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Banking on the BOS Center

County approves 3% hotel tax increase to support expansion, new hotel will be up to legislature

DOWNTOWN | Dean Olsen

Hotel taxes will rise 3% one month from now to pay for a \$60 million expansion of Springfield's publicly owned convention center after a 20-5 vote by the Sangamon County Board on Sept. 1.

The bipartisan vote on the Republican-controlled County Board came after arguments from advocates who said the 47-year-old BOS Center, last renovated in 2013, desperately needs a proposed doubling in size and the addition of high-end features to both attract and retain conventions and rejuvenate the downtown.

"It is a project that has broad support – Republicans, Democrats, business and labor," County Administrator Brian McFadden said before the vote. He is among county government leaders who have spearheaded discussions surrounding BOS Center improvements since 2018.

The County Board is expected to vote in summer 2027 to finalize the low-interest borrowing through a bond issue that would pay for the project over a period of up to 30 years. Construction then would begin in fall 2027, with completion two years after that.

Steve Galbreath, chief development officer for Dallas-based Garfield Public/Private, which is providing consulting services to the county, said the expanded BOS Center will include public spaces that will become "the front porch and living room of downtown." He said the project will lead to the opening and expansion of more businesses in the local hospitality industry.

Opponents of the new tax, including those from the local and statewide hotel industry, called for more study before plunging forward with a plan that could have the opposite intended effect and cause Springfield to lose conventions and visitors to other regional markets such as Peoria, Bloomington-Normal and Champaign-Urbana.

"Why this big rush?" Alan Filer, acting general manager of the Crowne Plaza Springfield and adjacent Holiday Inn Express & Suites Springfield, asked board members. "Occupancy is not increasing, and there's no guarantee with the expansion of the BOS Center that it's going to do so."

All eight Democrats voted to impose the special tax of up to 3% that will be tacked onto hotel room rates throughout the county. Those voting "no" were all Republicans – Lanae Clarke, Pam Deppe, Tracy Sheppard, Cathy



Alan Filer, acting general manager of the Crowne Plaza Springfield and Holiday Inn Express & Suites Springfield, asks Sangamon County Board members on Sept. 1 to delay a vote on imposing a new 3% hotel tax countywide to pay for a proposed \$60 million expansion of the BOS Center on county-owned land in Springfield. The board later voted 20-5 to impose the tax. PHOTO BY MOLLY WALLACE

Scaife and Craig Hall.

County Board Chair Andy Van Meter, a Springfield Republican, joined state Rep. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, Rep. Mike Coffey, R-Springfield, and Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher at an Aug. 25 news conference to announce the latest effort to improve the BOS Center.

The center is operated by an elected board that governs the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority (SMEAA), which Coffey also chairs.

Local officials have decided to pursue expansion of the BOS Center alone and not wait until the Illinois General Assembly acts on proposed legislation that would pair the project with construction of an upscale, \$140 million hotel with 200 to 300 rooms.

That hotel, which would be owned by the county and operated by a private company not yet selected, would bring even more economic benefits to the area and help attract convention business, Van Meter said.

But the county wasn't willing to wait after the Legislature failed to take action in the spring. Delaying decisions on the project for three to nine months while waiting for action in the fall 2026 veto session or spring 2027 session would add \$700,000 a month in inflation-related construction costs and would cause the project to be scaled back as a result, McFadden said.

If the General Assembly takes action before the county issues bonds, the county could reduce the new hotel tax below 3%, because the legislation could provide additional funding for the overall project, McFadden said. The county would face lawsuits from bond holders if it changed the hotel tax after bonds are issued, he said.

The Springfield Hotel & Lodging Association and the Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association said the new countywide hotel tax will bring Springfield's total hotel tax – which includes the state hotel tax – to 17%, the second highest behind Chicago's 17.39% rate.

Filer said that even with the March 2025 shuttering of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre, average occupancy for the Crowne Plaza, four miles away, is projected at 52% in 2026. He said the entire Springfield hotel market "will be lucky" if it finishes the year with 58% occupancy.

"There is no data showing that adding more space downtown will increase conventions or room nights," Filer said. And if a new hotel is built next to the BOS Center, "adding more hotel rooms downtown will dilute the market, not strengthen it," he said.

Darin Dame, president of the Springfield hotel association, said, "We haven't seen the numbers that justify the 3% hotel-motel tax."

Van Meter said two feasibility studies conducted for county government confirm

that the BOS Center expansion alone, and the expansion paired with a new downtown hotel, would bring in additional tourism and convention business to the community, leading to more guests for all hotels in the county and more than offsetting any negative impact from the 3% hotel tax increase.

The county has released parts of the studies to the public. But Van Meter said the county won't make public the parts that include calculations of the net economic and fiscal impact of the new hotel tax and the BOS Center expansion and the more comprehensive project.

Doing so, Van Meter said, would release proprietary information that could be used by hotel chains and management companies when they submit future bids to operate the expanded BOS Center and a future hotel. The county and SMEAA could end up paying more for these management services than if the proprietary information remained private, he said.

"We've released to the public information that shows that the project will be a success," Van Meter said. "We're just not releasing the mathematics behind that judgment from the professionals."

Scott Dahl, a former hotel operator who is director of the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, said he supports the new tax and noted that Springfield has lost conventions because of inadequate meeting space.

"This is dire straits," he said, noting that tourism promotion efforts in similar-size downstate communities will lead to total hotel tax rates of 15% to 17% in the next three to five years.

Several County Board members complained that Springfield city government won't help pay for the BOS Center expansion with any taxes that the city controls. The Springfield City Council may be asked to chip in some revenue from the city's share of hotel and sales taxes if the larger project is authorized in state legislation, Sangamon County officials said.

Hall, a Loami-area farmer, called the condition of downtown Springfield "pathetic" but said he wouldn't vote for the new hotel tax unless it included a "sunset" provision to eliminate the tax after a certain date.

However, McFadden said attorneys advising the county believe such a provision would doom the bond issue by making the bonds unattractive to investors. □

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NEWS

Lead-aches

Feds, state accelerate timeline for lead service line removal

INFRASTRUCTURE | Dilpreet Raju

Springfield's thousands of service lines that are made out of lead will need to be removed within 10 years due to the Illinois Pollution Control Board's decision to adopt a 2024 federal rule. The move likely occurred as a precaution amid fears the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would ditch the Biden-era rule that sought to remove lead lines across the country within a decade.

Lead poisoning is a life-threatening affliction. There is almost no function in the human body which is not affected by lead toxicity," according to a 2015 National Institutes of Health report. While lead pipes have a protective coating lining the interior and are chemically tested twice a year in Springfield, water regulators and public health experts are in agreement that all lead pipes need to be replaced. Service lines carry water from a utility's water mains to residential and commercial building faucets.

The timeliness of replacing the pipes is where the federal and state government argument diverges from local water utilities, which say the deadlines imposed are not practical. A national water utilities association filed a challenge to the EPA's ruling one month after Donald Trump won the 2024 presidential election. The American Water Works Association reasoned that the timeline proposed by the federal rule is unrealistic for municipalities to be in compliance.

Last year, environmental organizations were unsure of how the EPA would handle the case as it continues to fight states over a variety of regulatory decisions. But the EPA bucked its tendency to oppose state environmental policy by actually defending the ruling installed under the Biden administration. Illinois was one of nine states, along with the District of Columbia, to join the EPA in defending the rule.

Todd LaFountain, water division manager for CWLP, told the Springfield City Council Aug. 25 the Illinois Pollution Control Board's decision ultimately nullifies any outcome of the case in federal appeals court – which will have oral arguments begin on Sept. 30 in Washington, D.C.

"They are planning to keep that 10-year replacement window here for Illinois, regardless of what happens on a federal level," he said.

That change is significant, as Illinois passed



CWLP crews are working to remove the nearly 9,000 remaining lead pipes buried under Springfield's roadways.. PHOTO CREDIT CWLP.

a law in 2021 mandating lead service line replacement at a slower rate; under that law, Springfield would have nearly 30 years to replace its thousands of lead pipes.

Ward 7 Ald. Brad Carlson asked LaFountain if he was confident that CWLP would be able to remove the nearly 9,000 remaining lead pipes buried under Springfield's roadways and properties in a decade's time.

"No, I wouldn't say I'm confident that we can meet that. We will do the best we can... We are doing everything we can to reduce our overall liability," LaFountain said.

He also told the council that he's confident in CWLP's ability to keep removing the lines but has concerns about private contractors being able to quickly remove lines. CWLP is accepting bids until Oct. 2 for lead service line replacement in the upcoming fiscal year.

"Even if we get (to) around 7,500 lead

service lines (remaining by January 2027), we've never done 750 in a given year. I could assign three crews to it at water distribution and get it done on the public side. I'm not so confident that our private contractors could keep up with this on the private side," he said.

Last year, LaFountain told *Illinois Times* he agrees that lead pipes should be removed but estimated that implementing the EPA's rule would cost Springfield between \$150 million and \$200 million. That's roughly \$15,000 to \$20,000 per lead line replaced – almost \$10,000 more than the EPA's 2019 average estimate.

"We're all in agreement, both here in Springfield for sure and across the industry as a whole, that it's time to remove the lead service lines from the ground – it's time for the lead to go," he said. "Currently, the funding sources are not there to do it in a responsible manner." □

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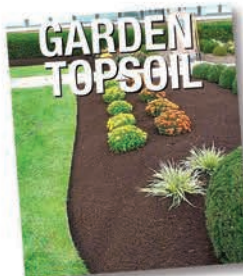
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ShotSpotter stalls

Ordinance to extend contract is withdrawn, new language and amendment in the works

POLICE | Maria Gardner Lara

The Springfield City Council postponed a decision on whether to renew its ShotSpotter contract as the mayor pursues tweaks to the agreement and Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory said he plans to introduce an amendment to the ordinance.

The City Council voted Sept. 1 to withdraw the ordinance for a \$1.1 million, three-year contract for the acoustic gunshot detection surveillance technology. Ward 10 Ald. Ralph Hanauer made the motion, which he said was done at the request of the mayor. The unanimous vote to withdraw the ordinance occurred before any discussion took place at the council meeting.

A revised version will be introduced to the council in a few weeks, said Mayor Misty Buscher.

"It looks like the contract had some language that I wanted to get updated," Buscher told *IT*, but wouldn't elaborate further.

However, Gregory told *Illinois Times* he suspects his planned amendment is the cause of the delay.

"I would imagine that somebody's in agreement with the amendment that was coming," Gregory said. While it hasn't been formally introduced, it has been circulated among the other council members.

The amendment specifies that "renewing the technology should be accompanied by a continued commitment to act on the information it provides" and calls for the city to use a data-driven process to identify priority areas for neighborhood cleanup, resident engagement and community partnership.

Hanauer told *IT* he hasn't done a thorough review of Gregory's proposal but is concerned about any new spending in the budget.

"If we have a bunch of new programs or whatever – how are we going to pay for it, and where the money's coming from?" Hanauer said.

Gregory also told *IT* that ShotSpotter data should answer the question of whether the notifications are leading to arrests. He said the police department previously provided that information back in 2022, but hasn't since then.

Then-Springfield Police Chief Kenny

Winslow told *IT* in 2021 that police were only able to prove that there had been gunfire for 23% of ShotSpotter notifications.

The system, run by California-based company SoundThinking, covers 5.25 square miles of Springfield, primarily on the east side. It uses microphones to detect the sound of potential gunshots and alert police to a location.

Illinois Times has reviewed ShotSpotter data obtained by a Freedom of Information request and found that from Jan. 1, 2022, to Aug. 21, the system has received 3,419 notifications of possible gunshots.

The system labels notifications as "probable gunfire," "multiple gunshots" or a "single gunshot."

Springfield Police Chief Joseph Behl told *IT* that officers have responded to every alert, but he wasn't aware of how many of the notices have been confirmed gunshots.

"I don't know how much of those result in... where we have casings or we have damage or we have confirmed shots fired," Behl said. "I don't know what the percentage is with that."

When asked if he has data to address Gregory's question of whether ShotSpotter notifications have led to more gun violation-related arrests, Behl said he didn't know.

"I don't think I've ever looked that up; I'll be quite honest with you," he said.

Behl said one way he measures the success of ShotSpotter is by the number of guns that have been recovered, but was unsure if it could be credited solely to the system.

"Almost 500 firearms are recovered annually, and that's from 2021 forward," Behl said. "Now, is that specifically for ShotSpotter? Maybe not. Does it have to do with manpower? Does it have to do with training, tactics and other technologies that we have? Probably."

Behl said the success of removing illegal weapons from the streets can be attributed to multiple factors, but the additional technology helps.

"It probably has a culmination of all those things, but ShotSpotter definitely puts us in the right spot where the gunfire is," he said.

Sangamon County's violent crime rate has

gone down over the last 30 years, following national trends, *IT* has reported. Experts haven't determined a single reason for the decline and say more research is needed.

The city first approved the technology in 2020 with the council voting 7-3 for a three-year contract totaling \$643,750. In 2023, the council signed on for another three years for a total of \$870,188.

However, some research has found the technology doesn't help to reduce crime.

A 2021 MacArthur Justice Center study of ShotSpotter's use in Chicago found the "vast majority of alerts generated by the system turn up no evidence of gunfire or any gun-related crime."

The MacArthur Justice Center, a national civil rights organization, noted, "CPD publicly promotes ShotSpotter as an essential tool for crime prevention, but there is no evidence that it reduces crime."

In 2025, the city of Chicago settled a lawsuit backed by the organization which was filed by people claiming they were harmed by police use of the surveillance system.

"The lawsuit focused on the tens of thousands of ShotSpotter alerts every year that led police to find no evidence of gunfire or gun crime, but often resulted in unwarranted police stops that violated the Fourth Amendment," stated the MacArthur Justice Center.

The Chicago Police Department discontinued its contract with ShotSpotter in 2024.

A study that same year by Northeastern University examining the use of ShotSpotter in Kansas City and Chicago found the technology helped improve police response times in locating victims and evidence from a crime scene, but "does not lead to more arrests and convictions for gun crimes and does not reduce these crimes in the areas where it is deployed."

Critics say the technology only leads to over-policing of Black and Latino communities. SPD won't disclose the exact locations of the detection devices, but the majority of the sensors are located in Ward 2. According to U.S. Census data, Ward 2 includes the poorest neighborhoods in the

city, and a high percentage of residents are Black.

Gregory previously told *IT* he's noncommittal on supporting a renewal of the technology.

"It just depends on how me and the chief's conversation goes, and how we can put something together as a city to make sure that we're going to use that data to address those areas," he said.

However, Gregory thinks positively of the technology. "There are pluses to ShotSpotter," he said, such as helping police locate victims.

Even so, he said the city has to move past just collecting data on troubled areas.

"I'm against the tool, if it's just the tool itself," he said.

He added, "The areas that get the highest amount of gunshots, those areas, of course, are policed," Gregory said. "We have to take it a step further. Put real concentration on the homes, put real concentration on the weeds, the grass and things of that nature."

He described a 2022 community event, Project Southtown Cleanup, as an initiative he'd like to see reintroduced to the east side. Gregory said community organizations and Public Works focused on cleaning up the blocks surrounding Feitshans Elementary School on 15th Street between Stuart and Kansas streets.

"Not only did they go out that weekend, but they also, prior to the event, cleaned alleys, cut trees and did a lot of work in those areas," he said.

He added, "We have to really put a priority on those areas or we'll always be paying for ShotSpotter," noting that he doesn't want the city paying for the technology indefinitely.

"Either we're going to the neighborhoods and helping those neighborhoods grow, or we're not," Gregory said. "And we need to do more." □

Maria Gardner Lara is a staff writer for Illinois Times. She has a master's degree in journalism from the Public Affairs Reporting program at University of Illinois Springfield and served as a corps member with Report for America at the NPR station in DeKalb.



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Taking it to the streets

SIU Medicine program brings primary care to those experiencing homelessness

HEALTHCARE | Scott Reeder

Patricia Gaddy sleeps sitting up in her walker. After about 20 years without stable housing, she has learned how to survive on Springfield's streets. But health problems have made that harder.

Gaddy has heart problems, high blood pressure and a history of blood clots in her legs. A problem with her knee makes it difficult to get back up if she lies down, so she sleeps sitting up.

When she got sick in the past, she said, she went to the emergency room.

Now, she has another option.

Dr. Kami Harless comes to her.

Harless has treated Gaddy's leg problems, prescribed antibiotics and helped refill her heart medication. But when Gaddy talks about the physician, she focuses less on prescriptions than on time.

"She checks you all out and she takes time talking to you, more than the hospital does," Gaddy said. "You can tell her more than you can tell the hospital."

Gaddy is among the patients being served by SIU Medicine's new Street Medicine Program, which takes primary care directly to patients experiencing homelessness.

The program, which is being funded by a five-year federal grant totaling \$2.5 million, began in June. A medical team travels to outdoor living areas and other places frequented by the unhoused. Rather than waiting until a medical problem becomes serious enough for an emergency room visit, the goal is to treat patients where they are and connect them with ongoing care.

"The most challenging thing about street medicine is that it has to be adaptable," Harless said. "It has to change every day. You're never going to show up to the same place and see the same people."

The team may visit the Washington Street Mission, The Salvation Army, St. John's Breadline, the area around Lincoln Library or partner with outreach workers to locate people sleeping outside.

"We're going to go to where the people are," Harless said.

The medical problems they treat are often commonplace — infected wounds, sore feet, joint pain, diabetes and high blood pressure. Treating them becomes more difficult when a patient has no bed, bathroom, refrigerator,



Patricia Gaddy, pictured Aug. 31 at the Washington Street Mission, has been without stable housing for around two decades. SIU Medicine's new Street Medicine Program provides primary care to people experiencing homelessness. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

telephone or permanent address.

A foot wound, for example, may provide the first connection. The team treats it, returns to change the dressing and checks whether an infection is improving. Eventually, the conversation may expand to diabetes, hypertension or substance use.

