and Dr. Thomas Baker*, according to court records. Jurors deliberated about 2½ hours before returning the award April 20.

“This was a jury trial, and I think the evidence was there,” said Louis Meyer, a Peoria civil rights attorney who represented the family in the case heard in Springfield. “The family did a good job describing the pain they’ve gone through losing their son and brother.”

But much of that pain, attorneys argued, stemmed from what Varner endured in the final weeks of his life – a steady decline marked by mounting symptoms that went largely unaddressed.

Chicago native Eugene Varner Jr., 43, was serving a five-year sentence on drug and firearm charges and was less than a year from release when he died on March 7, 2021.

After contracting COVID-19 in December 2020, Varner became seriously ill and required hospitalization, where doctors identified an elevated risk of blood clots and placed him on blood thinners. Records show that treatment was not continued when he returned to Jacksonville Correctional Center.

Weeks later, after slipping on a wet floor and injuring his knee, Varner’s condition worsened. He was placed on crutches, limiting his mobility – another major risk factor for clotting – yet was still not given anticoagulant medication.

According to trial testimony, Varner repeatedly sought help as his symptoms intensified. What began as knee pain evolved into swelling that spread down his leg and into his foot – a classic warning sign of deep vein thrombosis. Despite that, Meyer said, medical staff failed to recognize the significance of the change.

“He was telling them something was wrong with his leg,” Meyer said. “The swelling wasn’t getting better – it was getting worse and extending. That’s a red flag.”

Varner also began experiencing shortness of breath, another hallmark symptom of a



Eugene Varner died at age 43 while in custody at Jacksonville Correctional Center after a doctor failed to treat a life-threatening condition. PHOTO COURTESY CATRINA LARKIN

potentially fatal pulmonary embolism. Instead of triggering further testing or treatment, those complaints were dismissed, with medical staff attributing his condition to less serious causes, including diet, according to testimony, Meyer said.

“They never did a workup. They never tried to confirm what was going on,” he added.

A physician who reviewed the case for the family concluded that Varner had multiple, compounding risk factors – including a prior history of deep vein thrombosis, recent COVID-19 infection, elevated clotting indicators, trauma to his leg and prolonged immobility – all of which should have prompted preventative treatment with anticoagulants. Instead, Varner’s condition continued to deteriorate. In the days before his death, he complained to family members about severe leg pain and difficulty breathing.

His sister, Katrina Larkin, said she could hear the strain in his voice during their final conversations.

“He was in so much pain in his leg and his

feet,” she said. “And I could hear that he was short-winded.”

Despite those symptoms, he was told he would have to wait days to see medical staff again, she said.

On the morning of March 7, 2021, Varner was found in distress – sweating heavily, struggling to breathe and in acute medical crisis. He went into cardiac arrest and could not be revived. An autopsy later determined he died from a pulmonary embolism caused by a blood clot in his leg.

A reviewing physician concluded that, more likely than not, Varner would have survived had he received appropriate anticoagulation treatment.

Outside of prison, Varner was known as a hard worker and caregiver. Family members said he held factory jobs earlier in life and later became the primary caretaker for his mother after she underwent traumatic brain surgery. He also earned money as a licensed street vendor in Chicago, selling light-up toys and novelties at large events such as festivals and

gatherings in Grant Park. He never married and did not have children but remained close to his mother and sisters.

Jurors ultimately found both Wexford Health Sources, the private company contracted to provide prison health care, and Baker liable for medical negligence, though they rejected a separate constitutional claim alleging deliberate indifference.

Meyer said jurors indicated after the trial that the legal standard for the constitutional claim was difficult to meet.

“They thought it basically meant the doctor had to completely abandon the patient,” he said.

For Varner’s family, the verdict brought a measure of accountability but little comfort.

“It’s bittersweet,” said Larkin. “Justice was served for my brother, but it’s not going to bring him back.”

She described her brother – known as “Mookie” – as a kind and gentle man who cared for others, including helping elderly neighbors and serving as a caregiver for their mother.

“He didn’t deserve to die in the hands of the correctional facility that way,” she said. “It didn’t have to end like that.”

Larkin said she still vividly remembers the call informing her of his death.

“That was the worst day of my life,” she said. “I can’t get that phone call out of my head.”

The case underscores broader concerns about medical care in Illinois prisons, where services are provided by private contractors. Meyer said complaints from inmates about delayed or inadequate care are common.

“We get letters daily from inmates complaining of medical care,” he said. “It’s routine.”

The jury’s verdict applied only to Wexford and Baker; the state of Illinois was not a defendant in the case.

Springfield lawyer Joseph N. Rupcich, who represents Wexford Health and Baker, did not immediately respond to a request for comment from *Illinois Times*.

Larkin said the family hopes to use part of the award to start a transportation business to help families visit incarcerated loved ones – an idea inspired by her brother. They plan to name it “Mookie’s Transportation.”

“We want to do something positive in his name,” she said. □

Developer pledges \$65 million annually

Data center project would more than double Logan County's annual property tax collections

DATA CENTERS | Dean Olsen

Regardless of whether estimated new property taxes are accurate, Hut 8 Corp. would guarantee Logan County schools and local governments \$65 million a year in annual payments if the company's proposed data center becomes a reality.

Gregory Irwin, senior vice president of energy origination and asset management for the Florida-based company, made that pledge April 29 during a contentious three-hour meeting of the Logan County Board.

About 100 people, almost all of them opposed to Hut 8's proposed 500-megawatt, \$5 billion Logan Prairie Data Center to be built on about 250 acres of farm ground near Latham, attended the meeting in the rotunda of the county courthouse in Lincoln. The board called the meeting to discuss requests from the public to extend a 60-day moratorium on accepting data center applications after the moratorium expired in late April.

Many attendees indicated they were upset when the board voted unanimously to postpone consideration of a moratorium extension until the board's Zoning and Economic Development Committee discusses the matter. The committee will meet on the issue at 6 p.m. May 13 at the Oasis Senior Center, 2810 Woodlawn Road, Lincoln.

In the meantime, two Logan County governmental bodies are considering making recommendations to the County Board on a proposed ordinance that would allow Hut 8 to build the data center by requesting county approval for a "conditional use" permit. Such a permit would put certain requirements and commitments in writing.

Without that regulatory path, the only option for the company would be to ask the County Board to change the proposed site's agricultural zoning to a different classification.

The approval process has been slowed somewhat by the recent resignation of District 5 County Board member Michael DeRoss. He had spearheaded the board's initial evaluation of Hut 8's first application, which the company withdrew in December with plans to resubmit.

DeRoss, 68, a retired Chicago Public Schools political science teacher, was appointed to the all-Republican County Board in 2023 and elected in 2024. He said he resigned because his \$65-per-meeting pay as a board member wasn't worth the stress of



Amanda Maxheimer, a founder of Sustain Logan County Communities, tells the Logan County Board during an April 29 meeting that she and most of the other 100 people attending the meeting expected the board to vote on potentially extending a 60-day moratorium on accepting data center zoning applications. Instead, the board decided to delay a decision. PHOTO BY DEAN OLSEN

being accused by data center opponents of accepting bribes from Hut 8 and subjected to other insults. The stress included a death threat that he reported to the Logan County Sheriff's Office, he said.

DeRoss said he was leaning toward supporting the Hut 8 project because of the new jobs it could bring but wanted to hear more.

He faced scorn on social media for alleging the local Democratic Party was behind the opposition. A Democratic official denied that was the case.

DeRoss, whose name is still on the November ballot for County Board, said he hasn't decided whether he will formally withdraw his candidacy and eliminate the possibility of being re-elected.

Hut 8 officials have said the proposed data center, which would rent space to technology companies for their computer servers to support internet functions and artificial intelligence around the world, would generate up to \$65 million a year in new Logan County property taxes. For perspective, total property tax collections from all property owners in Logan County by all taxing bodies amount to \$55 million annually.

Opponents of the project, which include Logan County Indivisible and Sustain Logan County Communities, have said Hut 8's estimates for new property tax benefits may be overblown. Opponents note that

Sangamon County officials have estimated a 634-megawatt, \$500 million data center proposed by Dallas-based CyrusOne and recently approved by the Sangamon County Board for Talkington Township would generate \$5 million to \$6 million in new property taxes.

Jennifer Bryant, the Logan County supervisor of assessments, said she hasn't yet received enough information from Hut 8 to make a precise estimate.

But based on the way Meta's data center in DeKalb was assessed, it appears that Hut 8's 1-million-square-foot data center would generate \$245 million for Logan County taxing bodies over a 15-year period.

That would amount to a \$16 million-per-year increase in total tax collections for the affected taxing bodies, such as the Mount Pulaski school district and Logan County government. Such an amount is one-quarter of Hut 8's estimate but still double the property tax revenue estimates for the 1.8-million-square-foot CyrusOne project.

If new property taxes would come up short of \$65 million annually, Irwin said Hut 8 would be willing to specify in its conditional use permit that the company would make up the difference in a "community benefit agreement" with county government officials.

"The goal is to give the county more certainty, not vague economic projections," Hut 8 officials said in a question-and-answer

sheet distributed at the April 29 meeting. Central Illinois building trade unions have supported the project, which Hut 8 said would create about 1,500 temporary construction jobs and 100 to 200 full-time positions.

"Data center development is not going away anytime soon," Riki Dial Jr., district director of the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council, wrote in a letter to Logan County Board members. "It comprises one of the fastest growing sectors of the construction industry, and if we don't build them, someone else will. Turning down such projects sends a chilling effect throughout the development community that Logan County is not a hospitable place to do business."

Rachel Stechman, a resident of Atlanta, Illinois, and founder of Logan County Indivisible, said there's a "lack of transparency" by county officials and a "lot of distrust between the residents and the county's governmental bodies."

She said emails from Hut 8 to county officials that Indivisible obtained through the Freedom of Information Act contributed to residents' skepticism and demonstrated high-pressure tactics Hut 8 is using to win approval.

The emails show detailed changes that Hut 8 has made in data center ordinance drafts. A Feb. 23 email from Irwin says a battery-storage facility, proposed by a different company, would likely be built at or near the Hut 8 site if the Hut 8 plan fails. A battery storage site would generate a fraction of the jobs and new taxes compared with a data center, Irwin wrote.

Irwin said in the same email that further delays in approval from the county would doom the Hut 8 project.

District 6 County Board member Dale Nelson said it isn't illegal or unethical for Hut 8 officials and other people to make suggestions about the data center ordinance. All of those suggestions will be considered by the Logan County Regional Planning Commission, Logan County Zoning Board of Appeals and ultimately by the County Board, he said.

Nelson said the board "has made every effort to address and respond to the questions and recommendations presented by" opponents of the Hut 8 project. □

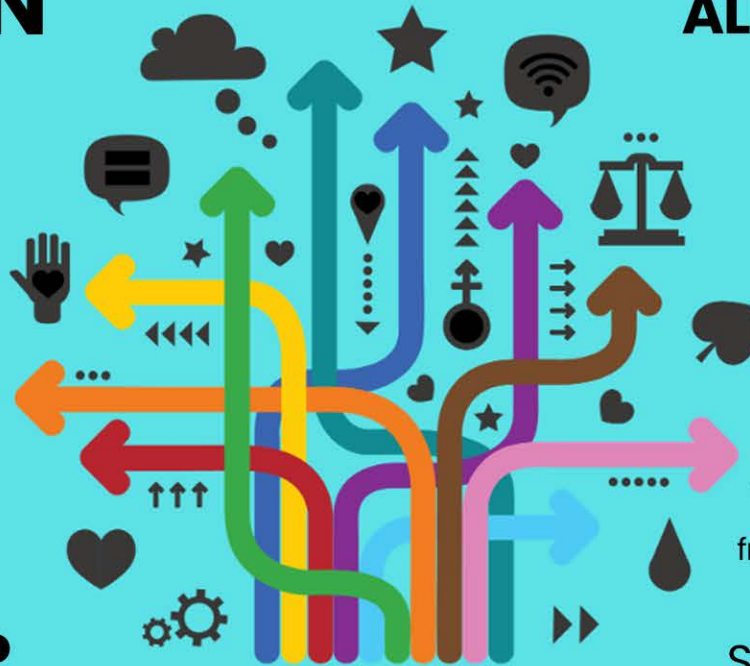
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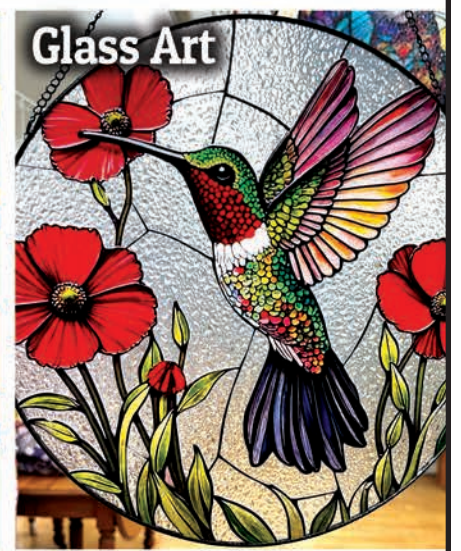
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Landowner leans on school districts

“If you are not in support (of the data center)... we will direct our resources and efforts to other communities”

DATA CENTERS | Dilpreet Raju

Dowson Family Farms, which has four parcels of land under contract to CyrusOne for construction of a \$500 million data center project in Talkington Township, has been contacting area school officials to tout “a once-in-a-lifetime tax revenue opportunity.”

Darrel Thoma, chief financial officer of Dowson Family Farms, sent a follow-up email April 3 to Becca Lamon, superintendent of Ball-Chatham School District, to bolster support of the CyrusOne project. The emails, which were obtained by *Illinois Times* through a Freedom of Information Act request, show how the Divernon-based company pitched CyrusOne’s project to education officials. And Thoma made it clear that CyrusOne would, if necessary, turn its attention and cash infusions to other school districts.

Thoma told the Ball-Chatham superintendent that CyrusOne had committed to assisting local trade schools and committed to giving \$2 million each to the Chatham and Auburn school districts over the next five years.

“What an amazing benefit. However, this will not happen unless it goes to vote and it passes,” Thoma warned in the email, just days before the Sangamon County Board ultimately approved the project in a 17-10 vote April 7.

He added that the Auburn School District’s leadership was supportive of the proposal.

“Auburn School Board is excited and is reaching out to the County Board members showing their support. I am asking that you also consider the benefits to the community and reach out to the board members. If you know someone personally, it would be great to contact them directly, or you can send an email to all the board members,” he continued. “If you are not in support, then that is OK, as we will direct our resources and efforts to other communities.”

A FOIA request sent to Auburn School District asking for similar communications returned no results, according to superintendent Darren Root, who is also the district’s FOIA officer.

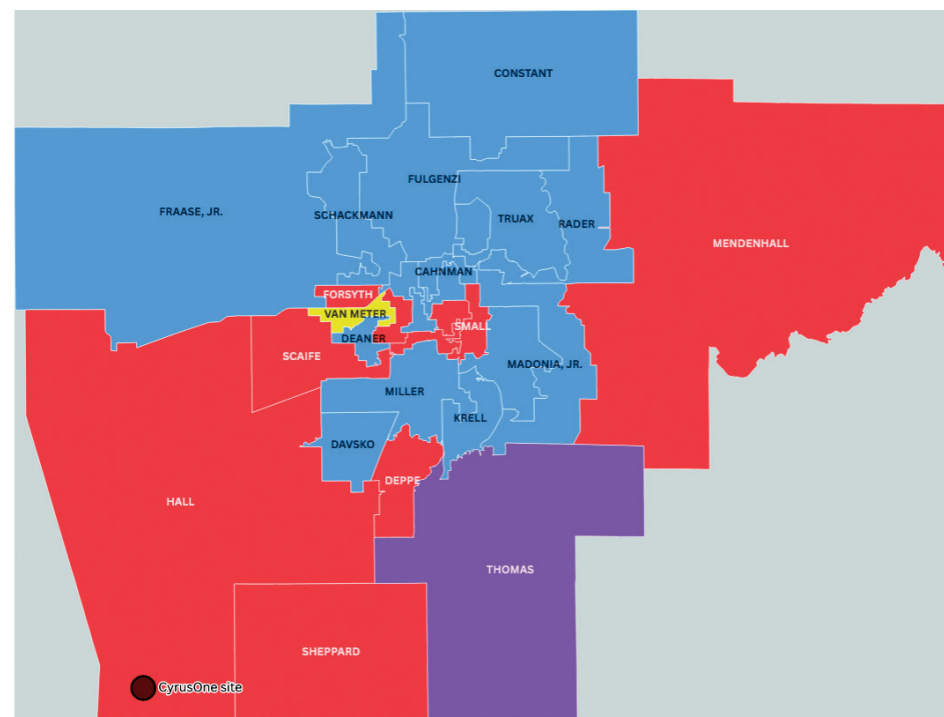
“It is not my place nor that of the school board to take a position on this matter,” Root wrote in an email to *Illinois Times* addressing Thoma’s April 3 comments obtained from the Ball-Chatham School District.

