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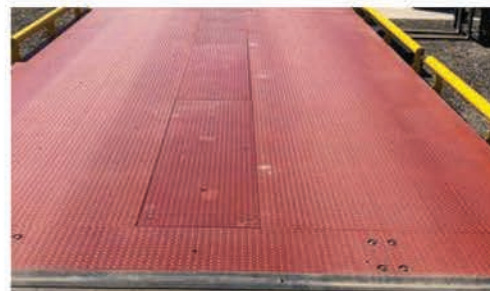
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LifeStar seeks to drop lawsuit

Says it needs more time to gather evidence before proceeding with court action

EMERGENCY SERVICES | Dean Olsen

LifeStar Ambulance Service, Inc. has temporarily dropped its lawsuit against Springfield Memorial Hospital to gather proof of what LifeStar considers the hospital's bias against the company.

"We're still trying to find more evidence," LifeStar Chief Executive Officer John Wright told *Illinois Times*. "We need more for a lawsuit."

Associate Circuit Judge Christopher Perrin on June 30 granted LifeStar's request to dismiss the case "without prejudice," which means the company will have up to a year to refile the suit.

If LifeStar had decided to move forward with the case without enough evidence, Springfield Memorial could have asked for a dismissal, and LifeStar might be barred from refile, Wright said.

"Hopefully, someday this all gets resolved," Wright said.

LifeStar filed a civil lawsuit against Springfield Memorial on May 18 in Sangamon County Circuit Court to reverse the nonprofit hospital's decision to remove LifeStar from Memorial's emergency medical services system.

Because Springfield and Sangamon County officials require ambulance companies responding to 911 emergency calls to be part of a hospital-supervised EMS network, Springfield Memorial's decision to suspend LifeStar, effective May 26, meant the company's ambulances no longer would be allowed to respond to 911 calls in Springfield or elsewhere in the county.

Springfield Memorial officials have declined comment on the court case.

LifeStar had been part of Memorial's network for years. The company was turned down for entry into the multi-county EMS system overseen by Springfield's other acute-care hospital, HSHS St. John's, Wright said.

He said Springfield Memorial overreacted when it expelled LifeStar for maintaining supplies of expired medicines in 2025 and for



Springfield employees of LifeStar Ambulance Service Inc., who gathered May 25 on the last day before the company's suspension from Springfield Memorial Hospital's EMS system took effect, included (from left) Mike Szamocki, Shane Hiser, Jonathan Wood, Rachel Compardo, Mason Hendricks, Judi Elmer, Layla Rodgers, Cody Jackson, Brandon Schroeder, Sophie Mohr and Robert Kelly Sr. PHOTO COURTESY LIFESTAR AMBULANCE SERVICE

errors in documenting patient conditions.

Wright said LifeStar, which has served Springfield since 1988, fixed both problems. No patients received any expired medicines, and patient care was never compromised, he said.

LifeStar filed the lawsuit in May to prevent disruption in service to 911 patients throughout Sangamon County and financial disruption to the Centralia-based company, which also serves patients in and around Centralia and Jacksonville, Wright said.

But Sangamon County Circuit Judge Ryan Cadagin on May 22 turned down LifeStar's request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction that would have stopped the hospital's suspension from taking effect while the case continued in court.

The suspension by Springfield Memorial doesn't affect 911 calls LifeStar responds to outside Sangamon County.

LifeStar owner Roger Campbell previously told *IT*, without providing details, that Springfield Memorial somehow "targeted" LifeStar. He said in May that the company hired a private investigator and received several responses to its Facebook post offering a \$10,000 reward for "information leading to evidence regarding the unjust suspension and removal efforts" by Springfield Memorial.

Campbell said he was "appalled at the facts surrounding this issue," and that LifeStar will contest the suspension "until hell freezes over."

Wright said he didn't know whether the hospital's evaluation of LifeStar was influenced by the December 2022 death of Springfield resident Earl Moore Jr., 35.

Two former LifeStar employees, paramedic Peggy Finley and EMT Peter Cadigan, were charged with first-degree murder after they responded to a medical call at Moore's home that culminated with Cadigan placing and

strapping Moore face-down on a LifeStar gurney before Moore was transported to St. John's.

The county coroner decided Moore died from suffocation because of being placed face-down, rather than the recommended face-up position, in the ambulance gurney, and because he was strapped down tightly.

Finley, 47, of Springfield, is awaiting trial, with the next court date in her case scheduled for Aug. 24.

Cadigan, 53, of Springfield, agreed to plead guilty to a lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter in exchange for prosecutors dropping the murder charge. Circuit Judge Robin Schmidt sentenced Cadigan to the minimum – probation lasting two years and no prison time – on June 23.

LifeStar employed about 25 of its 65 employees through its Springfield office at 404 N. Second St. LifeStar didn't lay off any employees after Springfield Memorial's suspension took effect, Wright said. The company gave

those employees the option of working out of the Centralia and Jacksonville offices, he said.

"We're not giving up on being in Sangamon County," Wright said.

Wright and Campbell previously said response times to 911 calls in Springfield would increase after LifeStar was suspended and the other two ambulance providers – nonprofit Medics First and for-profit America Ambulance – were left to pick up the slack.

A Springfield city ordinance says that if the number of ambulance providers drops from three to two, each of the two remaining providers must provide at least five ambulances at all times instead of three under the three-provider system.

But Springfield Fire Chief Nick Zummo, who has access to data from the Sangamon County Central Dispatch System, said, "We are still not seeing any increase in response times or increase in rigs unavailable." □



Layna Joy Rivas, with a model of Octopolis. PHOTO COURTESY ADENA RIVAS

Octopolis: An audacious endeavor

Springfield group creating art sculpture for Burning Man festival

FEATURE | Karen Ackerman Witter

“The only thing between dream and reality is action,” proclaims Adena Rivas, founder of the Creative Reuse Marketplace (CRM) in Springfield. “Octopolis” is the dream of Adena and her sister, Layna Joy Rivas, who lives in northern California. Action is now underway to make Octopolis a reality.

Their audacious dream is to build a 20-foot high octopus with 40-foot arms out of salvaged and reclaimed metal, create a skin out of donated fabric and incorporate interactive, symbolic elements using light and music. They hope to assemble and showcase the multi-sensory sculpture on the playa at Burning Man this summer in Nevada as part of the big art displays, then transport Octopolis to the Santa Fe Railyard Park for a public art installation, bring it to Springfield and other communities through sponsorships. Ultimately, they will remove the textile skin and eventually install the metal framework in an ocean as part of an artificial coral reef restoration.

As described on the CRM website, “At its heart,

Octopolis tells the story of a mother octopus trying to bring life back to a dying reef. She becomes a symbol of resilience, renewal and the power of community action. What begins as discarded materials becomes public art, environmental education and ultimately a living reef habitat. Cumulatively, Octopolis demonstrates how creativity, sustainability, collaboration and a lot of heart can help create a better future.”

The common language between the two sisters is art. They are 16 months apart in age and have chosen different career paths but share a passion for art and music. Layna is rooted in art and has been involved with Burning Man for more than 20 years, participating in large art installations. Adena’s career relates to the environment. Her day job is as energy projects coordinator for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Previously she was the program manager for the city of Springfield’s waste and recycling division.

Burning Man is a nine-day annual event, held the week before Labor Day in the Nevada desert,



Adena Rivas is overseeing the creation of the skin out of recycled textiles through her Springfield nonprofit, Creative Reuse Marketplace. PHOTO COURTESY ADENA RIVAS

focused on community, art, self-expression and self-reliance. There are massive interactive art installations and theme camps in a temporary Black Rock City, built from scratch and completely disassembled at the end. Participants must be totally self-sufficient and bring all their own food, water, shelter and electricity. As a culmination, a giant wooden effigy of a man built at the center of the city is burned in a celebratory event. The Temple, a large wooden structure filled with personal items, notes and mementos, is also burned in a solemn occasion signifying mourning, loss and releasing emotional baggage. Octopolis will not be burned, but will contribute to rejuvenation long after Burning Man.

The Octopolis project was awarded a prestigious \$60,000 Burning Man honoraria grant, and Adena obtained some additional smaller grants. While her sister is at work in California to salvage metal and create the frame and internal elements out of reclaimed materials, Adena is working in Springfield as the fabrication lead to create the skin out of recycled textiles at the Creative Reuse Marketplace.

To date, approximately 50 volunteers have participated in workshops where people help tear fabric into squares, iron the pieces onto fused material, create a patchwork and sew strips together. More volunteers are needed, and anyone can help. At the workshops there are ripping, ironing and sewing stations. It’s also possible to help by doing some of the labor at home. Kits are available to pick up at the CRM, and video tutorials are online.

All of the fabric is white and off-white because there is so much salt in the air at Burning Man. Fabric scraps and remnants previously donated to the CRM are being used, and bedsheets were donated by SpringHill Suites Marriott, Fairfield by Marriott and the State House Inn. The fabrication process also involves creating gores, which are spherical in shape, to cover the contours of the structure. Each gore requires three bedsheets. Ultimately the skin will be quilted together, and

volunteers with quilting expertise are invited to join in this unique experience.

The CRM is a nonprofit organization created as a place to donate items that might otherwise end up in a landfill but that can be repurposed, upcycled and used by creative individuals for art projects. The CRM combines community engagement, educational programming and environmental sustainability. The store, located in White Oaks Mall, is open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday.

Octopolis is not only a sculpture. It will be interactive and filled with symbolism. Female octopuses reproduce once and die after laying a clutch of eggs and fiercely protecting them until they hatch. Layna Joy made “embryos” from clay earth on her California property. They are encased in rubber resin with lights that will illuminate inside Octopolis at night. This “is symbolic of a mother’s strength, the ultimate sacrifice and representative of trying to bring life back to a dying coral reef...and a reminder of the power inside us all to care about something more than ourselves,” said Adena.

Layna Joy also worked with volunteers to create an elaborate welded metal frame with hand-crafted resin coral structures to hold an electronic keyboard for mini-concerts. “Each note, like life itself, is fleeting – here and gone,” she said. “The music lingers, echoing in our minds, reminding us to cherish the moment, to play with intention and to let go with grace.” □

Workshops take place every Wednesday in July (except July 8) from 5:30-8 p.m. at the CRM at White Oaks Mall, located on the second floor next to Malibu Jacks.

To get involved, email creativereusemarketplace@gmail.com. Take a deep dive into the Octopolis project on the CRM website <https://creativereusemarketplace.org/the-octopolis-project> to watch engaging videos, adopt an embryo and find links to follow the progress on social media.

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Sangamon County seeks more local control

Looks at ways to circumvent new state law requiring approval of renewable energy projects

ENERGY | Dilpreet Raju

The Sangamon County Zoning and Land Use Committee discussed ways to regain more local control over renewable energy projects, such as solar and wind farms, in light of a recent state law that restricts authority of municipal governments to veto such developments. At the June 18 meeting, lawyers gave the committee a laundry list of reasons to take caution with a proposal to wholly rezone agricultural parcels of land, though an amendment was approved that could give the county more say over renewable energy projects.

The proposal by District 7 board member Craig Hall, who represents the area where the Double Black Diamond Solar Farm opened last year and where the CyrusOne data center project is slated to be built, attempts to circumvent the state's latest laws that prevent local governments from having stricter authority on zoning for renewable energy projects. It would create 1.5 miles of buffer real estate around municipalities through rezoning agricultural parcels as residential.

A 2023 law specifically "requires counties to allow commercial, utility-scale solar and wind energy conversion systems to be sited in areas zoned for agricultural or industrial use," according to a University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign fact page. "A county can have more lax requirements than called for in state law, but it cannot have more restrictive requirements," though no mention of rezoning land so it's not sited for agricultural or industrial use is outlined.

Daniel Hamilton, a partner at the Springfield-based law firm of Brown, Hay and Stephens, told the committee that such a proposal would be "high risk with low

certainty" of success as the resolution could open the county to lawsuits. He also said enacting zoning overhaul would be costly and cumbersome.

"There's likely litigation, likely liability and procedurally it would be a process to bring it to fruition," Hamilton said.

The proposal would require proper zoning petitions (and a number of subsequent notices) for every parcel of agricultural land to be rezoned, in addition to necessitating land evaluation assessments for every impacted parcel, he said. Additionally, it would almost certainly change individuals' property tax bills and the county's property tax revenue.

"Because the property is agricultural, the ZBA would also run the land value evaluation and site assessment report for each parcel, and take that into account," he said.

Those changes demand "a lot of administrative burden that the county would need time to plan for and implement if it wanted to do that. I'm not saying it couldn't be done, I'm just laying out that it would have to be done in a very planned and coordinated format."



Sangamon County staff members address the Zoning and Land Use Committee June 18. PHOTO BY DILPREET RAJU

The Zoning and Land Use Committee approved an amendment that takes into consideration the Fourth District's ruling and moves the process for renewable energy projects from a siting approval permit to a conditional permitted use.

"The ordinance, really, is going to be in line with state law but it also is going to be a little more in line with the Winnebago case that was just decided," said Trustin Harrison, Sangamon County's zoning administrator.

Hamilton, the local attorney, said there are other tools for county and municipal

leaders to consider, mainly the idea that a county's comprehensive zoning plan would be "a strong planning tool that could be used to help provide insulation to municipalities around their borders.

"If the county were to adopt a revised comprehensive plan that incorporated the different factors that impact areas around municipalities, that could be used by Regional Planning when making their recommendation and by the County Board when making any final vote to justify the approval or denial of any particular petition," he said, so long as the plan "states that an area is reserved for future residential growth or future industrial growth."

Hamilton also said that local municipalities and townships, many of which have leaders in support of increased local control, could "enter into pre-annexation agreements with property owners... if they're located within a mile and a half of the municipality, and that would allow them to have the protection of being within the municipality for their particular parcel." □

Appellate courts at odds

In early June, the state's Fourth District Appellate Court, which includes Sangamon County, issued a ruling that grants counties "some discretion" when considering commercial renewable energy projects. The case was filed by two solar companies seeking to develop nearly 150 acres of land in Winnebago County.