Harless measures success with a simple maxim: "The goal of a first visit is a second visit."

"Sometimes that visit is just a conversation," she said. "You don't even get into the medical stuff yet."

That emphasis on trust began before SIU formally launched the program.

Ronetta Buckner, street outreach coordinator for Heartland Housed, worked alongside Harless for about a year and a half as the physician got to know the patients.

At first, Buckner said, Harless didn't talk much about medicine.

"It was more like just her really getting to know them, about their lives, their issues, things that they have been through," Buckner said.

"We were consistent of going out like every week and checking on people," she added. "When we said we were going to be there for someone, we showed up."

Buckner has seen the persistence pay off.

One man living outside had feet in such poor condition that he couldn't wear shoes and initially wouldn't see a doctor. Harless kept visiting, calling him by name and listening to him.

Eventually, he allowed her to treat his feet.

"He can now wear shoes. He got an ID," Buckner said. "Something that may be so small to us is like moving mountains to them."

Jarid Brown, director of Washington Street Mission, said he has seen people who avoided medical care for years begin regularly seeing a doctor because of the program.

"It takes a special person to be able to work with a population that has a lot of medical needs, that has addictions, that has mental illness," Brown said. "It takes a great deal of patience. It takes the ability to de-escalate, and you have to be likable."

Some people may take months or years to

trust someone trying to help them.

"We've seen people that won't talk to anyone for years who like their team enough that they're now engaged in healthcare," Brown said.

Harless' approach is deliberately informal.

"She's there in her jeans and her SIU T-shirt. She's really engaging and wants to know about their lives and how they got here," Buckner said.

"When you're out with her, it's not even like she's a doctor," Buckner added. "It's just like she's somebody who cares about people."

But the medicine is conventional. The street team is connected to SIU's federally qualified health center and can write prescriptions, order X-rays, make specialist referrals and perform procedures.

For many people Brown encounters, healthcare has largely meant the emergency room. Having medical providers reach people before their conditions become emergencies, he said, "makes a tremendous difference."

Homelessness creates other obstacles. A patient may not have a telephone for a specialist to call. A Medicaid renewal notice may go to an old address. A referral can be closed after repeated calls to a disconnected number.

"If you don't have an active phone or a mailing address or an easy way to get around, you're going to slip through those cracks really, really easily," Harless said.

The program also trains physicians. Second-year SIU family medicine residents are doing monthlong street-medicine rotations as part of a federally funded initiative.

Harless, a Springfield High School graduate who became involved in mobile outreach during her residency in Seattle, said the experience can teach young doctors something difficult to learn inside a conventional clinic.

People experiencing homelessness, she said, are no different from patients sitting in an examination room.

For Gaddy, the lesson is simpler. She is still trying to find somewhere to live. Until then, she has a doctor who knows where to find her and who will take time to talk to her.

She summed up the relationship in five words:

"Yeah, that's my friend." □

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The saga of Colton Lexus

Man's battle against the city of Springfield ends due to charges in Cook County

OPINION | Adrian Dater

Colton Lexus is going from a tiny home to the big house.

The 31-year-old, who became something of a cause celebre in challenging Springfield's zoning laws by trying to live off the grid on a vacant lot within city limits, was found guilty last week of aggravated battery and discharge of a firearm by a Cook County judge.

The conviction stems from a Christmas Day 2024 incident in which Lexus was charged by Chicago police for shooting a man through a door of his Back of the Yards apartment. According to a police report at the time, Lexus shot a man who was kicking at his back door.

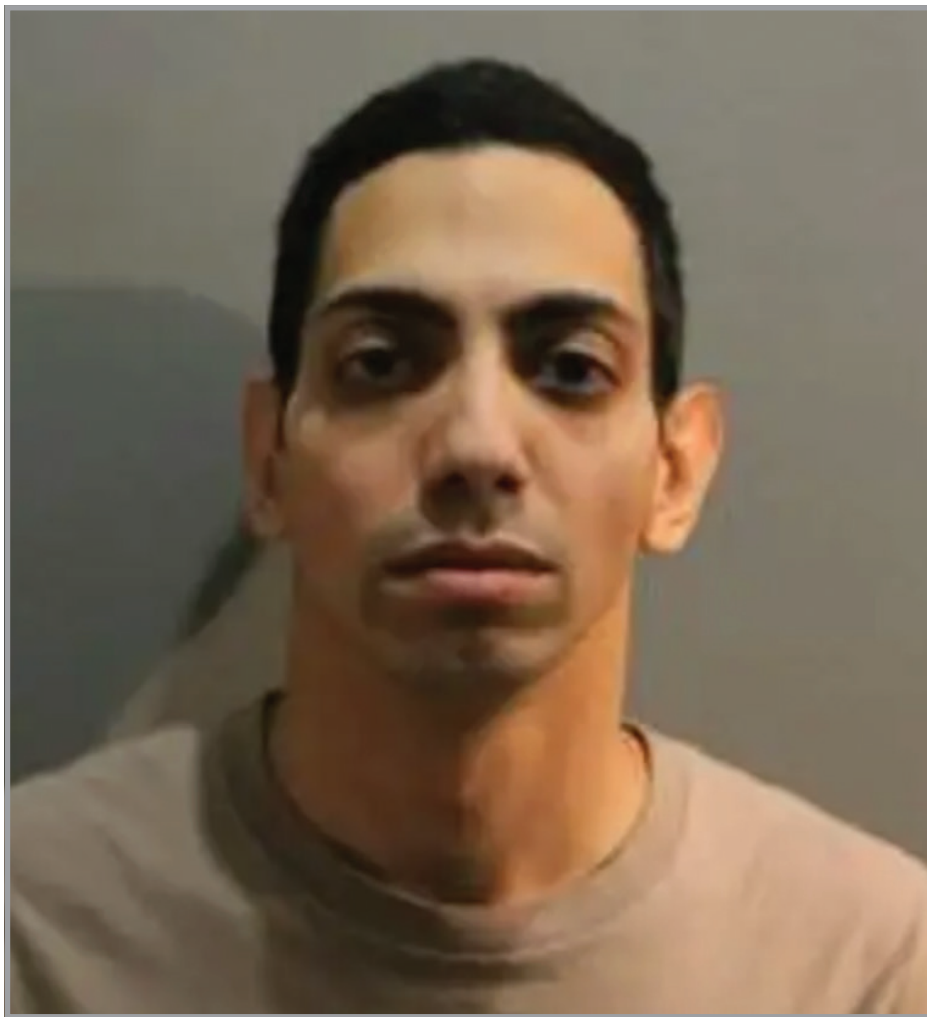
Lexus, whose legal name is Chase Hadez, has a court date set for Sept. 24 with Circuit Court Judge Tyria B. Walton, who pronounced Lexus guilty after a bench trial. He could face at least 10 years in prison on the two convictions.

I got to know Lexus during his roughly five months in Springfield, and one thing I can say is, nothing surprises me anymore with him. To quote Winston Churchill, Lexus was "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma."

Here was a man who came to town with his own "pod" on wheels, an 18-square-foot living space that Lexus proudly showed off to me as part of a story I wrote for *Illinois Times* in June. Lexus owned a lot at 1705 E. Carpenter St. and said it would be his mission to prove to the world a man could live totally off the grid. He would franchise his method of building such a home for the good of a society in which homelessness and unaffordability for housing is pervasive.

Only one problem with that plan: the city said no. Lexus' original pod, along with a second, slightly larger one he soon would build, violated Springfield zoning laws six ways to Sunday, city officials said. Lexus set out to fight city hall, filing numerous lawsuits, motions and freedom of information requests. He often live-streamed, on Tik-Tok, his interactions with city officials.

He represented himself pro se in front of Sangamon County Court Judge Robin Schmidt, exhaustively questioning zoning



Colton Lexus, whose legal name is Chase Hadez, was booked into the Cook County Jail Aug. 27 after being found guilty of aggravated battery and discharge of a firearm stemming from a shooting in December 2024. PHOTO FROM COOK COUNTY SHERIFF

officials and — at times it seemed — making those city officials uneasy with the scope of his arguments for why he should be allowed to live like he was.

But, as valiant as his "man fights city hall" battle was, Schmidt ultimately ruled against him on two occasions. Lexus would either have to get his pods up to code, or the city would tear them down. He was banned from living in the pods in the meantime, and Lexus began to post videos of himself living on the

street. He appealed for money with a GoFund Me page that raised more than \$2,000.

Lexus has another hearing in that case Sept. 10, plus a \$2,500 small-claims complaint pending against City Water, Light and Power.

Presumably, Lexus will now be unable to attend any further hearings in Sangamon County.

When I first met with Lexus at his pod, I brought up the charges from 18 months

prior, which seemed like a very serious thing. Lexus, though, was completely dismissive, saying, "The charges are being dropped. I was trying to fend off an intruder. I was protecting myself."

Like several things Lexus said, pinning down actual facts about what he described as a "nothingburger" was often difficult. Lexus talked about a painful divorce from his husband, and said he first became homeless in Chicago after the divorce and leaving the apartment he said they shared.

Was the victim of the shooting Lexus' husband, after a marital spat? We still don't know the identity of that victim, who at the time was listed in serious condition. Good luck trying to find out anything from the Cook County legal system about that case, or any other. Several times on Monday and Tuesday, I called published numbers for a couple of county offices for help, and they just rang and rang until the connection went dead.

What happens now to the pods, which at last check are still there on Carpenter Street? Every city official I phoned the last couple days didn't return the calls. Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory, whose ward is where the pods are, politely declined comment, citing ongoing legal proceedings.

Lexus, one check of the internet reveals, had some serious haters even before the convictions in Chicago. He was accused by at least a couple of dedicated social media sleuths as being a scammer, with accusations of everything from stolen valor to improper interactions with minors.

The haters are all spiking the football now. Cook County did release a sullen mug shot of Lexus, and he remains locked up in a jail.

The Colton Lexus I knew was polite and charming much of the time, and well-spoken. But did I ever know the real Colton Lexus? I don't think so, and I'm not sure he knows who the real Colton Lexus, or Chase Hadez, is either.

Lexus isn't homeless anymore, at least. But I'm sure it's the last address he ever would have wanted. □

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OPINION

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

PERSONAL CONNECTION

As was mentioned, no one's history is pretty ("Our history is not pretty," Aug. 15). I am proud that Springfield is making an effort to take a hard look at this horrible moment.

In some ways, it is woven into my family history. My grandparents helped hide some of the people who were threatened by the mob. My grandfather, who was a newspaper editor, stood as a witness for the prosecution because he saw the lynch mob go past, though at the time did not know what they were about to do.

Cathy Mosley

Via [Facebook.com/illinoistimes](https://www.facebook.com/illinoistimes)

DON'T GO WOKE

The president and historians want the true history of America being told, warts and all. How can you call the American Museum of History accurate when it doesn't even mention the founders, and our founding documents? The museum went woke which is nothing but leftist revisionist history driving an agenda.

Wonder why the youth of America are embracing socialism? Because the truth about our system of government isn't being taught, but the lies about socialism are.

Fritz Pfister

Via [Facebook.com/illinoistimes](https://www.facebook.com/illinoistimes)

UNDERSTAND THE JOURNEY

What's especially frustrating about this conversation is the way some people are so focused on protecting the "white" version of things that they completely erase the history of Black Americans.

Telling the story of what happened isn't "dredging up the past." It's telling the story of people who endured tragedy, injustice and downright murder and still found a way to come out on the other side. That is not something to hide or "white wash."

The history of Illinois is not a story that belongs to a single group of people. It is a collection of experiences that brought us to where we are today. And when we erase the horrific chapters, we also erase the outstanding resilience of the incredible people who lived through them.

Black history isn't just a story of what was done to Black people. It's a story of what Black people built, survived, overcame and became, despite it all. And in that, created so much that we love today.

We aren't "bringing up the past." We are understanding the journey from where we were to where we are but also recognizing just



Kathryn Harris digs soil to place in a glass jar labeled with the name of Scott Burton, who was killed during the 1908 Race Riot, as part of a three-day commemoration. PHOTO BY MARIA GARDNER LARA

how powerful that journey has been. Thank you to the incredible historians who are preserving this information and keeping the history alive. We need to know from whence we came to know how to not repeat it.

Sarah Jo Krall

Via [Facebook.com/illinoistimes](https://www.facebook.com/illinoistimes)

LEARN FROM IT

You can't change the past but you can learn from it. The presentations all three days at the "Three Hot Days in August: The Aftermath" event were so interesting and informative ("Three Hot Days," Aug. 13). It was well worth the drive and time to attend and listen. It's so easy to just view the destruction and deaths and miss how people (rich, poor and in-between) were affected after the destruction and some of the motives of those involved.

Donna J. Showalter

Via [Facebook.com/illinoistimes](https://www.facebook.com/illinoistimes)

IFYOU BUILD IT...

I have noticed with interest the proposal being made to develop a bandstand/entertainment venue basically in the governor's front yard ("Natural play space," July 23). I believe that is a terrific idea, as it would provide what should, with proper management, be a popular venue for locals and out-of-towners alike. Some are saying it would be better used to attract new businesses or expand those already downtown.

With the state acquiring the property and doing the development, we can probably rest assured the job would be well-done and the activity well-run. The private sector, meanwhile, should be encouraged and motivated to increase enthusiasm and motivation for the rehabilitation into the

thriving commercial/office area it once was

In another city, West Palm Beach, Florida, where I once worked as a reporter, a group is attempting to take control of that city's oldest and most revered cemeteries, burial places of literally dozens of the city's founders and pioneer citizens, for conversion into a cultural center, music venue, walking paths and center for other activities. Pioneer family members I'm familiar with are livid and preparing to battle the city over the project. Springfield certainly doesn't need that sort of animosity!

The only negative I can think of is: how would the governor feel about food trucks on the street in front of his mansion?

Fred Lowery

Springfield

Bullheads

As kids, my sibs and I spent many summer weeks on a small nearby lake. One day, alone in the rowboat and lying across the prow, looking down into the shallow water, I saw a sight I have never forgotten: an inky mask that was moving! Startled, I peered closer. The mask was made up of tiny black bullheads and the outer perimeter guarded by a great black bullhead, the parent! I watched that incredible sight, as it maintained its shape while gradually moving off into deeper water. I sometimes wonder how many of that close-packed nursery grew to be adult bullheads. They would have crowded the lake!

Jacqueline Jackson

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Groups eye Meta settlement money

POLITICS | Rich Miller

Hours after the social media giant Meta agreed last Wednesday to settle a case brought by 47 state attorneys general and implement reforms to protect children from social media harms, the Illinois Federation of Teachers issued a demand that all of Illinois' portion of the \$17.1 billion settlement - \$768 million - be designated "to address the funding crisis for school districts across the state."

"The Governor has said he supports more funding for education but didn't know where it would come from," said IFT president Stacy Davis Gates in the release. "The settlement with Meta just made that answer even easier. Schools from Peoria to Belleville to Chicago are counting on the Governor and the General Assembly to prioritize students the way we've seen them prioritize big tech and billionaire stadium owners."

The Chicago Teachers Union, which is part of the IFT, is demanding that the state come up with \$165 million during the upcoming fall veto session to prevent layoffs at the Chicago Public Schools. A statewide package that helps Chicago and the rest of the state would amount to hundreds of millions of dollars more.

But the \$768 million from the settlement is obviously not a permanent revenue source. So, I asked the IFT why the state should use temporary money to fund long-term education funding. After all, CPS got itself in big fiscal trouble by using short-term federal COVID funding to pay for long-term school spending. That fateful budgetary decision brought the school district directly to the brink it faces today.

"Permanent solutions of course are better," conceded an IFT spokesperson, pointing to work being done by progressive legislators and stakeholders to find permanent state revenue sources. However, the spokesperson said via email, "if the state is receiving \$768M for the harm big tech companies have done to children, sure makes sense to put it toward the educational

institutions that serve them."

Except underfunded schools is not the problem that the settlement money is designed to address.

According to the settlement terms, the cash is supposed to be used for "remedial or restitutive purposes."

Those purposes include: Youth crisis intervention services; after school or summer programs; digital awareness public education funds; implementing phone-free school zones; hiring digital literacy counselors; digital mental health programming and "grants to school districts or other local government entities to accomplish any remedial purpose encompassed here." The money is also supposed to be used to reimburse the attorney general's office for costs associated with bringing the lawsuit.

The Children's Funding Project in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance has even developed model legislation designed to help states spend the money to directly address the harms done by Meta under the auspices of its Fund IRL coalition. A statement from the group said it and its coalition partners "will continue to work to ensure that every available dollar intended to repair harm to young people is tracked, and that state leaders hear directly from young people and the organizations serving them as decisions about those resources are made."

Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office emphasized to me that the money should mainly be used for remediation of the harm done to children by Meta and other large social media companies.

Raoul's office also insisted that the money cannot be used for general revenue purposes, but should instead be treated like the massive opioid settlement for targeted remediation of the harms caused by the industry, instead of the way the legislature and previous governors used the tobacco settlement money to temporarily patch state budget holes back in the day.

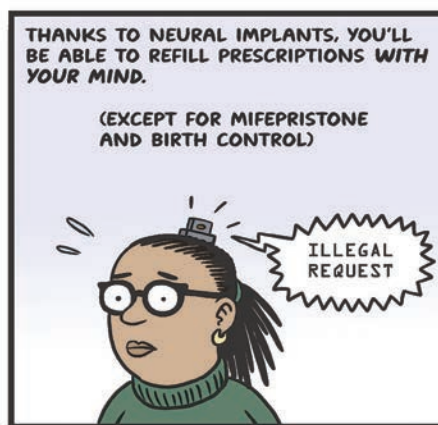
The point here is that the IFT and CTU shouldn't be pouncing on every bright, shiny nickel that bounces into the playing field. The union absolutely must have the support of progressive legislators if it has even a little hope of eventually finding a funding solution. Demanding the Meta money be diverted from other significant progressive priorities for its own purposes will only undermine its goals. This ain't rocket science.