Thoma later told *Illinois Times* the

The CyrusOne data center proposal passed 17-10.

See how Sangamon County Board members voted at the April 7 meeting:

■ No ■ Yes ■ Abstained ■ n/a



Board Chair Andy Van Meter only votes when there is a tie. CHART BY DILPREET RAJU, ILLINOIS TIMES, MADE WITH FLOURISH.

statement about Auburn’s School Board showing support was “probably not worded correctly.”

He said the statements and emails were ultimately unsuccessful in this instance since both County Board members representing Auburn and Chatham, Tracy Sheppard and Pam Deppe, voted against the proposal.

“I don’t know if they (Auburn School Board) reached out to the County Board members. I was expressing my position that if it was to go through, that obviously schools and communities were going to be receiving benefits,” Thoma said. “I have no clue whether they contacted one single person. It’s not quite worded right – it should have said that they were excited about the chance of receiving funds.”

Thoma also told *Illinois Times* the \$2 million figure he referenced in the April 3 email is not certain.

“I don’t know the exact amount; those are the numbers that I heard or were rumored and

I know it was over several years,” he said. “It was communicated... at the (April) County Board meeting that CyrusOne was reaching out and helping both those school districts.”

Thoma originally contacted the superintendent of Ball-Chatham School District on March 18, requesting that Lamon join him and Chatham village president Dave Kimsey for a meeting the following day.

“We did the Double Black Diamond (DBD) solar project and are currently working with CyrusOne on the proposed data center. DBD will provide over \$40 million in tax revenue to the North Mac and Waverly school districts and the data center will provide an additional \$65 million. So if passed, these projects will bring in over \$100 million for those local school districts. Truly something that is unimaginable for these schools,” Thoma wrote. “Chatham has a tremendous opportunity for future projects, but we just need to know if there is support or if we need to direct these projects outside the area.”

When contacted May 4, Kimsey told *Illinois Times* he’s not sure he “would have any information to add regarding the CyrusOne project.”

Lamon, who said she did not attend the March 19 meeting but did eventually have a meeting about the project, told *IT* she has not heard anything about the proposed community benefits agreement since it was announced.

“Besides the initial announcement, I’ve had no communication on that,” Lamon said. “The district takes a neutral stand on those types of projects unless they directly affect the school system, so unless something is going to directly affect the outcomes for my students in the educational space, we’ve not weighed in.”

“There’s always a need for us to improve upon our structures and any additional funding that could help offset that for our taxpayers would be beneficial,” she said. “This is an interesting project because it’s not within our school system, so it’s not within my boundaries. While it is within the county’s boundaries, the impact to our school system is very minimal.”

The impact to nearby North Mac School District, which would be a direct recipient of the property taxes paid by CyrusOne, could be massive, superintendent Kyle Hacke said.

“It’s going to be a very significant, positive development for us financially. If the numbers that have been shared with me are correct, it’s going to mean over a \$70 million increase in our EAV (equalized assessed value) ... that’s going to mean over \$2.5 million in revenue annually,” Hacke said.

“It will lower the tax rate and reduce the burden on our local taxpayers, so that’s the biggest shot in the arm – it’s going to be a reduction of our tax rate,” he said.

Waverly superintendent Rob Pipher took a more cautious stance, wanting to see the money come in before any plans are made.

“I’m not aware of if, when or how much we would receive. I have no plans for new money until I see it,” Pipher wrote.

CyrusOne plans to purchase four separate parcels of farmland that Dowson Farms, through various entities, bought in 2023 and 2025 for \$7.6 million total, according to county property records. The Texas-based company’s contract to purchase is not public, so it is not known how much CyrusOne plans to pay for the 280 acres. □

ABC loses State Fair contract

The nonprofit had operated the beer tents since 1954, will still handle gate admissions

STATE FAIR | Adrian Dater

Since the first term of Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidency, one organization – the American Business Club of Springfield – has volunteered to serve beer and other concessions at the Illinois State Fair, with their share of money earned funding grants to dozens of local charities. For the first time since 1954, ABC will no longer occupy that role.

Another group of local veterans, the Combined Veterans Association, lost their contract to operate a beer and beverage tent as well, after more than 50 years of service. Like ABC, the group is a volunteer organization, and the sales from the State Fair provide the sole operating income for many veterans' organizations.

Such services will now be performed by Nelson's Catering, based at 3005 Great Northern Ave. in Springfield, which received a new, two-year vendor contract from the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

"We are excited for the opportunity," Nelson's Catering spokesperson Mindy Beeler said. "We feel like we're in a great position to provide that service."

While Beeler said "the contracts aren't officially finalized yet," state records obtained by *Illinois Times* show a "notice of award" given to Nelson's Catering to "run the beer garden tents at the grandstand and multipurpose arena during the Illinois State Fair."

The contract stipulates that Nelson's will "provide the (Illinois Department of Agriculture) with 21% of gross sales of all drinks sold pursuant to this contract. Gross sales shall include tax and any transaction fee."

ABC submitted a bid of 15% back to IDOA, and previous bids usually ranged from 11% to

14% said Kevin Lust, one of the chairs of ABC's Admission Project at the fair, who has volunteered with ABC every year since 1996. Through the years, ABC has donated the bulk of its share of proceeds to dozens of charities, which Lust said has amounted to \$5.5 million overall. He said the 300-plus-member ABC is not happy over the loss of the vendor contract.

"We handed out more than \$150,000 to charities last year as part of our proceeds from our grandstand concessions contract. And, that goes away, because the money is now going to a for-profit entity," said Lust. "Everything we did out there, we used volunteers and not for profit."

ABC does still have a contract with the fair to run the admissions gates, which it has done since 2004, and Lust said ABC will continue to donate the bulk of proceeds from that contract to local charities. Lust said ABC donated about \$130,000 to charities last year from its gate admissions contract.

When asked if Nelson's Catering will continue ABC's tradition of donating a large share of proceeds to charities, Beeler told *Illinois Times*, "At this time, that's not really for me to comment on, but we are very active in giving back to this community, and that will definitely be part of the scope of what we do there."

Nelson's Catering has given more than \$100,000 to local organizations from proceeds of catering large fundraising events, according to the company's website.

Why did IDOA switch from a vendor that had been providing service for the past 71 years? A larger share of money would seem to be the most obvious answer, but will that be worth the potential bad public relations?



American Business Club served as Grand Marshal for the 2025 Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade. PHOTO COURTESY AMERICAN BUSINESS CLUB

Lori Harlan, public affairs officer at IDOA provided the following written statement in response to an inquiry from *Illinois Times*: "As a state agency, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Illinois State Fair, is statutorily required to follow the Illinois Procurement Code. The Procurement Code declares it state policy that agencies follow competitive bidding processes for purchases and contracts."

ABC president Trent Thompson tried to strike a diplomatic tone.

"It's a disappointment. It'll hurt us, kind of, but, really, it hurts our community," Thompson said. "We've taken all those funds that we've

earned in that time and have given to the community."

Those charitable organizations had to "earn it, and still have to apply" for grants from ABC, Thompson said, but "they're going to miss out on an opportunity to get some funding that will help them continue with some of the programs they do."

"At the same time, we've just got to buckle down and say, 'Hey, what do we do next and how do we continue to focus toward getting to our mission? It's gonna be tough, but we'll figure something out. But, yes, it was kind of a shock to us.'" □



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OPINION

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

NEED TO LOOK FORWARD

The folks walking through the doors of Studio on 6th every week would beg to differ (“Tourism is up, but downtown is hurting,” April 23). Downtown isn’t running on just “locals popping in on a whim.” The heartbeat right now is tourism – and it’s strong. People travel here on purpose for the Old State Capitol, Dana-Thomas House, Route 66 and the deep roots of Abraham Lincoln’s story. You might be used to it – but they’re not. They’re excited, curious and spending time (and money) experiencing it.

And here’s the part people miss: downtown is shifting. Businesses, artists, historical sites and tourism groups are actually working together to create something new – not just sit around wishing it was what it used to be. That takes time, energy, and yes– people willing to show up with something other than complaints.

Are there challenges? Of course. Every downtown across the country is navigating them. Conversations about safety, support systems and access to care matter – but writing off an entire district doesn’t fix any of it.

Parking? It exists. Events? Constant. Between the *Illinois Times* calendar, Visit Springfield and Downtown Springfield, Inc., there’s something happening more often than not. Farmers markets, art shows, Pride, live music, classes, pop-ups – it’s all there if you’re willing to look.

And the idea that nobody shops downtown? That’s just not reality. People absolutely do – especially when they’re visiting. They love finding things they can’t get in a big box store: handmade, local, one-of-a-kind. That’s the magic.

If downtown isn’t your place, that’s OK. Truly. But calling it “nothing” or “dead” doesn’t make it true – it just drowns out the very real momentum happening. Because

from where I stand, it’s not empty. It’s evolving.

Before we keep saying “downtown is dangerous,” go look at the actual numbers for yourself. Check reports from the Springfield Police Department. Don’t take my word for it – or anyone else’s loud opinion – go see what’s really being reported. You’ll see that what happens downtown is mostly things like theft, car break-ins and occasional vandalism – the kind of everyday nuisance stuff that happens anywhere people gather, not the extreme picture people like to paint.

I don’t see “crime” the way it’s being described. What I do see at times are people struggling – mental health, hard days, real-life situations. That’s not something to ignore, but it’s also not the same thing. Am I afraid of downtown? No. Am I naive enough to think I can walk around in total oblivion? Also no.

And here’s the part that gets skipped: a lot of the more serious crime in Springfield happens in residential areas, not in the downtown tourism and business district. What happens downtown is more visible, so it feels bigger than it actually is.

Meanwhile, downtown isn’t sitting still. Businesses, artists, tourism and historical agencies are working together to build something forward – not just look in the rearview mirror. At Studio on 6th, we’re part of that – creating experiences inside places like the Old State Capitol and the Dana-Thomas House – bringing people in to create, connect and actually enjoy what’s here.

I have worked in some capacity downtown since 1989 and know the ebb and flow of downtown life. I just get sick and tired of hearing the people who complain but never come down and celebrate, promote and cherish our downtown businesses and heartbeat.

Jenny Suttill

Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

NEED STUDENTS

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Left, Kidzeum executive director Leah Wilson and Elisa Fox, director of development and marketing, with the My Heart’s Downtown sculpture that Ace Sign Co. installed on the Old Capitol Plaza. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

Southern Illinois University Carbondale and University of Illinois need a small law campus for third-year law students, and University of Illinois Springfield needs a campus for public policy and public affairs students. Five hundred students living downtown would be a heck of a good start.

Grant Hammer

Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

NEED A BAR SCENE

Let’s face it, a big part of downtown used to be the bar scene. Young adults aren’t imbibing at bars as in the past. And coupled with not feeling safe downtown, I can’t blame them. We personally go downtown and support our faves, but not sure for how much longer. I hope the current team (of downtown leadership) can turn it around. Good cities have a good downtown. I hope it comes alive again.

Jason Curry

Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

NEED GOOD LANDLORDS

The systemic problem of business downtown isn’t a parking problem or a homelessness problem. We have a landlord problem downtown. Mega-corporations, hedge funds and out-of-state landlords don’t put in the work to maintain historic buildings and charge outrageous rent prices. They need to be held accountable in order for downtown to grow and move forward.


Stephen Sybert


Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

CORREX

“Tourism is up, but downtown is hurting” incorrectly stated that the former Wells Fargo office building in Springfield has become the new headquarters for the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS). The office building, now the CMS Regional Complex (CRC), does not serve as the agency’s headquarters. CRC does provide office space for several state agencies including CMS, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and others.




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OPINION

Progressives push tax ideas

POLITICS | Rich Miller

More than a year ago, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget was projecting a \$3.2 billion deficit for what is now the current fiscal year.

Part of the problem was that existing revenues were flat while spending was growing, according to the budget office.

This is a recurring problem in Illinois. The previous fiscal year's projections were also astonishingly poor. The Chicago-based Civic Federation issued a report last week which delves a bit deeper into why it is a recurring problem.

Next fiscal year's spending plan achieves balance "through a mixture of modest spending restraint, tweaking existing taxes, and levying new ones," the Civic Federation reported.

New tax increases, not natural revenue growth from taxation derived from economic expansion, have helped keep the state afloat.

Since the income tax was raised in the summer of 2017, receipts from personal and corporate income taxes and sales taxes have grown 7.4 percent every year, the group found. That's above the annual non-Medicaid core expenditures ("K-12 education, human services, transportation, and other services") of 6.6 percent annual growth.

Without that 2017 income tax hike, annual income and sales tax growth since then would've been just 5.2 percent – which is well below the 6.6 percent annual non-Medicaid core spending growth.

"The good news is that over the past decade, the State's growth in expenditures has essentially been met with commensurate revenue growth," the Civic Federation reported. "The bad news is that this recent revenue growth is not sustainable." The state will eventually run out of options, the group predicted.

And while cutting state spending is always mentioned as an option, it's important to remember some things. The state's K-12 education funding law mandates annual increases. Medicaid costs rise with medical inflation (which pretty much always outpace the headline inflation number). And pension costs increase every year. Those three things represent most of the annual spending increases, meaning that other state programs would have to be slashed even further.

Also, keep in mind that spending on core services this coming fiscal year is projected to be 13 percent lower than it was in Fiscal Year 2000 under Gov. George Ryan, according to the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.

This helps explain why progressive groups and legislators are demanding new taxes on the wealthy. With the added fiscal pressures imposed

by the Trump administration on top of the inability of the state to fully fund pretty much any social services program it has, they're fed up and more people are recognizing the problem.

The Senate Progressive Caucus, the Affordability and Tax Justice Coalition and the Illinois Revenue Alliance all issued statements in the wake of the House's passage of the Bears/megaprojects demanding the same urgency and effort be focused on progressive revenue ideas.

Sen. Karina Villa (D-West Chicago), for example, had this to say about the House action on Bears/megaprojects and its refusal to take up a millionaire's income tax surcharge: "Illinois families were told there was not enough time to ask the wealthiest few to pay more. Yet there was time to move a Bears package that even the Bears management themselves say still needs changes. When Springfield decides something is urgent, it finds the time. Working families deserve to be treated as urgent too."

The Affordability and Tax Justice Coalition has several progressive legislators on its executive committee and is pushing bills to create a digital advertising tax, close corporate loopholes and further decouple from federal corporate tax cuts, enact "world wide combined reporting"

and "close luxury loopholes for millionaires." The group demanded that those bills "must now become the central focus of our work for the next four weeks."

The Illinois Revenue Alliance had this to say: "On May 1st, thousands of Illinoisans will begin losing SNAP benefits, while the ultra-rich and mega developers continue to get tax breaks. (The House's) vote on the Megaproject bill is proof that when there is political will, there is a way."

I've seen these progressive revenue pushes come and go for decades. But the legislators and the groups behind them seem (to my eyes) much more organized, disciplined and mindful of the requirements needed for passing major legislation than before.

So, this could very well be the biggest story to watch during the rest of the spring legislative session. It would definitely be quite something if a Bears stadium deal helped achieve a decades-long progressive policy goal.

But the Civic Federation warned about another Illinois problem: Economic growth. The state is lagging badly in employment growth and GDP growth. What we could end up with is continuing the trend of substantially more revenues from ever-lower growth. □

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Springfield's story isn't decline

It's transition, and Illinois is investing in its future

GUESTWORK | Andy Manar, Raven A. DeVaughn

The recent article “Tourism is up, but downtown is hurting” (April 23) captures a reality many Springfield residents and business owners feel every day: change is underway, and not all of it has been easy. Empty storefronts, the closure of a major downtown hotel and the lingering effects of a devastating fire have created real challenges for the heart of our capital city.