The appellate court interpreted a section of the state's 2023 law about renewable energy project zoning as having "language (that) allows counties to codify and consider factors not expressly enumerated in the section and that give them some discretion when approving or denying applications. Accordingly, the trial court properly dismissed plaintiffs' complaints" asking for a court order to grant project permits.

That decision disputed a March ruling from the state's Third District Appellate Court, which ordered Grundy County to issue permits for a pair of commercial solar projects. Grundy County plans to appeal the decision, according to the *Morris Herald-News*.

Mental Health Board meets

Discusses who should benefit from nearly \$15 million in anticipated annual funding

MENTAL HEALTH | Dilpreet Raju

Sangamon County's recently convened Mental Health Board agreed on a job listing for an executive director position and started discussions about how to organize the Board's grant structure during its June 24 meeting. Former Massey Commission staff and members also implored the board to avoid filling governmental budget gaps with the nearly \$15 million it's expected to disburse for community mental health support. Instead, multiple speakers told the board to consider finding ways to bolster methods of intervention so fewer people require state services in the first place.

The Rev. Susan Phillips, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in downtown Springfield and a former Massey Commission member, asked the board to consider what events might have influenced the voters who authorized its formation in the first place.

"You are here and I am here because in the last few years, three people of color who were having mental health crises were murdered or significantly harmed: Gregory Small Jr. Earl Moore Jr. and Sonya Massey," Phillips.

Chair Steve Nardulli, a former judge, said he anticipates county departments will apply for grants from the board. Because of that, the board is planning to put out a request for proposals to hire a lawyer not affiliated with the county.

"We really can't use the state's attorney to provide us with legal counsel when they are, in all likelihood going to – I can almost guarantee – that they will be participating in some grant proposals," Nardulli said.

Ken Pacha, a community activist with The Purple Coalition and a regular speaker at both the County Board and Springfield City Council, said the board should not be sending tax dollars back to nonprofits with large coffers or government agencies that are already funded by taxes.

"The reality is that this (Board) needs to be community focused, not institutional and systemic. You're not here to fix the Sangamon County Jail or the mental health system out there, or Memorial, or other large multimillion dollar organizations with budgets that go far beyond what you have," Pacha said. "That's not why you guys were created; it's not to fill their budget gaps."

Jennifer Douglas, a re-entry coordinator and the board's secretary, said the board



Sheriff Paula Crouch addresses the board during public comments, saying she had concerns about how outcomes will be evaluated. PHOTO BY DILPREET RAJU

should evaluate if established entities should even be applying for supplemental funding.

"It's important for us to look at the community and population we're serving. You could have some of these new corporations or big agencies that have all these millions of dollars and they're implementing programming, but it's not working for the populations they're serving," Douglas said. "If we have this pot of money, we don't want to continue to give it to the same agencies who serve the same people... anybody can just say, 'Here's a checkbook.' What are you doing with that? What has worked in the past? What successes do you have?"

Leigh Steiner, former CEO of then-Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center, said the newly formed government body can be a partner to organizations attempting to help people struggling with mental health.

"We have the opportunity to not just be a funder, but to be a partner with the county, with the city, with our faith community, with service providers in helping to identify what gaps we have in our system," she said. "That's a unique responsibility, or opportunity, that we have and no other entity does."

David Racine, former executive director of the Center for State Policy and Leadership at University of Illinois Springfield, gave an overview of the various considerations, options and timelines the board will have to weigh when it comes to establishing how it administers and disburses funds.

Sheriff Paula Crouch, who won her March primary race against a former employee,

addressed the board during public comment and said she had concerns about the idea of how the board would evaluate outcomes.

"Some of the stuff that I might want to ask for – I can't promise you that if you give me money for those things that in a year, I'm going to be able to give you outcomes that you can weigh. I'm sure there are a lot of agencies that you'll encounter that can maybe tell you, 'This is what's happened in other communities, this is what has happened with other agencies,' but that guarantee won't be there," she said.

The board is scheduled to meet monthly and the next meeting is planned for 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22. Former Massey Commission public engagement coordinator Adam White pleaded for the board to change its regular meeting time, saying it doesn't invite community input.

"Please don't operate from comfort, don't operate from convenience..." White said. "Please change this three o'clock on Wednesday (meeting time); it's not going to work for 90% of the community."

The county's inaugural Mental Health Board also includes: Michael Gaines, corrections coordinator for the Illinois Department of Public Health; Janice Gambach, former CEO of Memorial Behavioral Health; William Moredock, president of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School; Margaret Seymour, a psychiatric clinician; and Brian Wojcicki, a lobbyist and lawyer. □

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OPINION



New large mahogany doors and all-yellow brickwork on the façade of the Black Firehouse at 1310 E. Adams St. are the latest renovations expected to be completed by the end of August on this historic structure. The building, owned by the Central Lodge #3 Prince Hall Masons, was the first Black firehouse in Springfield. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

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

himself that he had worked in EMS for 24 years. He knew better, and his actions were more than just negligent – they were malicious.

As someone with that much experience, he understood exactly what his responsibilities were and chose not to uphold them. Moore lost his life, yet the punishment amounts to little more than a slap on the wrist. I cannot imagine how Moore's family feels knowing that this is the outcome. Probation and community service may be appropriate for some offenses, but not for conduct that resulted in such a tragic and preventable death. The people of Springfield deserve better, and so does Moore's family.

*Hayley Lane
 Springfield*

the nationally known lawyer, Ben Crump, for his office's involvement, and Teresa Haley's support of the family. But what about others? If you are going to take leadership roles in the community, then you should step up when there is clearly an injustice involved.

Being a man called, and ordained by the Lord God, I feel for all involved in these separate incidents that has caused the community of Springfield to look bad before the nation and world. Although we want to call it racism, I look at it more as a battle between good and evil. We need to call on the Lord God to eradicate these demons from among us.

*Minister Gary Pierce
 Key of David Ministries
 Springfield*

THANKS FOR SAVING IT

Ken Page and the Prince Hall Masons Lodge are to be commended for saving the former Black Firehouse ("Battling the fires of racism," June 11). Our elected officials obtaining grants for preservation efforts through the years also play an important role. The 1908 Race Riot Monument and Cultural Area Designation will enable more appreciation of the courage of the firefighters that ventured forth on Aug. 13-14, 1908, to save their neighborhood.

*Stephen Myers
 Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes*

GREAT PROGRESS

Living in the neighborhood, I delight in watching the progress. I look forward to the door installation and the transom window. The yellow brick is beautiful. Architect Bruce Ferry and a colleague were over the other day to check out the work.

*Kathryn Harris
 Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes*

NOT JUSTICE

My deepest condolences to the family and friends of Earl Moore Jr. A sentence of probation and community service is a miscarriage of justice and does not fit the crime committed ("EMT charged with murder sentenced," June 25). Cadigan stated

WHO DO YOU CALL?

The recent court decision for the EMT worker who was one of two people that were supposed to be assisting Earl Moore but instead caused his death should make those in the African American community of Springfield wonder who we should call for help. I say this in reminisce of the killing of Sonya Massey, who called for help and received death instead. What are we doing? I say we because everyone in this community should feel and realize the injustice that exists between these two acts. I say this because again, it raises the question again of, in my words, the demon of racism.

Where are the chosen leaders' statements or responses to this verdict? I do commend

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America at 250

A freedom less articulated

GUESTWORK | Ed Wojcicki

When I was in high school, I would regularly hitchhike home along a seven-mile trek through Florissant, Ferguson and Jennings in north St. Louis County. On any street, I would walk to the curb, mindlessly extend my right arm straight out and point my thumb up, watching every car go by. It never took long for someone to stop for me.

“Where you going?” the driver, always a stranger, would ask. He would take me as far as he could along his route and drop me off, because he never had to adjust his course to accommodate me. I just got out and began the process again. I never had any trouble, and my parents never objected.

Now 50 years later, that ease of coming and going reminds me of a universal freedom not articulated enough in America: freedom of movement. It’s not in the Constitution, but it’s deeply embedded in our culture. I hail this freedom as one whose earlier career as a reporter, editor and publisher depended on our First Amendment rights. I benefited from and defended freedom of the press, religion, speech and peaceable assembly with uncompromising passion. Those inscribed freedoms seem to generate others, producing a civic life imbued with all kinds of liberties.

I think of the many ordinary ways we take our

extraordinary freedom of movement for granted. Enter a local diner or church or Walmart in any town, and nobody stops me – all free entry. Where I have to pay to get in, like a theater or hotel room or Disney World, if I have the money, I can go where I want when I want. Some venues, such as a Super Bowl or an Ivy League university, have always felt beyond my means, so economic barriers (for me and everyone else) are real.

It wasn’t until I was older that I better understood other limitations on freedom of movement, like the immoral Jim Crow laws that still existed when I was a kid, or in modern days, more subtle but real acts of discrimination. I learned that my hero, Bob Gibson, endured unfair treatment at hotels and restaurants as a Black pitcher on his rise to the St. Louis Cardinals. Such shameful historical treatment needs to be acknowledged. Two decades ago, a Black friend in Springfield with a doctorate degree told me he would never buy gas after dark here, explaining as if I would understand, “It just isn’t worth it.” That surprised and saddened me.

Also, new restrictions have emerged in my lifetime, such as airport checkpoints after 9/11, secure entrances to many private office buildings

and locks and metal detectors in schools. Sadly, those are all necessary. I wondered aloud after 9/11, now 25 years ago, how much freedom we would be willing to surrender in the name of safety. We’re still grappling to settle this, situation by situation – including what to do about social media-driven pop-up parties and “teen takeovers” in cities.

The freedom to move around has never been absolute, but it’s never been appreciated enough in the U.S.

I had a different experience as a young editor in poverty-stricken Jamaica. I did not go to the island country’s beaches or resorts. I was invited by a nonprofit to join a small group of journalists to witness the widespread poverty first hand and write about it for First World audiences. At my hotel, barbed wired on the fence guarded the parking lot. Ignoring the warning, I ventured beyond that protection and was sorry I did. Local street vendors found me quickly and tried to sell me contraband jewelry, women and drugs, and a pickup truckload of gun-carrying men spied me with suspicion. I hurried in another direction and back to safety inside the fence. While touring the worst areas, a couple of men brandishing machetes approached on foot, but our guide was local and explained

that we were OK. For a minute, I imagined a story about us being slaughtered rather than returning to write about the woman roaming the putrid town dump alongside wild pigs, scavenging with the animals for the same scraps of spoiled food.

What a contrast that was to my American experience, where I generally can travel, live and work as quickly as a plane, train or automobile can take me.

In my lifetime and career, I’ve experienced an increasingly diverse group of colleagues and friends enjoying the same freedom of movement that I have, with the primary universal barriers being time and money, which are different for everyone. I can choose whether to drive across town or to Florida, or whether to walk down the street or stroll through a park or join hundreds of strangers at a fireworks display, and I am grateful how freely I can do so. I think many just take it for granted, but I celebrate this freedom of movement, while acknowledging there is still progress to be made, as the U.S. celebrates its 250th birthday. □

Ed Wojcicki lives in Springfield and is retired from careers in print journalism, higher education and association management.

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The AFL-CIO and endorsements

POLITICS | Rich Miller

The news earlier this month that the Illinois AFL-CIO has “deferred” all decisions on legislative and statewide endorsements in the upcoming fall election generated quite a bit of headlines.

“Springfield not only failed to advance key priorities, but the process by which legislation was considered fell short of what working people deserve,” a statement by the state federation claimed. “These concerns span the full breadth of our movement, with public sector, private sector, manufacturing, and building trades all expressing dissatisfaction.”

The key priorities they pointed to include a multi-billion dollar fix to the Tier Two pension system, which the state could not possibly fund without a significant tax increase. The unions also wanted House Bill 2565, which would pay unemployment insurance benefits to striking workers after two weeks (expected costs are up to \$1 million a year, but business interests were hotly opposed and, traditionally, no unemployment insurance changes can move forward without first being subjected to the agreed bill process – a tradition the AFL-CIO is trying to end). House Bill 4416 would grant unemployment insurance benefits to non-instructional education workers (cost estimated up to \$176 million per year and local schools were hotly opposed because they’d have to raise property taxes).

And then there was the data center issue. Despite data centers being more unpopular than Ebola throughout the entire country, enough House and Senate Democrats privately stood with organized labor against data center regulations deemed unreasonable by the industry that a bill which clamped down on them and would’ve been wildly popular never emerged. Heck, nobody ever got to the negotiation stage.

What upset some of the unions was that Gov. JB Pritzker decided to do what everybody has figured he’d do all along: He issued a decree

pausing the granting of data center tax breaks until a legislative solution could be worked out.

That action will likely force the industry and the construction unions to the negotiating table. Even if a lawsuit is filed and won claiming that Pritzker overstepped his authority, the governor’s bureaucracy can still slow-walk applications.