I really think sometimes that the CTU and the Chicago Bears are operating from the same

flawed, secret playbook. Both have legit cases to make at the statehouse, but both constantly step on their own messaging and alienate people who should be their friends.

The Meta settlement will provide some money to CPS and all other school districts. But if the IFT sticks to its guns and insists that the legislature ignore the settlement terms and give them all of the cash, things could get really ugly. □

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



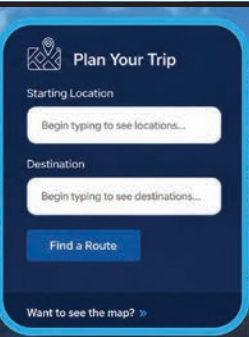


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What's in a name?

Not nearly enough, sometimes

KROHE | James Krohe Jr.

It's fun to name things. Human parents name their kids (often twice, if you count nicknames). Lovers pick endearing names for each other. In our culture women get to rename themselves after they marry to show people they belong to their husbands. In some other cultures post-pubescent children get to pick their adult name themselves; As a post-pubescent opinion columnist, I got a chance to do that by picking the version of my name that would appear in print.

Government buildings are usually called public property, but they don't belong to the public, so the public doesn't get to name them. They belong to the sovereign state of Illinois, so naming privileges go to the people who run state government. Historically, that has meant the people's representatives. Alas, legislators are not trained for this and often do it badly, as they did when they named the building at Spring and Edwards that houses the exhibits of the Illinois State Museum after a dead Democrat who probably never set foot in the place. ("Official Graffiti," Dec. 18, 2014).

Remarkably, there is not even a parking lot or loading dock named for such heroes of Illinois government as John Peter Altgeld, Thomas Ford, Richard Ogilvie, Frank Lowden or Henry Horner.

No longer on that list is Jim Edgar. Gov. JB Pritzker (who is not the people's representative but the people's administrator) decided he wanted to name something too, so on Aug. 11, it was announced that Pritzker had used an executive order to christen the reincarnated state armory ("Armory 2.0," April 2) the Gov. Jim Edgar Executive Office Building after his recently deceased Republican predecessor.

We didn't used to name buildings after people. The Stratton Building was simply the New State Office Building (to distinguish it from the Centennial Building) for more than 20 years. The Centennial Building was just that for more than 70 years. The State Armory was the state armory for 89 and the Illinois State Archives was the state archives for nearly 60. If admirers wished to commemorate an Illinois government hero, they commissioned a statue. We don't do that anymore, not because Illinois has run out of heroes but apparently because we have run out of sculptors. So we turn public buildings into memorials.

Simpler, yes, and cheaper, but



Gov. JB Pritzker announced Aug. 11 that he would use an executive order to rename the state armory the Gov. Jim Edgar Executive Office Building. PHOTO BY EVAN KALISH

unsatisfactory nonetheless. In 1992 the legislature voted to rename the Centennial Building after party hack and failed gubernatorial candidate Michael J. Howlett. The unsatisfactory part was that the building was already a memorial. Intended to commemorate the centennial of the state's founding, the building featured a hall with battle flags and on the building frieze the names of Illinoisans deemed important to the state's history; history of different sorts was recalled in a natural history museum on the third floor and a state historical library and archives on the fifth.

Other states' governments have official naming guidelines that set minimum criteria for historical significance or governmental service. In Illinois, what is named for whom is decided at the whims of lawmakers and (now) governors. (The fact that this governor made a good pick this time does not validate the process.) The effective criteria in Illinois are "dead," "noncontroversial" and "used to get Pulaski Day off."

And beyond those? The U.S. Navy names its biggest ships only after presidents. Should not state government do the same with our biggest buildings? Ah, but who are our biggest people? Bigger as in "best-known"? Most popular? Most significant? Past practice suggests a future criterion.

Consider the massive revenue center north of the Statehouse, completed in 1984. Legislators, unusually, decided to name the building even before it was finished but not

for a governor or a legislative leader. It was named for Willard Ice, the blind attorney who in 35 years with the department made himself into "Mr. Revenue" because of his expertise. In 2024, at the 40th anniversary of the building, Pritzker said, "Our history is shaped by the everyday heroes – like Willard Ice – who do all sorts of unseen work that lays the foundation of our future."

Well said, governor. Every other sizable department or agency has its Willard Ices, too. IDOT's headquarters on Dirksen Parkway was renamed the Harry R. Hanley Building after a long time employee. (The sign out front follows a telling typography: "Harry R. Hanley Building" is rendered in all capitals while below it is "Illinois Department of Transportation" in much smaller caps and lowercase.) The nearby headquarters for IDOT's District 6 was recently dedicated to James L. Easterly, former director of highways, who was, according to IDOT's director, "much beloved."

Leave governors to make their own monuments, as Edgar did when on his retirement he founded the Edgar Fellows programs for aspiring public servants. Instead, seek out and identify state government's everyday heroes and put their names on the public buildings owned by the public they served. □

James Krohe's expertise is naming newspaper and magazine articles, not buildings, which explains a lot.

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A fun fall to-do list

FALL GUIDE | Pamela Savage

Put away your swimsuits and get out your flannels, it's finally time to start dreaming of crisp autumn mornings and cozy fall nights. No matter how you feel about the change of the seasons, fall is a wonderful time to create some cozy family memories. Here are 75 ideas for ways to enjoy the season alongside your friends and families.

1. Visit a pumpkin patch
2. Take in a haunted house or (haunted!) hayride
3. Bake a spice cake
4. Jump in a pile of leaves
5. Wear flannel
6. Eat cider doughnuts
7. Swap out bedding and throw blankets for peak autumn coziness
8. Bring soup to a neighbor or someone who needs soup
9. Roast marshmallows
10. Hang twinkle lights
11. Read *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert (and then make a leaf man of your own)
12. Donate food to a micropantry
13. Get a pile of cozy books from the library
14. Snuggle under a warm blanket
15. Admire a woolly bear caterpillar
16. Complete a puzzle
17. Watch a football game
18. Attend an oktoberfest or a fall festival
19. Make a dip in the crockpot
20. Eat some candy corn
21. Clean your gutters and check your furnaces
22. Take a foliage-themed road trip
23. Make caramel apples
24. Read a spooky book or two
25. Go on a flashlight walk the first week it's dark early
26. Do a leaf rubbing
27. Throw a Halloween party or a Friendsgiving
28. Start a gratitude practice in November (like a Thankful Turkey)
29. Make a fall playlist
30. Listen to an audiobook as a family
31. Enjoy a firepit or bonfire
32. Go stargazing on a chilly evening
33. Have an autumn picnic



PHOTO COURTESY ADOBE STOCK IMAGE

34. Launder and prep hats, coats, gloves and scarves
35. Install a bat house or a bird feeder
36. Fly a kite
37. Carve a pumpkin for The Carillon
38. Take a family bike ride
39. Walk or run a 5K
40. Roast pumpkin seeds
41. Watch a Halloween movie
42. Make a pinecone bird feeder
43. Learn a new card game
44. Slice apples for apple stamps
45. Host a chili cookoff
46. Go on a hike
47. Light a fall candle
48. Get lost in a corn maze
49. Visit a local indie bookstore
50. Make an apple-themed dessert
51. Store your outdoor cushions and clean your grill
52. Go on a weekend getaway
53. Stay in pajamas all day
54. Dance to the "Monster Mash" by Bobby Pickett and the Cryptkeepers
55. Make homemade oozy slime or cinnamon-scented Play-Doh
56. Bake some cookies
57. Build a haunted house out of blocks or LEGOs
58. Choose a Halloween costume (or make your own)
59. Decorate your porch for fall
60. Prioritize rest and self-care before the clocks change
61. Make cinnamon rolls
62. Go apple picking
63. Simmer some homemade stovetop potpourri
64. Have an apple taste test to compare crunchiness and juiciness
65. Read a spooky, nostalgic book (remember *Goosebumps*?)
66. Watch the sun set
67. Schedule your flu shots
68. Visit the Old Capitol Farmers Market
69. Make trail mix
70. Drink tea, cocoa, or hot apple cider
71. Try a fall sport
72. Learn how to make stovetop popcorn
73. Pick up mums or your favorite fall plants at the nursery
74. Set up no-phone zones and/or times of day
75. Enjoy the people that you love and the time that you have together this fall □



Echoes of Yesteryear

A walk through Oak Ridge Cemetery

FALL GUIDE | Cinda Ackerman Klickna

Enjoy beautiful Oak Ridge Cemetery, meet period actors and learn about six Sangamon County residents who made a difference in our history. The Sangamon County Historical Society will offer its annual Echoes of Yesteryear – A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery tour from 12-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4.

The walk is easy. Participants will board a bus to be dropped off at the first grave site, walk to the other grave sites and then be transported back to the parking area. The entire walk is around a half mile.

“This year’s Cemetery Walk will provide visitors with a glimpse into the history and heritage of Springfield and Sangamon County,” said Susan Helm, chair of the cemetery committee. “These authentic stories, which have been thoroughly researched, will take the audience back to an earlier time and provide insight into their lives and the issues of their time.”

Participants will be given a look at the late 1800s and early 1900s and up to the present with stories from a tough English teacher, feisty union activist, devoted state museum carpenter, sad mother, wronged teen and daredevil balloonist.

Historical figures who will be portrayed include:

Elizabeth Graham – Graham, portrayed by Deb Vandevoort, will share not only her story but also that of her friend Susan Wilcox. Wilcox taught English at Springfield High School where one of her students would become Springfield’s famous poet, Vachel Lindsay. Graham later joined the SHS English faculty and already knew of Lindsay’s poetry. After retirement – one forced upon her by the school board – she devoted her life to preserving Lindsay’s legacy as well his home on Fifth Street where she served as the curator of the home. Many will, no doubt, remember her demanding attention by all who visited.

John Lewis – A strong union activist, Lewis served as president of the United Mine Workers Association starting in 1919. He fought for workers’ rights, helped pass the Illinois law for workers compensation and



Andy Vandevoort and Kathryn Harris, pictured during the 2025 Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk, will be portraying different historical characters this year. PHOTO BY ERNIE SLOTTAG

traveled all over the country in his role. Actor Andy Vandevoort will relate the many stories about Lewis, who met with presidents, got in a fistfight with another leader in the middle of a convention and led a nationwide coal strike.

Augusta Senf – The story told at this site, portrayed by Sandra Fritz, will focus on Senf’s four children, who all died young. Surrounding their graves are many other graves of young children who succumbed to cholera infantum and typhoid in the early part of the 20th century. Others died of measles. Senf will enlighten listeners about the horrible diseases and modern treatments and vaccines that eventually helped to end so many deaths in children.

Josephine Snowden Meek – The Black teen excelled at Springfield High School, graduating in 1907, but was stripped of her designation of valedictorian along

with another girl who was to be named salutatorian. Kathryn Harris will share the controversy and the humiliation but also the future success of Meek as a teacher in

on Dec. 5, 1887, taking off from Ninth and Enos streets, doing tricks on the trapeze and floating down with a parachute. Come hear how far he went and where he landed. □



Kentucky, mother of Springfield leader Vesta Nichols and grandmother of Springfield Dr. Victoria Nichols Johnson.

Cinda Ackerman Klickna is a board member of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

Robert Preston Taylor – Taylor’s father was born into slavery and served in the U.S. Colored Infantry during the Civil War; he witnessed Lee’s surrender at Appomattox. From 1912 to 1949, Robert worked at the Illinois State Museum as a custodian, carpenter, exhibit coordinator and all-around handyman. Although he earned a law degree, he loved the work at the museum. Portrayed by Bob Davis, visitors will hear about Taylor’s unique duties, including putting the glass eye back in the bison when it fell out.

Joe Gomes – Gomes was a daredevil balloonist, not just traveling in a basket under a hot air balloon but instead waiting for the hot air balloon to be released and running next it, then grabbing onto a trapeze attached under the balloon and letting the breeze lift him into the sky. Actor Brody Elder will tell about the exciting performance Gomes gave

Echoes of Yesteryear

A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery

Sunday, Oct. 4
Noon to 3:30 p.m.

(last tour begins at 3 p.m.)

Oak Ridge Cemetery
1441 Monument Ave.

The walk is free; donations are welcomed. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

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Learning from past mistakes

New exhibit at ALPLM looks at racial tensions after Reconstruction

FALL GUIDE | Tara McClellan McAndrew

It was election day in Springfield on April 5, 1870, and tensions were high. What was usually a low-interest election for township officers was anything but typical, not because of the candidates, but because of the voters.

For the first time, Black men were casting a ballot, thanks to the new 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Three days later, the *Daily Illinois State Register* – the pro-slavery, Democrat Springfield paper – stated profanely: “It was humiliating to the last degree to be compelled to stand back while these new fledged patriots, these colored gentry, this ‘black vomit,’ was poured into the ballot box... Our colored ‘brudders’ must be taught that we have not yet consented to yield the administration of affairs entirely into their hands.” The article ended with a promise to teach the new voters “a lesson.”

It’s a prime example of tensions that brewed during America’s post-Civil War period of Reconstruction, when the country dealt with the repercussions of the war and its racial issues. That response was led by Abraham Lincoln before his assassination but turned upside down by critics afterward.

A new exhibit at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, “The Second American Revolution,” looks at this era’s competing forces and responses to them through artifacts and media, such as a film about refugee camps for enslaved people seeking freedom and stories of women abolitionists.

The exhibit also looks at the lingering effects of Reconstruction’s failure. ALPLM executive director Christina Shutt says it helps Americans learn from past mistakes.

“It’s important to show the fragility of American democracy, especially as we reflect on 250 years since the Declaration of Independence, because as Shakespeare writes, ‘What’s past is prologue,’ she said. “Everything that has happened in the past has led us to the present moment and the challenges that we’re living through. The question for us becomes, what do we want the next 250 years to be?”

During Reconstruction the country attempted to give Blacks, especially Black men, some of the same rights as white men. Blacks were freed from slavery and given citizenship, and Black men were given the right to vote. It was the promise of a more inclusive democracy, and it worked... for a while.



IMAGE COURTESY ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

“Thousands” of African American men were elected to state, local and federal offices, according to Manisha Sinha, chair of American History at the University of Connecticut, curator of the ALPLM exhibition, and author of a book by the same title as the exhibition.

After initial efforts to address slavery’s wrongs, things went south.

“Reconstruction was overthrown,” Sinha said, “by a violent campaign of domestic terrorism led by the Ku Klu Klan and similar groups, and because the U.S. Supreme Court undid the legal gains for Black people during Reconstruction. We ended up with Jim Crow, or racial segregation in the South, and disfranchisement of Black men and that was not rectified until the Civil Rights movement.”

Blacks were intimidated, lynched and blocked from voting and other rights through new laws. “A racist backlash undid Reconstruction,” Sinha said. “You could say the South did not accept the results of the Civil War.”

The failure of Reconstruction still “haunts” America today, she added. “Those southern elites who overthrew Reconstruction felt they may have lost the war but

won the peace in undoing the results of the Civil War, putting Black people to as close a state of slavery as possible. It would take the Civil Rights movement to realize the goals of Reconstruction. But today we are seeing a backlash against the Civil Rights gains of the 20th century. The U.S. Supreme Court has gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965.”

The \$1 million question for historians is, would Reconstruction have succeeded if Abraham Lincoln had lived?

“Things really went backward, as one freed slave said, when Lincoln was assassinated, because Lincoln is the first American president to publicly endorse Black citizenship before his death,” Sinha said. “He is really what I call our first Reconstruction president.”

But his successor, Andrew Johnson, was a former southern Democrat and slaveholder from Tennessee.

“Johnson did his best to make sure Reconstruction did not work, and he encouraged former Confederates to resist by pardoning them wholesale. Lincoln’s death was a huge tragedy for American Democracy,” she said.

The Second American Revolution exhibit includes the pen Abraham Lincoln used to sign the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in

the South, a chair from Ford’s Theatre where he was assassinated, and – returning Dec. 1 until the exhibition closes – an original copy of the 13th Amendment. The Amendment is so fragile it can only be displayed for limited times.

Central Illinoisans are represented in the artifacts. There’s a bust of former slave Free Frank McWorter, who bought freedom for himself and family members and founded New Philadelphia near Barry, Illinois. It was the first town in America founded by Blacks and is now a National Park Site. A reproduction of a dress worn by his wife, Lucy, stands next to her photo. The two Black men killed during Springfield’s 1908 race riots, William Donnegan and Scott Burton, are represented in a section about the Equal Justice Initiative’s current project to collect soil from documented lynching locations across the country for a museum in Montgomery, Alabama.

“The Second American Revolution” is on display through Jan. 17, 2027. □

Tara McClellan McAndrew is a freelance writer in Springfield who enjoys writing about history.



Visitors to the Pink Elephant Antique Mall on Route 66 in Livingston can snap their photos with numerous outdoor fiberglass structures from bygone days. PHOTO BY MARY BOHLEN

Route 66's last 100 miles in Illinois

Oct. 6-10 festival planned to celebrate centennial

FALL GUIDE | Mary Bohlen

Felicia Uriosty has a sweet job. As owner of Mr. Twist in Granite City, she has spent a lifetime on Route 66, dishing up homemade ice cream and sherbet to travelers from around the globe.

As the Mother Road celebrates its 100th birthday, Uriosty notes that her ice cream stand is nearly half as old. Her parents, Mary and Felix Uriosty, opened the shop in 1977 after buying an old Dairy Queen building. Uriosty still uses her mom's original recipe.

Customers apparently approve as they continue to gobble up her multiple flavors of frozen goodness. She proves that popularity by showing her guest book, filled with names from Europe, Asia, South America and Australia.

Mr. Twist is just one stop among vintage eateries, historic sites, quirky memorabilia and friendly folks along the last 100 miles of Route 66 in Illinois. Communities and businesses on the highway have joined to promote those miles with special promotions, postcard-ready murals and a Last 100 Miles

festival Oct. 6-10.

Most of the activity will happen from Virden, south of Springfield, to communities near the Mississippi River. Visitors can expect classic cars, live music, family activities, vendor fairs, artist demonstrations and plenty of nostalgia.