But that is not the whole story. And it's important we don't mistake a period of transition for a narrative of decline.

Springfield is evolving, as cities across the country are, and substantial investments are being made to ensure its downtown remains not only relevant, but resilient.

Start with the role of state government. For generations, downtown Springfield depended heavily on a daily influx of state workers. That model has shifted, accelerated by the pandemic and the rise of remote and hybrid work. But contrary to the notion that the state is pulling back from Springfield, the opposite is true.

In Sangamon County alone, the state workforce has grown 31% over the past decade. And over the last four years, 33-35% of all state of Illinois job postings are headquartered in Sangamon County, compared to 17-20% for Cook County. The number of state employees headquartered in Sangamon County has increased every year under Gov. JB Pritzker – the state's commitment to a stronger Springfield is unchanged.

At the same time, we've modernized how state government hires new talent. Just a few years ago, it could take nearly nine months to hire a state employee. Today, that process is faster and has reduced hiring cycle times by 65%. It's also more accessible and more equitable: cutting hiring timelines dramatically and expanding opportunity to applicants across the state. Applications have surged, vacancies have dropped and critical agencies that serve vulnerable residents are



Andy Manar, left, is the Illinois deputy governor for budget and economy and Raven A. DeVaughn is the director of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services. PHOTO COURTESY CMS

now far better staffed.

Those changes matter. They mean more efficient government and better services. But they also mean the traditional rhythms of downtown – built around an 8:30-to-5, in-person workforce – are different than they once were.

That shift is not unique to Springfield. Cities nationwide are rethinking what downtown looks like in a post-pandemic economy. The question isn't how to return to 2010. It's how to build something stronger for 2030 and beyond.

That's where Illinois' broader investments come into focus.

The state has committed more than \$1 billion to renovations and improvements across the Capitol Complex – projects that modernize infrastructure, preserve historic buildings and ensure state government maintains a strong, long-term presence in the city center. Through state initiatives like the Surplus to Success program, we are also working to convert unused or underutilized state-owned properties into economic development assets.

We've also been strategic about where and how we locate state facilities. The CMS

Regional Complex on Springfield's west side, for example, provides modern and accessible office space for multiple agencies. But it does not replace downtown operations. Core leadership and many agency functions remain firmly rooted in the city center.

These decisions are about more than office space. They're about stewardship of taxpayer resources and ensuring state government operates effectively in a changing world.

At the same time, we recognize that government alone cannot, and should not, define downtown Springfield's future.

Tourism is one piece of that future, and the outlook is strong. With major milestones like the Route 66 Centennial and the nation's 250th birthday, Springfield is poised to welcome record numbers of visitors. New attractions are bringing in entirely new audiences.

But tourism, by its nature, fluctuates. A vibrant downtown needs more: residents, small businesses, cultural destinations and third spaces, and consistent foot traffic that isn't tied to any single sector. And since most downtown Springfield office buildings are privately owned, many by out-of-state owners, the state is not responsible for capital

improvements to those properties. No single policy – or single entity – can make the needed changes overnight.

What we can do is stay focused on the bigger picture: building a Springfield that is more diversified, more dynamic and less dependent on any one driver of economic activity.

That's the work underway today. The story of Springfield is not one of abandonment. It is one of adaptation. Investments are being made by state government, not withdrawn. And while the path forward may look different than the past, it holds real opportunity.

Downtown Springfield has always been the symbolic and civic heart of Illinois. With thoughtful planning, continued investment and strong local partnerships, it can also be a model for how capitals across the country navigate this moment of change. A thriving downtown Springfield reflects investment across the board: increased residential

options, more eateries, green space and the level of walkability that makes a downtown a destination to be explored time and time again.

The challenges are real. But so is the momentum – and the commitment to ensuring Springfield's best days are still ahead. □

Andy Manar is the Illinois deputy governor for budget and economy. Prior to joining the governor's administration in January 2021, he was a member of the Illinois General Assembly. Manar was elected to the Illinois Senate in 2012 to serve the 48th district, which encompasses parts of Sangamon, Christian, Macoupin, Madison, Macon and Montgomery counties.

Raven A. DeVaughn is director of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services. She was appointed to her position in January 2023 by Gov. JB Pritzker and oversees 800 employees and an \$8 billion portfolio of responsibilities including statewide hiring and personnel, purchasing, property management and fleet management.

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Mental health court participants Shayla Woodworth, Daniel Brown and Shawn Gibson (left to right) each shared their experiences with Illinois mental health courts in video interviews. SCREENSHOTS FROM VIDEO PRODUCED BY KYLE PRATT.

Prison or treatment?

Thousands participate in mental health courts. Half graduate – and millions are left out

MENTAL HEALTH | Grace Hauck, Josh McGhee and Andrew Adams

This story is a collaboration between Illinois Answers and the Chicago bureau of [MindSite News](#).

Bloomington native Shayla Woodworth had struggled with mental illness and addiction since she was a teen and spent time in jail in three states. She'd heard of mental health courts before but didn't know much about them, and assumed they were something of a joke.

Then, in 2023, she and her husband stole a car, drove it to the parking lot of a Love's gas station and fell asleep. They woke up to flashing lights, surrounded by police officers shouting at them with guns drawn. Officers took them to McLean County Jail.

Suddenly, mental health court seemed like it might not be such a bad idea, after all – a way to stay out of prison, change her life and get her children back.

"I really had to sit with myself and make a decision," Woodworth said. "I knew that if I went to prison ... I was going to keep repeating the same thing."

Mental health courts have proliferated across the U.S. in recent decades, promising to end vicious and expensive cycles of incarceration by diverting people with mental illness into community-based supervision and treatment. They're a type of "problem-solving" court, along with other specialized dockets like drug, veterans and family treatment courts.

The courts aim to reduce recidivism, increase compliance with treatment and improve quality of life. But the process can be long and arduous for participants who are often navigating poverty, housing instability and social isolation. Programs typically last one to two years and require regular court appearances, counseling and random drug

tests. Success can depend on whether a county has enough treatment, housing, transit and community support to make diversion real.

Nationally, research has shown mental health courts reduce recidivism, but it's unclear if they improve psychiatric symptoms. Critics say the courts have outpaced research on their effectiveness, coerce people into treatment, result in longer justice system involvement, intervene too late and distract from other reforms. Others say programs may encourage police to arrest someone in order to connect them with treatment.

"Mental health courts aren't a solution. They're a symptom of our systemic problems in the mental health system," said Tony Ohlhausen, director of research and policy with the Illinois chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. "They do great

work, and people do benefit from them. But I would categorize mental health courts as a band-aid."

Proponents say the programs save money. Every year, Illinois prisons incarcerate about 30,000 people at a total estimated cost of \$1.5 billion. Nearly half of those people have a history of mental illness. By diverting people from prison through mental health courts and other interventions, one Illinois program estimates it has saved the state nearly half a billion by avoiding incarceration costs over the past 15 years, with \$85 million expected to be saved this fiscal year.

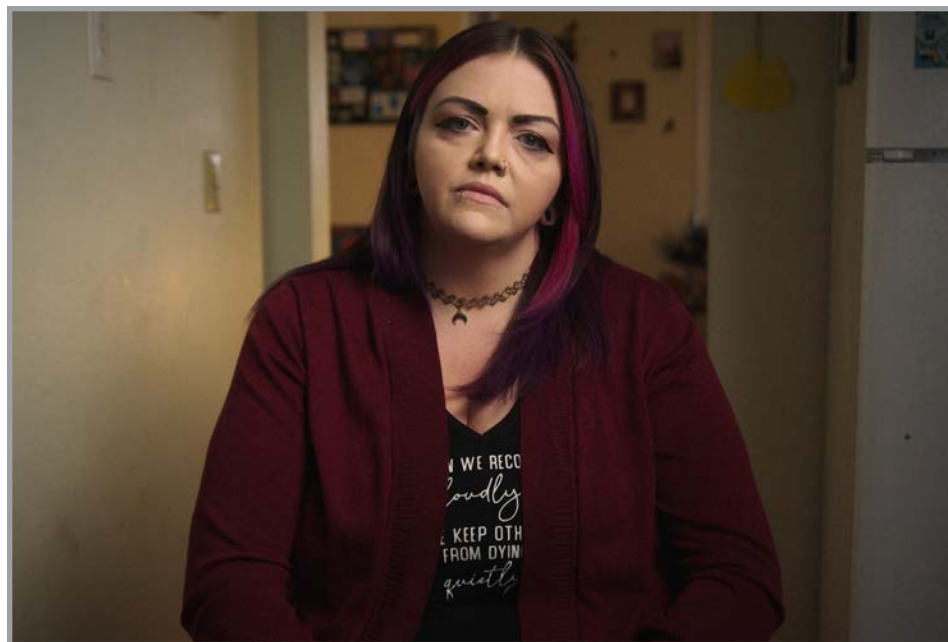
In Illinois, it can be hard to get information on what's happening inside courts. The judiciary is exempt from public-records requests and doesn't publish annual reports on problem-solving courts. Michigan, by contrast, publishes detailed data on

program cost and efficacy.

Despite limited research and transparency, Illinois counties have continued to launch new mental health courts, and advocates call for more, raising big questions about fiscal accountability and oversight. Meanwhile, the Trump administration has voiced support for mental health courts, even while cutting Medicaid – the nation’s single largest funder of mental health services.

In recent months, the Illinois Answers Project and MindSite News reached out to every court in Illinois for data, collected public records from grant-funded courts and interviewed officials and participants to give a complete picture of the state’s mental health courts. What emerges is a promising model with limited funds supporting small oases in an otherwise barren desert.

Woodworth successfully completed her program and says it transformed her life. But that’s rare. Most applicants are rejected because of prior offenses, refusal to undergo an evaluation or other disqualifying factors. Of those who are accepted, just half graduate.



Bloomington native Shayla Woodworth struggled with mental illness and addiction and was caught in a cycle of drugs, homelessness and repeated brushes with the law. Graduating from a mental health court program has helped her get her life back on track. SCREENSHOT FROM VIDEO PRODUCED BY KYLE PRATT

Some are unable to participate or voluntarily withdraw. A small number have died. Others, like Sean Buchanan, were cut from programs for refusing medication or committing new crimes.

“I was abusing my medicine, really, and that led to my downfall,” he said.

Nearly two million Illinoisans don’t have access to mental health courts to begin with.

“Sure, there are some bumps in the road,” said Bill Blundell, problem-solving court manager for the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC). “But from my point of view, they’re successful because people are

getting the help that they need at a much more intense rate than they may if they were just on regular probation or they were incarcerated.”

Thousands participate in mental health court

Woodworth said her mental health unraveled in high school after her father, a local police sergeant, was arrested and later convicted of raping four women. She fell into a cycle of drugs, homelessness and repeated brushes with the law. Then her brother died from an overdose, and she didn’t know how to cope.

“In my brain, I was either going to be dead or in prison for the rest of my life at 30 because I was going so hard,” Woodworth said. She applied for mental health court, and after several months in jail, was accepted.

Woodworth is one of more than 6,000 people who have participated in a mental health court in Illinois over the past two decades, according to data provided by courts. The true total is likely higher, as courts lost some early data when they transitioned to

newer computer systems. Even so, it’s a tiny percentage of the more than 200,000 criminal cases filed annually.

Mental health courts began operating in Illinois in the early 2000s. In 2008, lawmakers passed the Illinois Mental Health Court Treatment Act, which allows the chief judge of each judicial circuit to establish a mental health court. Then, in 2015, the Illinois Supreme Court approved standards and a process for certifying problem-solving courts.

That same year, Loyola University Chicago researchers assessed recidivism in three counties and concluded that the answer

to whether mental health courts work is “a somewhat tentative ‘yes.’” Illinois took another look at the issue in 2020, when a literature review found the courts “generally show positive results” but “lack definitive evidence of their effectiveness.” As a result, the authors concluded, further expansion was “unjustified.” But courts continued to open.

AOIC has certified 31 mental health courts in Illinois, and most have been recertified, which Blundell said shows courts are working. None have been denied recertification, but if a court isn’t performing well, some additional training may be required, he said. Illinois is in the process of updating its standards, which are expected to emphasize treatment over punishment.

The state began building a new public dashboard to share data on problem-solving courts in 2022, and it’s still in the works. In response to questions, AOIC provided limited figures on mental health courts: Since 2017, 860 people have graduated, and 763 have failed to do so. That’s a slightly lower graduation rate than one recent nationwide study of mental health courts, which found 57% of people discharged from a program graduated. Graduation rates vary widely across the state.

Woodworth said she’s seen people relapse while in a program, or even after graduating. “Everybody has their own pathway to recovery,” she said. “But the seed is planted with the specialty courts.”

Some courts track data on demographics, outcomes and recidivism or contract independent evaluations. Several of the most recent county-level analyses available (in Cook, McHenry and Winnebago) show evidence of reduced recidivism. Other courts don’t keep data, citing limited staffing, funding and outdated computer systems. For some, the state’s recertification process is their only form of assessment. That makes it challenging to determine statewide not just whether mental health courts help, but which parts of the model matter most.

Court staff say graduation and reduced recidivism aren’t the only measures of success; they also point to reduced hospitalizations and improved quality of life, housing, relationships, employment and education. Those metrics can be harder to measure since courts often lose touch with participants after graduation, so the state has been developing an exit survey and collecting impact stories of graduates like Woodworth.

After being accepted into the program, Woodworth walked out of the lockup with a pair of jail-issued shoes and a paper booking slip. She moved to transitional housing. At the time, her husband was applying for drug court, and the court vetoed his application three times. Woodworth advocated for him, and he was eventually accepted and moved

into a sober living house.

As they progressed through the programs together, the Woodworths moved into a home with roommates and found work at a Jimmy John’s sandwich shop. But when they discovered drugs in the home, they left, choosing to live in a tent for a couple weeks rather than be tempted. The court helped them pay for a hotel and connected them with housing assistance.

Woodworth graduated in 2024 after more than a year in the program. She now serves on her county’s reentry council and advocates for criminal justice reform. She’s still in the process of sealing her charges so they’re not publicly accessible. Her husband graduated in August 2025 after two years. He chairs Narcotics Anonymous meetings, works with young violent offenders and runs an emotional wellness art group.

“I never in a million years thought that recovery was possible,” Woodworth said.

Sanctions and rewards

In mental health court, judges use a system of sanctions and rewards to incentivize compliance. Rewards include praise, gift cards and necessities like diapers, toothpaste or socks. Sanctions include admonishments,



Mental health court graduation ceremonies often feature pizza and cake. CREDIT: PROVIDED BY WILL COUNTY

writing assignments and jail time. Successful completion can lead to charges being dismissed and expunged. Failure can mean prison.

The courts typically focus on people who are high-risk and high-need, and most require a guilty plea. Court staff work in teams of a judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, probation officer, treatment provider, peer support specialist and case manager. Their camaraderie is often apparent at final graduation ceremonies, complete with pizza and cake.

At the state’s newest mental health court, in Kankakee, participants may receive fidget spinners, support from a service dog and the chance to spin a wheel for a prize. Last summer, a young woman who had been complying with regular drug testing received a hug from the judge and a box of Reese’s



There are 31 certified mental health courts in Illinois, but many counties, including Sangamon County, do not have one. PHOTO CREDIT: STOCK IMAGE

Pieces candy. A man who'd repeatedly missed appointments was sanctioned to 24 hours in jail and led out of the hushed courtroom in handcuffs.

Another participant, Sean Buchanan, pleaded to stay in the program. He had abused his medication, hallucinated and robbed an elderly acquaintance. He and his mother both asked the judge for another chance. But the judge cited a "concerning pattern" of behavior and cut him from the program. It was the court's first termination.

"I was doing really good until I got put on that medicine," Buchanan, 34, said on a call from prison, where he said he's not receiving treatment for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. "I was seeing things that weren't real."

People who don't graduate tend to have refused treatment or committed new offenses such as resisting arrest, drug possession, damaging property or domestic violence, said Kelvin McCabe, a public defender in Rock Island County.

Access to housing, transportation, and inpatient treatment are major barriers. Most participants rely heavily on state and federal benefits such as Medicaid. A 21-day inpatient program could be \$30,000, McCabe said, "so if they don't have insurance, they're certainly never going to be able to afford it because the people that we have are indigent or homeless."