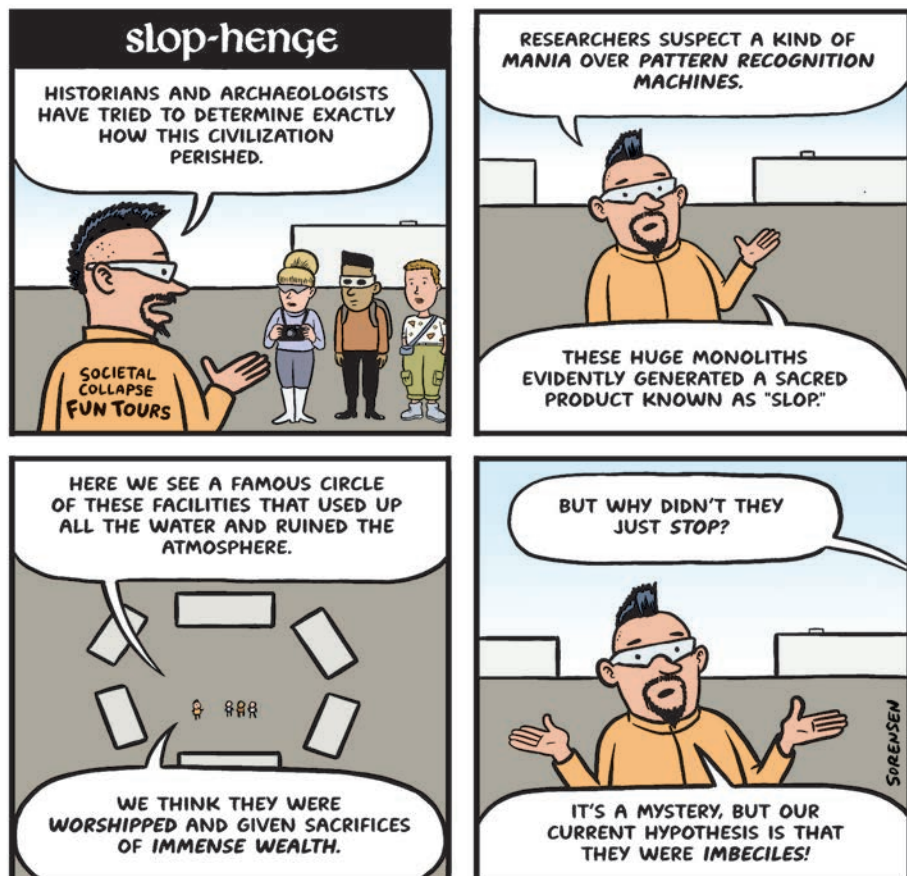
This whole thing looks like member management. People don’t always realize that labor leaders are subject to similar election pressures as politicians. They have to keep their constituents happy, and in this case the constituency is the Illinois AFL-CIO’s executive committee. I just do not think that this announcement about how the union endorsement decisions will be “deferred” to a later date will wind up meaning no endorsements at all, for several reasons:

1. While things can change, this year is shaping up to be a horrible midterm for President Donald Trump in Illinois. The House and Senate Democrats are in no danger of losing seats. The Dems might even win seats without spending a dime. Withholding endorsements only to see the Democrats go on to have a good year would be seriously counter-productive. The politics game is partially about making sure candidates believe they need you.

2. Organized labor has not been all that ecstatic about Pritzker. “He is labor friendly but not a friend to labor,” is a common refrain. So, they’re hoping to use this threat of deferred endorsements to put a bit of fear into him as he gears up to run nationwide. But data centers are so absolutely unpopular with the electorate that Pritzker can point to his pro-labor record and explain that he just couldn’t be with his friends on this one. As far as pensions go, he can point to Illinois’ ignoble past of overpromising and underfunding pension benefits as a darned good reason to avoid repeating those mistakes.

When my associate Isabel Miller asked the governor about the announcement, Pritzker said the process was up to the AFL-CIO, adding that he considers himself “pro-worker.” Neither of the two Democratic legislative leaders responded to requests for comment.

3. As noted above, several legislators stood with labor on data center regulation in private, and if unions did actually withhold their endorsements for the fall election, those folks would have no incentive to stick with unions in the future, at least on this topic. □



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Marbold marks 175 years

Jubilee event to be held July 12

FEATURE | Cinda Ackerman Klickna

The Marbold Farmstead Association hosts a yearly fall event and other activities throughout the year at the Marbold Home near Greenview. From 1-4 p.m. on July 12, a special celebration will take place with music, house tours, children's activities and storytelling. A program, "175 Year Journey: Our Story" will begin at 2 p.m. and include highlights of the Marbold story set against the backdrop of U.S. history. Similar to the 19th century Sunday social gatherings in the former Marbold Grove, readings and recitations with a sprinkling of musical numbers will weave together the telling.

Barbara Van Dyke-Brown serves as current president of the Marbold Association. She said, "It is inspiring to think about all that has occurred since the house was built. The Association has been instrumental in saving this piece of history."

John Marbold, a widower at the age of 47, came here with his three children from Germany in the fall of 1847. He arrived in New Orleans, traveled up the Mississippi by steamboat to St. Louis, and then by stagecoach to Elkhart, finally making the remainder of the journey to Petersburg by oxcart where previously settled family members lived.

In 1850-1851 he bought 200 acres of land and built his brick home. He helped other German immigrants gain a stronghold in the area, hiring men to help make bricks on site or work the farm.

The farm was later passed down to his son, Henry, who called the farmstead Elmwood



CAPTION. PHOTO COURTESY FACEBOOK

and who started the Greenview Marbold Bank. Later in 1915, the farm passed to John's grandson, Benjamin. Benjamin had become the president of the Marbold Bank but lost his wealth – and his home – after the bank failed in 1927.

For years the house and land sat empty and fell into disrepair – the roofline sagged, windows had been broken out and brush covered the foundation. The interior had been

damaged by rodents and termites as well as looters who had ripped out fireplace mantels. Robert Hanson acquired the property in 1990 and began some restoration: adding windows, shoring up the floors and more. His work was key for any future restoration, although an overwhelming amount of work was still needed.

Even though the former mansion was now a run-down, rat and termite-infested, sagging

old house that the Greenview residents had been told could never be restored, many refused to be daunted. Fifty members formed the nonprofit Association in 2011; each gave \$1,000 and sought donations to buy the house and 10 acres for \$78,500 in 2012. Today, through years of hard work and a labor of love, that run-down house looks amazing.

The Association has created a living history farm and hosts school groups to learn about life in past centuries. The work required clearing out old farm equipment; cleaning up dilapidated buildings; adding gutters, downspouts and windows; fencing the property to keep out trespassers; and repairing the kitchen floor that had been eaten by termites. The washhouse, dairy room, carriage house and smokehouse have been rebuilt. The summer kitchen, complete with stove, tables and working kitchen items from the era, has been recreated. The Conservatory, with glorious stained-glass windows, has been added back to the house. Furniture, some original to the home, now fills the parlor and other rooms.

Each time the Association hosts an event there are new things to see as the work to fully complete the restoration of the house continues.

On July 12, guests are encouraged to bring their own lunch for a picnic on the lawn. The event is free. Donations are welcome. □

Cinda Ackerman Klickna loves historic sites and has been amazed at the efforts of the Marbold Association and what has been accomplished.

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Fourth of July celebrations in the 1800s

HOLIDAY | Tom Emery

Today in Illinois and elsewhere, the Fourth of July is a holiday for boating, barbecues and fireworks. More than 180 years ago, the celebrations were more scripted and formal, though fireworks were always a constant.

Back then, revelry on July 4 was an all-day affair, complete with processions, bands and a multitude of speakers. The events were large and sweeping, and most of the town took part.

In many events, the men of the town gathered at a local tavern or hotel for dinner, complete with 13 formal toasts – one for each of the original colonies. Though 13 is considered an unlucky number today, it was a recurring theme in many July 4 celebrations of the era, and sometimes featured the firing of 13 guns or cannons in commemoration.

In a gala in the former state capital of Vandalia in 1839, the locals added plenty of extra toasts. The *Illinois State Register* reported that the “dinner was prepared at great expense... and we venture to say, in a style unsurpassed in this country.”

The toasts included “the day we celebrate” and drinks to the memories of George Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, as well as “the officers and soldiers of the American Revolution, Freedom’s chosen band.”

Next came toasts to the nation itself, the current president, and the “memory of the brave who have fallen in the service to their country.” The eighth toast was to “the Army and Navy of the United States,” followed by “the militia of the United States” and “the state of Illinois – the garden of the Union.”

“Agriculture, commerce and the arts” were the eleventh toast, with “internal improvement” as number 12. The thirteenth and final toast was to “our fair countrywomen – daughters of freemen – fair, virtuous and happy.”

The 13 standard toasts were followed by a



William Lewis' and RF Herndon's sons celebrate Fourth of July with firecrackers in front of 423 S. Sixth St. in the late 1890s. PHOTO COURTESY SANGAMON VALLEY COLLECTION

string of “volunteer toasts,” ranging from “the sovereignty of the people” to Henry Clay to the Declaration of Independence. Other toasts were raised to the “youth of America,” the “Valley of the Mississippi,” liberty, democracy, “the free sons of Columbia,” veterans of the Black Hawk war, “farmers and mechanics” and the state printer.

Among the final toasts were to “modesty, beauty, virtue and chastity, the characteristic graces of our fair,” as well as “the fair of Illinois” itself – “their smiles the only smiles we care for, their censure we all fear.” In all, at least 30 additional toasts were raised, though the *Register* offered no comments on the sobriety of the revelers.

At a celebration in Troy in 1844, the toasts came after a lengthy procession of around 1,800 people, “including a large number of ladies and several citizens from Edwardsville and Collinsville,” as if visitors from those communities were some sort of oddity.

Heading the procession were clergymen, orators on the schedule and a citizen slated to read the Declaration of Independence. Next were musicians, followed by the “committee on arrangements,” “the ladies,” “the gentlemen” and “the boys.” Where “the girls” were, however, was not clear.

Three years earlier in 1841, the *Telegraph* noted that an array of Fourth of July celebrations were coming up, particularly one in Upper Alton. There, wrote the paper, “the citizens... have made extensive arrangements for the celebration of the approaching anniversary of our independence. We hope our friends, without distinction of party, throughout the county, will have it in their power to attend.”

Others were heading to St. Louis to attend “the celebration of our National Birthday.” Transportation was provided by the steamer *Eagle*, which was scheduled to leave at 8 a.m. and “return the same evening should the

passengers generally desire it.”

That year, July 4 fell on a Sunday, and since most holiday celebrations were not held on the Sabbath, the Upper Alton event was set for Saturday. The St. Louis affair was on Monday.

Celebrations often had a political tone, and sometimes turned raucous. In tiny Woodburn in Macoupin County in 1840, the *Telegraph* wrote of a national birthday celebration that was disrupted over politics, particularly a group that had staged their own festivities in nearby Bunker Hill “with considerable spirit, not the spirit of ’76, but that of a barrel of whiskey.”

Orations at Fourth of July celebrations in the era were heavily patriotic and reverent of the Revolution, which was around 70 years before. Revolutionary veterans were cherished in early 19th society in Illinois and elsewhere, especially on the Fourth of July.

On July 4, 1839, the *Telegraph* reprinted a lengthy address at the “Sabbath-school

and temperance celebration in Upper Alton,” where the speaker noted that “the fourth of July, 1776, (was) a day ever memorable in the annals of nations and of mankind,” since on that day, “a free and independent nation” was born.

As he closed, the orator called for the United States to “be not only a great and powerful nation, but what is vastly better, a free and independent people.”

He added that we could “shine not like a deceptive glare that leads us astray, but as a steady beacon light to all the nations of the earth, and prove an incalculable blessing to individual man, throughout the human family.” Those words seem as important now as they were then, over 180 years ago. □

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville. He may be reached at 217-710-8392 or ilcivilwar@yahoo.com.

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Route 66 lovers flock to Litchfield's Skyview, which claims to be the oldest continuous operating drive-in on the Mother Road. PHOTO BY KYLEE HARDT

Drive-in movie theaters

FEATURE | Mary Bohlen

On a warm summer night in the 1960s, long before Netflix and HBO, I would hop in a car with family or friends and head to the Harvest Moon drive-in theater. Once there, we would crank down the driver's window, hook a speaker over the glass, grab some snacks and settle in for movie night under the stars.

While many of my youthful haunts have gone the way of my flexibility, the Harvest Moon in Gibson City still is entertaining families. Opened in 1954, the theater ranks No. 3 in *USA Today's* Best Drive-in Theaters of 2026.

The citation lists the theater hosting such events as Easter egg hunts, retro luaus and kids' carnivals. Another online ranking, the Tourist Checklist, says the owners' "commitment to providing not just movies, but a full-fledged entertainment experience" and the spacious and well-maintained parking area with unobstructed views contribute to the success.

Drive-ins seemed to hit their heyday in the 1940s through the 1960s with the increase in

car ownership and the birth of Baby Boomers. Home entertainment options spelled their decline beginning in the 1970s.

Those remaining, such as Harvest Moon and others in central Illinois, capitalize on Boomer memories, improved audio quality and special events to draw viewers.

"A lot of the draw is nostalgia because the theaters remind people of when they were kids, especially the older people," says Kylee Hardt, manager of Litchfield's Skyview Drive-in. "They really like reminiscing.

"For the younger generation, it is about keeping the culture alive and paying homage to history," she adds.

Springfield had several drive-in theaters preceding the Route 66 Drive-in Theater, next to Knight's Action Park since 2002. The theater boasts two screens with double headers Wednesday through Sunday in the summer and on weekends in spring and fall. Admission (\$10 for adults, \$6 for 4-12 and free for 3 and younger) is good for both features on one screen.

The 100th anniversary of Route 66 this year is sure to add to the south Springfield drive-in's popularity. The same is true for the Skyview in Litchfield.

Opened in 1950, the Skyview claims to be the oldest continuous operating drive-in on the Mother Road. Hardt says the theater will celebrate the centennial on Oct. 10 with a vendor fair, an Elvis impersonator, a car show and two related movies. Already this year several Route 66 tours have visited.

The theater shows two movies on Friday and Saturday nights with an admission price of \$7 per person for both shows. The lot can hold 800 cars for the two screens with an average of 100-200 cars on a typical night to 500 on a busy one. A full concession stand, special events and audio through a car speaker system or battery-operated radios add to the drive-in's success.

"We try to do a lot of special events such as vendor fairs, Christmas in July and a pickle fest with pickle-themed food and merchandise," Hardt says. Tractor and classic

car collectors have gathered on the grounds as have Harry Potter fans for special days.

Belleville also has a drive-in named Skyview, started in 1949. Storms destroyed various parts over the years but the theater rebuilt and endures with two screens each showing double features. Movies start at dark seven days a week during the summer. In spring and fall, the theater is open on weekends only.

It also got a nod in the *USA Today's* Best Drive-in Theaters for 2026, coming in at No. 5, and hosts film festivals and live music.

Most drive-in theaters require drivers to turn off their lights and engines, never honk car horns, respect other patrons and park high-rise vehicles in the back. Those with playgrounds close them once the movie starts, allowing viewers to sit back, enjoy a night under the stars and feast on snacks – and nostalgia. □

Mary Bohlen of Springfield enjoys traveling down Memory Lane and writing about it for IT.



Stock photo of dry rub seasoned pork ribs.