You don't have to wait for the festival, however, to have some fun. All along the route, you can take photos at those murals painted for the centennial. Each mural depicts that community's history.

One place with significant history is Mount Olive, home of tributes to coal miner advocate (Mary) Mother Jones. Her grave is in the Union Miners' Cemetery, marked by a 22-foot granite monument in the place she had requested to be close to "her boys."

You can learn more about her at the Mother Jones Museum downtown. A few blocks away is the B&K Bakery, where you can pick up a sugary treat before checking out Soulsby's Route 66 Gas Station. Closed in 1990, it is the oldest station in Illinois that

has not been totally rebuilt and has yellow gasoline pumps and other memorabilia.

A little further south, the Pink Elephant Antique Mall in Livingston may seem daunting with its many outside fiberglass structures, an old gym full of antique booths, a bright candy shop and the Twistee Treat 1950s' diner.

Suzann Hormell, the mall's marketing director, says the old high school that houses the antique mall turns 100 along with Route 66, another reason travelers stop. "We have definitely seen an uptick in business and visitors with the road's centennial.

"This year with the anniversary, people are trying to visit before the road disappears because of its age," she says, noting groups from Italy, France, New Zealand and Australia were among recent visitors. "For Europeans, it's the Mother Road."

On Oct. 10 and 11, the mall will host a bounce house, carriage rides, special photo ops, the "Haunted Hundred" pumpkin-faced egg hunt and a haunted vendor market.

Future plans include turning the Futuro UFO House on the mall's grounds into an Airbnb, but that likely will be next year, Hormell says.

In nearby Hamel, the light poles all sport Route 66 banners, and Weezy's diner and the Route 66 Creamery attract hungry drivers.

Edwardsville's Route 66 festival plans include an ice cream social and balloon art for children. The town offers plenty of Route 66 history, which you can learn at the restored West End Service Station that serves as an interpretive center.

Visitor Center specialist Kelly Baird says the building started as a gas station in the late 1920s, became a dentist office for 55 years and turned into the center three years ago. It features silent movies, 1920s' fashion, old license plates, information on Edwardsville history and a map for travelers to pin their hometowns.

Baird says visitors in 2026 are nearly double the number from other years, and map pins include Japan, South Africa, Argentina,



The Pink Elephant Antique Mall in Livingston welcomes Route 66 travelers from around the world. PHOTO BY MARY BOHLEN

Australia, New Zealand and most of Europe and the United States.

You can pick up a map directing you to other Route 66 landmarks, signs and businesses. Just off the road is the 1909-era Wildey Theatre, now a restored venue for music, theater and other cultural events.

Swing by Collinsville to view the 170-foot water tower paying homage to the once-nearby Brooks Catsup plant. Constructed in 1949, the tower is considered the world's largest catsup bottle. Volunteers raised money to restore it in 1995 and the National Register of Historic Places listed it in 2002.

Granite City honors its Route 66 past with a small Electric Neon Sign Park featuring iconic neon signs, statues, murals, information kiosks and a replica of the nearby Chain of Rocks bridge. You can learn about such businesses as Hudson Jewelers, the Make-It-Toy factory, Washington Theatre and Reese Drug Store.

You can snap photos and add a love lock to the bridge display. Normally, you could then head to the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge itself, a landmark for Route 66 travelers for three decades before being replaced by a new bridge in 1967. The original is now restricted to bicycles and walkers but is closed for construction until early October from the Illinois side. You can access it from Missouri if you cross the Mississippi over another bridge.

Or you can stay in Granite City and enjoy

one of Felicia Uriosty's frozen treats. Be sure to sign her guestbook so you can join the thousands celebrating Route 66's big birthday.

For more information on Route 66's last 100 miles in Illinois, go to riversandrout66.org or illinoisroute66.org. □

After passing signs for several of these Route 66 landmarks for years, Mary Bohlen of Springfield finally visited them on a recent road trip. She advises others not to wait so long. Earlier this year, she wrote about Pontiac, Litchfield and drive-in movie theaters as Route 66 destinations for IT.



Edwardsville has reclaimed the original West End Service Station as its Route 66 interpretive center. Inside, visitors can learn about the road's history, watch a silent movie and view exhibits from the 1920s. PHOTO BY MARY BOHLEN

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Virден festivities

Oct. 10-11 events will include ribbon cutting for new historical museum

FALL GUIDE | Cinda Ackerman Klickna



The Virден Historical Society will hold a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10, for its new museum located inside Books on the Square at 153 E. Jackson St. PHOTO COURTESY VIRDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Find your kicks on Route 66 – this time in Virден on Oct. 10-11. A weekend of activities and the launching of the Virден Historical Society Museum will be part of a multi-town festival organized through the Great River and Routes Tourism Bureau. The festivals feature sites along the last 100 miles of the Mother Road in Illinois from Virден to the Chain of Rocks Bridge near St. Louis.

Virден's weekend, called the Route 66 Centennial Monster Mash, will open at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, with the Virден Historical Society's ribbon cutting to welcome visitors and open the doors to the still-a-work-in-progress museum. It is located at 153 E. Jackson St., inside Books on the Square, and some artifacts will be on display for the first time.

Books on the Square, owned by John and Jeannie Alexander, covers three large buildings, jam packed with books in every genre. John Alexander, president of the Historical Society, offered space in one of the buildings for the new museum.

"To help raise money, John has agreed to sell a large selection of his books," said Nita

Hamilton, vice president of the Historical Society. During the weekend festival, selected books can be purchased for 50% off.

"The story of Virден is more interesting and unusual than you might imagine. Small towns don't necessarily have small histories," Alexander said. "I have been a longtime collector of Virден's stories, facts and faces."

He also noted that younger people are involved in the historical preservation efforts.

"Our society includes many young and energetic men and women," he said. "Our present and future share equal importance with our past in their eyes."

Artifacts on display include many old pictures, early Virден bottles, a stove from an Illinois Terminal train car and other items.

"We have so many artifacts we could fill the entire building, but we will start in a smaller area and rotate displays," Hamilton said.

The Virден festival will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both Oct. 10 and 11. On Saturday, festival-goers can participate in a mac and cheese tasting contest (proceeds to go to the North Mac schools) or enter themselves

– or a pet – in a costume contest. There will be rides, food and craft vendors, music on stage, face painting, balloon animals, a scavenger hunt, games and crafts, Virден history movie, trick or treating at vendor booths, Virден Olympics (three-legged race, spoon and golf ball relay, etc.) and many other fun activities. Check the event schedule at virdenhistoricalsociety.org.

Books on the Square in Virден has been in business for more than 30 years and is considered the largest bookstore in Illinois with over 50,000 books. People come from all over the country to find unique books. A Springfield site, also called Books on the Square, opened just off the corner of Fifth and Washington streets in 2017.

The Springfield store is also in a historic building, dating back to 1854. Abraham Lincoln stayed at Speed's Store across the street on his first night in Springfield, and on his last night in Springfield, he stayed down the block at the Chenery House. Smaller than the Virден bookstore, the Springfield store features books on Lincoln, the Civil War, and Illinois history but has a selection of mysteries, novels, religion and bargain books.

The festival provided the perfect venue for the book sale and launching of the museum, which the Society plans to expand.

"Museums are created a step at a time by group efforts to collect things that help us better understand our past. This is a key goal of the Virден Historical Society," Alexander said. "Residents of small towns are connected by people, places and events. These are the ties that bind us. Knowing our history strengthens those ties."

So, buy some books, explore interesting artifacts and enjoy a weekend of food and fun on Route 66 in small-town Virден, just a short drive from Springfield. □



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Ghosts of Glasnost: A Veteran Journalist Revisits the Collapse of the USSR for clues to the Rise of Putin's Russia
Speaker: Jeffrey Trimble - International Journalist, Editor, and Media Manager
Thursday, September 17 • Illini Country Club
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We will look back to see what we might learn from "The Ghosts of Glasnost." The setting: It was a young journalist's dream assignment: Moscow, 1986-1991, the turbulent final five years of the Soviet Union, as the largest country in the world collapsed. As bureau chief for U.S. News & World Report magazine, Jeff documented the rise and fall of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his ambitious but ultimately failed attempts to reform and modernize the USSR. In his talk, Trimble will revisit those tumultuous years and his reporting from that time for clues – missed or not fully appreciated in the rush of fast-paced developments and pressing deadlines – about the future Russia that would emerge from the ashes of the Soviet Union and the chaotic tenure of Boris Yelstin: a revanchist, tightly controlled authoritarian state, now more than two decades under the iron rule of ex-KGB agent Vladimir Putin.

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What to see on the stage this fall

FALL GUIDE | Stacie Lewis

Theater is live art. It is too alive to be edited, and no show can ever be exactly replicated – you can never see the same one twice. This season's theater lineup may have a few familiar titles, but it's fair to say that the productions will be as fresh as the night they premiered. Shows in store for audiences this fall include musicals and suspense, along with plenty of comedy and family favorites.

Hoogland Center for the Arts

Dr. Suess' beloved characters come to life in an unforgettable musical adventure, *Suessical Jr.*, Oct. 2-4 and Oct. 9-11. The Cat in the Hat narrates the story of Horton the Elephant who discovers tiny people called The Whos in a speck of dust. He must protect them and also guard an egg that has been left in his care. Watch as the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and triumph.

The tension builds at an agonizingly steady pace in the psychological thriller *Misery*. Paul Sheldon, a romance novelist, is rescued from a car crash by his self-proclaimed No. 1 fan, Annie Wilkes. She takes him to her secluded house, and while he is recovering from the wreck, she reads the manuscript of his most recent book and discovers that Sheldon has killed off her favorite character. With emotional whiplash that swings between passive-aggressive sweetness and outright rage, Annie forces him to rewrite the novel, which he does with a hidden cunning that matches her own. The production will be presented by Springfield Theatre Company on Oct. 9-11 and October 16-18.

A talented pool of local artists, performers, musicians and designers have collaborated to

present *Come from Away*, a musical based on a remarkable true story. On Sept. 11, 2001, 38 planes were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland, carrying 6,579 passengers and crew. For the residents of Gander, a town of 10,000 residents, it was an incredible undertaking, but they opened their homes and built lasting connections with the stranded travelers. *Come from Away* will be on stage Oct. 23-27 and Oct. 31.

The young Prince Pippin, heir to the Frankish throne, is in search of the meaning of life and true happiness, searching for fulfillment through war, royal power and romance, only to find that happiness is found in simple, everyday life. Real historical figures of the early Middle Ages, Prince Pippin and King Charlemagne, were some of the inspirations for the musical *Pippin*. It will be performed Nov. 13-15 and Nov. 20-22.

UIS Performing Arts Center

Jersey Boys will be on stage on Oct. 2. This fantastic jukebox musical is presented in a documentary-style format that dramatizes the formation, success and breakup of the 1960s rock 'n' roll group, The Four Seasons. Their music, however, lived on to become "symbolic of a generation."

Ali Siddiq's comedy album debuted in 2010, his television special in 2016 and his TV special in 2018. He is one of the world's most talked about comedians and he is finally bringing *The Custom Fit Tour* to Springfield on Oct. 23. With his storytelling style, Siddiq's sets involve stories from his personal life, as well his take on current events, socio-politics and race.

A haunting and hopeful theatrical experience, *Hadestown* grabs the audience

and never lets go. It intertwines two mythic tales – that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone – as it invites you on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back. On stage Oct. 24.

Playwright Heidi Schreck's boundary-breaking play, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, imagines how the U.S. Constitution it will shape the next generation of Americans. Schreck, who at 15 earned her college tuition by winning Constitutional debate competitions across the U.S., presents this hilarious and hopeful new play. The memoir is part history lesson and part engaging conversation, bringing the document to life in unexpected ways. It will be presented by the UIS Performing Arts Center in partnership with the UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership on Sept. 17-20.

On Nov. 7, bestselling author Candace Bushnell will bring her hit one-woman show to the stage. In *True Tales of Sex, Success and Sex and the City* Bushnell shares personal stories, humor and behind-the-scenes insights. With her unique style of wit and candor, she will tell of the real-life inspiration behind her iconic career, from the glamour of New York City to the creation of "Sex and the City."

The adult-themed comedy, *Golden Girls – The Laughs Continue*, lets you relive the heartfelt hilarity of Sophia, Blanche, Rose and Dorothy – four ladies who never stopped being your friends. This all-new show will be on stage Nov. 14.

Some unwritten rules for teachers – If you see another teacher come in late ... no you didn't, never eat anything a kid hands you and never tie wet shoelaces. The *Bored Teachers Comedy Tour* is back. Their hilarious skits have

been viewed by millions online, and they're all joining comic forces on stage for a night of laughter on Nov. 15.

The Legacy Theatre

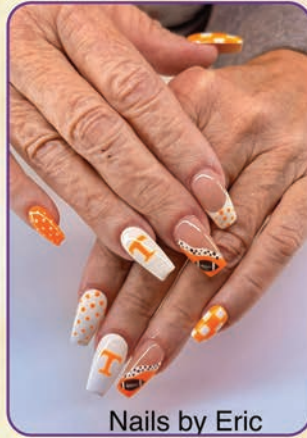
The Legacy Theatre's magical coven of song sirens returns for the witching season with *Good Witch/Bad Witch – A Wicked and Wonderful Celebration* on Oct. 2-4 and Oct. 8-10. Join in as your favorite songs from the musical *Wicked* and other enchanting songs from the witches of stage and screen are conjured.

The much-loved musical, *Annie*, is 50! Set in 1930s New York, Annie is a fearless orphan who transforms everyone she meets. Described as the "ultimate feel-good musical," *Annie* will burst on the stage again on Nov. 20.

The Muni

Although summer is coming to a close, The Muni is giving us one more opportunity to enjoy its outdoor theater on Sept. 12. *Rockballet* is an electrifying fusion of classical ballet and iconic rock music, taking audiences on a thrilling journey through the most influential eras of rock 'n' roll. This innovative production showcases the dynamic versatility of the Copper Coin Ballet Company and will feature songs from Prince with a live band.

Looking ahead at the upcoming holiday season's theater scene, it appears that popular favorites are in store for audiences – *The Nutcracker* ballet, comedian Bert Kreischer and a musical adaptation of *White Christmas*, just to name a few. Check the *Illinois Times* calendar for show dates and times, along with ticket information. □



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DEC 4 FRIDAY	7:00 pm Winter Show at the Hoogland
DEC 5 SATURDAY	1:00 pm Vietnam Veterans POW/MIA Remembrance Service at Oakridge Cemetery
DEC 6 SUNDAY	2:00 pm Winter Show at the Hoogland
APRIL 30 FRIDAY	7:00 pm Spring Concert at Sugar Creek United Methodist Church
MAY 1 SATURDAY	7:00 pm Spring Concert at Sugar Creek United Methodist Church

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On going

Prairie Hikes

Last Wednesday of every month, 8-9am. Through Oct. 28. Jamie Arntzen of the Illinois Audubon Society will share her expertise about the plants and species communities during guided monthly walks along the trails of the AWS prairie as it transitions through the seasons. Free. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 E. Clear Lake Ave., 217-899-6150.

“The Road to Adventure: Exploring Route 66”

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

"Dreams"

Fridays, Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Oct. 31. Dreams serve a different purpose ranging from memory processing to emotional release. Though artists were not required to produce work for this exhibit that was inspired by the chosen theme "Dreams," some artists have done so. Try to identify works that are dream-inspired. The Pharmacy Warehouse, 623 E. Adams St., 720-447-4548 or 217-622-7903.

Bob Waldmire Art Exhibition

Fridays, 12-6 p.m. and Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 19. Bob Waldmire was the iconic, nomadic hippy artist of Route 66. See displays of his life story and original art work. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 720-447-4548 or 217-622-7903.

“Interludes and Transitions”

Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11am-5pm. Through Sep. 23. The exhibit highlights a journey for ceramicist Scott Day and pastelist Tracey Maras. Free. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

The Art of Jazz

Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, 6-8 p.m. Music curated by Max Beckman. Listen to music by great musicians while perusing the gallery. View the current exhibit "DREAMS" or the ongoing Route 66 exhibits of Bob Waldmire drawings or photography by David Schwartz. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 217-622-7903.

“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.

“It’s A-mazing, What Art Feels Like”

Mondays-Sundays, 9am-5pm and Saturdays, 10am-3pm. Through Sep. 26. Art is A-mazing is being presented within the structure of a maze. Unlike a standard exhibition where touching is against the rules, this work is designed to be experienced by touch. The show is for everyone, not just the visually impaired.

Free. M.G. Nelson Family Gallery, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Edwards Place Historic Home Guided Tours

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

Jacksonville Farmer’s Market

Saturdays through Oct. 31, 7am-noon. Shop the offerings of Jacksonville area farmers, bakers and vendors all in one place at the Jacksonville Farmers Market. Pathway Services Unlimited Inc., Jacksonville, 1905 W. Morton Ave., 217-479-2300.

Elijah Iles House Tours

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

Old Capitol Farmers Market

Wednesdays and Saturdays. Through Oct. 31. Springfield’s longest-running and most popular Farmers Market in downtown Springfield. Largest producer-only market in Illinois outside of Chicago. Old Capitol Farmers Market, Fourth and Adams streets, 217-544-1723.

Fall Star Parties

Fridays through Oct. 30, 8-10pm. Friday night Star Parties are held at the Campus Observatory on the roof of Brookens Library. Free. UIS Observatory, Brookens Library, One University Plaza, 217-206-6589.

Westside Market

Second Sunday of every month, 2-5pm. Through Nov. 8. Features vendors selling a variety of items including crafts, food and more. Also includes music and community connection on the west side. Parking lot of Papo’s Cafe, 3290 W. Iles Ave.

Rochester Farmers Market

Second Sunday of every month, 12-3pm and Fourth Sunday of every month, 12-3pm. Through Sep. 27. Local produce and products. Rochester Public Library District, Rochester, 1 Community Dr., 217-498-8454.