This is a central reality of mental health courts: Many of the factors that determine success sit outside the courtroom. Participants may falter not only because of their symptoms or decisions, but also because they cannot get into treatment, cannot keep insurance, or lose services when providers fall away. Staff, too, struggle with burn-out and turnover.

A 2022 independent review of Will County's problem-solving courts surveyed participants on barriers to participation. They

cited work conflicts, lack of transportation, physical and mental health symptoms, lack of child care and drug or alcohol use issues. Most participants relied on a public defender, and 39% reported being homeless at some point during the program.

"Be a little more flexible," one respondent urged the court. Others recommended staff increase availability on weekends, allow Zoom appearances, provide child care, reduce jail sanctions and help participants regain driver's licenses.

Another study, on Peoria's courts, recommended providing bus passes and gas vouchers. "I didn't have ample transportation," one participant told researchers. "Anytime I left the house, it was like going on a vacation, you know, planning everything out."

'A relief let off your shoulders'

Daniel Brown, 43, has been in and out of jail in Illinois and Indiana since his early 20s.



Daniel Brown had been in and out of jail since his early 20s. After a conviction in Cook County for retail theft, he was sentenced to mental health court and diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. He now sees a psychiatrist and case worker regularly and takes medication. SCREENSHOT FROM VIDEO PRODUCED BY KYLE PRATT

In 2015, he stole a bottle of alcohol and a box of mac and cheese. The theft landed him in Cook County Jail, where he stayed for months before pleading guilty to retail theft and being sentenced to mental health court.

Brown had dealt with mental illness his whole life, but it wasn't until mental health court that he received a diagnosis: schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. "It made sense when they explained it, because it broke down a lot of things I was dealing with," he said.

Brown said mental health court provided structure and support. Initially, it was difficult to forgo drinking and smoking marijuana. Eventually, Brown said, he "got tired" and "played the game." He stayed at a specialized rehab facility in Evanston. Then, court staff helped him find an apartment in Cicero. Along the way, he participated in a documentary about mental health court.

Brown graduated in 2017 after two years and had his charge dismissed. "It's like a relief let off your shoulders," he said.

Cook County is one of at least two counties that expunge charges automatically. In others, graduates have to apply for expungement themselves. At least two courts don't dismiss charges at all. Program durations also vary: sometimes longer than a typical criminal process, sometimes shorter.

Today, Brown regularly sees a psychiatrist and case worker and takes medication, which reduces his auditory hallucinations. Last year, he traveled to Jamaica for his father's funeral. In his living room, he keeps a framed newsclipping of his judge's retirement from mental health court, alongside a memorial card from the funeral and a Jamaican bank note.

"It gave me something to live for," Brown said, "something better to do with my time."



Kankakee County is home to the state's newest mental health court. PHOTO CREDIT: MRHARMAN, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Millions don't have access

On the second floor of the Kankakee County courthouse, a man appeared on the screen in an orange jumpsuit, asking to be admitted to mental health court. But while he had committed a crime in the county, he didn't reside there and could not be admitted. As the judge prepared to end the call, the man made a final plea.

"What do I have to do to get my mental health right?" he asked the judge.

She wished him "good luck" and moved on to the next case.

"You hate to turn away somebody who really needs help," Judge Lindsay Parkhurst said later in an interview. "... But you can't give quality help if you're diluting the services."

Nearly two million people in Illinois — nearly 15% of the state's population — live in counties with no mental health courts. Most courts only accept residents, but there is wiggle room. Kankakee has allowed people to relocate for the program, and Peoria has accepted residents from neighboring Tazewell. But it gets trickier when someone lives further away.

Retired Judge Mark Shaner previously oversaw 12 counties in southeastern Illinois, none of which have a mental health court. He said people in his circuit "certainly" need one, but that requires staff, funding and treatment providers. "Like so many things, it's resources," he said.

Champaign County is the most populous county in the state without a mental health court. It's also an area of high need. A 2019 survey showed one in five residents reported having a mental illness – the highest percentage of any region in Illinois. The county previously operated a mental health court, but it shut down in 2013 due to disagreements between the state's attorney and the judge overseeing the court. Other mental health courts have also closed.

Elisabeth Pollock, a public defender in Champaign, has been trying to restart the county's mental health court for years, calling it an "absolute necessity." But it's challenging to secure treatment providers, court staff and funding simultaneously. "It's not a matter of willingness," she said. "It's a matter of how to get it done."

In its 2026 policy platform, NAMI Illinois called on the state to expand mental health courts to all jurisdictions and ensure each court has "sufficient capacity." The group also urged Illinois to enact legislation expanding mental health court reciprocity across jurisdictions.

Ideally, every county would have a diversionary program, Blundell said. He helped launch three new drug courts last year, including one that serves three rural counties, which are "joining together to combine their resources."

Even some small counties have been able to make it work. In the Fourth Judicial Circuit, three counties – Effingham, Montgomery and Christian – each have fewer than 35,000 people and operate their own mental health courts. "We're trying to give services to the people we can with the resources that we have," said Wes Poggenpohl, an associate public defender in Montgomery County. "It's worth it."

Redeployed in Illinois

Navy veteran Shawn Gibson entered Grundy County's mental health court in 2024. He said trauma from his time in the military – including nine months deployed to the Persian Gulf starting in 2003 – led him down "a path of self-destruction."

He was living in Morris, Illinois, to help oversee a new power plant when he was charged with his sixth DUI, on Sept. 11, 2022. "I was having a bad moment," Gibson said. He faced four years in prison. That's when his attorney started talking to him about mental health court.

"It just finally clicked in my head that I haven't had time to help myself the way that I needed to. And I knew for a long time that I was really struggling," he said.

Gibson built his life around the program. He relocated back to Grundy County, supported himself on Veterans Affairs disability benefits and worked as a cook. He



Shawn Gibson says trauma from his time in the military led him down a path of self-destruction. He entered Grundy County's mental health court in 2024 after being charged with his sixth DUI. SCREENSHOT FROM VIDEO PRODUCED BY KYLE PRATT

completed the program ahead of schedule and is now back working at a power plant in Tennessee.

"The program really helped me to gain the tools that I needed to be able to live a life without being a victim of my own mind," Gibson said.

Mental health courts in Illinois rely on a combination of federal, state and local grants. Most, like Grundy County's, receive funding from Adult Redeploy Illinois, an initiative established by the Illinois Crime Reduction Act in 2009 to incentivize diversion. The act required jurisdictions to commit to reducing prison admissions by 25% in order to receive funding. In 2015, a state commission set a goal of reducing the prison population by a quarter within a decade. As of last year, it had dropped by 40% since 2009 due to a combination of factors, including a drop in crime and changing attitudes around sentencing.

Adult Redeploy is now a \$13 million initiative. Last year, about 60 diversion programs served nearly 3,000 people statewide. Approximately 80% of the programs are problem-solving courts.

The initiative is required to submit annual reports to the governor and legislature but failed to produce them on time in recent years, citing staffing limitations. Illinois Answers and MindSite News began inquiring about the program last year, and, a few months later, Adult Redeploy produced and publicly released reports on the four most recent years.

Last fiscal year, Adult Redeploy estimates its programs saved the state \$83 million. The

average cost of an intervention was a little over \$4,000 per participant, compared to an average incarceration cost of nearly \$53,000 per person annually. Those estimates, however, have not been independently audited.

Like Gibson, more than half of Adult Redeploy participants successfully completed their programs last fiscal year. And since 2009, nearly two-thirds of all participants have stayed out of prison. All told, more than 11,000 people have been diverted, saving \$485 million in incarceration costs.

Mental health courts are just one small part of Adult Redeploy and may also be more expensive than the average program intervention. But because the grants fund a variety of local services, estimating per-client mental health costs "would be difficult without a full study," said Cristin Evans, a spokesperson for the program.

"Even if it breaks even, this is the more humane thing to do," said Michelle O'Brien, a consultant with the National Center for State Courts who has trained court staff across Illinois.

Funding for mental health courts typically goes toward treatment providers and contracted services, O'Brien said. It's important to have multiple sources of funding, she said, "because we never know when one of those funding sources might end."

Last summer, Grundy County's health board abruptly shut down its mental health programming, forcing the court to contract new providers. Participants faced a temporary gap in services. "For me, it took me a month and a half to get reestablished with a

therapist," Gibson said.

Funding cuts under the current administration also present challenges. In July, Trump issued a widely criticized executive order on "ending crime and disorder on America's streets" that pointed to mental health courts as "an effective method of addressing homelessness" and directed the attorney general to "prioritize available funding" to support their expansion.

But the administration has slashed social services that program participants rely upon, including Medicaid. As many as 400,000 Illinois residents are estimated to be at risk of losing their coverage due to sweeping changes to the public insurance program in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Taking a trillion dollars out of Medicaid over the next decade is "not increasing access to mental health treatment," Ohlhausen said.

Earlier this year, the administration announced plans to cut nearly \$2 billion in funding to mental health and addiction programs nationwide. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reversed course hours later, but the incident set off alarm bells through Illinois' courts system.

Blundell said he hopes Illinois mental health courts will continue receiving federal funding. One current Bureau of Justice Assistance grant is "business as usual" so far, he said.

"What that looks like in the future," he said, "I don't know."

Have you or a loved one gone through a mental health court program? Reach out to us at ghauck@illinoisanswers.org and josh.mcgee@mindsitenews.org. This story was made possible by a grant from The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation to the Illinois Answers Project.

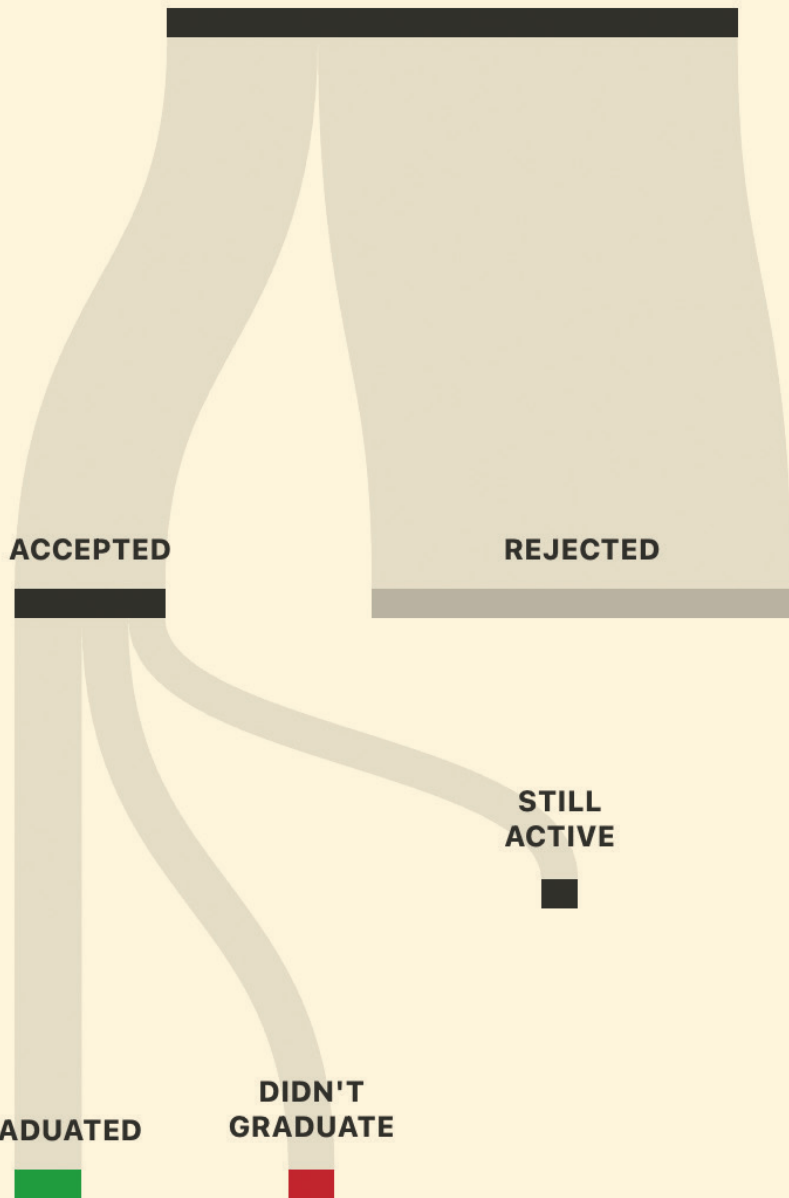
Grace Hauck is an investigative reporter with Illinois Answers Project's State Investigations Team. Before joining Illinois Answers, she worked for USA TODAY in Chicago in various roles, including breaking news, enterprise and criminal justice reporting.

Josh McGhee is the Chicago bureau chief of MindSite News and covers the intersection of criminal justice and mental health with an emphasis on public records and data reporting. He previously reported for Injustice Watch, the Chicago Reporter, DNAinfo Chicago and WVON covering criminal justice, courts, policing, race, inequality and politics.

Andrew Adams joined CNI in February 2023 and brings a unique blend of data-driven and traditional reporting to the newsroom. He loves numbers, statistics and visual reporting – things that scare off most journalists.

KANE COUNTY

APPLIED



Using data from Kane County, we were able to track the outcomes of more than 200 people who applied to mental health court between 2020 and 2024.

Of the applications, 81% were rejected, highlighting the narrow population that is found eligible for mental health court.

Of those accepted, 59% successfully completed the program. Half of those who didn't complete the program were sent to a facility run by the state prison system. The rest voluntarily withdrew or couldn't continue due to factors such as illness. A small number continue to be active in the program.

Tazewell County has seen similar trends, but with a lower graduation rate. Over the past decade, 38% of people who went through mental health court there graduated.

Tazewell's neighbor Peoria County had a higher rate of success in recent years: 63% graduated between 2022 and 2025. But the total numbers are small. About 60 people in Tazewell and Peoria completed the programs.

These similarities persist across the state. Most programs graduate around 55% of participants, but outliers exist. Adams County has a 25% graduation rate, and DuPage County claims to graduate 79%.



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Pavlova is a beautiful, tasty dessert

FOOD | Ashley Meyer

Pavlova is a lofty, show-stopping dessert that's at once beautiful, easy and economical. Essentially a giant baked meringue with a crusty exterior and a fluffy, marshmallow-like interior, pavlova is fervently beloved by both Australians and New Zealanders alike. The recipe's history is a source of much dispute between the two nations which both claim it as their own. Its namesake was Anna Pavlova, a wildly popular Russian ballerina who toured both countries in the 1920s. According to the Australian's version of history, the recipe was developed in 1935 by a chef named Bert Sachse at the Esplanade Hotel in Perth. New Zealanders, however, cite a recipe published in a 1929 cookery book, *The New Zealand Dairy Exporter*. While the dessert's origins will likely never be settled, all can agree that pavlova is a cherished and delicious contribution to the world of desserts.

Down in the Southern Hemisphere where the seasons are reversed, pavlova is quintessential at Christmastime, when fresh berries are in peak season. Here, it makes a perfect centerpiece for Mother's Day or any springtime celebration, enrobed in whipped cream and decorated with fresh berries and edible flowers. It's an excellent recipe to make with kids, who will enjoy shaping the meringue on the baking sheet as

well as decorating it. The addition of lemon curd, while not an essential component of a traditional pavlova, makes good use of the egg yolks that are left over from making the meringue.

Pavlova can be very forgiving, but a few key techniques must be followed. Make sure no trace of egg yolk contaminates the egg whites when separating them and that the mixing bowl is perfectly clean so that the egg whites whip up properly. Add the sugar very slowly so that it can fully dissolve. Humidity is the biggest enemy of pavlova, so if making it ahead be sure to store it in an airtight container until ready to serve. If it cracks or falls, simply cover it up with whipped cream and fruit.

Pavlova

Ingredients:
 6 egg whites
 A pinch of salt
 1 ½ teaspoons vinegar
 2 teaspoons vanilla
 1 ½ teaspoons cornstarch
 Whipped cream, fresh fruit and lemon curd, to serve (see recipe below)

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment and draw an 8-inch circle onto the paper with a pencil.