Magical marinades

FOOD | Ashley Meyer

A well-made marinade makes all the difference when grilling and can transform an otherwise lackluster meal into a stellar spread. Marinades and dry rubs perform two main functions to achieve this, first by allowing salt to penetrate thoroughly and evenly, resulting in a juicy, well-seasoned dish. Second, the acids and enzymes in many marinades can tenderize tough cuts of meat and reduce the amount of cooking time required to achieve a fork tender bite. However, cooks must be mindful of the type and concentration of acids used, as over-marinating in a highly acidic solution can adversely affect texture and cause meat to turn mushy.

In general, a good marinade consists of liquid, salt, sugar, aromatics, fat and acids. The liquid can be either in the form of wine, beer, juice, yogurt, soy sauce or even just water. Salt is critical not just for seasoning the meat, but also for keeping it juicy after cooking. This is because salt partially dissolves some of the muscle proteins in meat, effectively reducing the amount the muscle can contract while cooking. Less contraction means the meat can retain more moisture, making for a more tender, juicy finished dish. Sugar, whether from good old granulated, brown sugar or in the form of honey, maple syrup or fruit juice, seasons the outside of the meat and aids browning. Aromatics such as garlic or onion are essential. I often include an entire onion in my marinades, whirred into a liquid slurry in my blender along with garlic or other herbs and spices as I see fit.

Fat is a major conduit of flavor – it simply makes everything taste better. It also aids in heat conduction and helps with even cooking and browning. Finally, in addition to adding bright flavor, acids can affect the texture of meat by denaturing proteins. Different types and concentrations of acids, as well as the length of marinating time, can have widely different effects on texture. Of the three main types of acids found in the home kitchen, lactic acid is the mildest, making it a fabulous option for including in a long overnight or even two-three-day marinade. Citric acid, sourced from citrus juice, has a slightly more pronounced effect on texture and is well suited for shorter marinades of a few hours. Acetic acid, found in vinegar, has the strongest effect, and if used in too high a concentration or marinated too long can result in an undesirable texture.

Dry rubs are another method of infusing flavor into meat. A combination of salt, sugar, garlic and onion powder and spices is rubbed into meat before cooking and allowed to rest anywhere between 30 minutes to overnight. This is a great option when you're looking to maximize char and caramelization since they don't add any additional moisture to the mix. The most basic dry rub starts with just equal parts salt, sugar and pepper, but can easily be enhanced with a range of flavors from homey garlic and onion powder to richly spiced curry powders. □

All-purpose barbecue dry rub

Ingredients:

¼ cup each kosher salt, brown sugar, smoked or regular paprika and finely ground black pepper
2 tablespoons each dry mustard, cumin, coriander, garlic powder and onion powder
1 teaspoon cayenne (to taste)

Mix well and store in an airtight container in a cool, dark spot.

Buttermilk herb marinade

Delicious with chicken or pork

Ingredients:

2 cups buttermilk or full-fat, plain yogurt (not Greek-style)
¼ cup minced fresh sage, thyme, rosemary or parsley, or a combination
1 onion, roughly chopped
3-4 cloves garlic
2 tablespoons kosher salt
1 tablespoon honey, maple syrup or brown sugar
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 bay leaves

Combine the above ingredients and puree in a blender until smooth. Pour over chicken or pork in a bowl or zip-top plastic bag and marinate overnight or up to three days. Roast, grill or sous vide as desired.

Sookyung's bulgogi beef

When I asked my dear friend Sookyung Suh for the recipe for her mouthwatering bulgogi beef, I was shocked to learn that my health-conscious friend's traditional Korean recipe called for soda! "It's perfect for tenderizing tough cuts like flank or skirt steak," Suh explained. "I'll often make a big batch of marinated meat to keep in the freezer in zip-top bags. I also like to add sliced onions or oyster mushrooms when I cook the beef."

For the meat:

1 lb of flank steak or top sirloin, sliced paper thin (shabu-shabu cut)

For the marinade:

2 tablespoons of brown sugar
4 tablespoons soy sauce
6 tablespoons dark soda (such as cola or root beer)
2 teaspoons of minced garlic
¼ cup of sliced green onions
1 tablespoon of sesame oil
1 teaspoon of freshly grated ginger (optional)

In a bowl, combine all the marinade ingredients. Add the meat and marinate for two to three hours. Cook on a grill pan until it is done. Eat with rice and red lettuce like a lettuce wrap.

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1776: More than a musical history lesson

THEATER | Mary Young



Aasne Vigessaa as Abigail Adams and Joshua Ratz as John Adams. PHOTO BY GUS GORDON



Patrick Foster as John Dickinson, left, and Joshua Ratz as John Adams. PHOTO BY GUS GORDON



Jonathan Alamu as the Courier and Kevin Ford as Andrew McNair. PHOTO BY GUS GORDON

They say history often repeats itself. For director Gus Gordon, who has performed in or directed *1776* a half-dozen times, in this case, it's about bringing back the perfect show to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence's signing.

"I'm old enough to remember our nation's bicentennial and how emotional and exciting that time was for our country," he said. "In this era of overwhelming political division, I think it is very appropriate to remember the incredible adversity our ancestors overcame to create our new country."

With music and lyrics by Sherman Edwards and a book by Peter Stone, the Tony-Award-winning *1776* recreates the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the intense drama of the Second Continental Congress leading up to that critical action.

"I believe *1776* has one of the best books of any musical ever written," Gordon said. "We already know the story's outcome, but each time I see it, I'm still on the edge of my seat watching our history play out." He added, "I fell in love with the movie when I first saw it in a high school history class. Seeing these characters come to life as portrayed by amazing performers touched me in a way no textbook ever could."

In the case of the current Hoogland Center for the Arts production, strong performances and eloquent staging are sure to achieve a similar outcome. I attended an early tech rehearsal while some of the details were still

being ironed out but the characters and staging were there.

More than 20 actors portray the members of Congress and staff who occupied the chamber that blistering summer 250 years ago in Philadelphia. Against the backdrop of a magnificent set designed by Paul Presney, Jr., the men debate, quarrel, insult one another and sing. While there are some long stretches between numbers, the vocals are top-notch, often resulting in rousing harmonies that rise to the rafters or a moving number that lands like rain.

Everyone in this ensemble is capable in their own way and contributes to painting an accurate portrait of these flawed men and at least two of the women who held influence in their lives. Our nation's founding was bigger than any one person, and this show is bigger than any one performance, but there are some notables.

Much like how John Adams himself carried the weight of this historic effort, Joshua Ratz carries much of the weight of the show as the fervent and often-disliked Adams. Fast-paced, passionate delivery and vocal chops are required and Ratz delivers. As Adams' most pronounced antagonist, John Dickinson (Patrick Foster) oozes a haughty disagreeableness while Ben Franklin (Rich

McCoy) relishes in countering the men's angst with his clever wit. Matt Ratz as Thomas Jefferson, the frustrated and reluctant author of the Declaration, also excels. And while I did not get to see Greg Runyard as South Carolina's Edward Rutledge perform the climactic "Molasses and Rum," I have no doubt this moment succeeds as a haunting and profound one.

Softening the edges of the escalating tensions in Congress, two women whose primary function is to support and advise their husbands are also featured. Thomas Jefferson's wife, Martha (Alyssa Schultz), is summoned by Franklin to help cure Jefferson of his writer's block and Adam's wife, Abigail (Aasne Vigessaa), is a steady voice of reason, communicating through letters while holding down the fort at home.

One of the reasons the libretto for *1776* is so beloved by historians and theater nerds alike is that it draws heavily from actual writings of the Continental Congress at the time, as well as several letters between John and Abigail. A fair amount of dialogue is verbatim.

Costumes by Cindy Wall and hair/wigs by Adam Frank and Missy Bradstreet are exceptional. Stylish choreography by Adam Miller (who also plays an amusing Richard

Henry Lee), music direction by Mark Gifford, lights by Kevin Zepp and sound by Duane Fant were all on their way to putting the final touches on the production.

The show is a long one – clocking in at about 2 hours and 45 minutes with the bulk of it occurring in the first act. For Gordon though, his motivation is clear: "My hope is that this production will bring people together and remind the audience that even when we strongly disagree with one another, we can still work together to accomplish something meaningful." □

1776 runs Thursday, July 2, and Friday, July 3, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 4, at 2 p.m. and Sunday, July 5, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$23 for adults and \$21 for seniors and students. Purchase tickets at hcfta.org/tickets.

To read a transcription of the Declaration of Independence, visit: www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript

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More than a book about a baseball game

Author looks at the first All-Star game in the context of world history

BOOK REVIEW | Stuart Shiffman



Babe Ruth's two-run homer powers the American League to a 4-2 win over the NL in the first-ever All Star Game.

The First All-Star Game: Babe Ruth, FDR and America at the Crossroads by Randall Sullivan (Grove Atlantic Books, 2026).

Major League Baseball's All-Star Game will be held July 14 at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia as part of a nearly weeklong schedule of baseball-related events. The game coincides with the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and Major League Baseball has jumped aboard the celebration with full gusto.

In the days leading up to the All-Star Game there will be two other All-Star themed games, the player draft and the ubiquitous Home Run Derby. The All-Star Game has come quite a distance from its original format and creation by *The Chicago Tribune* and its sports editor, Arch Ward.

The First All-Star Game: Babe Ruth, FDR and America at the Crossroads, by Randall Sullivan is the story of that first game, held July 6, 1933, at Comiskey Park in Chicago. How Comiskey Park became the venue is an example of the deep attention and detail that Sullivan provides in his historical account. The *Tribune* lobbied Major League Baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis to hold the game in Chicago as part of the 1933 World's Fair. Once Landis approved, a baseball park needed to be selected. In true Chicago fashion, a coin toss

was conducted. In truer Chicago fashion, Ward's favorite team, the Chicago White Sox won the flip, and Comiskey Park was the site for the game.

In fairness, Comiskey would allow 50,000 fans to attend, while Wrigley Field only seated 35,000. Please recall that in 1933, there were no radio or television broadcasts and no night games.

Were Sullivan's book simply an account of a baseball game that has now existed for nearly a century, it would be enjoyable for baseball fans. But *The First All-Star Game* is far more than a book about baseball. This is a book about politics, both national and local. This is a book about a world soon to be facing another world war, as well as a nation and world struggling to rise from the doldrums of economic disaster. Outstanding historical writing often places one event in the context of a larger world. Randall Sullivan has accomplished precisely that task and woven baseball and the world into an enjoyable and provocative historical account.

The story begins with an iconic moment in baseball lore and includes an addendum that I learned for the first time. On Oct. 1, 1932, then-New York Gov. Franklin Roosevelt and Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak sat together in a box at Wrigley Field for Game 3 of the World Series contest between the New York Yankees and the Chicago Cubs. Roosevelt

threw out the first ball. The two teams disliked each other, and taunting between the dugouts was heavy.

Soon, one of the most legendary moments in baseball history occurred. In the fifth inning, Babe Ruth hit a massive home run. Even today, 94 years after the home run, baseball fans still debate whether it was "the called shot." For his part, FDR never weighed in on that debate. He did applaud and laugh as Ruth circled the bases.

Roosevelt's rise to political power coincided with the rise of Ruth in the world of sports. In the decades of the 1920s and 30s, baseball was still the preeminent American sport. This was the era when baseball was seeking recovery from the scandal of the 1919 World Series. A new baseball commissioner was selected by owners, and the game itself was changed. Home runs became a major element of the game.

Sullivan's accounts of how commissioner Landis ruled baseball provide valuable context. Those accounts also remind us that Landis kept Major League Baseball for whites only. At the same time, Sullivan includes a great deal of historical information regarding the Negro League and its players, including Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige and Oscar Charleston. Although Landis and other baseball luminaries kept the leagues segregated, there were many barnstorming games between all-star squads of Major and Negro League players. Ruth played in many, despite the commissioner's threats of

fine or suspension.

Sullivan provides readers with a broad cast of characters, including many politicians and historical figures, in *The First All-Star Game*. Baseball Hall of Famers Mel Ott, Lefty Grove, Lou Gehrig, Micky Cochrane, Lefty Gomez and Carl Hubbell, just to highlight a few, play prominent roles in the book through extensive biographical essays. Historical figures such as Charles Lindbergh and Chicago Mayor Bill Thompson and several notorious criminal figures of the era also appear. The weaving of these figures into this history offers substantial insight into the role baseball has played in our nation's history. Baseball may no longer be our national pastime, but its history can never be denied.

Whether you read *The First All-Star Game* as a lover of baseball or as an American history enthusiast, you are in for a thoughtful and provocative reading journey. What better way to spend your reading time this summer? After all, you can't watch baseball all the time. □

Retired judge Stuart Shiffman of Springfield frequently reviews books on a range of subjects for Illinois Times. His reviews also appear on Bookreporter.com, The American Bar Association Judges Journal and other publications.

MUSIC

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

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

Thursday Jul 2

Randy Erwin

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-4pm, July 3, 10am-4pm, July 4, 10am-4pm, July 7, 10am-4pm and July 8, 10am-4pm

Karaoke Night with DJ Nattie Beats

Benderz, Auburn, 8pm

Michael Burnett

Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 5-7pm

Open mic with Bob the Brewer
Decatur Brew Works, Decatur, 7:30-10pm

Daya with special guest Backseat Radio

The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Decatur, 7pm

Devin Clemons

East Side Inc., Virginia, 7-10pm

Karaoke

Goodfellas Pub, 8pm-2am.

Thursday Night Karaoke

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

The Tangents

Illinois State Fairgrounds, The Shed, 5-7pm

JCB Entertainment Karaoke

La Fiesta Chatham, Chatham, 6-10pm

Open mic with Silas Tockey

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

First Thursday Music Series

Stella Coffee & Tea, 11am-12:30pm

Kortney and friends open mic

The Blue Grouch, 7-11pm

Karaoke

The Topsy Toad, 8pm-12am

Good Times Karaoke

VFW Lafore Lock Post 755, 7-11pm

Friday Jul 3

Randy Erwin

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-4pm, July 4, 10am-4pm, July 7, 10am-4pm and July 8, 10am-4pm

Hippies of the Heartland

American Legion Castle Williams Post 105, Decatur, 7:30pm

Sunbeam and Moonlight

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

Kapital Sound, First Friday

Butternut Hut, 4-8pm

West End Boogie Project

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

Karaoke with Hi-Tek Redneck Entertainment

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

Dave Littrell, Storm Front

Dockside Grill at Lake Springfield Marina, 6-9pm

SERA MONSTERA

George Rank's, 8-11pm

Dreamers and Doers

Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo

Lime Street Cafe, 7-10:30pm

Matthew Adermann

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

Karaoke

The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Karaoke

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

The Beige Desperados

The Railyard, 6-9pm

Sponge, Order of the Machine, Dysfunctional Family

The Stadium Bar & Grill, 6pm

Avery Kern

The Shed, Pawnee, 5-8pm

Positively 4th Street

Trading Post Saloon, 6-8:30pm

John Drake

Union Square Park, 12-1pm

Broken Stone

Weebles Bar & Grill, 6:30pm



Sunbeam & Moonlight will perform from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Northenders VFW Post 10302.