Critter Crafts

Wed., Sep. 30, 5-6pm, Wed., Oct. 28, 5-6pm and Wed., Nov. 18, 5-6pm. Those 18 and older can craft in a cool place during “adult craft night out” at the zoo. Participants will get to meet an animal and have a short lesson on the night’s topic, followed by time to craft and relax. Registration required 24 hours before each class. Visit bit.ly/CritterCrafts. Activity #320501. Residents \$20, non-residents \$25. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

Forest Therapy

Sat., Sep. 19, 9:30-11am and Sat., Oct. 17, 8:30-11am. Forest Therapy is a practice of deepening a sense of connection with nature through a 1.5-2-hour wander through nature. Sessions are led by Cassandra Claman. \$20. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E.

Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

Old-time Community Barn Dance - Capital City Contra

Third Saturday of every month, 7pm. Enjoy various folk dances to live music performed by Peaches & Bacon. No experience necessary. All dances taught and called. No partner needed. Free, donations of \$5-\$10 accepted. First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., 217-528-4311.

SEPTEMBER

Mount Pulaski Fall Festival

Sep. 10-12. Three-day, family-friendly festival features children’s activities, food, petting zoo, live music, vendors and town-wide garage sales, beer tent and more. Mount Pulaski Town Square, Mount Pulaski, Washington Street.

Bluegrass Concerts/Traditional Music Festival

Fri., Sep. 11 and Sat., Sep. 12. This popular annual event showcases 19th-century instruments and folk music. dnrhistoric.illinois.gov. Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

First Responders Day

Fri., Sep. 11, 9am-5pm. First responders will receive free admission with presentation of employer ID at the ticket counter. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Harvest for Homes Celebration

Fri., Sep. 11, 6-8pm. This fundraiser benefits Fifth Street Renaissance. Includes appetizers, a bar, DJ, entertainment and dancing, short program and silent auction. fsr-sara.org. \$50 before Aug. 15, \$60 after Aug. 15. Pole Barn Chic, 4491 Old Chatham Road, 217-544-5040.

Comedy Show & Dinner

Fri., Sep. 11, 7-9pm. Part of Autumn on the Boulevard, this show will feature John McClellan with special guest Chris Speyer. Ticket includes dinner. Purchase tickets by text at 217-972-6115 or call 217-652-7957. Presented by Williamsville Community Foundation. \$25. Williamsville Autumn on the Boulevard Festival, Downtown Williamsville, 217-652-7957.

Craft Beverage Festival

Sat., Sept. 12, noon-5pm. Enjoy samplings from the region’s best distilleries, wineries, breweries, coffee roasters and restaurants. Includes live music, beer stein holding contest, games and demonstrations. Buy tickets at riversandroutes.com. \$45. Grafton Winery The Vineyards, 21028 Eckert Orchard Road, Grafton, 618-786-3004.

Downtown Springfield Family FunFest

Sat., Sep. 12, 11am-3pm. Enjoy a day packed with joy, laughter and endless entertainment while supporting Prevent Child Abuse Illinois. Includes inflatable obstacle courses, special character appearances, interactive games and non-stop action on the main stage. springfieldfunfest.org. \$10 per child. adults are free. Downtown Springfield, Downtown.

Tour de Heartland

Sat., Sep. 12, 7am-1pm. This is the Historic Marbold Farmstead Association’s third annual bike ride fundraiser - a celebration of fitness, fun and

community spirit in support of one of Menard County’s most treasured historic sites. Riders can choose from three scenic routes, all starting and ending at the farmstead. Historic Marbold Farmstead, Greenview, 21722 State Highway 29, 309-204-6781.

Crafters’ Treasure Sale

Sat., Sep. 12, 8am-3pm. Shop a vast array of reusable materials for arts, crafts, education and beyond at this event where all items are donated by the Springfield Ceramics and Crafts Club. Fill a bag for \$20 cash. Springfield Ceramics and Crafts Club, 2626 S. Pasfield St., (217)638-4847.

Move With MADD Capitol Area Walk

Sat., Sep. 12, 8am-12pm. Move With MADD is Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)’s signature fundraising event that brings together community members to walk, roll or run to raise awareness and funds to end impaired driving. madd.org. \$25. Sherman Village Park, Sherman, 1200 Rail Fence Road, 630-541-6099 ext.7759.

Marbold Heritage Festival

Sat., Sep. 12, 9am-3pm and Sun., Sep. 13, 9am-3pm. The Marbold Farmstead is turning 175, and this year’s celebration will be bigger than ever. This festival celebrates the community’s story — German heritage, farm life then and now, and the families connected through generations. Features two days packed with heritage, food, music and hands-on fun. Events include the Tour de Heartland Ride, house tours, food, live music, wagon rides, vintage tractors, steam engines, blacksmith demos, Civil War re-enactors, artisan vendors and more. marboldfarm.org. Suggested donation of \$5 per person; \$10 per family with children under age 12 free. Historic Marbold Farmstead, Greenview, 21722 State Hwy 29.

Williamsville Autumn on the Boulevard Festival

Sat., Sep. 12, 9am-10pm and Sun., Sep. 13, 7am-3pm. Saturday’s events include a fishing derby, 5K race, kids corner (10am-5pm), food vendors and craft vendors (9am-5pm). Sunday includes a barbecue cookoff (7am-4pm) and a car cruise-in (11am-3pm). Downtown Williamsville, IL, 217-652-7957.

Illinois Secretary of State’s Vehicle Show

Sat., Sep. 12, 10am-3:30pm. The 76th annual event hosted by the Illinois secretary of state. See some of the finest antique and classic vehicles, sports cars, motorcycles, trucks and tractors. Spectators are free. Contestants \$10. Downtown Springfield, Second and Monroe streets, 312-793-8876.

Military Vehicle Show

Sat., Sep. 12, 10am-4pm. See old and newer military vehicles and equipment and then check out the museum. Free, donations accepted. Illinois State Military Museum, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd., 217-761-3910.

Art Spectacular

Sat., Sep. 12, 10am-5pm and Sun., Sep. 13, 10am-4pm. A popular, professionally juried fine art and craft show featuring collector and museum-quality works. Food trucks and activities for kids. Free admission. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-787-3553.

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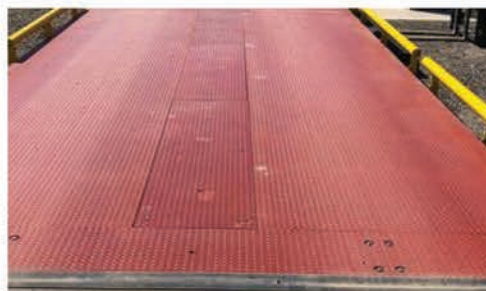


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Event Calendar

inspired art festival boasts more than 30 local artists, artisans and authors, all of whom draw inspiration from fantasy, folklore, history and magic. Event includes a costume contest, music, dance troupe and more. Free. Union Square Park, 500 E. Madison St., 217-753-3519.

Opa Greek Fest

Sat., Sep. 12, 11am-7pm. Gyros, Greek chicken, lamb, moussaka, Greek fries, saganaki, spinach pies and Greek salad. Desserts include baklava, cookies and loukoumades. Live Greek band. No admission fee. St. Anthony's Hellenic Orthodox Church, 1600 S. Glenwood Ave., 217-522-7010.

Stronger Together Recovery & Community Fest

Sat., Sep. 12, 11am-2pm. Celebrate National Recovery Month at this family-friendly event that honors the strength, resilience and hope of individuals in recovery and those who support them. Includes live music, free food, arts and crafts, games, beginner yoga, community resources and raffle prizes. Presented by Sangamon County ROSC, Birth to Five Illinois and Gateway Foundation. sangamoncorosc.org. Free. Tom Madonia Park East, 405 E. Lakeshore Dr., 217-757-8600.

Grandparent's Day Touch-A-Truck Fun Day Event

Sat., Sep. 12, 1-3pm. Event will feature multiple police vehicles, firetruck, SMTD city bus, implements, Republic Services garbage truck, ambulance, Animal Protective League Mobile Adoption bus and more. Presented by the Springfield Park District and Sangamon County TRIAD. Free. Nelson Center, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-2800.

2026 Fall Fest

Sat., Sep. 12, 2-8pm. Event benefits Land of Lincoln Honor Flight. Includes food trucks, beverages and live music by the Die Musikmeisters Band. \$5, veterans free. Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 2200 S. Meadowbrook Road, 217-652-3534.

Music & Merchants on Main Street

Sat., Sep. 12, 2-10pm. Family-friendly event featuring live music, vendors, inflatables, foam party and more. Downtown Athens.

Radio Hits on Route 66

Sat., Sep. 12, 2pm. Let the Sound Celebration Chorus steal you from home for an afternoon of radio tunes and road trip fun as it celebrates 100 years of Route 66. hcfta.org. \$20 adults/\$18 students & seniors. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Route 66 Monarch Festival

Sat., Sep. 12, 2-8pm. Celebrate the state insect, the monarch butterfly, and Route 66's centennial at this family-friend event. Includes games, activities, giveaways and more. Bring a lawn chair to watch the movie *Cars* from 6-8 pm. Free. Route 66 Experience, Gate 2, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-782-2172.

Mother Road Birthday Celebration Cruise-In

Sat., Sep. 12, 4-7pm. See classic cars, muscle cars, hot rods and more. \$5 registration fee for cars. Event

includes children's activities, cash giveaways and more. Presented by Route 66 Cruisers Car Club of Springfield. Sherman Village Park, Sherman, 1200 Rail Fence Road, 217-496-2621.

Rodney Atkins headlines The Healing Plate

Sat., Sep. 12, 5-10pm. Country music star Rodney Atkins will headline The Healing Plate fundraiser presented by Jared's Keepers Foundation. Includes four-course dinner by chef Sam Jett. The Healing Plate is the a fundraising event of Jared's Keepers Foundation. Firefighters-Postal Lake Club, 940 W. Lake Shore Dr., 615-347-3104.

Latin Dance Night with Eric Nava

Sat., Sep. 12, 5:30-10pm. Salsa lessons and Latin and Swing Social Dance night with special guest instructor Eric Nava. Intermediate salsa lesson, 5:30-6:30pm, \$10. Beginner salsa lesson, 6:30-7pm, free. Latin and swing social dance, 7-10pm, \$10. Up to \$20. Springfield Social Dance Club, 501 W. Elliott Ave., 217-416-5597.

Springfield Urban League 100th Anniversary Celebration

Sat., Sep. 12, 6pm-12am. Celebrate 100 years of achievement by the group. Features a performance by 13-time Grammy Award-winning singer Babyface. \$107. Bank of Springfield Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, 217-789-0830.

Joe Arview

Sat., Sep. 12, 7pm. Joe Arview will bring joyful sounds of gospel, worship and familiar favorites. Free, donations accepted. Springfield First Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 3168 W. Jefferson St., 217-416-3029.

Rockballet

Sat., Sep. 12, 8pm. Rockballet is an electrifying fusion of classical ballet and iconic rock music, taking audiences on a thrilling journey. This innovative production showcases the dynamic versatility of Copper Coin Ballet Company dancers. as they perform to rock hits. The Muni, 815 E. Lake Dr., 217-793-6864.

Williamsville Autumn on the Boulevard Amateur BBQ Cook Off

Sun., Sep. 13, 7am-4pm. Who has the best BBQ? Find out in Williamsville. There are two categories: Ribs and open grill. Includes cash prizes. Rules and registration form can be found on the Williamsville Community Foundation Facebook page. \$25 registration. Williamsville Autumn on the Boulevard Festival, Williamsville, Downtown Williamsville, IL, 217-652-7957.

Bird Fair

Sun., Sep. 13, 9am-3pm. Birds, bird toys, cages, bird food and more. Hosted by the Illini Bird Fanciers, Inc. \$4, children free. Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, Southern View, 625 E. St. Joseph St., 217-971-4962.

Rock and Run for Mental Health

Sun., Sep. 13, 9am-12pm. Fourth annual event includes 5K and 1-mile fun run/walk, live music by The 66 Ramblers and vendors. Vendor lineup includes a food truck, coffee bar, massage therapists, chiropractors, physical therapists, counselors, community organizations and more. Partial proceeds

provide counseling services to uninsured individuals and those in need. Register at rock4mentalhealth.org. 10. Rochester Community Park, Rochester, 90 Wild Rose Lane.

Cruise In On The Boulevard

Sun., Sep. 13, 11am-3pm. Cruise on into Autumn on the Boulevard with that classic, custom, muscle car, truck or whatever. Event includes cash prizes, dash plaques, door prizes and more. \$10 per car. Williamsville Autumn on the Boulevard Festival, Downtown Williamsville, IL, 217-415-7798.

Family Fun Day

Sun., Sep. 13, 11am-2pm. This afternoon of fun, food and community will include food trucks, children's activities, opportunities to connect with neighbors and friends and learn about Peace Lutheran Church. Free. Peace Lutheran Church, 2800 W. Jefferson St., 217-546-7646.

St. Cabrini Fall Festival

Sun., Sep. 13, 12-5pm. Features music, food and beverages, children's games and more. The Jonnie Concaroo Band plays at 2pm. Proceeds benefit the parish. Free. St. Frances Cabrini Parish, 1020 N. Milton Ave., 217-522-8555.

Cachet Club of Springfield Card Party

Sun., Sep. 13, 1-4pm. Desserts and beverages included in admission price. Hot sandwiches also available for \$10. Proceeds to benefit Springfield charities APL and Pioneer Shoe Program for Children. Includes silent auction and \$250 raffle prize. \$5 admission. Little Flower Parish Center, 900 Stevenson Dr., 217-638-2914.

Illinois Presbyterian Home Puzzle Contest Fundraiser

Sun., Sep. 13, 2pm. In this fall tradition, teams compete to complete a fall-themed puzzle while enjoying apple cider and doughnuts. Sponsor a scarecrow for \$50. Register and get tickets at IPH. \$60 per team maximum 4 people. Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities, 2005 W. Lawrence Ave., 217-546-5622.

Penny Lane Jerry Fest

Sun., Sep. 13, 2-9pm. This 31st annual event honors Bob Weir and Ed Weed. Band lineup: Mace Hathaway, 2-2:45pm; Smokestacks, 3p-4pm; Captain Trip & the Space Cadets featuring Carl Akers, 4:30-5:30pm; Salty Bros., 6-7pm; and Sunshine Daydream, 7:30-9pm. Hosted by Penny Lane Gifts. Free admission. Duncan Park, 500 N. MacArthur, 217-544-1751.

The Napier Family

Sun., Sep. 13, 3pm. The Napier Family and friends will present The Good News Experience - A Journey Through Gospel Music. hcfta.org/tickets. Adults \$22, seniors and students \$20. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Springfield Civic Garden Club

Mon., Sep. 14, 6pm. Landon Kirby, owner of Knob Hill Landscape Co., will present "Imagining and Landscaping the Horace Mann Education Ecosystem." Guests welcome. Horace Mann Educators, 1 Horace Mann Plaza, 217-899-3283.

Chancellor's Thinkers Series: A Call to Think with Cheri Callahan Bustos

Tue., Sep. 15, 5:30-7:15pm. Chancellor Janet Gooch and former U.S. Rep. Cheri Callahan Bustos will explore what it means to lead with authenticity, purpose and integrity. The evening includes a moderated discussion, audience Q&A and reception. RSVP is encouraged. uis.edu. Free. UIS Student Union Ballroom, 2251 Richard Wright Dr., 217-206-4782.

Council Ring Walk

Tue., Sep. 15, 5:15-6:30pm. Walk the trails and learn about the eight stone council rings designed by landscape architect Jens Jensen. Meet at nature center for a presentation by Erika Smith. Participants will receive a map. Free, donations accepted. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

IWIL Symposium

Thu., Sep. 17, 8am-5pm. This annual event brings together women leaders for a day filled with inspiring presentations, informative sessions, exhibitors and networking. Guest speaker is health and productivity expert Michelle Cederberg. Members \$150, guests \$175. Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-529-7777.

Friends of the Farmers Market Street Dinner

Thu., Sep. 17, 6-9pm. The 11th Annual Friends of the Farmers Market Street Dinner will celebrate downtown Springfield and the Old Capitol Farmers Market by featuring local chefs and drink providers who source ingredients from the market itself. \$135.30. Old State Capitol Plaza, Washington Street between Fifth and Sixth streets.

What the Constitution Means to Me

Thu., Sep. 17, 6:30pm, Fri., Sep. 18, 7:30pm, Sat., Sep. 19, 7:30pm and Sun., Sep. 20, 3pm. Playwright Heidi Schreck's boundary-breaking play breathes new life into the Constitution. uispac.com. \$22, students \$20. UIS Studio Theatre, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Friends of WSPL Annual Book and Bake Sale

Fri., Sep. 18, 10am-5pm, Sat., Sep. 19, 10am-2pm and Sun., Sep. 20, 12-2pm. Fill a bag for \$5 at this Friends of the West Sangamon Public Library event. West Sangamon Public Library, New Berlin, 112 E. Illinois St., 217-488-7733.

Comedy Fundraiser for Animal Protective League

Fri., Sept. 18, 8-9:30 p.m. A night of local comedians performing to support the Animal Protective League. After a tornado earlier this year caused severe damage to the APL's shelter facilities, community support is needed now more than ever to help fund recovery efforts and animal care. \$20. Eventbrite.com. Arlington's Catering & Historic Venue, 210 Broadway, 608-438-9936.

Book talk with Jim Marcacci

Fri., Sep. 18, 1:30pm. Jim Marcacci will talk about the true crime book he co-authored, *Benld and the Booze Gang: Mafia, Murder and Mayhem on Route 66*. Marcacci also will sign copies. Free to attend. Books on the Square, 427 Washington St., 217-965-5443.