Add the egg whites to the bowl of an electric mixer. Be sure the bowl is totally clean with no greasy residue and there is no trace of egg yolk in the whites, otherwise they won't whip up properly. With the mixer running at medium speed, very gradually add the sugar a teaspoon at a time and continue beating until the meringue has formed stiff peaks. This should take about five to seven minutes. Reduce the speed of the mixer and add the vinegar, vanilla and cornstarch.

Spoon the meringue into the middle of the circle on the baking paper and use a spatula to spread it out to the edges and make a shallow well in the top.

Transfer the pan to the preheated oven and bake for 45 minutes, then turn off the oven and leave it to cool in the oven, at least eight hours. After about four hours, crack the oven door slightly until it's completely cool. This gives the pavlova a nice, crusty finish.

Use an offset spatula to transfer the cooled meringue to a serving platter. Fill the depression with lemon curd, if desired, along with whipped cream and fruit.

Pavlova is best served the day it's made, but it can be made up to two days ahead and stored, without the cream and fruit, in an airtight container on the counter (not in the fridge).

Chocolate variation (not traditional but very tasty)

Add ¼ cup sifted cocoa powder to the meringue along with the vanilla, vinegar and cornstarch.

Lemon curd

6 egg yolks
 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest
 ¾ cup sugar
 A pinch of salt
 8 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into small cubes
 ½ cup lemon juice

In a saucepan, off the heat, whisk together the egg yolks, lemon zest and sugar, then whisk in the lemon juice and salt. Add the butter cubes and place the pan over medium heat. Whisking constantly, cook until the butter has melted and the mixture is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon and small bubbles begin to emerge around the edge of the pan, but do not allow the mixture to boil. While continuing to whisk, pour the curd through a fine meshed sieve into a glass jar. Press some plastic wrap against the surface of the curd to prevent a skin from forming on the top and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled. □

ISO gets its kicks in a roadworthy finale

MUSIC | Scott Faingold

With renovations of Sangamon Auditorium on the University of Illinois Springfield campus nearing completion, the May 1 finale of this season is likely to be the last time the Illinois Symphony Orchestra will perform at First United Methodist Church, which has served as home away from home for the orchestra since October 2025. The culmination of an ambitious season, Friday's concert featured the debut of a brand-new, specially commissioned composition as well as a spellbinding turn by a renowned guest piano virtuoso, all leading up to an appropriately rousing and climactic finish.

The evening's music got underway with the world premiere of "Reverie on the Mother Road," the short but impactful new piece written for the ISO by Waukegan-born, Chicago-based composer Michelle Isaac, who was in attendance for the performance. The composition began with a jazzy propulsion, Aaron Copland-esque percussion driving the orchestra forward like a car flying down the legendary roadway. However, in 1956, a mere 30 years after opening, the passage of the Interstate Highway Act caused Route 66 to begin losing its popularity, and it was shut down permanently in 1980.

Isaac's music reflected this decrease in momentum, becoming increasingly elegiac and nostalgic, morphing into something like a Midwest equivalent of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." At the conclusion, composer Isaac and ISO music director Taichi Fukumura stood together onstage to absorb the thunderous applause of an audience brought to its feet by the excitement of witnessing a new, Illinois-themed composition come to life for the first time.

After a brief pause while a grand piano



Pianist Janice Carissa performing "Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra led by music director Taichi Fukumura. PHOTO BY JAVED RASSI

was moved to center stage, the concert continued with Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" featuring internationally renowned guest pianist Janice Carissa. The piece allowed for plenty of frenetic pyrotechnics as Carissa's fingers moved at blinding speed across the keyboard, wringing every bit of emotion and melodic sumptuousness from the Russian-Italian amalgamation with a physical intensity that brought a thunderstruck audience to its feet for the second standing ovation of the evening,

Following intermission, Maestro Fukumura addressed the audience, reflecting on the season and previewing the final piece of the evening. "This season has been a kind of road trip," he said. "We started with Beethoven's 'Eroica,' which is all about justice and equality. And now we end with Sibelius, whose Symphony No. 2 is about freedom and independence. He reminds us that these are things that don't just happen on their own. Culture, a sense of community – these are things that we have to fight for. This music

delivers a feeling of struggle and, eventually, triumph."

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra attacked the piece with a gusto befitting Fukumura's impassioned introduction. Sibelius' symphony provided many opportunities for individual sections and musicians to shine, with strings and oboe showcased strongly in the trio portion. The final movement was both bombastic and beautiful, leaving the music lovers in attendance fully satisfied and setting the bar high for next season. □

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Thursday May 7

Karaoke Night with DJ Nattie Beats

Benderz, Auburn, 8pm

80s Karaoke Night

Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 8pm

Open mic with Bob the Brewer

Decatur Brew Works, Decatur, 6:30-10pm

Karaoke

Goodfellas Pub, 8pm.

Thursday Night Karaoke

Harry's Adult Day Care, 10pm-1am.

Not Petty

Illinois State Fairgrounds, The Shed, 5-7pm

JCB Entertainment Karaoke

La Fiesta Chatham, Chatham, 6-10pm

John Drake

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

Karaoke at The Cidery

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

Karaoke

The Railyard, 6-8pm

Open mic with Silas Tockey

Spirited Republic/Limerick Brewing Company, Lincoln, 7-10pm

Kortney and friends open mic

The Blue Grouch, 7-11pm

Karaoke

The Topsy Toad, 8pm-12am

Friday May 8

Travis Ried Band

The Bird Tavern, 7-10pm

Not Petty

Boone's, 5:30pm

Devin C. Williams

Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

The Dave Matthews Tribute Band

Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8pm

Karaoke with Hi-Tek Redneck Entertainment

Dockers Tavern, Spaulding, 8:30pm-12:30am.

Lick Creek

Downtown Springfield, 8:30pm

Robert Bogaert

Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 7-10pm

Triple Threat

The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 7-11pm

Silas Tockey

Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo

Lime Street Cafe, 7-10:30pm

Karaoke

The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Robert Leach

Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 7pm

Karaoke

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

Afternoon Delight

The Railyard, 6-9pm

Rezzin8

The Topsy Toad, 7-10pm

Positively 4th Street

Trading Post Saloon, 6-8:30pm

The Lowdown Drifters with Alex Williams

Twisted Tree Music & Event Hall, Jacksonville, 7pm

2FlightsDown

VFW Lafore Lock Post 755, 7-10pm

White Lightnin'

Weebles Bar & Grill, 5:30pm

90s Only Karaoke

Y-Zoe's Bar, Taylorville, 8:30pm-12:30am

Saturday May 9

Double H Karaoke

American Legion Post 32, 7-11pm

Toxic Johnny

AMVETS Post 100, Jacksonville, 8pm

Lick Creek

Athens Community Park, Athens, 8pm

Clay Clear Band

The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

Craig Russo Latin Jazz Project

Boone's, 6-9pm

TyJon Charlie

Brentford Distillers, Decatur, 6-9pm

Afternoon Delight

Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Blackout Betty: Armed & Dangerous

Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7-10pm

LowPhatt

Butternut Hut, 8-11pm

Hat Trick

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

Micro Spice

Copper and Oak, Lincoln, 6-9pm

MKDZ

Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 2-5pm

Stefan Huffman

Edmo's, Edinburg, 5pm

Niko Boeker featuring Elijah Settles

Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Scratching the Surface

KJB's Pint Haus, Jacksonville, 9pm-12am

UNCHAINED, Sonic Sunday

The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, 6:30pm

Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo

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

Mojo Universe

Mowie's Cue, 8-11pm

Renegade Karaoke

Northern Lights Lounge, 8:30pm-1am

James McKenzie

Patriots Pub, Waverly, 8pm

Ruf Edgz

Pier 55 Lounge, 8pm

The Killer Riffs

Pop's Place, Decatur, 8-11pm

Rod Grant

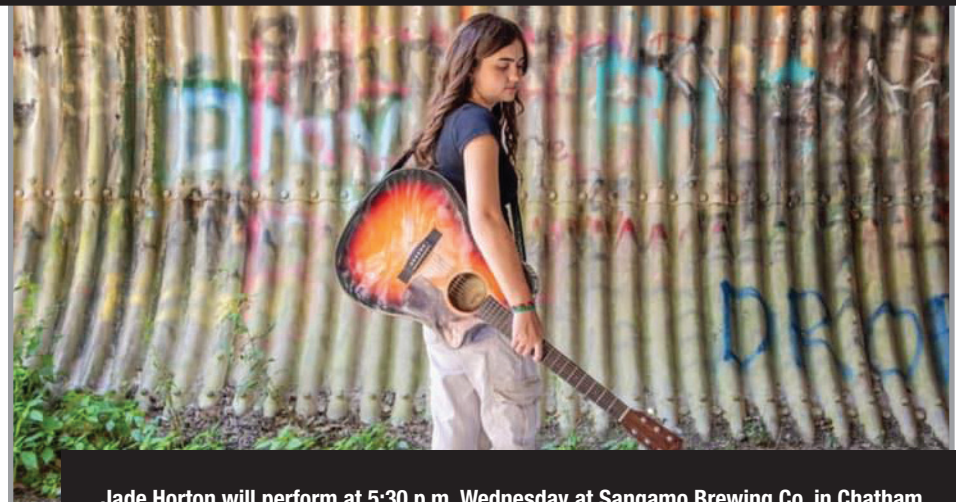
The Railyard, 6-9pm

Lady Luck

Rocco's, Decatur, 2pm

Bullets & Boxcars

The Rusty Rail Pub, Lincoln, 8-11pm



Jade Horton will perform at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at Sangamo Brewing Co. in Chatham.

Karaoke

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

Dysfunctional Family, Enamel

The Stadium Bar & Grill, 7-10pm

Springfield Uketopians

Stella Coffee & Tea, 12-2pm

For the Love of Lennon

The Blue Grouch, 6pm

Rezzin8

The Shed, Pawnee, 7-10pm

Matt Miller

The Thirsty Barrel, Mason City, 7pm

Jamaica & The Wildside

The Topsy Toad, 6pm

Downstate

Walby's Place, Ashland, 6pm

Micah Walk

West of Wise Winery, Petersburg, 1-4pm

Keith Dunlap

Whiskey Ridge Saloon, Breckenridge, 2-5pm

Sunday May 10

Kelli Baker

The Alamo, 5-8pm

Michael Burnett

Brookhills Golf Club, 3-6pm

Avery Kern

Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Robbie Mitchell

Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 2-5pm

Mary Jo Curry Band

Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 2-5pm

OAT

It's All About Wine, 3-6pm

Not Petty

Oogie and JJ's Bar, Glenarm, 2-5pm

Jazz Night with B. Douglas and The Travelers for Peace

Sky Lounge, 5-8pm

3's Company

The Stadium Bar & Grill, 11am-2pm

Uncle Dolphin

Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-6pm

Colt Ball

Whiskey Ridge Saloon, Breckenridge, 1-4pm

Monday May 11

Kurt Allen

The Alamo, 7pm

Al Kitchen

Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm

Rockin' Robin Karaoke

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

Music Mondays Open Mic Night

The Bird Tavern, 6:30-9pm.

Tuesday May 12

Karaoke Night hosted by Alan Livengood

Fluid Lounge, 7pm

Allan Harris

Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm

Open jam with Living Bratz

George Rank's, 8pm

Karaoke

Main Gate Bar & Grill, 7-10pm.

Karaoke with Suzi

The Rusty Rail Pub, Lincoln, 8pm-12am

Open Mic with Thomas J Beverly

Trading Post Saloon, 6-9pm

Wednesday May 13

Open mic with Joel Honey and Silas Tockey

Boone's, 7-10pm

Butter Jam Wednesday

Butternut Hut, 7-10pm

Karaoke

Clique, 9pm-1am

Karaoke with Debbie Cakes

The Filling Station, Rochester, 7-11pm

Robert Sampson

Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm

Open Jam

Goodfellas Pub, 7pm

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

Tom & Geoff

Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery, 6-8pm

Jade Horton

Sangamo Brewing, Chatham, 5:30pm

Brandy Kristin Band

Weebles Bar & Grill, 6-9pm

Tim Zini

Whiskey Ridge Saloon, Breckenridge, 6-9pm

MUSIC



Afternoon Delight plays the Railyard this Friday and Buckhart Tavern on Saturday.

May music plays

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

As our month of May heats up (barely) we're digging into those outdoor gigs (as weather permits) and looking toward what's ahead this week in our community music scene.

We have some interesting Thursday action happening including the famous 70s Scottish rock band Nazareth – with founding members still on board, plus the addition of the British hit band The Babys – playing a full-scale concert at the historic Lincoln Square Theater in Decatur.

Also, Not Petty kicks off the Illinois Product Farmers Market season in style on the Lincoln Stage near the Shed on the Illinois State Fairgrounds. So mark your calendars for local live music on the grounds every Thursday evening into October (except during the State Fair when all kinds of things will be going on) along with plenty of Illinois products and produce available for your perusal and purchase.

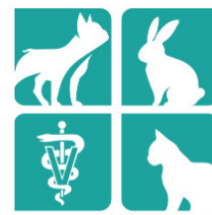
Friday comes in hard and heavy with some 25 music shows for your listening pleasure. Many of our regular, well-established venues lead the way, like Weebles on the northend hosting those killer classic country cats in 'White Lightnin' while Silas Tockey takes on Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews all by his lonesome. For something different, I see the Trading Post is bringing back live music to the long-running, near west end club with Positively 4th Street delivering Dylan songs and more. Plus, The Topsy Toad on Dirksen gets hoppin' with Rezzin8 on the patio and VFW Post 755 on Old Jack marches on with the seven-piece, Bloomington-based, rock cover band 2FlightsDown, while The Grainery in Pleasant Plains begins hosting regular live music with Triple Threat goin' funky with their country.

Let's take a pause for a good cause and talk about the Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield for a moment. This is the 16th biennial fest and 2026 hosts several events. As we close in

on the final days, there are three music shows celebrating the festival theme of *Sacred Rhythm, Sacred Pattern*. On Thursday evening, Union Baptist Church hosts *Moving in Divine Order* with "liturgical dance, music, poetry and artistic expressions from diverse faith traditions" plus a unity dance as well. Then, on Friday night, check out *Blest Be the Lord: A Celebration of Contemporary Catholic Music for Worship* with the Steve Rotello Ensemble at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Chatham. For the final music moment in this LAF, on Saturday evening, Springfield native Dr. Mark McKnight takes the lead on drums and engages his ensemble of professor Ronald Bridgewater on saxophone, Jim Pryor on piano and Troy Robertson on bass to perform their *Rediscovering the Patterns of Coltrane: A Love Supreme* at the Abundant Life Christian Center. Open yourself up to feel the "transcendent musical experience" as promised from the marvelous and mystical music of John Coltrane interpreted by these incredibly talented musicians for the culmination of this uplifting and inspiring, citywide "interfaith celebration of the arts" festival.

Saturday clocks in at over 40 events, so a gander at our listings shows a bevy of goings on. Start with the Springfield Uketopians at Stella Coffee & Tea (noon to 2 p.m.), move on to Micah Walk at West of Wise Winery near Petersburg (1-4 p.m.) and go for Afternoon Delight at Buckhart Tavern (3-6 p.m.). Then keep chuggin' all the way through to UNCHAiNED and Sonic Sunday at The Library Pizza and Sports Bar (old Crows Mill) and Dysfunctional Family and Enamel at The Stadium (Peoria Road) in the evening hours.

We didn't get to Sunday, but enjoy your Funday on Mother's Day with mom and music if you can. You know where to look for the who, what and when. So long for now. □



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THE CALENDAR



Fat Ass 5K & Street Party for Charity | Fri., May 8, 4-9 p.m. and Sat., May 9, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. | Downtown Springfield

FUNDAISERS & GALAS | Wacky annual downtown race returns

It It's time for the Fat Ass 5K & Street Party once again! The event begins Friday night not with the run but with a free party at Seventh and Washington streets featuring music by Deja Voodoo (5 p.m.) and Lick Creek (8 p.m.). The 5K race, at 10 a.m. Saturday, includes beer, corn dog, doughnut and ice cream stops along with live music and entertainment throughout the downtown route. It will be followed by a street party (11 a.m.-3 p.m.) that includes cold drinks, food and live music by Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters. Registration for the race closed May 6 but the public is welcome to join the Friday pre-party. All profits go to charity, with a total of more than \$2.2 million dollars to date. See the Facebook page for more info.