Saturday Jul 4

Randy Erwin

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-4pm, July 7, 10am-4pm and July 8, 10am-4pm

Rudy Boz & Friends

American Legion Post #809, 7-10pm

Double H Karaoke

American Legion Post 32, 7-11pm

Revel in Red

The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Decatur, 6pm

Griffin Fenoglio

Dockside Grill at Lake Springfield Marina, 1-4pm

Peaches and Bacon

Elijah Iles House, 3:30-5:30pm

The Longmeyer Band

Franklin Fourth of July Celebration, Franklin, 6-9pm

Pimpin' Henry

George Rank's, 7-10pm

Branded

The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 3-6:30pm

Grand Theft Audio

The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 7pm

The Remedy

North Park, New Berlin, 6-9pm

Eric and Kortney

Northern Lights Lounge, 2-5pm

Renegade Karaoke

Northern Lights Lounge, 8:30pm-1am

Silas Tockey

The Railyard, 9am-12pm

Karaoke

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

Waterhouse

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

The 66 Ramblers

Trade Winds Pub and Eatery, 6:30-9:30pm

AI and Kathy Kitchen

Trails End Saloon, Curran, 4-7pm

Sunbeam & Moonlight

VFW Post 10302, 5-9pm

Sunday Jul 5

Avery Kern

Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

OAT

Brookhills Golf Course, 3-6pm

Bluesmattic

Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 2-5pm

Joel Honey

Dockside Grill at Lake Springfield Marina, 1-4pm

Billy Galt

Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 4-7pm

Folsom Prison Five

Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 2-5pm

Devin C. Williams

It's All About Wine, 3-6pm

Dyllan Martin and friends

Locals Bar, Pawnee, 2-5pm

Paul Bonn and The Bluesmen

Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

Molly Seaton

Springfield Elks Lodge #158, 4-7pm

Debbie Schneider

The Brinkerhoff Mansion, 1-5pm

Mississippi Leghound

Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-7pm

Monday Jul 6

Matt "The Rattlesnake" Lesch

The Alamo, 7pm

AI and Kathy Kitchen

Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm

Music Mondays Open Mic Night

The Bird Tavern, 6:30-9pm.

Tuesday Jul 7

Randy Erwin

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-4pm

Karaoke Night hosted by Alan Livengood

Fluid Lounge, 7pm

Allan Harris

Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm

Open jam with Casey Cantrall

George Rank's, 8-11pm

Karaoke

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 Jul 8

Randy Erwin

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-4pm

Hipbone and The Joints

Aqua Sports Club, 6-9pm

Open mic with Joel Honey and Silas Tockey

Boone's, 7-10pm

Butter Jam Wednesday

Butternut Hut, 7-10pm

Karaoke

Clique, 9pm-1am

Wasted Wednesday Karaoke

Door 4 Brewing Co., Decatur, 9pm

Robert Sampson

Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 5-8pm

Midweek Music Meetup open mic with Tom Irwin

Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Me, Myself & Schy

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

Rod Grant

Sangamo Brewing, Chatham, 5:30-8:30pm

MUSIC



Peaches and Bacon perform at the Elijah Iles House this Saturday afternoon for Clara Irwin's annual Strawberry Party.

July music coming in hot

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

Welcome to July of 2026 as our national holiday weekend celebrating Independence Day in the U.S. of A. comes in hotter than a firecracker on the Fourth of July, to borrow an appropriate phrase for the occasion. I'm sure you've heard plenty about the 250th anniversary of America, so let's move on to the music as we like to do here at Now Playing central.

Thursdays leads us to another Levitt AMP concert downtown with blues on the bill this time, featuring Shawn Holt and the Teardrops along with our own Devin C. Williams. Shawn, the son of Magic Slim, carries on the tradition of his dad doing classic, basic Chicago blues, while Devin keeps the Delta-style, one-man band blues going strong by combining originals and standards.

Other Thursday slots include Mike Burnett on the patio at Casey's Pub and The Tangents taking the Lincoln Stage at the Illinois Product Farmers Market in the Shed on the state fairgrounds.

With the holiday falling on Saturday this year, we have the odd situation of extra shows booked because of the celebration combined with a bunch of regular places not hosting music since so much other stuff is rolling through. So keep that in mind as you make your entertainment decisions on this special celebratory weekend.

Friday gets cooking when SERA MONSTERA rolls into the round bar for another George Rank's show while Positively 4th Street winds up at the Trading Post. The Butternut Hut brings us Kapital Sound for July's First Friday Fest evening spectacle with DJs spinning tunes all afternoon until the band's performance. Dreamers and Doers pop into Harvest Market, Sunbeam and Moonlight shine on in Boone's and Avery Kern goes out to The Shed in Pawnee, while Beige Desperadoes

escape to the Railyard and Dave Littrell and Storm Front drop anchor at Lake Springfield Marina. On the north end, Broken Stone chips away at Weebles while Sponge, Order of the Machine and Dysfunctional Family play a ticketed concert at The Stadium. John Drake covers the Artist in the Park at noon for the Springfield Area Arts Council weekly series at Union Square Park in conjunction with the ALPLM.

Saturday has all kinds of happenings going on, starting early with Silas Tockey at The Railyard from 9 to noon and Waterhouse at Stella Coffee & Tea, 10 to 12:30. Let's keep things moving along into early afternoon action with Griffin Fenoglio landing at Dockside Grill on the lake (1-4), Eric and Kortney glowing at Northern Lights (2-5) and Peaches and Bacon playing cousin Clara Irwin's Strawberry Party at the Iles House (3:30-5:30).

They're having a big day in the small towns for the Fourth with The Grainery in Pleasant Plains hosting Branded at 3, then Grand Theft Audio at 7, the Longmeyer Band going to bat for the party in Franklin, Al & Kathy Kitchen hitting at Trails End in Curran and The Remedy setting up in New Berlin.

Evening on the east side of Springfield delivers the one and only Rudy Boz joined by a stellar group of musician friends at American Legion Post 809 to celebrate the night in style.

After the hoopla of the Fourth of July on a Saturday, Sunday comes in cool and classy with Folsom Prison Five cashing in at Hill Prairie Winery, Mississippi Leghound dogging it at Trails End, OAT teeing up at Brookhills, Devin C. Williams diggin' the blues at It's All About Wine and Molly Seaton cruising at the Elks Club on Lake Springfield to get to a few Sunday Funday occurrences.

Please enjoy your celebration and see you next week. □

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THE CALENDAR



Capital City Comix present Friday Night Live | Fridays, July 10, 17 and 24, 7 p.m. Arlington's

COMEDY | New local comedy venture begins

it Get ready, Springfield. For three Friday nights this month, the comedians of Capital City Comix will take over the upstairs stage at Arlington's for what is billed as a fast-paced night of "unhinged sketch comedy, satirical news and music. ... Like SNL, but local, louder and weirder," reads a show promotional poster. The show includes Brian and Melissa Reilly, Carmen Allen, Tina Dye, Renée Hatfield, Douglas McDonald, Spencer McDonald, Scott Nation, Wendy Oakes, Keegan Otwell, William "Bill" Panichi and musical guest Michael Burnett. Technical consultant is Carrie Mikaelson. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased using the Eventbrite app or at the door with cash.

Special Music Events Artist in the Park

Fridays, 12-1pm. Through July 31. Enjoy live music, dance and more. Includes food trucks serving lunch starting at 11am. Music begins at noon. Free. Union Square Park, 500 E. Madison St., 217-753-3519.

Brantley Gilbert with special guest Pecos and The Rooftops Fri., July 3, 7pm. Brantley Gilbert has built a reputation for high-powered live performances that blend country storytelling with rock intensity. \$42-\$89. The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Decatur, 620 E. Riverside Dr., 217-422-5911.

Brett Burchard Sun., July 5, 6pm. Part of the Concerts in the Park series hosted by the Pilot Club of Jacksonville. At the Big Bandstand. Free. Jacksonville Community Park, Jacksonville, 1201 S. Main, 217-243-5678.

Illinois Symphony Orchestra Brass Ensemble Fri., July 3, 6:20pm. The ensemble will play before the Lucky Horseshoes game. They'll perform the "Armed Forces Salute," "Lift Every Voice & Sing," "America the Beautiful" and then at 6:30pm will perform "The Star-Spangled Banner." It also will perform during three innings including

the 7th inning stretch. Free with admission. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-753-0700.

Shawn Holt & The Teardrops, Devin C. Williams Thu., July 2, 6-9:15pm. Shawn Holt & The Teardrops will bring their brand of blues to this Levitt Amp Springfield Music Series show. Opening act Devin C. Williams will play at 6:45pm followed by the headliner at 7:45pm. Includes kids kickoff event at 6:15pm, food trucks, makers row and family activities. Free. Y Block, north of the Governor's Mansion, 217-753-3519.

Springfield Municipal Band Wednesdays, 3-4pm. Through Aug. 5. Part of the History Comes Alive Ice Cream Social with Abe and Mary. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Springfield Municipal Band Tuesdays, 7:30pm. Through Aug. 4. At the bandshell. Free. Duncan Park, 200 N. MacArthur Blvd.

Thematic Concert Series at the Carillon Saturdays, 6:30-8pm. Through Aug. 1. Every Saturday evening at 6:30pm, from June 20 through August 8, the Carillon comes to life with a unique musical theme each week. Thomas Rees Memorial

Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

Theater & Comedy 1776

Thu., July 2, 7:30pm, Fri., July 3, 7:30pm, Sat., July 4, 2pm and Sun., July 5, 2pm. This Tony-Award-winning show recreates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in a deeply human way. hcfta.org. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Me and My Girl Wed., July 8, 7pm. June 26-28, July 8-12, 15-19, 22-26. When an unpolished Cockney fellow unexpectedly learns that he is the long-lost heir to a grand English estate, the upper crust won't know what hit them. atthelegacy.com. \$28-\$35. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence, 217-528-9760.

Rock & Rolling Variety Show Tue., July 7, 1-3pm. A family-friendly outdoor event featuring karaoke, lip-sync battles and clean stand-up comedy by a registered guest. Near Shelter 4. Free. Lincoln Park, Fifth Street and Sangamon Avenue, 217-753-4900.

Art & Architecture "2,191,464 Hours of History" Mondays-Fridays, 9am-5pm. Through July 31. In honor of the 250th birthday of the founding

of America, the Springfield Art Association presents this exhibit in the M.G. Nelson Family Gallery. Artists were challenged to pick a moment in American history and create a piece in response. Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 2175232631.

"Metamorphing" featuring Bernie White Hatcher Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11am-5pm. Through July 29. See this exhibit featuring free and expressive abstractions reflecting an expanded definition of "landscape" that embraces not just physical terrain but broader, more conceptual and emotional interpretations of place. Free. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

"noir 6: The Truth" Tuesdays-Saturdays. Through Oct. 16. Black art contributes to a deeper and more inclusive understanding of the American narrative. "noir 6: The Truth" invites audiences to engage, thoughtfully, with the histories and perspectives that shape our shared cultural truths. Old State Capitol State Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-785-9363.

"Walking the In-Between" featuring Soyoung Jung Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11am-5pm. Through July 29. The Underground gallery at the SAA Collective presents watercolor and dry pigment artwork by Soyoung Jung. Free. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

America 250 Craft: Patriotic Charm Bracelet Fri., July 3, 2:30-4pm. Celebrate America 250 by creating a patriotic bracelet. Capacity has been reached. Additional registrants will be placed on the waitlist. Supplies will be provided. Register online. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

Attention to Detail: A Dana-Thomas House Specialty Tour Sat., July 4, 10am-12pm. Frank Marchant will lead this in-depth tour of the Dana-Thomas House which will feature a detailed look at the house from an architectural perspective including some colorful stories. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217 782 6776.

Design & Print Your Own Doohickey Wed., July 8, 1:30-2:30pm. Need a doohickey to solve an annoying problem? Have you wanted to try making something you can 3D print or laser cut? Learn how to use simple and easy Computer Aided Design (CAD) Software that can be used to start printing or

cutting out items. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

Illinois Prairie Pastel Society 2026 Artist Showcase Through July 31. See the Illinois Prairie Pastel Society's 2026 Artist Showcase. Free. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce St., 217-483-2713.

Of Glass and Wood: A Dana-Thomas House Specialty Tour Sat., July 4, 1-3pm. Expert volunteer Frank Marchant will lead this in-depth tour of the Dana-Thomas House. Tour features an extensive consideration of the largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright furniture and art glass in the world. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Film & Television

Matilda Mon., July 6, 2-4pm. A girl gifted with a keen intellect and psychic powers uses both to get even with her callous family and free her kindly schoolteacher from the tyrannical grip of a sadistic headmistress. In Carnegie North. Rated PG. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

History

Animal Remains from the Berger Site Wed., July 8, 12-1pm. Dr. Terrance J. Martin will present this program about remains found on this property in the original French village of St. Louis. Nearly 7,500 animal remains provide information on the importance of wild and domesticated animals to the local economy and on interactions and trade with Native American groups. Free. Illinois State Museum Research and Collections Center, 1011 E. Ash St., 618-792-6572.

Civil War Camp Comes to the Stevens Stone House Sun., July 5, 1-4pm. Visitors can explore displays depicting camp life as experienced by soldiers in the field. Re-enactors will showcase equipment and personal items commonly found in military camps, offering a glimpse into the daily routines and challenges faced by soldiers during the war. Free. Rochester Historical Preservation Society, Rochester, West Main, 217-588-9880.