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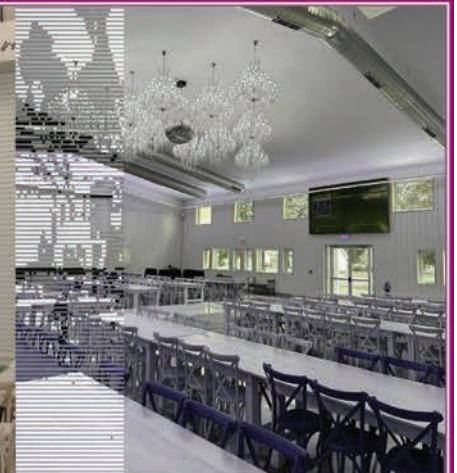


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Fall Guide Event Calendar

St. Mary's Fall Festival

Fri., Sep. 18, Sat., Sep. 19 and Sun., Sep. 20. A weekend filled with live music, food, kids' games, inflatables, wine tasting, pedal pulls, raffles and more. St. Mary Catholic Church, Taylorville, 108 W. Adams St., 217-824-8178.

Compass for Kids Back to School Brunch Fundraiser

Sat., Sep. 19, 10am-12:30pm. Honor the history, growth and life-changing impact of Compass for Kids. Includes a brunch buffet, silent auction and stories of impact from volunteers, children and families. \$50. Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-481-4651.

Capital City Century

Sat., Sep. 19, 7am-4pm. Five distances from which to choose including the "100-mile Century." Curated routes and low-traffic roads for seasoned cyclists and beginners alike. Hosted by Springfield Bicycle Club. Register online. Capcitycentury.com. \$30-\$55. Sherman Athletic Club, Sherman, 300 S. First St.

Alan G. Birtch, MD, Center for Transplant Services 5K Run/Walk

Sat., Sep. 19, 8am-12pm. Registration is open for

this popular event that raises money for a great cause. Meeting point: Hope Pavilion. Registration: 8 am. Run/Walk: 9 am. \$30. Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-588-2417.

Jacksonville Fall Car Show & Cruise Night

Sat., Sep. 19, 9am-9pm. Don't miss one of the largest cruise events in Illinois, this 42nd annual event by the The Morton Ave Misfits. See the classic and antique cars during the day and stay for the evening cruise along Morton Avenue. Jacksonville Community Park, Jacksonville, 1201 S. Main, 217-993-8645.

Clayville Fall Festival

Sat., Sep. 19, 9am-4pm and Sun., Sep. 20, 9am-4pm. Event includes blacksmith demonstrations, live music, living history and Civil War re-enactors, food, crafts, children's activities and historic buildings to tour. clayville.org. Free. Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains, Route 125, 217-481-4430.

Henson Robinson Zoo Keeper Quest

Sat., Sep. 19, 9:30am-1:30pm and Sat., Sep. 26, 9:30am-1:30pm. In this camp, children will learn what it takes to be a zookeeper. Includes hands-on activities and opportunities to ask keepers questions. Bring a sack lunch. Sept: 19: Children age 10-14. Sept. 26: Teens age 15-17. Registration required 24 hours before each class. Bit.ly/Keeper_Quest. Activity #340501. Residents \$40, non-residents \$50. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

"Transforming from Broken to Blessed"

Sat., Sep. 19, 10-12am. Hope Women's Ministry of Table of Life Ministries presents this women's conference inspired by Psalm 147:3. Includes worship, prayer, fellowship, and an encouraging message from Elder Marlene Allen of Lighthouse Church of All Nations. A light lunch will follow. Donations accepted. Table of Life Ministries, 2600 S. Fifth St., 217-720-5100.

Citizen City Learning Series: Good Neighbor

Sat., Sep. 19, 10am-2:30pm. This interactive event for students in kindergarden through fifth grade is centered around what it means to be a good neighbor. Participants will explore simple ways we all contribute to a positive community and engage in team-based activities that highlight making thoughtful choices. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Enos Park Historic Home Tours

Sat., Sep. 19, 10am-4pm. Tour historic homes in various stages of renovation. Tickets available on day of tour. Includes tour guide magazine. Tickets are sold the day of the tour at the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association drink booth at the Edwards Place Fine Art Fair. \$10. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-553-4629.

Edwards Place Fine Art Fair

Sat., Sep. 19, 10am-5pm and Sun., Sep. 20, 10am-

4pm. Artwork from artists across the country gather to show their work. Expect live music, art demonstrations, food trucks, used book sale, self-guided tours of historic Edwards Place, kids' activities, and more. Free admission. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Fall Farm Day

Sat., Sep. 19, 12-5pm. For a 20th season, Gail's Pumpkin Patch is hosting Fall Farm Day. Includes free popcorn wagon rides, food and live music by California Jack. Free. Gail's Pumpkin Patch, Beason, 1709 2000th Ave., 217-447-3409.

Chatham Jaycees Oktoberfest

Sat., Sep. 19. Traditional(ish) celebration with food, fun and German and American music. Veterans Memorial Square, Chatham, 101 N. Main St.

Swing Dance Fundraiser

Sat., Sep. 19, 5-9:30pm. Dance benefits Walk to End Alzheimer's Greater Springfield. The dance will be in the newly restored Ursula Hall Conservatory and feature a 20-piece big band, River Valley Big Band, from Peoria. Includes beginner East Coast Swing lesson, 6-8pm; live music, 8-9:30pm; and DJ music. \$10. Ursula Hall, 1500 N. Fifth St.

The "Maine" Event

Sat., Sep. 19, 6pm. A casual New England-style lobster bake prepared by Robert's Seafood Market under the big tent. Dinner and dessert, plus live music by

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Activity Playbook



Fall Guide Event Calendar

MKDZ. Proceeds benefit Sparc. \$125 individual. Bunn-O-Matic Corporation, 1400 Stevenson Dr., 217-793-2100.

A Night on Broadway 2026 Gala

Sat., Sep. 19, 6-9:30pm. An evening with Tony & Grammy Award winner John Lloyd Young. See website for more details. Dinner and show \$126, show only \$61. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Walk to End Alzheimer's Benefit Concert featuring The 66 Ramblers

Sat., Sep. 19, 6-9pm. The 66 Ramblers are bringing their high-energy rock 'n' roll show to benefit the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Includes silent auction and more. Free. Harvest Market - Springfield II, 3001 S. Veterans Pkwy., 217-793-3601.

The Wanda Mountain Boys with Glen Gobel

Sat., Sep. 19, 6pm. For more than 25 years, the Wanda Mountain Boys have brought smooth harmonies, strong vocals and powerful sound and lyrics to gospel listeners throughout mid-America. Free. The Assembly Church, Staunton, 1330 S. Hackman St., 618-635-5656.

Little Lincoln's Fireside Tales: Colors

Tue., Sep. 22, 9-11:30am. Children up to age 5 and their caregivers can explore colors through stories and hands-on activities that spark imagination and discovery. Two sessions - 9 a.m. and 10:30am. presidentlincoln.illinois.gov. Free, registration required. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Route 66 Java Fest

Fri., Sep. 25, 5:30-9:30pm. Parking lot party. Grab-A-Java, 1702 S. Sixth St., 217-523-5282.

Springfield Area Arts Council Trivia Night

Fri., Sep. 25, 5:30pm. Proceeds from this annual event will support the council's free programs and services. The night will feature 10 rounds of art-themed general trivia, a silent auction and more. Tables seat up to 10. Doors open at 5:30pm. Trivia begins at 6:30pm. \$20. Pole Barn Chic, 4491 Old Chatham Road, 217-753-3519.

International Route 66 Mother Road Festival

Fri., Sep. 25, 6-10pm, Sat., Sep. 26, 8am-10pm and Sun., Sep. 27, 7:30am-2pm. It's the centennial of Route 66! Hundreds of street machines, muscle cars and hot rods will rumble into the heart of Springfield's historic downtown followed by thousands of spectators for a weekend of family fun, live music and entertainment. Huge cruise Friday night with car show 9am-10 p.m. Saturday and 9am-noon Sunday. Meet special guests Dave Kindig and Dennis Gage. route66fest.com. Free for spectators. Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-553-5271.

Date Night With Jazz ... By Location

Fri., Sep. 25, 6:30pm. Hear saxophonist Jade Kastel and pianist David McEathron share a vibrant collection of music in the intimate UIS Studio Theatre. In Partnership with UIS Music. \$18-\$22. UIS Studio Theatre, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

KC & The Sunshine Band

Fri., Sep. 25, 7:30pm. For more than 40 years, this iconic group has brought instant happiness through a signature blend of funk, R&B and the legendary "Miami sound." uis.edu. \$49.50-\$149.50. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Annual Artisan Market

Sat., Sep. 26, 9am-4pm. This annual curated event hosts regional artisans chosen based on their original and handcrafted works. Skilled craftspeople and creators attend to sell their handmade, one-of-a-kind items directly to the public. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-306-3394.

58th Annual Apple 'n Pork Festival

Sat., Sep. 26, 9am-5pm and Sun., Sep. 27, 9am-5pm. The festival offers more than 25 booths featuring old-fashioned, apple and pork foods, home tours, a juried fine art show, flea market with more than 300 booths, demonstrating craftsmen, antique tractor and farm equipment exhibits, meal grinding, rope making, chair caning, blacksmithing demonstrations, live music and more. Free. C.H. Moore Homestead DeWitt County Museum, Clinton, 219 E. Woodlawn St., 217-935-6066.

Leaf Identification Hikes

Sat., Sep. 26, 10am-12pm, 1-3pm. Help get that school left collectin project done with this two-hour hike covering around 50 leaves. Bring something to collect the leaves. Parent/adult chaperones required. Only the leaf collectors need to pay. Pre-registration required by Sept. 24. Bit.ly/Leaf_ID-Trails. Residents \$7, non-residents \$10. Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-4116.

Parkway Christian Church Fall Fest

Sat., Sep. 26, 11am-3pm. This fun-filled fall day will include vendors, face painting, games, children's craft table (including pumpkin painting), sidewalk chalk fun, a balloon artist and more. Free. Parkway Christian Church, 2700 Lindbergh Blvd., 217-787-3445.

World Championship Cozy Dog Eating Championship

Sat., Sep. 26, 1pm. Major League Eating is hosting this contest. Part of the 25th International Route 66 Mother Road Festival. Route 66 Mother Road Festival, Downtown Springfield.

"Lincoln: A Life and Legacy that Defined a Nation"

Sep. 26-April 26. This exhibit gives visitors a close-up look at dozens of the artifacts and documents in the forthcoming ALPLM-created book *Lincoln: A Life and Legacy that Defined a Nation in 100 objects* published by Rizzoli. Free with admission. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Elliot Fights Dravet Outdoor Movie Night

Sat., Sep. 26, 5:30-9pm. This family-friendly outdoor movie night brings the community together for an evening of fun, connection and awareness in honor of Elliot. Movie TBA. Night includes children's art station, family outdoor games, access to park playground and treats. Elliot Fights Dravet carries Elliot's legacy forward by raising awareness of Dravet Syndrome and epilepsy. Free. Athens Community Park, Athens, 210 Dottie Bednarko Dr., 217-820-0188.

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Fall Guide Event Calendar

Jersey Boys

Fri., Oct. 2, 7:30pm. The original Broadway sensation returns to the road. Celebrating 20 years – Jersey style! uispac.com. \$49.50 - \$139.95. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Candlelight Walks

Oct. 2-4, 5-7:30pm, Oct. 9-11, 5-7:30pm and Oct. 16-18, 5-7:30pm. A wonderful opportunity to experience village life at night. lincolnsnewsalem.com. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Boo Crew Haunted House

Fridays, Saturdays, 6:30pm. Through Oct. 30. One of the Top 10 haunted houses in Illinois. Owned and operated by the Rochester Lions Club. All proceeds go to local charities. Closed on Halloween, Oct. 31. Haunted Matinee (\$15) is 3-5pm Oct. 17. Children's Matinee (\$7) is 3-5pm Oct. 24. \$30-\$55. Boo Crew Haunted House, Mechanicsburg, 11083 Buckhart Road, 217-551-6969.

Terror on the Square

Fridays, Saturdays, 7-11pm. Through Oct. 31. Begins Oct. 2 and runs every Friday and Saturday night in October. Terror on the Square is a unique, professional haunted house with Disney-style illusions set in an actual 1930s funeral home. \$28. Petersburg Square, Petersburg, N. Seventh St. at W. Douglas Ave.

Zoo Tots

Sat., Oct. 3, 10am, 1pm and Sat., Nov. 7, 10am, 1pm. Each month, you and your little ones ages 3-5 will learn about a new animal in the zoo classroom. Each class includes a story, an animal encounter, craft and a snack. Registration required 24 hours before each class. Visit bit.ly/Zoo_Tots. Activity #350501. Residents \$15, non-residents \$20. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

Artisan and Antique Market

Sat., Oct. 3, 9am-4pm. This artisan and antique market will feature food, handmade arts and crafts, boutiques, live music and cottage bakers. The Brinkerhoff Mansion, 1500 N. 5th St., 217-361-5555.

Donuts and Dogs 5K Fun Run

Sat., Oct. 3, 9am-12pm. Vendors, activities for kids and dogs and Mel-O-Cream donuts. Registration closes at midnight Oct. 1. Canine racing pals must be well behaved, have current vaccinations, proof of rabies vaccine and be at least 4 months old. Don't forget to dress your best for the costume contest. Registration \$30. Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-544-7387.

Sports Cards and Collectibles Show

Sat., Oct. 3, 9am-2pm. Vintage, modern, sports and non-sports items. Tables are \$20 each. AMVETS Post 100, Jacksonville, 210 E. Court St., 217-243-9990.

LOESS Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show

Sat., Oct. 3, 10am-6pm and Sun., Oct. 4, 10am-5pm. This show features dealers, demonstrators, exhibits, children's activities, silent auction, flint knapping, geode cracking, concessions and more. The theme for this year's show is "Minerals Across America." Adults \$3, seniors \$2, children 12 and younger free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-414-0033.

Lewis Park & Trails Full Moon Trail Run

Sat., Sep. 26, 5:30-10pm. Gather under the glow of the Full Harvest Moon for a unique, laid-back nighttime adventure. Grab a flashlight and take in the crisp autumn air while running or walking the tiki-torch-lit trails. Visit the Facebook page for more info and to sign up. Free, donation suggested. Lewis Park and Trails, 399 S. Koke Mill Road, 847-767-2426.

Jesse Powers

Sun., Sep. 27, 1-2:30pm. An afternoon of inspiration, laughter and connection with Jesse Powers. With her tumbling vocal stylings, powerhouse melodies, clever lyricism and infectious energy, Jesse invites us to drop into the profoundness of the here and now. unityofspringfieldil.org. \$25. Unity of Springfield, 417 Cordelia, 217-523-5897.

Night Glow Festival

Tue., Sep. 29, 5:30-8pm. Watch the sky come alive with this breathtaking hot air balloon glow. Arrive early to see the balloons inflate, enjoy food from local vendors and find the perfect viewing spot. The glow begins at dusk with peak illumination from approximately 6:20-7:30pm. Parking available at Capital Area Career Center with complimentary shuttle service. \$5 cash only admission. Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-585-2941.

Bourbon Done Wright

Wed., Sep. 30, 5:30-8pm. Experience the sweet, smooth flavors of bourbon (Frank Lloyd Wright's favorite drink) while learning more about it. Sample fine foods, visit with fellow bourbon aficionados and support the Dana-Thomas House. Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-788-9452.

OCTOBER

Conference on Illinois History

Thu., Oct. 1 and Fri., Oct. 2. This 28th annual event will highlight research into all aspects of Illinois history, culture, politics, geography and archaeology. Sessions will take place at library. Hosted by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and presented in partnership with the Illinois State Historical Society. \$20-\$99. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Good Witch/Bad Witch: A Wicked & Wonderful Celebration

Fri., Oct. 2, 7pm, Sat., Oct. 3, 7pm, Sun., Oct. 4, 2pm, Thu., Oct. 8, 7pm, Fri., Oct. 9, 7pm and Sat., Oct. 10, 2pm. A magical coven of song sirens returns to conjure up your favorite songs from the musical *Wicked* and other enchanting songs from the witches of stage and screen. \$30-\$35. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence, 217-528-9760.

Suessical Jr.

Fri., Oct. 2, 7pm, Sat., Oct. 3, 7pm, Sun., Oct. 4, 2pm, Fri., Oct. 9, 7pm, Sat., Oct. 10, 7pm and Sun., Oct. 11, 2pm. "Oh, the thinks you can think" when Dr. Seuss' best-loved characters collide and cavort in an unforgettable musical chapter." springfieldtheatrecentre.com. \$19. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

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Event Calendar

Wings & Wheels Fly-in & Cruise In

Sat., Oct. 3, 11am-3pm. View aircraft and cool cars up close at this annual event. Food and side items will be served by the local Experimental Aircraft Association chapter for \$15/plate. Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport, 1200 Capital Airport Dr., 217-725-3779.

Boots & Bow Ties Annual Fundraiser

Sat., Oct. 3, 6-10pm. Benefits Senior Services of Central Illinois. Live music by Lick Creek beginning at 7pm. Ages 21+. A limited dinner menu will be offered during the event. Tickets available online, in person at Senior Services of Central Illinois or at the door. soci.org. \$15. Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-528-4035.

Night at the Farm

Sat., Oct. 3, 6pm. Event features a glow maze, play areas, food trucks and a showing of Nightmare before Christmas on the lawn. Bring flashlights, blankets and chairs. Bomke's Patch, 605 Country Lake Road, 217-341-4905.

Fourth Annual Grand Market

Sun., Oct. 4, 11am-4pm. Explore unique local businesses, shop seasonal finds, discover one-of-a-kind gifts and enjoy a fall outing with family and friends. Includes raffles and free giveaways. bjrandsalon.com. Free. BJ Grand Salon and Spa, 3300 Robbins Road, 217-787-7770.

Echoes of Yesteryear

Sun., Oct. 4, 12-3:30pm. A walk through Oak Ridge Cemetery. Actors in period costumes will tell personal stories of individuals buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery who made contributions to the community. Allow two hours. Refreshments available for purchase. Hosted by the Sangamon County Historical Society. Free. Oak Ridge Cemetery, 1441 Monument Ave., 217-525-1961.