Special Music Events

Nazareth with The Babys
Thu., May 7, 7pm. Scottish rock legends Nazareth play Decatur with fellow British band The Babys. \$34.01-\$115.59. Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 141 N. Main St., 217-454-4583.

Books & Authors

Both Sides of the Desk: Essays on Recovery, Memory and Meaning
Sat., May 9, 2-3:30pm. Essayist James Thompson will read from his essays on addiction, recovery and meaning. Followed by questions and conversation. Donations accepted but not required. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., 217-528-4311.

Come Out and Write

Second Monday of every month, 6:30-8pm. Write in a supportive space and connect with others. No reading aloud necessary. For those 16 and older. phoenixcenterspringfield.org. Free. Phoenix Center: Out On Second, 120 E. Scarritt St., 217-528-5253.

The ISM Teacher's Lounge
Thu., May 7, 6-7pm. Commemorate Mental

Health Awareness Week with *Mindfulness Practices: Cultivating Heart-Centered Communities Where Students Focus and Flourish* by Christine Mason, Michele M. Rivers Murphy and Yvette Jackson. Join curator of art and history education Cori Claycomb as the ISM Teacher's Lounge returns to break down the mindfulness techniques discussed in the book - such as breathing exercises, yoga, meditation, and cognitive reflection - and explore how they can benefit both educators and students during difficult times. This virtual presentation is open to all educators. Free. Online, community engagement, 217-782-5955.

Spicy Romance Book Fair
Fri., May 8, 6-9pm. Meet and greet with romance authors, get special signed romance novels and bookish merch and shop local vendors. The Vault, Jacksonville, 73 East Central Park Plaza, 217-245-2665.

Theater & Comedy
Jesus Christ Superstar
Fri., May 8, 7:30pm, Sat., May 9, 7:30pm and Sun., May 10, 2pm. Jesus Christ Superstar is

the first musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber to be produced for the professional stage. A timeless work, the rock opera is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary and universally known series of events. Presented by the Springfield Theatre Centre. hcfta.org. \$20-22. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Spoken Word Open Mic Night

Sat., May 9, 6:30-9pm. Poets and writers will speak and hear their written words, reading and or reciting their own "tales of the open road" surrounded by original photographs, paintings, drawings, collections and more that celebrate the 250th anniversary of America and the 100th anniversary of Route 66. Light refreshments will be available. pharmacygallery.com. \$10 donation at door. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., Message at 217-381-8910.

Dance Springfield International Folk Dancers

Mondays, 7-9pm. Experience the joy of folk dancing from many

cultures. All skill levels welcome and no partners necessary. Free. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-793-8035.

Art & Architecture Buffalo's 50th Birthday Bonanza

Fri., May 8, 5:30-7:30pm. A night of fun as the Springfield Art Association celebrates the buffalo sculpture turning 50 years old. Includes games, light refreshments (including cotton candy cart), party hats and more. and more! Chris Camp the Whip Guy will perform at 6pm. springfieldart.org. Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

The Pillars of Democracy: Unite & Rise Tour exhibit, artist talk

Fri., May 15, 10 a.m. Niki Johnson, creator of this is powerful mixed media portrait series of first-time women voters, will be at the library's atrium for a combined artist talk and hands-on writing activity. She will share insights into her creative process and the themes behind the exhibition, followed by guided discussion and creative reflection around democracy, equity and civic participation. The exhibit will be on display weekdays from 9am to 4:30pm in the atrium through May 29. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Artist workshop with Niki Johnson

Sat., May 16, 10:30am-5pm. In this workshop led by artist Niki Johnson, adults and teens will explore identity, voice and civic engagement through art-making and conversation. Participants will create expressive artwork while reflecting on what democracy means to them and their role in shaping the future. On the lawn. In case of bad weather, the event will move to the Old State Capitol's Law Library Room. Old State Capitol.

Color, Craft and Create Night

Mondays, 5:30-7:30pm. Through May 18. Artists can bring their own materials and spend some time working on a creative project in the inspiring Dana-Thomas House. Engage in conversation with other community members who share your interest. Individuals, families and small groups are all welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations recommended. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Evening Tours of the Dana-Thomas House

Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30, 6:30-

7:30pm. and Fridays, 5:30-6:30pm, 6:30-7:30pm. See one of the best-preserved examples of Wright's "organic architecture" containing more than 100 pieces of custom furniture and over 250 works of original art glass. Each Tour lasts about an hour. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

"Heart-Shaped World"

ongoing. See this solo exhibit of tiny works of art by Kristan Kelly of Oregon inside the new micro-gallery just off the sidewalk at 1624 Holmes Ave. Free. Gallery 1624, 1624 Holmes Ave., 425-221-5527.

Sacred Rhythm, Sacred Pattern Art Exhibition

Saturdays, 10am-3pm and Mondays-Fridays, 9am-5pm. Through May 29. In cooperation with the Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield, the SAA hosts a juried exhibition of sacred and liturgical art as part of the biennial, interfaith Liturgical Arts Festival: Come Creative Spirit. Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Food & Drink

Free Meal and Produce
Sat., May 9, 4-6pm. Food Not Bombs Springfield, IL will provide a free meal and produce for anyone who wants it. Bbring reusable containers or bags if possible to help reduce plastic waste. All are welcome. Meal Distribution Site, Southwest corner of Seventh Street and Capitol Avenue.

Berries & Bubbly

Sat., May 9, 2-4 p.m. The Old State Capitol grounds are the perfect place to sip sparkling wine, enjoy delicious cakes and savor strawberries. Tickets get participants unlimited sparkling wine and treats. \$40. oscfspi.com. Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza.

Iron Chef Gala

Fri., May 8, 6pm. Sample the culinary delights of Springfield's finest chefs as they battle it out with their tasty creations. Event includes live music by Kapital Sound, auction and more. Monies raised benefit the students of the Ball-Chatham School District. \$125. Crown Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-529-7777.

The LMH Market

Saturdays, 8am-12pm. Through Sep. 19. This farmers market in the Expo Building features fruits, vegetables, eggs, poultry, baked goods, honey vendor grown or produced by locally owned operations. Includes children's activities and free health

screenings on second and fourth Saturdays of month. Sponsored by Lincoln Memorial Foundation. Free parking and admission. Logan County Fairgrounds, Lincoln, 1408 Short 11th St., 447-784-3211.

History Edwards Place Historic Home Guided Tours

Tuesdays-Saturdays, 1-2, 2-3pm. Take this guided tour through the newly-restored first and second floor. The home, interpreted to 1857, is furnished with examples of Victorian furniture including many pieces that belonged to the Edwards family. Visitors will also see the authentic "Lincoln Courting Couch" from the parlor of the Ninian Edwards home, where Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married and a piano that was likely played at their wedding. edwardsplace.org. \$12 adults/ \$10 SAA members, military and seniors,; children younger than 10 free. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Elijah Iles House Tours

Saturdays, 12-4pm. Through Nov. 14. Tour the oldest house in Springfield. Groups wishing to tour Springfield's oldest home at other times can call for an appointment. The house was built in 1837 by Iles, one of the city's earliest settlers. Free. Elijah Iles House, 628 S. Seventh St., 217-494-0640.

Game Nights at the Dana-Thomas House

Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm. Through May 27. Bring that favorite board game and some family and friends for an evening of fun. A table will be provided in one of the historic rooms. Non-alcoholic drinks and/or light snacks are allowed. Reservations required due to limited space. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Kathryn Harris to portray Priscilla Baltimore

Sat., May 9, 6-8pm. Re-enactor Kathryn Harris will portray Underground Railroad conductor Priscilla Baltimore in this event presented by the Jacksonville Area Museum. Free. Centenary UM Church, Jacksonville, 331 East State Street, Jacksonville, IL 62650, 217-481-1265.

Pint Talks: Feulner Brewery, Edmund Springs and the Canning factory

Thu., May 7, 7pm. Learn about Menard County history at this event. Hand of Fate Brewing Company, Petersburg, 107 E. Douglas St., 217-691-1098.

■ **Faith & Philosophy**
Blest Be The Lord: A Celebration of Contemporary Catholic Music for Worship, Steve Rotello Ensemble
Fri., May 8, 7pm. Celebrate more than 50 years of joyful and inspired contemporary Catholic music. This program of music from the Roman Catholic liturgical tradition will feature musicians from Springfield and surrounding areas. Part of the Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield. Free. St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Chatham, 700 E. Spruce St., 217-483-4514.

Rediscovering the Patterns of Coltrane: A Love Supreme
Sat., May 9, 7pm. Honoring the rich history and traditions of jazz music, The Mark McKnight Ensemble will bring John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme" to life in a performance that will nourish the spirit and uplift the soul. Part of the Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield. Free. Abundant Faith Christian Center, 2525 Taylor Ave., 217-585-4000.

Sacred Rhythm, Sacred Pattern: Moving in Divine Order
Thu., May 7, 7pm. "Sacred Rhythm, Sacred Pattern" is a celebration of faith expressed through movement and the arts. This special evening will feature liturgical dance, music, poetry, and artistic expressions from diverse faith traditions, highlighting how rhythm, pattern and embodied movement reflect spiritual connection and shared humanity. Part of the Interfaith Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield. Free. Union Baptist Church, 1405 E. Monroe St., 217-525-1360.

■ **Holiday Happenings**
Mothers Day at Henson Robinson Zoo
Sun., May 10, 10am-5pm. Celebrate Mothers Day at the Henson Robinson Zoo, where mothers get in for free and children can create a special craft for Mom in the education room. Regular admission for all other guests. Mothers free; Adults \$7.50; seniors and children 3-12 \$5.50; children 2 and younger free. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

■ **Fairs & Festivals**
Athens Glory Days
Thu., May 7, 5pm and Fri., May 8, 7am, 5pm. Features carnival, Little Miss, Mister and Miss Athens contests, children's activities, vendors, cornhole tournament, live music and more. Athens Community Park, Athens, W Jackson St. at N Main St, 217-416-5456.

■ **Fundraisers and Galas**
Boy Scout Troop 58 Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
Sat., May 9, 7-10am. Funds from this all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast will help pay for camping supplies, awards and other troop expenses for Scouting America Troop 58. \$10 per person; Ages 5 and under are free. Springfield Elks Lodge #158, 409 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-0158.

■ **Local Government**
Sangamon County Board
Tue., May 12, 6pm. Monthly meeting of the Sangamon County Board. Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth St., 217-753-6650.

■ **Children's Corner**
Kids Fare Garden Club
Mondays, 4-5pm. Through May 25. Kids Fare Garden Club offers hands-on gardening as well as garden-related activities. Registration held on site with a cap of 15 children participating. enosparkgardens.org. Free. Enos Park Neighborhood Garden, 1022 N. Fifth St., 217-610-0720.

PBS Family FUN Day
Sat., May 9, 10am-12pm. The WSUI Public Television PBS Kids is bringing the adventure with Daniel Tiger and lots of activities. Children can enjoy painting, hands-on crafts and exploring the zoo while learning about animals and the world around them. Includes a book giveaway and opportunities for fun and discovery. Free. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

"The Road to Adventure: Exploring Route 66"
Wednesdays-Sundays, 9am-4pm. Through Dec. 31. This vibrant, hands-on exhibit brings the magic of the historic Mother Road to life - and it's fun for the whole family. kidzeum.org. \$5-\$12. Kidzeum of Health and Science, 412 E. Adams St., 217-679-2123.

Storytime & Pop-up Library
Second Wednesday of every month.. Through Sep. 30. For infants, toddlers, pre-K, children. Children and their grownups will explore stories and activities to encourage children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning. Group meets in grass so bring a blanket or chair to sit on. Lindbergh Park, 2419 Lindbergh Blvd., 217-753-4900.

■ **Nature, Science & Environment**
Bird Hike
Sat., May 9, 8am. 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.

All levels of birders welcome. lincolnmemorygarden.org. Free. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

Sangamon Valley Iris Society Plant Show
Sat., May 9, 1-4pm. See this colorful spring showcase featuring stunning iris varieties grown and shared by local society members. Welcome the season and get inspired for your own garden. Free. Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-4116.

Spring Migration Bird Hikes
Tuesdays, 8-9am. Through May 12. Illinois Audubon Society's Assistant Director Matt Hayes leads these weekly hikes through Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. Enjoy the benefits of Matt's expertise as you search for migratory birds and resident species. Free. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 E. Clear Lake Ave., 217-544-2473.

Woodland Wildflower Hike
Wed., May 13, 9-10:30am. Jamie Arntzen of the Illinois Audubon Society will lead a hike in search of early-season woodland wildflowers known as spring ephemerals. Learn about the role they play in the environment and how woodland restoration practices help these species to thrive. springfieldaudubon.org. Free. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 E. Clear Lake Ave., 217-544-2473.

■ **Lectures & Meetings**
Caregivers Support Group
First Thursday of every month, 11:30am-12:30pm. Through Dec. 3. Love someone with dementia or Alzheimers? Join this group for an opportunity to connect with others who are also caregiving. Find support, a listening ear and share resources. In Room 1. In Room 1. Group will meet monthly on the first Thursday of every month. Free. Hope Church, 3000 Lenhart Road, 217-787-1446.

Small Business Skill Share
Thu., May 7, 9-11:45am. Celebrate National Small Business Week 2026 with this session designed to sharpen business skills for a competitive edge. Gain actionable tools for success. Presented by Innovate Springfield, Illinois SBDC for Central Illinois, and Illinois Local. ilsdbc.ecentdirect.com/events/41900. Free. Innovate Springfield, 1 Horace Mann Plaza, 217-670-1770.

Springfield Area Landlord Association
Second Tuesday of every month, 7-8pm. Through

Dec. 28. The Springfield Area Landlord Association provides resources such as educational opportunities and legislative updates at the local, state and federal levels to empower property owners and managers with the knowledge and connections they need to succeed in the ever-changing rental market. VFW Lafore Lock Post 755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Road, 502-682-6165.

■ **Bulletin Board**
Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group
Second Tuesday of every month, 1-2:30pm. The best thing you can do for the person you are caring for is stay physically and emotionally strong. Support groups offer comfort and reassurance, and can be good sources of practical advice and even humor. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-528-4035.

UIS Commencement Ceremonies
Sat., May 9, 12:30 & 5:30 p.m. Graduates from the College of Health, Science and Technology and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. 5:30 p.m.: Graduates from the College of Business and Management and the College of Public Affairs and Education. BOS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, 217-206-6600.

Public Meeting on Solar Energy Facility
Thu., May 14, 6pm. This meeting, hosted by Summit Ridge Energy, will discuss a proposed solar energy facility in the 1300-1500 blocks of Lenhart Road. The meeting, open to community members, is intended to inform the public about the project, answer questions and address any concerns ahead of a Sangamon County Zoning Board of Appeals hearing. Gardner Township Building, 740-398-8424. or community@srenergy.com.

Community Pet Remembrance Ceremony
Sat., May 17, 1-2:30pm. Join with others who are mourning the loss of a pet for this nondenominational ceremony. Leigh Steiner, pet doula, is the guest speaker. Participants can bring a small memento of their pet. Reservations suggested but not required. Hope Presbyterian Church, 2211 Wabash Ave., 217-546-6951.

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.

GriefShare Support Group
Thursdays, 6-8pm. Through June 23. GriefShare is a 13-week recovery/support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one. The format combines videos about the grieving process, group discussions and workbook exercises for personal reflection and action. Registration requested. Register at griefshare.org. Free. Trinity Lutheran School, 515 S. MacArthur Blvd., 217-341-4582.

Mom's Queen Bee Bash
Fri., May 8, 11:15am-12pm. At this Mother's Day celebration, all ladies will receive a special gift. Enjoy Honey Stung Punch, Buzzing Sweet Delights and Golden Buzz Entertainment. ssoci.org. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-503-4643.

Russian and Chinese Influence in the Caribbean
Thu., May 7, 5:30pm. Former U.S. Ambassador Linda Tagliatalata will discuss her experience as she served as ambassador to seven Caribbean nations from 2016 to 2023. She will discuss Russian and Chinese influence in the region, the impact of climate change, economic uncertainties after the pandemic and counter-narcotics efforts. Program at 7pm is free to attend. www.mywacci. \$45 members of WACCI/ \$55 for non-members. Illini Country Club, 1601 S. Illini Road, 546-4614.