Donner-Reed Party: Manifest Dreams Sat., July 4, 12-1pm. Learn about the Donner-Reed Party's reasons for leaving for Springfield, the ill-fated pioneers' dreams for the future and what they hoped to accomplish on their journey west. No reservations needed. At north lawn. Free. Old State Capitol State

Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-785-5030.

History Comes Alive Ice Cream Social with Abe and Mary Wed., July 8, 2-4pm. Meet the 16th president and first lady while enjoying a free cup of ice cream provided by Visit Springfield on the porch of this historic house museum. Plus, the Springfield Municipal Band will keep guests entertained with its repertoire of music starting at 3pm. Free. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Holiday Happenings 2026 Independence Day Celebration

Fri., July 3, 6-9pm. Children's activities, food trucks, games, live music and fireworks! Free. Lincoln Park District, Lincoln, 1400 Primm Road, 217-732-8770.

2026 Sherman Fireworks Spectacular

Sat., July 4, 9pm. America turns 250! Tune that radio to 106.5 FM to hear the music and updates. Sherman Village Park Amphitheater, Sherman, 1200 Rail Fence Dr., 217-496-2621.

America 250: America's Ultimate Block Party at ALPLM Sat., July 4, 3-7:30pm. America's Ultimate Block Party – the largest synchronized Fourth of July celebration in U.S. history - with old fashioned family fun, food trucks, a kid and pet parade and patriotic concert performances from Chicago's premier symphonic brass ensemble and a re-created Civil War band. Free. Union Square Park, 500 E. Madison St., 217-558-8844.

Chatham Freedom Fest Sat., July 4, 5pm. Music, food, fireworks, live music and fun are on tap. Bring blankets and lawn chairs. Presented by the Chatham Jaycees. Chatham Community Park, Chatham, 731 S. Main St., 214-676-1063.

Clara Irwin's Strawberry Party Sat., July 4, 3-6pm. Clara Irwin, the spouse of the Elijah Iles House's second owner, was known for her promotion of horticulture and renowned for the quality of her strawberries and her strawberry shortcake parties. Live music by Peaches and Bacon. Enjoy strawberry shortcake, ice cream, an appearance by Lady Liberty and a recitation of the Pledge of Alliance. Donations welcome. Free. Elijah Iles House, 628 S. Seventh St., 217-494-0640.

Declaration of Independence Reading and Patriotic Music Wed., July 8, 7-8pm. Join Benjamin Franklin for an outdoor

reading of the Declaration of Independence as was done on July 8, 1776. Includes patriotic songs by the Lincoln Troubadours. Free. Village of Jerome, 2901 Leonard St., 217-546-2203.

Fireworks Show, Springfield Municipal Band

Sat., July 4, 7:30-9pm. Hear the Springfield Municipal Band play and then see a fireworks display on the nation's 250th birthday. Free. Y Block, north of the Governor's Mansion.

Fourth of July Fireworks

Sat., July 4, 9pm. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. The fireworks show will begin at dusk but arrive early to get a spot as the road will be closed during the show for safety. Sponsored by the city of Jacksonville. Free. Nichols Park, Jacksonville, 110 Holkenbrink Dr., 217-479-4600.

Fourth of July Parade

Sat., July 4, 10-11am. The parade steps off at 10am, travels down West State Street and around Central Park. Free. Morgan County Fairgrounds, Jacksonville, 110 N. Westgate, 217-245-6800.

Franklin 4th of July

Sat., July 4, 6am-9pm. A full day of family fun including a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, parade, burgoo, live music, classic cars and more. And yes, fireworks at dusk. Franklin Fourth of July Celebration, Franklin, Franklin Square Park, 473-4913.

Independence Day Celebration

Fri., July 3, 10am-4pm, Sat., July 4, 10am-4pm and Sun., July 5, 10am-4pm. Get your 19th century patriot on. Period demonstrations and the reading of the Declaration of Independence each day celebrating our great nation. newsalem.com. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Independence Day Event

Thu., July 2, 11:15am-12pm. Celebrate 250 years of independence at SSCI at this festive gathering filled with spirited fun and patriotic treats. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 2175034643.

Jerome 4th of July Parade

Sat., July 4, 9:30am. Parade check in and line up at Jerome Municipal Building at 8:30am. A Touch A Truck event will follow the parade outside the Jerome Civic Center from 10:30am to noon. Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard St., 217-546-2203.

July 4th Family Day

Sat., July 4, 9am-7pm. Features make-and-take art projects plus Capitol Creations make-and-takes from 1 to 3pm. History Comes

Alive programs include Lincoln Troubadours (11:30am and 3:30pm), Lincoln LIVE (Gettysburg Address at noon and House Divided speech at 3:30pm), and Living History Night ("Custodian of Freedom: William H. Butler's Story" at 5:30pm and "Frederick Douglass, Abolitionist & Orator at 6:30pm."). Free. Old State Capitol State Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217 785 5030.

Knight's Fireworks Extravaganza

Sat., July 4, 5:30pm. Live music from The 66 Ramblers performing classic hits before the fireworks show. Free. Trade Winds Pub and Eatery, 1700 Recreation Dr., 217-546-8881.

New Berlin Communitywide 4th of July Celebration

Sat., July 4, 10am-9pm. Day starts with a time capsule opening at 10am. Day includes children's activities, food truck, live music and fireworks. North Park, New Berlin, No Address.

Pawnee Fireworks

Fri., July 3, 6-9pm. Event includes children's activities, food trucks and fireworks at dusk. Free. Pawnee Assembly of God, Pawnee, 1001 N. Eighth St., 217-625-2111.

Pleasant Plains 4th of July Extravaganza

Sat., July 4, 9pm. Day includes children's activities, live music and more at The Grainery. View the fireworks from the parking lot at The Grainery or on nearby city streets. Fireworks will be shot from BRANDT property, which is off-limits. Free. The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 210 W. Route 125, 217-626-2508.

Rock the Dock

Fri., July 3, 6-11pm. Central Illinois' largest fireworks display. Live music as well as food and beverages. Free. Lake Springfield Marina, 17 Waters Edge Blvd., 217-483-3625.

Fairs & Festivals Cruisin' for a Miracle

Sun., July 5, 10am-2pm. This car show is a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network. Includes food, raffles, prizes and more. Free admission, car entries are \$20. Walmart Supercenter, 1100 Lejune Dr.

Morgan County Fair

July 7-12. Enjoy some of what Morgan County has to offer from thrilling carnival rides and games to livestock shows and agricultural exhibits. Savor delicious fair food, watch exciting events at the grandstand like the demolition derby and tractor pulls. Find more information and a schedule at themorgancountyfair.com. \$5. Morgan County Fairgrounds,

Jacksonville, 110 N. Westgate, 217-245-6800.

Children's Corner Art Glass into Tie-Dye at the Dana-Thomas House

Saturdays, 10:30-12:30am. Through Aug. 8. Youth ages 5-15 and parents/guardians will take a short tour of the house and then youths will tie-dye their shirts. Supplies and materials (including shirts) provided. Meet guide at front door. Allow two hours for program. Reservations through Eventbrite recommended. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Tie-Dye 250

Sat., July 4, 10-11:30am, 2:30-4pm. Children ages 5-15 can celebrate the nation's 250th birthday by creating a patriotic tie-dye shirt. Reservations suggested (20 kids per session). Sizes available: Child medium, adult medium and adult large. On North Lawn (In case of bad weather the Law Library will be used. Two sessions available. Free. Old State Capitol State Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-785-5030.

Nature, Science & Environment AI 101

Tue., July 7, 5:30-7:30pm. A fast, clear introduction to how artificial intelligence shapes the world. Participants will explore its benefits, pitfalls and the digital logic that powers it all. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

Springfield Civic Garden Club

Mon., July 6, 9:30am. Following the business meeting, Mike Sudholt of the Springfield Bonsai Society will give an introduction to the art, history, and horticultural techniques behind the centuries-old practice. Doors open at 9 a.m. for refreshments and social time. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. Guests welcome. www.scgc-il.org. Free. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 533 S. Walnut St., 217-899-3283.

Health & Fitness A Matter of Balance

Tue., July 7, 2-4pm. This eight-week program helps older adults improve balance, build strength and gain confidence in staying active and independent. Classes begin July 7. To register by June 26 or learn more, contact Justin Yuroff at 217-528-4035 ext.1118. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-503-4618.

For a complete listing of local events visit us online at illinoistimes.com

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS CROSSCOUNTRY MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. FRAZIER MACK; STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s). CASE NO. 2025FC000175

Property Address: 1833 N. 21st St. Springfield, IL 62702
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on April 22, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on July 28, 2026, commencing at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Building, Sangamon South Auditorium, 1 Copley Plaza (Old SJR Building)

1st Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit:

Commonly known as: 1833 N. 21st St., Springfield, IL 62702
P.I.N.: 14-23.0-177-041
Second Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$72,433.83
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.

Terms of Sale: CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is: Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit www.dallegal.com 24 hours prior to sale. This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120 Naperville, IL 60563 (630) 453-6960 midwestpleadings@dallegal.com 8051-966110

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. NICHOLAS A. THOMAS; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; DISCOVER BANK; PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s).

CASE NO. 2025FC000152
Property Address: 2944 S Fillmore St Springfield, IL 62704
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on April 22, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on July 28, 2026, commencing at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Building, Sangamon South Auditorium, 1 Copley Plaza (Old SJR Building) 1st Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit: Commonly known as: 2944 S Fillmore St., Springfield, IL 62704

P.I.N.: 22-08.0-252-002
First Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$69,860.57
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.
Terms of Sale: CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the

amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is: Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit www.dallegal.com 24 hours prior to sale. This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120 Naperville, IL 60563 (630) 453-6960 midwestpleadings@dallegal.com 8051-966552

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. JANICE C. BUIE AKA JANICE BUIE; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; LVNV FUNDING, LLC; RUTLEDGE JOINT VENTURES, L.L.C.; Defendant(s). CASE NO. 2025FC000232
Property Address: 1807 Pickett St. Springfield, IL 62703
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on March 25, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on August 11, 2026, commencing at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Building, Sangamon South Auditorium, 1 Copley Plaza (Old SJR Building) 1st Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit: Commonly known as: 1807 Pickett St., Springfield, IL 62703

P.I.N.: 22-14.0-153-002
Second Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$65,357.68
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.
Terms of Sale: CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is: Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit www.dallegal.com 24 hours prior to sale. This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120 Naperville, IL 60563 (630) 453-6960 midwestpleadings@dallegal.com 8051-966613

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: KEVIN C. LUTES, Deceased. No. 2026-PR-128
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of KEVIN LUTES. Letters of Administration were issued on the 6th day of April, 2026, to MARY LUTES, 45 St. Mary's Court, Springfield, IL 62702, as Administrator whose Attorney is RILEY P. HAMILTON, 1231 So. Eighth Street, Springfield, Illinois 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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that on the 1st day of June, 2026 a Certificate of Ownership of Business was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Sangamon County, stating that: Mary Jo Coady, Gregory A Coady intend to transact, or are transacting business in Sangamon County, State of Illinois, under the fictitious name to wit: Coady's Computers And Imaging and that they are the sole owner(s) and proprietor(s) of said business, and the principal place of said business is located at: 21 Longview Drive, Springfield, IL 62712

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of June, 2026 a Certificate of Ownership of Business was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Sangamon County, stating that: Lam Pham intend to transact, or are transacting business in Sangamon County, State of Illinois, under the fictitious name to wit: Pro Nails and that they are the sole owner(s) and proprietor(s) of said business, and the principal place of said business is located at: 1150 N 5th St, Springfield, IL 62702

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARCIA A. McCARTY, DECEASED Case #2026-PR-246
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of MARCIA A. McCARTY. Letters of Office have been issued to STEPHANIE MUNDY, 1125 Driftwood Lane, Waterloo, IL 62298, 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 January 8, 2027, 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 24th day of June, 2026. William P. Sheehan SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C. 1215 South 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: KEVIN C. LUTES, Deceased. No. 2026-PR-128
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of KEVIN LUTES. Letters of Administration were issued on the 6th day of April, 2026, to MARY LUTES, 45 St. Mary's Court, Springfield, IL 62702, as Administrator whose Attorney is RILEY P. HAMILTON, 1231 So. Eighth Street, Springfield, Illinois 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 22nd day of June, A.D., 2026. PREPARED BY: Riley P. Hamilton (#6348477) FRAZIER SABIN & SCHLOSSER LLP Attorneys at Law 1231 South Eighth Street Springfield, IL 62703 Telephone: (217) 522.9010 Facsimile: (217) 522.9020 Email: hamilton@springfieldlawfirm.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE ESTATE OF Elizabeth Ritter, Deceased. Case No. 2026-PR-64
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Elizabeth Ritter of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Testamentary were issued on February 19, 2026, to Mark Veith as Executor, and whose attorney is RILEY P. HAMILTON of FRAZIER SABIN & SCHLOSSER, 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 June 22, 2026 this 22nd day of June, A.D., 2026. Riley P. Hamilton (#6348477) FRAZIER SABIN & SCHLOSSER LLP Attorneys at Law 1231 South Eighth Street Springfield, IL 62703 Telephone: (217) 522.9010 Facsimile: (217) 522.9020 Email: hamilton@springfieldlawfirm.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY JO WELCH, Deceased. NO. 2026PRO00231
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Mary Jo Welch, Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on June 15, 2026 to Erin M. Gutzman, 2405 Halifax Drive, Chatham, IL 62629, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 28th day of December, 2026, or three months from the date the Representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 17th day of June, 2026. Gregory P. Sgro Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP 1119 S. 6th Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 789-1200

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GARY EDWARD BRYAN, DECEASED Case #2026-PR-238 DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of GARY EDWARD BRYAN. Letters of Office have been issued to LISA HARTLEY, 609 Parkview Drive, Mechanicsburg, IL 62545, 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 January 4, 2027, 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 17th day of June, 2026. Patrick J. Sheehan, III SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C. 1215 South 4th Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 544-0701

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF L. MILDRED LANGENFELD, DECEASED Case #2026-PR-239 DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of L. MILDRED LANGENFELD. Letters of Office have been issued to CURT J. LANGENFELD, 735 Cherokee Drive, Springfield, IL 62711, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before January 4, 2027, 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 17th day of June, 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 SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: RANDY T. HALL, Deceased.