Giovannie & The Hired Guns, Austin Meade

Sun., Oct. 4, 8:30pm. Giovannie & the Hired Guns is an American country rock band from Stephenville, Texas. \$20 in advance. Boondocks, 2909 N. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-679-0145.

Blessing of the Animals

Sun., Oct. 4, 3pm. This longtime APL tradition marks the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. All animals are welcome and must be on a leash or in a size-appropriate carrier throughout the entire event. Animal Protective League, 1001 Taintor Road, 217-544-7387.

Miles of Possibility: Route 66 Conference

Oct. 8-11. Event unites historians, travelers, preservationists in one gathering. Keynote speaker will be Jerry McClanahan, author of the famous EZ 66 Guide for travelers. From \$28.52. President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center, 701 E. Adams, 217-544-8800.

Celebrating 70 Years of Great Futures

Thu., Oct. 8, 5-8:30pm. Join Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois for a special evening celebrating 70 years of creating opportunities, inspiring young people

and building great futures throughout the community. Includes silent and live auctions, wine wall and lottery tree. \$100. LRS Hangar, 820 S. Capital Airport Dr., 217-544-0548.

Youth Charity Horse Show

Fri., Oct. 9, 8am-10pm, Sat., Oct. 10, 8am-10pm and Sun., Oct. 11, 8am-6pm. 43rd annual event. Class sessions throughout the event. The organization donates its annual proceeds to area charities. Free. Coliseum, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-494-1215.

Prairie River Dog Show Cluster

Fri., Oct. 9, 8:30am-5:30pm, Sat., Oct. 10, 8:30am-5:30pm and Sun., Oct. 11, 8:30am-5:30pm. More than 500 dogs each day will compete for the Best in Show title in this American Kennel Club-sanctioned conformation competition. Free. Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-3647.

Columbus Day Banquet

Fri., Oct. 9, 6pm. 69th annual event. A Salute to the Italian American Experience in Springfield and Sangamon County. Formal attire. Black tie optional. Register by Sept. 18. Presented by Roman Cultural Society of Central Illinois. \$75, \$600 table of eight. Illini Country Club, 1601 S. Illini Road, 217-521-0651, 773-457-7006.

Misery

Fri., Oct. 9, 7:30pm, Sat., Oct. 10, 7:30pm, Sun., Oct. 11, 3pm, Fri., Oct. 16, 7:30pm, Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30pm and Sun., Oct. 18, 3pm. *Misery* is a psychological thriller written by William Goldman and based on the popular Stephen King novel. Presented by the Spencer Theatre Company. \$23/\$21 (60+ and student). Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 420 S. Sixth St., 217- 523-2787.

Prairie Stars 5K & 1-Mile Walk

Sat., Oct. 10, 8:30am. Choose between a chip-timed 5K run/walk or a family-friendly 1-Mile Walk through the UIS campus. Presented by the Illinois Innocence Project. Stick around after for the pancake breakfast. University of Illinois at Springfield, 1 University Plaza, 217-206-6073.

Illinois Product Farmers Fall Market

Sat., Oct. 10, 9am-2pm. Features Illinois meats, produce, baked goods and wine. Includes children's events and live music. illinoisproductsfarmersmarket.com. Illinois State Fairgrounds, The Shed, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-524-9129.

Blind Awareness Fair

Sat., Oct. 10, 10am-2pm. Enjoy interactive activities and demonstrations, including blind archery demo, obstacle course, K Awareness walk/run, kite flying, soccer and more. For more info, email the Educational Center for the Visually Impaired at info@edcentervi.org. Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-753-0702.

Route 66 Virden Historical Society Museum Grand Opening

Sat., Oct. 10, 10am-1pm. Be there at the beginning and celebrate the preservation of Virden's rich history. Route 66 Virden Historical Society Museum, Virden, 153 E. Jackson St., 760-834-1275.

Fall Harvest Festival

Sat., Oct. 10, 10am-4pm and Sun., Oct. 11, 10am-4pm. The garden's highly popular Fall Harvest Festival returns to Cawley Meadow. Event features children's activities, live music, artisan demonstrations, exhibits, photo contest and food. Lincolnmemorialgarden.org. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

Boo Bark Howl-o-ween

Sat., Oct. 10, 11am-2pm. Canine costume contest, pumpkin decorating and vendors. Check with the APL for canine attendee guidelines. Admission. Proceeds benefit the APL. Animal Protective League, 1001 Taintor Road, 217-544-7387.

Carve for the Carillon

Sat., Oct. 10, 11am-4pm and Sun., Oct. 11, 11am-4pm. Scooped pumpkins will be ready for your creative carving. Bring your carving tools, family and friends. The carved pumpkins will be displayed at the following week's Jack O'Lantern Spectacular. Rain or shine and while supplies last. carillon-rees.org. Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-4116.

Brick Convention

Sat., Oct. 10 and Sun., For the first time. Brick Convention brings all of the creative hands-on, minds-on fun of LEGO building and experiences together in one activity- and entertainment-packed family event for children of all ages and builders of all skills and interests. \$15-\$20. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-899-9175.

The Vampire's Ball

Sat., Oct. 10, 7-10pm. Step into a world of darkness, mystery, and elegance in formal vampire attire at the haunting atmosphere of The Pasfield House Mansion. Includes food, drinks and entertainment. See Facebook page for info. \$46.66. The Pasfield House, 525 South Pasfield, 217-670-2449.

Larry Smith with Clay Foley

Sat., Oct. 10, 8pm. Presented by Donnie B's Comedy Club. \$18-\$20. The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 210 W. Route 125, 217-891-4858.

Fall Vendor Market

Sun., Oct. 11, 11am-4pm. Shop handmade crafts, homemade goodies and gifts at this fun-filled market. Indian Creek Farmstead and Pumpkin Patch, Petersburg, 19468 Curtis Black Top Road, 217-717-4401.

Prairieland Classic Dog Shows

Oct. 15-18, 8:30am-5:30pm. More than 700 dogs will compete each day for the title of Best in Show at this American Kennel Club-sanctioned competition. Free. Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-3647.

'Shoes, Brews & Biz

Thu., Oct. 15, 5-8:30pm. Craft beer and unique horseshoes, Dick Levi's cool cars and motorcycles and a business expo all wrapped into one event. Presented by The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. gscoc.org. \$25 in advance, \$30 at door. LRS Hangar, 820 S. Capital Airport Dr., 217-525-1173.

Fall Gayla Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil

Fri., Oct. 16. Come as you are or dressed to impress at this event to help raise funds for The Phoenix Center.

Hosted by Mahogany Knight. Event includes 5pm cocktail hour, dinner, entertainment community awards and auction. Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-528-5253.

Date Night With Dreams: Vocal Music

Fri., Oct. 16, 6:30pm. Explore dreams in musical pieces from Schubert's "Nacht und Traume" to Merrill and Stynes' "Don't Rain on My Parade" from *Funny Girl* and many more. This performance features vocalists Justin Johnson and Kinsey Peotter and pianist Mark Gifford. \$18-\$22. UIS Studio Theatre, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular

Fri., Oct. 16, 6:30-9:30pm and Sat., Oct. 17, 6:30-9:30pm. Enjoy the sparkling splendor of hundreds of illuminated, carved pumpkins surrounding the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon and Botanical Garden at Washington Park. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-4116.

Williamsville Christmas in the Village

Sat., Oct. 17, 8am-3pm. Shop local and get in the holiday spirit. Talented local craft artist and vendors will have a wonderful selection of handmade holiday gifts, fall and Christmas decor, unique treasures, and more —perfect for everyone on the holiday list. Free admission. Williamsville Christmas in the Village Craft Event, Williamsville, 141 West Main-Williamsville Community Center, 217-652-7957.

HalloThanksMas Artisans Market

Sat., Oct. 17, 9am-4pm. Discover a variety of local artisans, crafters and businesses offering handmade goods, unique gifts and more. The Grinch will make an appearance. Adults \$3, seniors \$1. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-8047.

Elliot's Purple Pumpkin Patch & Purple Paws

Sat., Oct. 17, 10am-2pm. Paint the patch purple in this event to spread awareness of Dravet Syndrome and epilepsy in honor of Elliot. Event includes free pumpkins to decorate, Purple Paws Dog Costume Contest, photo prop opportunity, Elliot Fights Dravet Dravet Syndrome Awareness Booth and more. 217-820-0188. Bomke's Patch, 605 Country Lake Road, 626-1806.

Highland Games & Celtic Festival

Sat., Oct. 17, 10am-7pm. A day of bagpiping, dancing, athletics, Gaelic lessons, vendors, live entertainment and more. centralillinoiscelts.com. \$15 for adults, \$8 for seniors, children free. Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, 316 W. Birch St., 219-899-3359.

Oakford Children's Halloween Party

Sat., Oct. 17, 6-9pm. This family-friendly community event gives children a safe and memorable Halloween experience. Includes many children's activities, silent auction, bake sale, costumes for purchase, prizes, free library book and more. \$5 donation. Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 23753 Lounsberry Road, 217-670-3070.

The UNusual Suspects Murder Mystery

Sat., Oct. 17, 6:30pm and Sun., Oct. 18, 4:30pm. At Edwards Place Murder Mystery dinner theatre, guests will help to solve a dastardly murder. They will interact with a motley crew of suspects to discover which of them committed the crime all while enjoying

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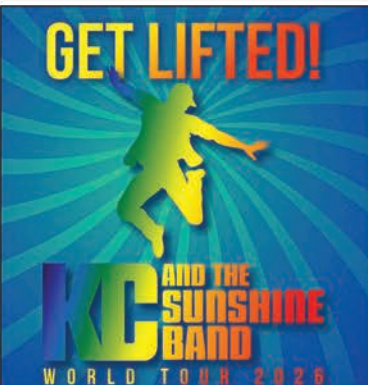
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Thursday, October 29, 2026

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT

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CANDACE BUSHNELL

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SEX AND THE CITY

Meet the real Carrie Bradshaw

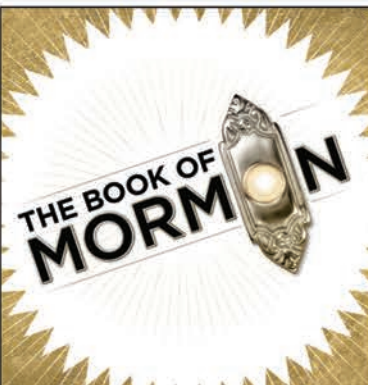
Saturday, November 7 | 7:30 PM



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Tuesday, January 26 | 7:30 PM



THE BOOK OF MORMON

Wednesday, February 10 | 8:00



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SEPTEMBER

17-20 *What the Constitution Means to Me*

25 KC & The Sunshine Band

25 Date Night with Jazz by Location

26 Play Date: Rockballet Remix

OCTOBER

2 *Jersey Boys*

9 Date Night with Greek Folk Traditions

16 Date Night with Dreams: Vocal Music

17 Play Date: Tiny Disco-Halloween

23 Ali Siddiq: The Custom Fit Tour

24 *Hadestown*

NOVEMBER

7 Candace Bushnell - True Tales of Sex, Success and *Sex and the City*

14 Golden Girls - The Laughs Continue

15 Bored Teachers: "Is It Friday?!" Comedy Tour

19 Experience Songs for All Ages A Sensory Friendly Event

21 Play Date: Blue-a Playful Theatre Experience

DECEMBER

5-6 Copper Coin Ballet Company *The Nutcracker*

12 Bert Kreischer: Permission to Party!

JANUARY

26 *Mystic Pizza*

FEBRUARY

9 Experience World Music and Dance A Sensory Friendly Event

10 *Book of Mormon*

MARCH

6 *The Simon and Garfunkel Story*

MAY

11 *Shucked*

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Fall Guide Event Calendar

a themed, catered meal. Ticket includes meal, program and beer/wine. Must be 21 or older. Members \$60, non-member \$65. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Lincoln and America 250

Thu., Oct. 22, 6:30pm. Jon Grinspan and Saladin Ambar will speak on the topic of Abraham Lincoln and America 250. Part of the Mary and James Beaumont Endowed Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series presented by the UIS Center for Lincoln Studies. web.cvent.com. Free, registration required by Oct. 14. UIS Student Union Ballroom, 2251 Richard Wright Dr., 217-206-6600.

Zoolie Ghoulie

Fri., Oct. 23, 1-8pm and Sat., Oct. 24, 11am-6pm. Grab your little ghouls and goblins and have a wild time wandering through the zoo's spectacularly spooky Halloween scenes for some safe trick or treating. \$5, 2 and younger are free. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

LLCC Haunted Lab

Fri., Oct. 23, 5:30-8pm. Attendees will enjoy spooky science demonstrations and hands-on activities and learn about simple experiments they can try at home. Open to children of all ages, accompanied by a parent or guardian. In the upper level of Sangamon Hall. Free. Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-786-2200.

Ali Siddiq: The Custom Fit Tour

Fri., Oct. 23, 7pm. Ali Siddiq, one of the world's most respected and talked about comedians, finally makes it to Springfield. uispac.com. \$45-\$175. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Come From Away

Fri., Oct. 23, 7:30pm, Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30pm, Sun., Oct. 25, 2pm, Mon., Oct. 26, 7:30pm, Tue., Oct. 27, 7:30pm and Sat., Oct. 31, 2pm. Based on true events surrounding 9-11, it tells the story of the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, whose residents unexpectedly welcomed the world on Sept. 11, 2001. hcfta.org. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Fall Festival

Sat., Oct. 24, 10am-5pm. Period clothed interpreters will demonstrate daily tasks such as candle dipping, soap making, blacksmithing, spinning wool, gardening and natural dyeing. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Pumpkin Festival

Sat., Oct. 24, 10am-2pm. This annual event features a wide variety of children's activities and contests. Food trucks and vendors will be on northeast side of Central Park Plaza. \$10 per child. Downtown Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Central Park, 217-243-5678.

YMCA No Place Like This Place Gala

Sat., Oct. 24, 5-10pm. This year's theme, "No Place Like This Place," celebrates the impact the YMCA has on the community and the people who make it possible. Includes dinner, cocktails, silent auction and raffle, photo booth and live music by Captain Geech

& The Shrimp Shack Shooters. \$125. Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-679-1625.

Halloween Parade

Sat., Oct. 24, 6:30pm. This 9th annual event is presented by HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. All proceeds benefit The Parent Place. Downtown Springfield, 217-753-8730.

Hadestown

Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30pm. *Hadestown* is a haunting and hopeful theatrical experience that grabs audience members and never lets go. \$49.50-\$138.95. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

APL Chili Supper and Paw Paw Patch Bazaar

Sun., Oct. 25, 11am-3pm. For more than 30 years, this cherished fundraising event has brought together food, fun and community spirit – all to support the animals in APL's care. Tickets will be available at the door, and meals may be dine-in or carry-out. The Paw Paw Patch Bazaar features homemade baked goods, arts and crafts and holiday decor. There will also be a 50/50 and a silent auction. Adoptable dogs and cats on site. \$12 per person. Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 2200 S. Meadowbrook Road, 217-544-7387.

Comedy on the Mezz

Mon., Oct. 26, 7-8:30pm. Clean comedy with some of the best local and regional standup comedians. goharvestmarket.com. Free. Harvest Market - Springfield II, 3001 S. Veterans Pkwy., 217-793-3601.

Best of Springfield 2026 Party

Thu., Oct. 29, 5-9pm. Celebrate the 2025 Best of Springfield, enjoy food and beverages from local businesses and live music. Event includes vendor booths, a costume contest and chances to win more than \$900 in prizes. Tickets available online or at Illinois Times. Tickets are also available by cash or credit card at the Illinois Times office. \$39. BOS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, Seventh and Adams streets, 217-679-7814.

Monster Mash Halloween Party

Fri., Oct. 30, 7-9pm. Dress up in a spooky Halloween costume and dance the night away with friends. Open to all ages with and without disabilities. Free. Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-391-8592.

Queer Pride Halloween Bash

Sat., Oct. 31, 6-10pm. This Queer Halloween Bash will double as a coming out party for Springfield's newest group, The Shared Joy Initiative. Includes DJ, hors d'oeuvres, photobooth, painter and more. \$25 in advance, \$30 at door. The Pasfield House, 525 South Pasfield, 917-701-9404.

NOVEMBER

Hobnob Holiday Market

Fri., Nov. 6, 4-9pm and Sat., Nov. 7, 9am-4pm. A festive holiday shopping wonderland. Shoppers can check those gifts off the list as they shop more than 120 vintage, handmade and boutique vendors. Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.



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Hoogland Center for the Arts



Fall Guide

Event Calendar

APL Fall Dr. Suess Trivia Night

Fri., Nov. 6, 7pm. Ten rounds of trivia including a Dr. Suess round. Event includes prizes, table decorating contest, auction and raffle. Proceeds benefit the Animal Protective League. VIP table \$250, regular table \$150. Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 2200 S. Meadowbrook Road, 217-544-7387.

Ansar Shrine Circus

Sat., Nov. 7, 11am, 3, 7:30pm and Sun., Nov. 8, 12:30, 4:30pm. The 2026 Ansar Shrine Circus promises thrills, laughter, and unforgettable memories for the whole family. \$18, children 12 and younger \$10. BOS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, Seventh and Adams streets, 217-788-8800.

Candace Bushnell

Sat., Nov. 7, 7:30pm. Candace Bushnell, the bestselling author and creator of “Sex and the City,” brings her hit one-woman show to the stage for a witty, candid and unforgettable evening. \$45-\$65. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Coin Show

Sun., Nov. 8, 9am-4pm. U.S. coins and paper money, gold and silver bullion, ancient and modern coins. Hosted by the Central Illinois Numismatic Association. \$1. Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Dr., 217-528-7634.

Statewide Conference and Centennial Celebration

Wed., Nov. 11, 8am. A future, grand celebration of Route 66’s 100th anniversary featuring live entertainment in the Motordome at Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, special guests, classic cars and networking opportunities. The Centennial Celebration will be a ticketed event. Discounts will be available exclusively for Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway members. See the Facebook page or website for more info. Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-670-1805.