■ **Health & Fitness**
Childbirth Education Series
Tuesdays, 5-6:30pm. Through May 26. In honor of Women's Health Month, Molina Healthcare of Illinois is partnering with Springfield Clinic to offer a four-part childbirth education class series every Tuesday evening in May. The goal of this series is to ensure women feel supported and prepared as they access care throughout each stage of pregnancy. Preregistration is required by phone. Free. The Salvation Army of Springfield, 1600 Clear Lake Ave., 217-622-2448.

Memorial Health - Breast Cancer Support Group
Tue., May 12, 5:30-6:30pm. This group is for anyone who has faced breast cancer, including spouse/partner, friends and family. Janet Sgro, BFA, MAATC, ATR-C, owner of Rx Art therapy Inc., will lead the session to help explore creativity, gain insights and develop effective coping strategies thought painting art. RSVP by May 5 by calling 217-588-5392 email rapps.tia@mhsil.com. Free. Heartland

Healing Arts Center, 4211 Westgate Dr., 217-588-5392.

Mind & Wellness Family Day
Sat., May 9, 11am-2pm. This Springfield Community Health Council event will feature speakers, giveaways, activities for children, health screenings, resources from local organizations and food. All ages welcome. Sponsored by Springfield Urban League, Inc., Sangamon County ROSC and Birth to Five Illinois Region 51. Free. Jaycee Park Pavilion, Monroe Street & White City Blvd., 217-695-2506.

Prostate Cancer Support Group
Wed., May 13, 5:15-6:15pm. This group is for anyone who has faced prostate cancer including spouse/partner, friends and family. A representative from Memorial Health Volunteer Services will talk about the opportunities and benefits of being a volunteer. Microsoft Teams Meeting: To join on a computer or mobile device (video), call 217-588-5392 or email rapps.tia@mhsil.com to receive a link to the meeting. Free. Edgar J. Curtis Memorial Learning Center, 228 W. Miller, 217-588-5392.

■ **Sports**
Dan "The Beast" Severn
Fri., May 8, 7pm. Meet UFC legend Dan "The Beast" Severn. Includes Q&A and autograph signing. Pizza and drinks included. Event by Riverton Party Store and Jeb Brown. \$50. Riverton Party Store, Riverton, 717 N. Seventh St., 217-629-9493.

■ **Film & Television**
Mortal Kombat II, Lee Cronin's The Mummy
Fri., May 8, 8:25 & 10:35 p.m. and Sat., May 9, 8:25 & 10:35 p.m. On Screen 1. Mortal Kombat II and Lee Cronin's The Mummy are both rated R. \$10, \$6 children 4-12. Route 66 Twin Drive-In, 1700 Recreation Dr., 217-698-0066.

Michael, Devil Wears Prada 2
Fri., May 8, 8:40 & 11 p.m. and Sat., May 9, 8:40 & 11 p.m. On Screen 2. Michael and Devil Wears Prada 2 are both rated PG-13. \$10, \$6 children 4-12. Route 66 Twin Drive-In, 1700 Recreation Dr., 217-698-0066.

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153 E. Jackson St.
Virden

GOLDEN RETRIEVERS
AKC puppies from our sweet farm dog Candi

4 mo old, vacc/wormed

309-678-5562
Buda IL

Real Estate Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC Plaintiff, -v.- JOSEPH M. EILERS et al

Defendant 2025FC000241 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 25, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on May 27, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1533 W ADAMS ST, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704 Property Index No. 14-32.0-202-022 The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

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

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the 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 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.

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

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-25-07530

Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2025FC000241

TJSC#: 46-950

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2025FC000241

13286014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

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

-v.- LINDA KUNKLE et al

Defendant 2025FC000202

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 28, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on May 27, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 2554 LINDSAY RD, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704 Property Index No. 22-06.0-303-006

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance,

in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the 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 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.

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

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-25-05928

Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2025FC000202

TJSC#: 46-708

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2025FC000202

13285932

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,

-v.- MARY JO ANTHONY AS INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF FREDERICK E. ANTHONY et al

Defendant 2025FC000228

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 22, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on June 9, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 2437 HUNTINGTON RD, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703 Property Index No. 22-14.0-252-040

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by

certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the 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 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.

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

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-25-07378

Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2025FC000228

TJSC#: 46-1037

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2025FC000228

13286618

PUBLIC NOTICES

Death Claim

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

Estate of: DONALD DIGIORGI, Deceased.

NO. 2026-PR-161 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Donald DiGiorgi of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 28, 2026, to Douglas George, 4300 Lavender Lane, Springfield, Illinois 62711, as Executor, whose attorneys are Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before November 4, 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 28th day of April, 2026.

Bernard G. Segatto, III - 06190753

Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP

P.O. Box 79 Springfield, IL 62705 (217) 544-4868

bsegatto@barberlaw.com 368840

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN M. ECKERT, DECEASED

2026PRO00122 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of JOHN M. ECKERT, Springfield, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on April 16, 2026, to MARTHA J. ECKERT as Executor, and whose attorney is Russell E. DePew of DePew & Dehn, 201 West Olive Street, Bloomington, Illinois 61701. Claims may be filed on or before November 14, 2026 which is not less than six months from the first date of publication of this Notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Claims must be e-filed with the Sangamon

County Circuit Court, Springfield, Illinois. After Claims are e-filed with the Clerk, within 10 days mail or deliver a copy of the Claim to the Executor and to her Attorney and e-file with the Clerk proof of such mailing or delivery. Dated: April 28, 2026

Martha J. Eckert, Executor

100 Argenta Drive Springfield IL 62703

by: Russell E. DePew

Russell E. DePew, Her Attorney

Russell E. DePew

DePew & Dehn

Attorney for Estate

201 West Olive Street

Bloomington IL 61701

(309) 829-7002

depewlaw@aol.com

ARDC# 6181853

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

PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRUCE HELTON, DECEASED

Case # 2026-PR-160

DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of BRUCE HELTON. Letters of Office have been issued to CHARLES ROBERT HELTON, 1558 N. 1600th East Road, Taylorville, IL 62568, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Law-

yers, 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 November 12, 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 Execu-

tor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2026.

William P. Sheehan

SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.

1215 South 4th Street

Springfield, IL 62703

(217) 544-0701

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PAULA S. BELL, Deceased

NO. 2026-PR-155

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of PAULA S. BELL, Deceased.

Ron Furman & Sons PAVING
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
Parking Lots • Driveways • Seal Coating
Oil & Chip • Concrete • Recycled Asphalt
217-528-9407
3600 North Dirksen Pkwy • Springfield, IL
ronfurmanspaving@hotmail.com

Letters of Office were issued on April 23RD, 2026, to Austin Bell, 55 Bonniebrook Rd., Chatham, IL 62629 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Alex B. Rabin, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 2nd day of November, 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 April 2026.
Alex B. Rabin
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
ESTATE OF
Donald Raymond Rosentreter, Jr.,
Deceased.
No. 2026PR000093
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Donald Raymond Rosentreter, Jr., Letters of Office were issued on April 7, 2026, to Karen K. Martin, 420 Sandpiper Ct., Chatham, IL 62629, as Independent Executor, and whose attorney of record is the Law Office of Paul Whitcombe, Chtd., 223 W. 1st Street, Dixon, Illinois, 61021. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's office, Sangamon County Courthouse, 3200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 32701, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 30, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Sec. 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. 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 claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Karen K. Martin
Independent Executor for the Estate
LAW OFFICE OF PAUL WHITCOMBE, CHTD.
Attorneys for the Independent Executor
223 W. 1st Street
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 288-7209

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
JAMES PETER DEVINE,
Deceased.
Case No. 2026-PR-147
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of JAMES PETER DEVINE, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on March 9, 2026. Letters of Testamentary were issued on the 20th day of April, A.D., 2026, to TIMOTHY J. DEVINE, 217 N. Vine Street, Mt. Pulaski, Illinois 62548, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Sangamon County Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (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 representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed. DATED this 20th day of April, A.D., 2026.
ESTATE OF JAMES PETER DEVINE,
Deceased,
BY: /s/Pamela E. Hart
Pamela E. Hart, one of his Attorneys.
PREPARED BY:
Pamela E. Hart (6299974)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701

Telephone: (217)753-8200
peh@scottscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
BROCK ANTHONY WORKMAN, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-152
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of BROCK ANTHONY WORKMAN. Letters of Office have been issued to PATRICIA M. KING, P.O. Box 241, New Berlin, IL 62670, 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 November 4, 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.
Patrick J. 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:
ALECIA BUTLER,
Deceased.
NO. 2026-PR-142
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Alecia Butler of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 16, 2026, to Michael Butler, 35 Glenwood Lane, Chatham, Illinois 62629, and Shelley Tulipana, 2308 S. Lowell Ave., Springfield, Illinois 62704, as Co-Executors, whose attorneys are Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representatives or both, on or before October 23, 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 representatives and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 16th day of April, 2026.
Matthew J. Cate - 06272040
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-4868
matthewcate@barberlaw.com
368414

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Estate of:
CAROLE WALTON,
Deceased.
NO. 2026-PR-148
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Carole Walton of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 16, 2026, to Kristin Cavanagh, 401 N. Durkin Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62702, as Executor, whose attorneys are Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before October 23, 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 16th day of April, 2026.
Matthew J. Cate - 06272040
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705

(217) 544-4868
matthewcate@barberlaw.com
367847

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of:
Jacob Quick, Deceased
Case No. 2026-PR-000134
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Jacob Quick. Letters of Administration were issued on April 15, 2026 to Cindy Ealey as Administrator, 2597 N 800 E Road, Edinburg, IL 62531. 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 Administrator, on or before Oct. 30, 2026. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Administrator within 10 days after it has been filed.
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of
KEVIN HAAS, Deceased.
IN PROBATE
NO. 2026-PR-143
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Kevin Haas, Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on April 16, 2026, to Shelley Haas, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Brandon R. Clark, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 6th day of November, 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 16th day of April, 2026.
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Brandon R. Clark, Registration No. 6329553
205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705-2459(217) 544-8491;
bclark@bhslaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
BARBARA J. ARCHER, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-145
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of BARBARA J. ARCHER. Letters of Office have been issued to DAVID W. ARCHER, 27605 SW 170th Ave., Sherwood, OR 97140, 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 October 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 April, 2026.
Patrick J. 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 LILLIE F. PRINDLE,
Deceased.
2026 PR 000131

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of LILLIE F. PRINDLE. Letters of Office were issued to Tina Williams, as Independent Administrator, whose address is 41 Parkway Drive, Sherman, IL 62684. 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 23, 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: April 26, 2026.
Attorneys for Independent Administrator:
Sorling Northrup
Brian D. Jones, Attorney (6286510)
Jeremy D. McAfee, Attorney (6349611)
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: bdjones@sorlinglaw.com
jemacafee@sorlinglaw.com

Claims against the Estate of Hattie O. Boston, Probate case: 25-PR-283 opened July 3, 2025 by Attorney Samuel J. Cahnman in the court of Judge Adam Giganti, may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first Publication of this Notice. Any Claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court must be mailed or delivered to the Primary Representative: Norma J. Jordan, Co-Executor of the Estate of Hattie O. Boston, at 6105 Spindell Dr. Springfield, IL. 62711; and to the Estate's Attorney, Samuel J. Cahnman, Esq. with Samuel Cahnman Law Offices located at 915 S. 2nd, Springfield, IL. 62703; within 10 days after it has been filed.
Mrs. Boston's obituary posted online on June 02, 2025. Published in The State Journal-Register.
<https://www.sj-r.com/obituaries/pils194036>
Note: Norma J. Jordan, Co-Executor with Cathy A. Boston, Co-Executor personally notified all creditors of Hattie O. Boston's death as we had knowledge of, starting in June 2025.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARY LOU McCLELLAND, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-137
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of MARY LOU McCLELLAND. Letters of Office have been issued to FORREST McCLELLAND, 21026 Indian Point Ave., Petersburg, IL 62675, and JOELLYN VONDEBUR, 2300 Parkview Drive, Springfield, IL 62704, as Independent Co-Executors, 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-Executors, or both, on or before October 28, 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-Executors and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 14th 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
IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ROBERT J. McCRAY
Deceased.
No. 2026-PR-129
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
Notice is given of the death of ROBERT J. McCRAY. Letters of office were issued on April 9, 2026, to DAWN OSBORNE, 76 Gavin St., Lincoln, IL 62656
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, on or before the 29th day of October, 2026, being at least six months from the first publication of this notice. Any claim not filed within that six-month 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 14th day of April, 2026.
DAWN OSBORNE,
Independent Executor
By: ROBERT V. BONJEAN III
Bonjean Law Office
309 West State Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650
217/243-4814
bobbybonjean@bonjeanlawoffice.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Estate of:
JOYCE LYNN BERTONI,
Deceased.
NO. 2026-PR-136
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Joyce Lynn Bertoni of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 14, 2026, to Brian E. Bertoni, 5308 Cromwell Place, Springfield, Illinois 62711, as Executor, whose attorneys are Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before October 21, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 14th day of April, 2026.
Bernard G. Segatto, III - 06190753
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-4868
bsegatto@barberlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
SARILDA B. MORRISON
Deceased.
Case No. 2026-PR-127
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of SARILDA B. MORRISON of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on February 28, 2026. Letters of Testamentary were issued on the 3rd day of April, A.D., 2026, to KATHLEEN A. DENNISON, 1402 Franklin-Alexander Road, Alexander, Illinois 62601, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Sangamon County Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (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 representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed. DATED this 10th day of April, A.D., 2026.
ESTATE OF SARILDA B. MORRISON,
Deceased,
BY: /s/Pamela E. Hart
Pamela E. Hart, one of his Attorneys.
PREPARED BY:
Pamela E. Hart (6299974)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217)753-8200
peh@scottscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MICHAEL GARVIN SR., Deceased
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NO. 2026PR000067
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of MICHAEL GARVIN SR., Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on April 9th, 2026, to Michael Garvin Jr., 2976 State Highway, 104, Franklin, IL 62638 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Alex B. Rabin, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 19th 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 10th day of April 2026.
Alex B. Rabin
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP
1119 S. Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
217-789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF:
CURT H. NAVE,
Deceased.
NO. 2026 PR 130
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of CURT H. NAVE of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Administration were issued on April 9, 2026, to BENJAMIN W. "BEN" TUXHORN, whose address is 3609 Hoylake Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62712, as Administrator, and whose attorney is JAMES R. ENLOW of GATES, WISE & SCHLOSSER, P.C., 1231 South Eighth Street, Springfield, IL, 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit 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 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 ten (10) days after it has been filed.
DATED this 9th day of April, 2026.
James R. Enlow(#6199891)
GATES, WISE & SCHLOSSER P.C.
Attorneys at Law
1231 South Eighth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Telephone: (217) 522.9010
Facsimile: (217) 522.9020
Email: jim@gwspc.com

Divorce
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Lamont Ervin, Petitioner
And
Julian Diaz, Respondent
Case No. 2026-DC-000061

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, Julian Diaz, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief. Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, in Springfield, Illinois on or before the 30th day of May, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.

Joseph B. Roesch
Circuit Clerk

Name Change

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the matter of the Petition of

Aleisha Jean Pinkley

For change of name to

Aleisha Jean Taft

Case No. 2026-MR-000143

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 16, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Aleisha Jean Pinkley to Aleisha Jean Taft pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.

Dated: May 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the matter of the Petition of

Amelia Paulette Ruth-Renee Roberson

For change of name to

Amelia Paulette Ruth-Renee Wilson-Clayborn

and

Jacob Andrew Stanley-Todd Roberson

For change of name to

Jacob Andrew Stanley-Todd Wilson-Clayborn

Case No. 2026-MR-000128

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on May 19, 2026 we will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Amelia Paulette Ruth-Renee Roberson to Amelia Paulette

Ruth-Renee Wilson-Clayborn and

Jacob Andrew Stanley-Todd Roberson to

Jacob Andrew Stanley-Todd Wilson-Clayborn

pursuant to the statute in such case made

and provided.

Dated: April 30, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the matter of the Petition of

Hadlee Jo Manka

For change of name to

Hadlee Jo Ryherd

Case No. 2026-MR-000136

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 16, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Hadlee Jo Manka to Hadlee Jo Ryherd pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.