No. 2026-PR-240

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of RANDY T. HALL, Sangamon County, Illinois, on May 9, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on the 17th day of June, A.D., 2024, to Matthew A. Seaton, 11493 Deer Crossing Lane, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Gregory A. Scott, Scott & Scott, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street-Room 405, 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 at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed. DATED this 17th day of June, A.D., 2026.

Estate of RANDY T. HALL, Deceased, BY: MATTHEW A. SEATON, Independent Executor, PREPARED BY:

Gregory A. Scott (02531712)

SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.

By: /s/ Gregory A. Scott

Attorneys at Law

SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., his Attorneys.

611 East Monroe Street-Suite 200

Springfield, IL 62701

Telephone: (217)753-8200

gas@scottscottlaw.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY

Re: the marriage of

Phylicia Adams, Petitioner

And

Tatierra Strong, Respondent

Case No. 25 DN 257

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, Tatierra Strong, 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 25th day of July, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.

Joseph B. Roesch

Circuit Clerk

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

ESTATE OF

LORRAINE SUE REYNOLDS, Deceased

Case No. 2026PR234

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Lorraine Sue Reynolds, Letters of Office were issued on June 15, 2026 to Scott M. Gubin, 4263 Meadow Sage Pl, Las Cruces, NM as Independent Executive whose attorney is Donald M. Craven, 1005 N. 7th Street, Springfield, IL, 62702.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first Publication of this Notice. Any Claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

/s/ Donald M. Craven (#6180492)

Joseph A. Craven (#6340231)

Attorney for Independent Executor

Craven & Craven, P.C.

1005 North Seventh Street

Springfield, IL 62702

Telephone: (217) 544-1777

Facsimile: (217) 544-0713

don@cravenlawoffice.com

joe@cravenlawoffice.com

maralee@cravenlawoffice.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Estate of:

DAVID L. SHAW, SR.,

Deceased.

NO. 2026-PR-218

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of David L. Shaw, Sr. of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on June 11, 2026, to Tracy Shaw, 701 Prairie Lake Drive, Sherman, Illinois 62684, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Bernard G. Segatto, III, Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois

62701, or with the representative or both, on or before December 18, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2026.

Bernard G. Segatto, III - 06190753

Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP

P.O. Box 79

Springfield, IL 62705-0079

(217) 544-4868

bsegatto@barberlaw.com

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

Estate of:

SARA E. GAFFNEY,

Deceased.

NO. 2026-PR-227

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Sara E. Gaffney of Chatham, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on June 11, 2026, to Kevin R. Gaffney, 2301 Grey Stone Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62704, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Randall W. Segatto, 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 December 18, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2026.

Randall W. Segatto - 06193211

Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP

P.O. Box 79

Springfield, IL 62705-0079

(217) 544-4868

rsegatto@barberlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY,

ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

JOSEPH S. MAGGIO

Deceased.

Case No. 2026-PR-223

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of JOSEPH S. MAGGIO, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on March 27, 2026. Letters of Testamentary were issued on the 9th day of June, A.D., 2026, to JOSEPH A. MAGGIO, 70 Holiday Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 62702, and GINA SIDDENS, 3305 Lauxmont Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 62712, as Independent Co-Administrators, 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 representatives, 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 representatives and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.

DATED this 9th day of June, A.D., 2026.

ESTATE OF JOSEPH S. MAGGIO,

Deceased,

BY: /s/Pamela E. Hart

Pamela E. Hart, one of its 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

Email: peh@scottscottlaw.com

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

DOROTHY M. LUGIBILL,

Deceased.

Case No. 2026-PR-224

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of DOROTHY M. LUGIBILL, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on May 13, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on the 9th day of June, A.D., 2026, to KAREN LUGIBILL, of 335 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 58, Williamsville, Illinois 62629, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.

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, 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 9th day of June, A.D., 2026.

Estate of DOROTHY M. LUGIBILL,

Deceased,

BY: /s/ Pamela E. Hart

Pamela E. Hart, one of its Attorneys.

PREPARED BY:

Pamela E. Hart (6299974)

SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200

Springfield, Illinois 62701

Telephone: (217) 753-8200

Email: peh@scottscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

FRANCES C. MARADA, DECEASED

Case #2026-PR-230

DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of FRANCES C. MARADA. Letters of Office have been issued to THERESA MARADA POWER, 1700 Schrader Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before December 17, 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 11th day of June, 2026.

William P. Sheehan

SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.

1215 South 4th Street

Springfield, IL 62703

(217) 544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

JOHN H. JORDAN, DECEASED

Case #2026-PR-228

DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of JOHN H. JORDAN. Letters of Office have been issued to GLORIA E. JORDAN, 217 Stutely Lane, Springfield, IL 62704 as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Execu-

tor, or both, on or before December 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 Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2026.

Patrick J. Sheehan

SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.

1215 South 4th Street

Springfield, IL 62703

(217)544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

DEBORAH S. FLEMING, DECEASED

Case #2026-PR-225

DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DEBORAH S. FLEMING. Letters of Office have been issued to THERESA SALDIVAR, 14601 N. 25th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85032, 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 December 22, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 8th day of June, 2026.

Patrick J. Sheehan

SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.

1215 South 4th Street

Springfield, IL 62703

(217) 544-0701

Divorce

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY

Re: the marriage of

Marco Antonio Machuca Velazquez,

Petitioner

And

Cristina Ordonez Sanchez, Respondent

Case No. 2026-DC-000080

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, Cristina Ordonez Sanchez, 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 25th day of July, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.

Joseph B. Roesch

Circuit Clerk

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY

Re: the marriage of

Rebecca Jones, Petitioner

And

Paul Steven Smith, Respondent

Case No. 2026-DN-000110

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, Paul Steven Smith, 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 18th day of July, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.

Joseph B. Roesch

Circuit Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the matter of the Petition of

Jersey Marie Kiehl

For change of name to

Jersey Marie Galore

Case No. 2026-MR-000193

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Aug 25, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Jersey Marie Kiehl to Jersey Marie Galore pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided. Dated: July 2, 2026

Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC

PLAINTIFF,

v.

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF THOMAS J. PAIGE, DECEASED; AMANDA PAIGE, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THOMAS J. PAIGE, DECEASED; AMANDA PAIGE; MARY PAIGE; JOHN PAIGE; GEORGE ANAST; ADRIAN ANAST WRIGHT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; DEFENDANTS.

CASE NO.: 2026FC000082

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

507 S WELLS ST BUFFALO, IL 62515

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you:

JOHN PAIGE

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF

J. PAIGE, as mortgagor(s) and MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS MORTGAGEE, AS NOMINEE FOR ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC, as mortgagee, on 3/10/2023 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Sangamon County, Illinois as Document Number 2023R04125.

You have been sued. Read all documents attached to this Summons. To participate in the case, you MUST file an official document with the court within the time stated on this Summons called an "Appearance" and a document called an "Answer/Response". The Answer/Response is not required in small claims or eviction cases unless ordered by the court. If you do not file an Appearance and Answer/Response on time, the court may decide the case without hearing from you, and you could be held in default and lose the case. After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to ilcourts.info/efiling. If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail.

You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees.

It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this. Need help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to ilcourthelp.gov for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at illinoislegalaid.org. All documents referred to in this Summons can be found at ilcourts.info/forms. Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website.

Necesita ayuda? Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Illinois Court Help al 833-411-1121, o visite ilcourthelp.gov para obtener información sobre los casos de la corte y cómo completar y presentar formularios. Unless you file your Appearance and Answer/Response in this case in the office of the clerk of this court by 08/03/2026 A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT. Megan Anderson 6351401 Robertson Anschutz Schneid Crane & Partners, PLLC 6400 Shafer Court Suite 325 Rosemont, IL 60018 Phone: (561) 241-6901 E-mail: ilmail@raslg.com File: 26-398802 NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. Service may be made via e-mail at ilmail@raslg.com. 8051-966490

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS CROSSCOUNTRY MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. FRAZIER MACK; STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s). CASE NO. 2025FC000175 Property Address: 1833 N. 21st St. Springfield, IL 62702 NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on April 22, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on July 28, 2026, commencing at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Building, Sangamon South Auditorium, 1 Copley Plaza (Old SJR Building) 1st Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said

decree, to wit: THE SOUTH 7 FEET OF LOT 11 AND THE NORTH 36 1/2 FEET OF LOT 12 IN FRED W. WANLESS' VICTORY ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, BEING A PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 16 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN. EXCEPT THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE SURFACE OF SAID LAND AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID COAL AND MINERALS. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, IL-LINOIS.

Commonly known as: 1833 N. 21st St., Springfield, IL 62702 P.I.N.: 14-23.0-177-041 Second Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$72,433.83 IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT. Terms of Sale: CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is: Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit www.dal-legal.com 24 hours prior to sale. This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120 Naperville, IL 60563 (630) 453-6960 midwestleadings@dallegal.com 8051-966110

Advertisement for Bid Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) invites qualified ASBESTOS ABATEMENT to submit sealed bids to furnish all labor & material to complete requirements of bidding for MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – PHASE B1 ASBESTOS ABATEMENT OF MENARD HALL BOOKSTORE & PRM. Sealed bids must be delivered to the attention of MR. TIM ERVIN, Director of Construction & EHS, Lincoln Land Community College, Construction & EHS Office – Mason Hall, 5250 Shepherd Road, Springfield, IL 62794-9256 (Southeast corner of the LLCC Main Campus), on or before WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026, at 2:00 PM Central Standard Time (CST), at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud. Faxed or e-mailed bids will not be accepted. Vendors are responsible for ensuring that bids are received by the above office prior to the deadline. Bids received after the deadline will not be considered. Contractors who have submitted a bid are invited, but not required, to attend the bid opening.

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/) and the Drug Free Workplace Act (30 ILCS 580/). All contractors and subcontractors shall demonstrate experience on projects of similar size and type. While this project is not administered by the Capital Development Board all contractors must be pre-qualified with the CDB for a minimum of 45 days. All contractor contact and questions regarding any matter concerning this invitation to Bid must be submitted in writing to FARMER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, LLC, 108 EMERALD HILLS DRIVE, EDWARDSVILLE, IL 62025, BY FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026. Submittals of questions may be emailed to WYNTER@FARMERENV.COM, please put "MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTA-

TION – PHASE B1 ASBESTOS ABATEMENT OF MENARD HALL BOOKSTORE & PRM" in the subject line.) No questions will be addressed after 2:00 PM (CST), ON FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026.

Other questions regarding the bid documents will be addressed at a mandatory pre-bid meeting/site visit for contractors, which shall begin promptly at 10:00 AM, WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 2026, at MASON HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM, on the LLCC main campus. Failure to be present when the meeting begins may result in the bidder being disqualified. Contractors should have any sub-contractors present at the mandatory pre-bid meeting who may wish to view the site. Further information concerning the specifications of this invitation to bid resulting from questions submitted, either in writing or resulting from the pre-bid meeting/site visit, will be communicated in the form of an addendum. E-mail or verbal responses to questions are not a part of the bid documents and only formal addendum will govern. Bid Documents will be available to qualified contractors from the offices of FARMER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, LLC, on or after MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026. Qualified contractors may obtain documents by depositing \$50 per set, refundable upon return of documents in good condition within one week of Bid Due Date. The Central Illinois Builders' Non-Cash Security Method for request of documents will be accepted on this project, as well.

The bidder shall furnish a bid deposit in the amount of 5% of the amount bid in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond, made payable to Lincoln Land Community College. The Lincoln Land Community College, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, all contractors will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of the owner's race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, income-level, or LEP in consideration for an award.

LLCC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received, or to permit timely correction of minor deficiencies in bids whenever such rejection or waiver is in the interest of LLCC and to accept the bid or bids being most favorable to LLCC after all bids have been examined and evaluated.

Notice of Solicitation of Proposals for Sale of Certain Real Property Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2 Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 and 11-76-2 of the Illinois Municipal Code, the Village of Southern View Board of Trustees duly enacted Ordinance 26-06-02 at a regular meeting of the Village Board on June 23, 2026. The Ordinance authorizes the sale of a vacant and unimproved parcel owned by the Village, commonly known as 1003 Straight Street, Southern View, Illinois (the "Property"). As such, the Village hereby gives public notice that it is soliciting proposals relating to said Property. The legal description of said Property is: BLACK ACRES SO 176.56 OF LOT 4. The Parcel Number is 22-15.0-176--071. The property is located in the Village's residential zoning district and must conform to the residential zoning district standards of the Village.

The Property is being sold "as-is" for a sum determined to be appropriate by open bid. The Village makes no representation as to the condition of the Property. The winning bid will be responsible for all costs associated with closing, any costs from a title company associated with securing the conveyance of good, marketable title, any costs of survey, and any and all other usual and customary costs associated with the sale of real property. Any person may submit a written sealed bid for the purchase of the Property. The Village will consider all bids to purchase

the Property received no later than 3:00 PM CST on August 25, 2026. There is \$10,000 minimum bid. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any technicalities in the bidding if it should be deemed in the public interest. These decisions will be final and not subject to recourse. This request for proposals does not obligate the Village to pay any costs incurred by any bidder in the submittal of a bid or in making necessary studies or designs for the preparation of that bid.

Bids for the Property shall be submitted in hard copy, in a sealed envelope marked "SEALED PROPERTY BID" and must be received by the Village Clerk no later than 3:00 PM CST on August 25, 2026. Any bids received after that time shall not be considered. Sealed bids should be delivered to the Village Clerk. Submission of a sealed bid shall be considered indication of the bidder's commitment to maintain the property in accordance with the Village Ordinances. Sealed bids shall be opened at the regular meeting of the Village Board on August 25, 2026 at 6:00 PM CST at 3410 S. 5th, Southern View, Illinois. The Board may accept the high bid or any other bid determined to be in the best interest of the Village by a vote of 3/4 of the Board, or may reject any and all bids by a majority vote.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Southside Fire Protection District in the County of Sangamon and the State of Illinois, for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, from and after 2nd day of July, 2026.

NOTICE is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 5:00 p.m. C.D.T., on the 3rd day of August, 2026, at 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, County of Sangamon, and State of Illinois, and that final action on said Ordinance will be taken by the Board of Trustees of said Southside Fire Protection District at a meeting thereof to be held immediately following on the 3rd day of August, 2026, at said 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois. By Order of the Board of Trustees of said District. DATED this 24th day of June, 2026. SOUTHSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Judy Gordon, Secretary Board of Trustees SOUTHSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District in the County of Sangamon and the State of Illinois, for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, from and after 10th day of July, 2026.

NOTICE is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 4:00 p.m. C.D.T., on the 11th day of August, 2026, at 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, County of Sangamon, and State of Illinois, and that final action on said Ordinance will be taken by the Board of Trustees of said South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District at a meeting thereof to be held immediately following on the 11th day of August, 2026, at said 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois. By Order of the Board of Trustees of said District. DATED this 24th day of June, 2026. SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION

DISTRICT Miles Ralph, Secretary Board of Trustees SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Southlawn Fire Protection District in the County of Sangamon and the State of Illinois, for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, from and after 2nd day of July, 2026.

NOTICE is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 3:00 p.m. C.D.T., on the 3rd day of August, 2026, at 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, County of Sangamon, and State of Illinois, and that final action on said Ordinance will be taken by the Board of Trustees of said Southlawn Fire Protection District at a meeting thereof to be held immediately following on the 3rd day of August, 2026, at said 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois. By Order of the Board of Trustees of said District. DATED this 24th day of June, 2026. SOUTHLAWN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Victor Muchow, Secretary Board of Trustees SOUTHLAWN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Lake Springfield Fire Protection District in the County of Sangamon and the State of Illinois, for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, from and after 3rd day of July, 2026.

NOTICE is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 4:00 p.m. C.D.T., on the 4th day of August, 2026, at 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, County of Sangamon, and State of Illinois, and that final action on said Ordinance will be taken by the Board of Trustees of said Lake Springfield Fire Protection District at a meeting thereof to be held immediately following on the 4th day of August, 2026, at said 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois. By Order of the Board of Trustees of said District. DATED this 24th day of June, 2026. LAKE SPRINGFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Cathy Crammond, Secretary Board of Trustees LAKE SPRINGFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Woodside Fire Protection District in the County of Sangamon and the State of Illinois, for the fiscal year, beginning June 1, 2026 and ending May 31, 2027, will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, from and after 2nd day of July, 2026.

NOTICE is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 4:00 p.m. C.D.T., on the 3rd day of August, 2026, at 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, County of Sangamon, and State of Illinois, and that final action on said Ordinance will be taken by the Board of Trustees of said Woodside Fire Protection District at a meeting thereof to

be held immediately following on the 3rd day of August, 2026, at said 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois.

By Order of the Board of Trustees of said District. DATED this 24th day of June, 2026. WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Connie Sebok, Secretary Board of Trustees WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF Jason W. Sebens No. 2026-GR-114 To: Codie Winburn at address unknown. Please be notified that Donald W. Sebens and AmArie Sebens-Vanderwal have filed a Petition for Guardianship of Jason W. Sebens, minor child. You are required to answer said Petition By August 10, 2026 or be defaulted by the Court thereafter.

To enforce Self Storage Lien in default of payment of rent a private auction will be held on Saturday July 18, 2026, at 9:00a.m. Northend Storage is located at 1907 North Grand East, Springfield, IL. 62702 This is a private auction. In order to attend you must call 217-544-4521 a week prior to the auction date. Please leave your name, telephone number and an email address. Cash is the only form of payment accepted for the auction.

Any individual wanting to retain their unit will need to pay their entire balance on or before Wednesday July 15, 2026. No personal checks will be accepted for storage units that are in lien. NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STORAGE UNIT AUCTION Mhynessha Day Unit 4-5 Linda Byrd Unit 9-3 Linda Byrd Unit 1-10 Amanda Lott Unit 2-12 Shannon Estes Unit 3-22 Harold Elfgen Unit 4-20 Shalik Rhynes Unit 9-34 Terry Broida Unit 9-37 Susan Grant Unit 10-12 Dewey Morris Unit 10-31 Walter Rhoades Unit 11-10 Linda Byrd Unit 11-45

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

v. JEREMY BAUM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. Case No. 2026FC000111 NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS of the real estate described below, Defendants in the above-entitled cause, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-206, 15-1218 and 15-1502 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Defendants is July 20, 2026.

Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on June 8, 2026. 1. The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: United Community Bank, an Illinois banking corporation; 2026FC000111. 2. The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois 3. The name of the title holder of record is: Jeremy Baum 4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:

Lots 20 and 21 in Block 1 in the Village of Dawson.
 Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
 5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 313 Walnut Street, Dawson, Illinois 62520
 6. The Tax Identification Numbers for the real estate are as follows: 16-08-155-022 and 16-08-155-023
 7. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:
 Name of Mortgagor: Jeremy Baum
 Name of Mortgagee: United Community Bank
 Date of Mortgage: October 6, 2022
 Date of recording: October 13, 2022
 County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois
 Recording document identification: Document No. 2022R21922
 /s/ Joseph B. Roesch
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 BROWN, HAY + STEPHENS, LLP
 Emmet A. Fairfield, Reg. No. 6180505
 205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000
 P.O. Box 2459
 Springfield, IL 62705
 (217) 544-8491
 efairfield@bhsllaw.com
 8051-965938

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. NICHOLAS A. THOMAS; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; DISCOVER BANK; PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s).
 CASE NO. 2025FC000152
 Property Address: 2944 S Fillmore St Springfield, IL 62704
 NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
 Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on April 22, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on July 28, 2026, commencing at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Building, Sangamon South Auditorium, 1 Copley Plaza (Old SJR Building) 1st Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit:
 THE SOUTH 54.52 FEET OF THE NORTH 109.52 FEET OF THE WEST 142 FEET OF LOT 38 IN WEST GRAND PLACE.
 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: 2944 S Fillmore St, Springfield, IL 62704
 P.I.N.: 22-08.0-252-002
 First Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$69,860.57
 IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.
 Terms of Sale: CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is:
 Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit www.dallegal.com 24 hours prior to sale.
 This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
 Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC
 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120
 Naperville, IL 60563
 (630) 453-6960
 midwestpleadings@dallegal.com
 8051-966613

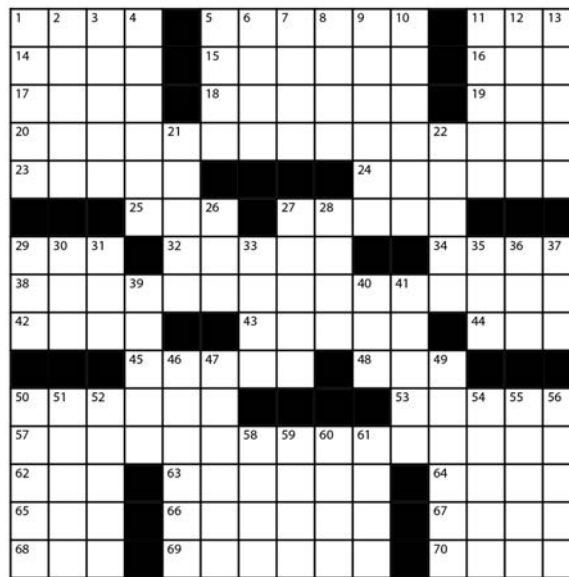
amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is:
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 8051-966552

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. JANICE C. BUIE AKA JANICE BUIE; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; LVNV FUNDING, LLC; RUTLEDGE JOINT VENTURES, L.L.C.; Defendant(s).
 CASE NO. 2025FC000232
 Property Address: 1807 Pickett St. Springfield, IL 62703
 NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
 Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on March 25, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on August 11, 2026, commencing at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Building, Sangamon South Auditorium, 1 Copley Plaza (Old SJR Building) 1st Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit:
 LOT 393 IN SOUTHLAWN FOURTH PLAT, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE WEST HALF OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 15 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD. EXCEPT ALL COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS AND MINING RIGHTS HERETOFORE CONVEYED OF RECORD SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
 Commonly known as: 1807 Pickett St., Springfield, IL 62703
 P.I.N.: 22-14.0-153-002
 Second Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$65,357.68
 IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.
 Terms of Sale: CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is:
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Henson's neighborhood Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 952

Across

- GPs
- Yellow hues
- Ozone pollutant: abbr.
- Moonfish
- Hardy pal
- Modern address
- Claudius I's successor
- Get there
- Scotland's "City Rollers"
- A two-term president
- Beaver State capital
- Show clearly
- Hi-_____
- Weighed down
- Half a cocktail
- Have a TV dinner
- The dark side
- Christian Bale, Bruce Dem and Leonardo DiCaprio in 2014
- Toddler's questions
- Artist's plaster
- Wee bit
- Dinner fowl
- Boil fluid
- Straighten out
- Warm, sweetened wine drink
- Won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1950
- Tramcar load
- Basketmaker?
- "The King and I" woman
- Blvd. crosser



- Sea between Greece and Turkey
- Drawbridge site
- No. on a business card
- Store sights around
- Dinner fowl
- Boil fluid
- Straighten out
- Warm, sweetened wine drink
- Won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1950
- Tramcar load
- Basketmaker?
- "The King and I" woman
- Blvd. crosser
- Oscar-winner Ives
- Toledo's lake
- Gunned
- Elbow locale
- Popular cigar
- Pre-euro money
- Bonnie's partner
- Arabian ruler
- Like notebook paper
- Anatomical pouch
- Bedsheets as such
- Six-legged scurriers
- T-bar offering
- Louisville Slugger wood
- Frigid
- Fast-food option
- Dog doc
- Org. in Michael Collins
- Some '60s hits?
- Fancy tie
- Sixth sense
- Some are proper
- Alveolus
- Position filler
- Street where the start of 20-, 38- and 57-across reside
- WWII sub
- Guts
- Angler's basket
- Salami choice
- Relating to an arm bone
- Blind parts
- NASA cancellation
- Comic Carey
- Try for a role
- Mantel pieces

Down

- Cathedral bell sounds
- "Carmen," for one
- Yuletide song
- One who rudely pushes
- Banned apple spray
- Cleo's wooer

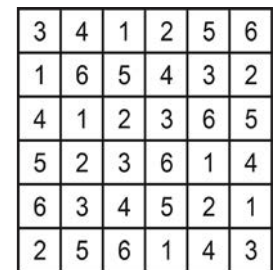
Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #951



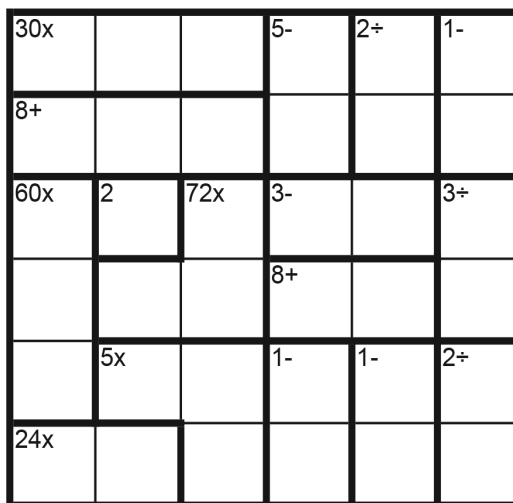
Sudoku answers from #951



JoshJosh answers from #951

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 952

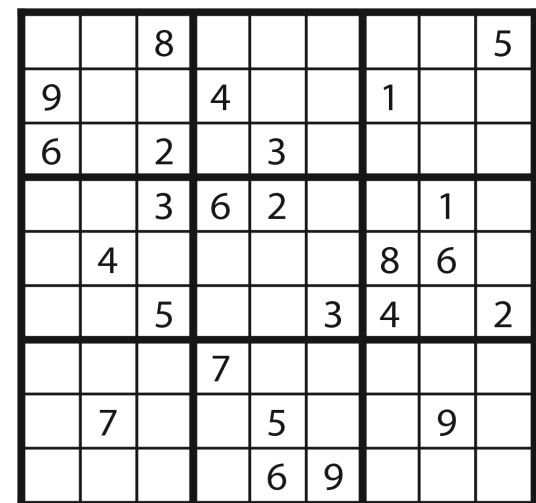
Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.



Difficulty medium

Sudoku No. 952

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



Difficulty hard

HISTORY, HOPES & DREAMS

JULY 4 AT THE OLD STATE CAPITOL

9 A.M. TO 7 P.M.



NOIR 6 ART EXHIBITION: THE TRUTH

ARTWORK FROM 26 BLACK ARTISTS CONNECTS PAST STRUGGLES WITH PRESENT REALITIES WHILE ENVISIONING MORE EQUITABLE FUTURES.

NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 15.



TIE-DYE 250

AMERICA 250TH TIE-DYE SHIRT ACTIVITY FOR AGES 5-15. FREE.

RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED (20 PER SESSION)
SIZES AVAILABLE: CHILD MEDIUM, ADULT MEDIUM AND ADULT LARGE
OLD STATE CAPITOL NORTH LAWN (RAIN LOCATION INSIDE)

10:00 TO 11:30 A.M. & 2:30 TO 4:00 P.M.

EVENTBRITE: [HTTPS://TIEDYE250.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://TIEDYE250.EVENTBRITE.COM)

History COMES ALIVE

LINCOLN TROUBADOURS AT

- 11:30 A.M., 3:30 P.M.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN LIVE
- NOON - GETTYSBURG ADDRESS
- 3:30 P.M. - HOUSE DIVIDED SPEECH
LIVING HISTORY NIGHTS
- 5:30 P.M. - CUSTODIAN OF FREEDOM:
WILLIAM H. BUTLER
- 6:30 P.M. - FREDERICK DOUGLASS,
ABOLITIONIST & ORATOR

PLUS!



- FREE MAKE-AND-TAKE ART PROJECTS
- AMERICA 250 ART KITS AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
- COLORING, DOLL AND PUPPET CRAFTS 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
- PURCHASE CAPITOL CREATIONS MAKE & TAKE/TAKE & MAKE PROJECTS BY STUDIO ON SIXTH

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE DONNER-REED PARTY

LEARN ABOUT THE DONNER-REED PARTY'S DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE ON THEIR JOURNEY WEST!
NOON AND 3 P.M.

EVENTBRITE:
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ILLINOIS
STATE • MUSEUM

explore. discover. learn. share.