Dated: April 30, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the matter of the Petition of

Hadlee Jo Manka

For change of name to

Hadlee Jo Ryherd

Case No. 2026-MR-000136

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 16, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Hadlee Jo Manka to Hadlee Jo Ryherd pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.

Dated: April 30, 2026

Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC

Plaintiff,

-v.-

JOSEPH M. EILERS et al

Defendant

2025FC000241

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 25, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on May 27, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

LOT 22 OF WANLESS GOVERNOR STREET ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 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

Commonly known as 1533 W ADAMS ST,

SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704

Property Index No. 14-32.0-202-022

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

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

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the 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 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.

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

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-25-07530
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Case Number: 2025FC000241
TJSC#: 46-950

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

Case # 2025FC000241
I3286014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST

Plaintiff,

-v.-

LINDA KUNKLE et al

Defendant

2025FC000202

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 28, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on May 27, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT 17, COLONY WEST ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN BOOK 21 OF PLATS, PAGE 58, AND RE-RECORDED SITUATED IN BOOK 21 OF PLATS, PAGE 63.

Commonly known as 2554 LINDSAY RD, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704

Property Index No. 22-06.0-303-006

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

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

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the 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 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.

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

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-25-05928
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Case Number: 2025FC000202
TJSC#: 46-708

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

Case # 2025FC000202
I3285932

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Heartland Bank and Trust Company

PLAINTIFF

Vs.

Ivana May Green a/k/a Ivana M. Green; Fast Home Cash Offers LLC; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

DEFENDANTS

No. 2026FC000027

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:

Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

20961 Center Staff Rd

Illioopolis, IL 62539

and which said Mortgage was made by: Ivana May Green a/k/a Ivana M. Green the Mortgagor(s), to Heartland Bank and Trust Company, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Sangamon County, Illinois, as Document No. 2020R01962; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Joseph B. Roesch

Clerk of the Circuit Court Sangamon County Courthouse

200 South Ninth Street, Room 405 Springfield, IL 62701

on or before May 26, 2026, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff

15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527

(630) 794-5300 DuPage # 15170 Winnebago # 531

Our File No. 14-26-00874

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. I3285513

Notice by Publication

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

THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a Municipal Corporation,

Plaintiff, vs.

HUGH DAY, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No. 26-MR-149

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

The requisite Affidavit for Service by Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to Hugh Day, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants that a Complaint for Demolition was filed in the abovementioned Court on April 29th 2026, and is now pending.

The common address of the structure which is subject to demolition is 1012 S. 23rd Street, Springfield, Illinois, and said real estate is legally described as:

Lot 12 in Block 3 of Eastgate, a Subdivision of Lots 14, 18, and 19 and part of Lot 22 Key's and Matheny's Subdivision

PIN: 14-35.0-407-009

The name(s) of the title holder(s) of record of said real estate is: Hugh Day

NOW THEREFORE, unless Hugh Day, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants file an answer to the Complaint for Demolition in this cause or otherwise file an appearance therein in the office of the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, Room 405 Sangamon County Building, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, on or before May 29, 2026, a default judgment may be entered at any time after that day and an Order for Demolition may be entered in accordance with the relief requested in the Complaint for Demolition.

/s/ Joe Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County

Prepared by:
Gregory Moredock
Corporation Counsel
Charles E. Munson, ARDC #6305854
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Attorneys for Plaintiff

800 E. Monroe, Room 327

Springfield, IL 62701-1653

(217) 789-0375

Charles.Munson@springfield.il.us

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS

SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS,

a Municipal Corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SCARLET OAK, LLC – SWEET BASIL SERIES, Defendants.

Case No. 25 -MR-207

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

The requisite Affidavit for Service by Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to SCARLET OAK, LLC – SWEET BASIL SERIES that a Complaint for Demolition was filed in the above-named Court on April 25, 2025, and is now pending.

The common address of the structure which is subject of the Complaint is 4241 Conestoga Dr, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, and said real estate is legally described as:

Parcel 1
The South 81.98 feet of Lot #6, Lot #5 and the North 0.84 feet of Lot #4, Prairie Crossing, Plat 1, Springfield Illinois, as per recorded plat thereof, recorded as document number 96-11209, being a part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 15 North, Range 5 West, of the Third Principal Meridian, Sangamon County, and being the same property described as follows:

Beginning at the Southwest corner of the herein described tract, at a set 5/8" rebar with the LS Cap 2999, said point being on the West right of way of Illinois State Rout 4, and being 0.84 feet South of the Northwest corner of Lot 4 of the aforementioned Prairie Crossing; thence along said right of way, and the West line if said Prairie Crossing, North 00 degrees 34 minutes, 13 seconds West, a distance of 215.22 feet (R)(M), to a set 5/8" rebar with LS Cap 2999; thence 89 degrees 25 minutes 47 seconds East, and parallel to the North line of Lot 6 of Said Prairie Crossing, a distance of 325.00 feet (R)(M), to a set 5/8" rebar with LS Cap 2999, on the West right of way of Conestoga Drive; thence along said right of way, South 00 degrees, 34 minutes 26 seconds East, a distance of 177.88 feet (M)(South 00 degrees 34 minutes 13 seconds East, 177.99 feet (R)), to a found rebar;

thence along a curve to the left, with a radius of 400.00 feet, an arc length of 37.53 feet (C) (M), to a set 5/8" rebar with LS Cap 2999; thence South 89 degrees 25 minutes 47 seconds East, and parallel with the North line of Lot 4 of said Prairie Crossing, a distance of 326.82 feet (C) (M), to the place of beginning; and containing 1.607 acres more or less.

Except that part conveyed by Quit Claim Deed dated September 11, 2000 and recorded October 11, 2000 as Document No. 2000R39968, made by O'Charleys Inc. to Bob Evans Farms, Inc, being the South 13.81 feet of the North 64.33 feet of Lot 6, Prairie Crossing Plat 1, as per plat ther recorded March 22, 1996 as Document No. 96-11209 in the Recorder's Office of Sangamon County, Illinois. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.

Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois. Parcel 2

That tract of land conveyed by Quit Claim Deed dated August 29, 2000 and recorded October 11, 2000 as Document No. 2000R39969, made by Prairie Crossing Limited Partnership to O'Charleys Inc. being the south 13.81 feet of the North 14.65 feet of Lot #4, Prairie Crossing Plat 1, Springfield, Illinois, as per plat thereof, recorded as Document No. 96-11209, in the Recorder's Office of Sangamon County, Illinois. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.

Commonly known as 4241 Conestoga Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62711

PIN: 22-19-0102-016 (also known as 22-19.0-102-016)

The name(s) of the title holder(s) of record of said real estate is/are: SCARLET OAK, LLC – SWEET BASIL.

NOW THEREFORE, unless SCARLET OAK, LLC – SWEET BASIL file an answer to the Complaint in this cause or otherwise file an appearance therein in the office of the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, Room 405 Sangamon County Building, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, on or before June 15, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY FOR THE RELIEF REQUESTED

IN THE COMPLAINT.

/s/ Joe Roesch

Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County

Prepared by:

Gregory E. Moredock
Corporation Counsel
Bradley B. Wilson, ARDC #6238373
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Attorneys for Plaintiff

800 E. Monroe, Room 327
Springfield, IL 62701-1653
(217) 789-2375

Bradley.Wilson@springfield.il.us

NOTICE

In the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois, PRAIRIE STATE BANK & TRUST, Plaintiff vs. PHILIP BLANKENSHIP, UNKNOWN OWNERS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants, Foreclosure, Case No. 2026-FC-78.

NOTICE is hereby given you, UNKNOWN OWNERS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, that suit entitled as above has been commenced and is now pending wherein Plaintiff seeks to foreclose a mortgage affecting the following described property, to-wit:

The West 53 feet 4 inches of Lot 2 of J. Cook Wilson's Addition of Out Lots to the Town of Illioopolis, formerly Wilson, Illinois. Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas, and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.

Commonly known as: 608 Elizabeth Street Illioopolis, Illinois 62539

Tax I.D. #: 18-07.0-276-001

And you are further notified that unless you appear on or before June 8, 2026, and defend in said suit, default judgment may be entered against you on the day following or thereafter.

Joe Roesch
Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Illinois Attorneys for Plaintiff:

Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705-0079
217/544-4868

To enforce Self Storage Lien in default of payment of rent a private auction will be held on Saturday May 23, 2026, at 9:00a.m.

thereafter.

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; Tuesday the 26th day of May, 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 Billy Chance 67. Charisma Jimison 175. Derek James P18. Kelsey Gephart 663/680. Fred Britz 358/427. Kloi Lee 570. Mike Wargo 36. Ray Loftan P73. Rachel Patterson 94. Dale Abeln P13. Natika Stevenson 533. Sean Welker P37. april valtille 3. Evonne Batey 220. Isabella Schmidt 616/597. Abby Bitner 230. BRANDON REICHERT 37; 10 Federal Storage, 3500 South 6th Street, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 387-3951 Kiersten Herron B179. Tyrone Wilson A109. Breashia Bell A112. Gregory Hagen A50. Melissa Taylor B220/B221. Patricia Jones A60. Sharon Hall A79. Dominic Stewart A23; 10 Federal Storage, 900 E Straight St, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 286-1550 Samuel Felton 166. Adam Bline 66. Gregory Hagen 8/63. Joseph Smith 203/253. Carla Sheppard Danler 15. Amber Young-Phillips E306. Lashonda Frazier 216. Kenneth Williams E298. Tyler Lester 36. Van Converse 160; 10 Federal Storage, 500 W Browning Rd, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 339-3865 Jennifer Lowe 139 C. Howard Hurt 144C. Devin Richardson 237E. Isaiiah Evans 3A. Angela Loveless 233E. Erica Moore 203D. Wanda Conrad 1A. Krystin Townsend 280E. Landon Wey 197D. Austin Ludwig 284E

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,

-v.- MARY JO ANTHONY AS INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF FREDERICK E. ANTHONY et al Defendant

2025FC000228 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 22, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on June 9, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

LOT SIX (6) OF CHARLES S. WANLESS' LAKE LAWN, THIRD PLAT.

EXCEPT ALL COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE SAME, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE THE SAME, TO EXTEND AND MAINTAIN WAYS AND ENTRIES THEREUNDER FOR THE PURPOSE OF MINING AND REMOVING COAL FROM OTHER LANDS. Commonly known as 2437 HUNTINGTON RD, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703 Property Index No. 22-14.0-252-040 The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

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

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to

verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the 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 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.

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

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-25-07378 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2025FC000228 TJSC#: 46-1037

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

Case # 2025FC000228 13286618

PUBLIC NOTICE - COMMUNITY MEETING Summit Ridge Energy will host a public community meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at the Gardner Township Building (1266 N Bradford Rd, Springfield, IL 62711) at 6:00pm to discuss a proposed solar energy facility located on Parcel ID 21-03.0-100-007 on Lenhart Road.

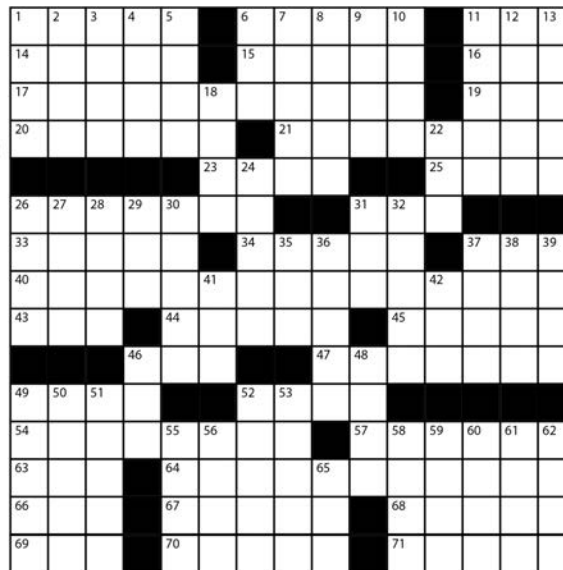
The meeting is open to all community members and is intended to inform the public about the project, answer questions, and address any concerns ahead of the Sangamon County Zoning Board of Appeals hearing. All are welcome to attend. For questions in advance of the meeting, contact Brendan Urban at 740-398-8424 or community@srenergy.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE Please take notice that the Springfield Mass Transit District, an Illinois Municipal corporation, has prepared a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026. Copies of the tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance have been placed on file for public inspection Monday thru Friday each week until 4:30 p.m. at the Springfield Mass Transit District offices at 928 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois. A public hearing on the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of the Springfield Mass Transit District for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026 will be held at 928 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois on Monday, June 8, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

Sounds the same Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 944

Across

1. Expensive fur
6. Lukewarm
11. TV monitor?
14. Get into shape
15. "___ Heartbeat" (Amy Grant hit)
16. "Well, ___-di-dah!"
17. Possible result of an Armed Forces game?
19. "We're number ___!"
20. Faze
21. Outlaw
23. Penny, perhaps
25. Above
26. Out of it
31. Gullible one
33. "Bingo!"
34. Big dos
37. Blue
40. An educational guideline?
43. Alias preceder
44. Popular disinfectant
45. Heavenly hunter
46. A pint, maybe
47. They're left behind
49. Bucket
52. After the hour
54. He wants you
57. Bear witness
63. ___ Grande
64. Seasonal stopper?
66. Long, long time
67. Extended attack
68. Place
69. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy



70. Furnish with a fund
71. Annoyances
- Down
1. Have the lead
2. "Tosca" tune
3. One of TV's Simpsons
4. Pick up
5. Carbon compound
6. Private eye
7. Turn inside out
8. Flycatching bird
9. Flatten, in a way
10. Fraction of a newton
11. Drink with a straw
12. "No problem"
13. Aviary sound
18. Backside
22. Opening
24. Some tides
26. ___ Major
27. Short cut
28. Turkish honorific
29. One of the five W's
30. Lagoon surrounder
31. Prince, to a king
32. Fancy tie
35. Not to
36. Angers
37. Roasting rod
38. ___ vera
39. Family rooms
41. Caustic chemical
42. Investment option, briefly
46. "That's ___!"
48. Deer sir
49. Blender button
50. Electrolysis particle
51. Desktop pictures
52. Cut down
53. Compadre
55. Sum, ___, fui
56. Washer cycle
58. Cook's meas.
59. Forest unit
60. Chows down
61. "Laugh-In" segment
62. Some bills
65. "What's ___?"

Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #943

8	3	7	1	5	9	6	2	4
2	4	5	6	7	8	1	3	9
9	1	6	3	2	4	5	7	8
7	5	1	4	8	3	2	9	6
4	9	3	2	6	7	8	5	1
6	2	8	9	1	5	7	4	3
1	6	9	7	3	2	4	8	5
5	7	4	8	9	1	3	6	2
3	8	2	5	4	6	9	1	7

Sudoku answers from #943

5	3	1	2	4	6
3	6	2	4	5	1
4	5	6	1	2	3
6	4	5	3	1	2
1	2	4	6	3	5
2	1	3	5	6	4

JoshJosh answers from #943

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 944

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.

2-		6+	3+	13+	24x
12+					
	5				
9+		13+		180x	
3+			180x		
				5+	

Difficulty hard

Sudoku No. 944

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

4				9				
		5		6				7
	8				4	1		
	6			2				
		8	6			7		
9						8		3
		7			3	1		
				5			7	
	3	6		9	8			

Difficulty medium

CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

The HeART of Caring



*For family caregivers of older adult relatives/friends and
older adult relatives raising minor kin*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH
8:00AM-1:00PM
CROWNE PLAZA
3000 S. DIRKSEN PKWY
SPRINGFIELD, IL**

**Keynote Speaker: Sen. Doris Turner
Exhibitor tables and resources
Boxed lunch served**

A registration fee of \$20 to reserve your spot must be mailed with registration form, available by calling AgeLinc (217-787-9234) or visiting our website (www.agelinc.org)
This fee will be refunded to attendees at check-in. **Deadline to register is June 10, 2026**

**REGISTRATION 8-8:45AM
EXHIBITOR TABLES 8-1PM
CONFERENCE SESSIONS 9-1:00PM**

AgeLinc



Respite services may be arranged for caregivers to attend this event. Call us at the number below to reserve.
AgeLinc (217-787-9234)

Deadline to arrange respite care: May 20, 2026

Presented by AgeLinc - Funded in part by the Older Americans Act through Illinois Department on Aging