Starship featuring Mickey Thomas

Wed., Nov. 11, 6pm. Event also includes dinner, dessert, late-night appetizers. Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-679-7323.

Live2Lead Springfield 2026

Fri., Nov. 13, 8am-4pm. Hosted by LeadershipDNA, this event will bring together established and emerging leaders from across business, nonprofit, education and the community for a day of growth, practical ideas and meaningful connection. \$125. Erin’s Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 872-267-3922.

MomCo’s 2nd Annual Pots & Pals Chili Cook Off

Fri., Nov. 13, 6-8pm. Chili cooks of all experience levels can compete for both Judges’ Choice and People’s Choice awards, with prizes of \$100 each. Guests can sample every entry, vote for their favorites and enjoy side categories such as spiciest chili and first pot emptied. All proceeds support the local MomCo. Chili tasting: Adults \$10, children 12 and younger \$5. Trinity Lutheran School, 515 s. MacArthur, 2178517358.

Pippin

Fri., Nov. 13, 7:30pm, Sat., Nov. 14, 7:30pm, Sun., Nov. 15, 2pm and Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30pm. There’s magic to do when a prince learns the true meaning of glory, love and war in Stephen Schwartz’s iconic and unforgettable musical masterpiece. springfieldtheatrecentre.com. \$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Girls on the Run Fall 5K

Sat., Nov. 14, 9-11:30am. Support Girls on the Run of Central Illinois participants by joining them at this 5K. Celebrate and honor their season of growth, connection and confidence. Event begins at 9am with family-friendly activities followed by the 5K at 10am. Register to run/walk as a 5K participant or to volunteer. Early pricing before Oct. 22, adults \$30 and children ages 3-12 \$20. Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-726-9808.

Golden Girls – The Laughs Continue

Sat., Nov. 14, 7pm. Relive the heartfelt hilarity of four ladies who never stopped being your friends. Presented by Outback/Murray & Peter. Adult theme comedy. \$39.50-\$100. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Bored Teachers: “Is it Friday yet?” Comedy Tour

Sun., Nov. 15, 3pm. They’ve graded the papers, survived the staff meetings and lost their last ounce of patience ... and now they’re taking it out on stage. Bored Teachers is back with brand-new jokes, bigger laughs and the most relatable teacher comedy you’ll ever hear. \$29.75-\$84.75. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

First Citizen Award

Wed., Nov. 18, 5-7pm. Recognizing those who’ve made the Springfield area a better place with the annual First Citizen Award tradition. Erin’s Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-789-4431.

Songs for All Ages - A Sensory Friendly Event

Thu., Nov. 19, 6:30pm. This performance is designed for individuals with sensory needs. One of Springfield’s most-loved singer-songwriters, Tom Irwin has been taking experiences, turning them into songs, and giving those songs life through performances and recordings for more than 40 years. Irwin’s most recent work is “One for the Kiddos.” The audience will hear and join in on tunes from that kid-friendly album as well as other songs. \$10. UIS Studio Theatre, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Annie

Fri., Nov. 20. Opens Nov. 20. Believe it or not, *Annie* is 50! Join The Legacy Theatre for its 50th anniversary celebration of this beloved musical. More details TBA. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence, 217-528-9760.

Route 66 International Film Festival

Fri., Nov. 20, 7-10:30pm. This event, in its 25th year, will feature more than 25 short and feature-length films in various categories. An awards ceremony will be held Saturday night. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Includes door prizes and free popcorn. Suggested donation \$10 for each session. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

An Open Letter Regarding the Lincoln Tomb

On July 4, 2026, I visited the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield and was deeply disappointed.

The grounds were unkempt and overgrown. There were no flags, no bunting, and no decorations to mark America's 250th anniversary. The only American flag visible was a single small one placed by a thoughtful visitor.

Several families, from outside the state, I spoke with expressed genuine surprise and sadness that President Lincoln's final resting place had received so little care. Local citizens shared the same disappointment.

Governor Pritzker's family has shown admirable commitment to Lincoln's legacy by purchasing and donating high-value artifacts to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum — including a rare Leonard Volk bust for approximately \$400,000 and a major 1861 Civil War document for \$471,000.

Given this demonstrated respect for Lincoln's history, it is especially troubling that his actual tomb has been allowed to remain in such a neglected state during this historic milestone.

Abraham Lincoln belongs to the ages. The people of Illinois expect his final resting place to be maintained with the dignity and respect he deserves.

Robert Roach
Leland Grove, Illinois



Small American flag placed by thoughtful visitor.



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FOOD | Peter Glatz

As the COVID pandemic began to wind down and restaurants reopened for indoor dining, I was anxious to end my exile in a Florida RV park to get back into a kitchen. While scrolling on Instagram, I saw that a restaurant I'd been following, Spoon and Stable in Minneapolis, was hiring cooks. With the hope of finding a sanctuary for our bus, I reached out to my wife's kin, who owned a sprawling estate on the outskirts of the city. Their lengthy driveway offered the perfect spot to boondock, and with that logistical hurdle cleared, I eagerly submitted my resume to the restaurant.

During my phone interview, I mentioned that I'd been killing time during the shutdown baking sourdough, which led Spoon and Stable to hire me as a bread baker and pasta maker. Bread baking came naturally to me, but making fresh pasta was new, so I had to jump into intensive on-the-job training. Because the restaurant was famous for its pasta program, which utilized hand-milled heritage grains and seasonal sauces, I knew I had big shoes to fill. Stepping into that kitchen meant not only mastering traditional pasta-making techniques but also honoring local farmers, respecting high-quality ingredients, and carrying forward a culinary legacy with every batch of dough I rolled.

With their house-made pasta menu shifting according to the seasons, every day brought a fresh learning experience. I learned how to craft deep crimson doughs infused with roasted beets, pitch-black spaghetti colored with squid ink, brilliant yellow pastas tinted by saffron and turmeric, and vibrant green varieties flavored with pea leaves, spinach, or – most surprising of all to me – fresh tomato leaves!

Growing up, I believed that tomato leaves were toxic. This caution seemed justified, as tomatoes belong to the solanaceae family – the same botanical lineage as *Atropa bella-donna*, commonly known as deadly nightshade. Yet, as noted by Harold McGee in *On Food and Cooking* – often regarded as the definitive culinary text – while these leaves contain the alkaloid tomatine to ward off insect pests, modern research suggests a surprising benefit. Tomatine actually binds to cholesterol within the digestive tract, preventing the absorption of both the alkaloid and the cholesterol. Consequently, McGee affirms that tomato

foliage is perfectly suitable for the kitchen. Furthermore, other reports indicate that one would need to ingest over a pound of uncooked greens in a single sitting to suffer even minor gastric upset, confirming that they are quite benign when utilized as a savory infusion.

The earthy smell of tomato plants comes entirely from the leaves. In their raw state, tomato leaves have a sharp, resinous bite and a bitterness that can be quite intense. Due to their fibrous nature and high oil content, tomato leaves are never consumed raw, like salad greens, but they are wonderful as a flavoring – much like rosemary, bay leaves, or makrut lime leaves. By blanching, steeping, or blending tomato leaves, you replace their raw, bitter harshness with a rich, savory umami taste and deep earthy nuances.

When making fresh tomato sauce, a short cooking time keeps it bright and fresh. But it will have a thin, watery consistency and lack the deep umami that develops when natural sugars slowly caramelize. Conversely, simmering a sauce for 45 to 90 minutes reduces water content, creating a luxurious, velvety texture. But it also burns off the lively, fruity aroma characteristic of vine-ripened tomatoes. That quintessential summer garden tomato aroma is from the compound 2-isobutylthiazole, which is found in the leaves.

To restore bright, garden-fresh notes to a long-simmered sauce, you can add a small handful of thoroughly washed tomato leaves during the final 15 minutes of cooking. As they steep in the warm sauce, the leaves release their volatile aromatic oils, infusing the dish with the fresh garden scents that prolonged heating degrades. Simply remove and discard the leaves and stems before serving, just as you would with a bay leaf.

Only use the tender, new growth from the plant's apex or utilize the suckers you've just pruned, avoiding any yellowed or overly woody segments. Be sure your greens have not been exposed to chemical sprays. Give your trimmings a thorough cold-water bath to remove any grit or garden pests. Most importantly, treat tomato foliage with the same restraint that you would apply to pungent herbs like rosemary or bay; a modest handful is all that is required to impart a profound aromatic complexity to your dish.



Tomato leaves and tomato skin salt. PHOTO BY ANN SHAFFER GLATZ

Even the tomato skins, which are commonly removed and discarded before making sauce, have culinary value. The skins are packed with pectin, concentrated glutamates, and bright acidity. Dehydrating and grinding tomato skins into a powder offers versatile uses: it can be blended into sauce to enhance thickness and savory depth or mixed with salt for an umami-rich seasoning salt.

To make tomato skin salt, place the wet

skins between double layers of paper toweling and microwave on high for four minutes, then in 20-second bursts until dry and crumbly. Grind into a powder, mix with equal parts salt, and store in an airtight container.

Utilizing tomato skins and leaves goes beyond creating a novel spice – it reflects a true commitment to zero-waste cooking. By adopting a “root-to-stem” approach, kitchen waste becomes an effective tool, amping up flavor and making you a better cook. □

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Folk Dancers
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Pie Contest
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Entries due by 10am



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BECOME A VOLUNTEER

ALPLM volunteers greet visitors, assist at events, help researchers and much more. The next information session is on Wednesday, September 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the library.

For more information or to register, contact:
Jeremy Carrell, Director of Volunteer Services
(217) 558-8984 | Jeremy.Carrell@Illinois.gov



Helping people to heal

Suicide prevention organization founded after 17-year-old's death aims to help others

NONPROFIT | Tamara Browning



Jared's Keepers Foundation, a nonprofit based in Girard that focuses on suicide prevention, is named for Jared Martin, who died in 2014 at the age of 17. PHOTO COURTESY DEB MARTIN

The friends of Illinois native Deb Martin's late son, Jared Martin, influenced her involvement in a suicide awareness and prevention organization that bears Jared's name.

Jared's Keepers Foundation, Inc., was founded in 2014 after Jared Michael Martin died by suicide on June 14, 2014, in Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Jared was 17.

Jared was born in Springfield but raised in Kingston Springs, Tennessee, where he attended school until his junior year at Harpeth High School. He loved soccer and was keeper (goalkeeper) for the Harpeth Indians, leading them to the school's first district championship his eighth-grade year.

Today, youth are a major part of what guides the nonprofit Jared's Keepers Foundation, Deb Martin said.

Based in Girard, the foundation started with the simple goal of saving youth, letting them know:

"You matter. You belong here. You Are A Keeper."

"His friends actually co-founded Jared's Keepers with my help," said Deb Martin, the foundation's president. "This was not my idea. This was theirs."

Jared's Keepers Foundation's mission will be furthered through its largest fundraiser to date, The Healing Plate, that will take

place on Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Firefighters Lake Club, 940 W. Lake Shore Drive in Springfield.

The event will feature American country music singer and songwriter Rodney Atkins and a four-course dinner. Michelin Star chef Sam Jett will be the event's chef.

The Healing Plate was born from the foundation's Feeding Our Families weekly program in Girard and Waverly that shows students and families how to plan, prepare, serve and store healthy, inexpensive meals.

"The chefs that come in for this event get to spend time with students and answer questions, 'How did you get into being a professional chef or a celebrity chef? How did you know that you wanted to be a chef?'" said Deb Martin, a 1991 graduate of Waverly High School.

"Almost every chef will tell you that they are a chef because it helped their mental health. That's their way of letting go of a lot of anxieties and stresses, is they just get in a kitchen and start creating."

Suicide statistics

When Jared Martin's friends shared with Deb Martin how much they were struggling after Jared's death, Deb began researching, learning statistics and information.

"You never want to upset a mama, and I got mad because I kind of felt like I should have known this stuff. Somebody could have told me, as I had a teenager, that this was an issue," Deb said.

"When the students told me about the statistics within his own class, then I really got angry because I felt, 'Well, wasn't it time for the school to step up or a pediatrician to tell me?'"

Jared's class in Tennessee had about 120 students. The class lost nine parents to suicide – including Jared, who had lost his biological father to suicide. Jared was the sixth student in the school district in six years to take his life. There were over 29 attempts, as far as the students knew, in the class.

Those statistics are "normal," Deb Martin found.

Suicide is the third-leading cause of death in 15-29-year-olds, the World Health Organization reported in 2025.

"Risk factors for suicide are multifaceted, and include harmful use of alcohol, abuse in childhood, stigma against help-seeking, barriers to accessing care and access to means of suicide," the WHO report *Mental health of adolescents* stated. "Digital media, like any other media, can play a significant role in either enhancing or weakening suicide prevention efforts."

Deb supported Jared's friends in their efforts in suicide prevention.

"I supported (Jared's friends) in wanting to let their peers know that they were a safe person, they were tired of losing their friends, and they wanted somebody to listen to them," Deb said. "As an active mama in the class, I always was, so they knew that they could reach out and ask for Jared's mom's help."

Keep listening

Jared's Keepers Foundation's goals are "to prevent suicide and strengthen communities through mental health and suicide prevention education, youth programs, crisis response, community partnerships and programs designed to create connection and hope," its website said.

Among the foundation's actions, in 2016 it worked with Tennessee lawmakers and other organizations to enact "Jared's Law," which requires K-12 public school and Local Education Association employees to complete two hours of annual training in suicide prevention and awareness.

In its third year, the foundation's The Healing Plate fundraiser has a goal to raise about \$50,000. The money will be used for the Feeding Our Families program and general

support of programs such as the Keepers Clubs – which are student-led peer support in educational institutions – plus postvention (support of people after a suicide death) with families and communities.

"One of the things that has been with us since the beginning is we do send out supportive boxes to families that lose someone to suicide – a parent, a child, someone within the home," Deb said. "It just has items in it that kind of help you get through the worst of the worse."

Jared's Keepers Foundation has "made a lot of progress in the last 12 years," Deb said.

"We have been able to lift that veil of stigma quite a bit," Deb said. "There's a lot more to go, but I also believe that our youth is our future, and if you can educate them accurately on information and data, then they will help change the world in a positive way."

Many of his Jared's friends are still involved with supporting the foundation in different ways. A number of his friends have gone into the medical field. Some of them are doctors and nurses, a couple are in the psychiatric medicine field, and some of them are first responders in the emergency medical services field.

"As adults, oftentimes we like to step back and say, 'Well, we'll research it. We'll check all the information out,' and by the time we find out what (youth) need today, they've already moved on to having a different need," Deb said. "We identified that very early on that we have to have youth ... We have them very active as stakeholders at the table to help guide us into our next direction."

"They know what they need, so we have to listen." □

Jared's Keepers Foundation presents The Healing Plate
It brings together food, live music and a mission of supporting suicide prevention, mental health awareness and the foundation's work in communities.

- The event will be on Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Firefighters Lake Club, 940 W. Lake Shore Drive in Springfield.
- Doors will open at 5 p.m.
- Tickets are \$150 per person and include a four-course dinner and live entertainment from country singer Rodney Atkins.
- The four-course dinner will be: BLT salad, roasted squash butter pasta, red wine-braised short rib and brown butter gooey apple cake.
- For tickets, contact 615-347-3104. The deadline is Friday, Sept. 11.
- For more information visit jaredskeepers.com.



Springfield Oyster & Beer Festival | Sat., Sept. 5, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. | Ansar Shrine 630 S. Sixth St. | 217-525-1771

FESTIVALS | Oyster and beer lovers to gather for annual event

it Enjoy oysters at this popular annual downtown event now featuring a new host and site. The Ansar Shrine and its members are leading the event into its 16th year. Thousands of oysters will be consumed at the “Feztival.” See what the shriners did there? They incorporated members’ traditional headwear into the name. Nice. Besides thousands of fresh oysters, the event at the historic shrine features a wide selection of beer offerings and live music. Tickets are available online at illinoistimestix.com starting at \$44.35.

■ Special Music Events

The Art of Jazz

Tue., Sep. 8, 6-8pm. A prominent local saxophonist, Buddy Rogers, teams up with Max Beckman and other guest musicians for a wonderful evening of jazz. Buddy Rogers is an “institution” in the central Illinois music scene and beyond. Listen while perusing the gallery viewing the current exhibit “DREAMS” or the ongoing Route 66 exhibits of Bob Waldmire drawings or photography by David Schwartz. \$10 donation at door. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 217-622-7903.

■ **Books & Authors**
Route 66: Read and Remember
Sat., Sep. 5, 11am-1pm. In this event for children, parents and grandparents, author Beth Bacon will read from her new picture book, *Route 66: Faces and Places*, then lead the audience in a discussion of their own Route 66 memories. Free. Cozy Dog Drive In, 2935 South Sixth St., 217-525-1992.

■ Dance

Bachata Latin Dance Lessons - 11-week session

Wed., Sep. 9, 6-7pm. Always wanted to learn bachata? Sign up for this comprehensive 11-week session that will get you comfortable and proficient in this Latin dance. Each week the instructors will build on the previous lessons. Sign up to reserve a spot as a leader or follower. Appropriate for all-levels. The 11-week session begins Sept. 9. \$120 per person if pre-registered. Springfield Social Dance Club, 501 W. Elliott Ave., 217-416-5597.

Springfield International Folk Dancers
Mondays, 7-9pm. Experience the joy of folk dancing from many cultures. All skill levels welcome and no partners necessary. Free. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-793-8035.

West Coast Swing dance lesson: 11-week session
Wed., Sep. 9, 7-8pm. Learn West Coast Swing with Kim (11-week

session, sign-up now to reserve spot). This 11-week session will start with the basics and build up participants’ comfort and skill in this dance style. Appropriate for all levels. \$120 per person if pre-registered. Springfield Social Dance Club, 501 W. Elliott Ave., 217-416-5597.

■ **Art & Architecture**
“Interludes and Transitions”
Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11am-5pm. Through Sep. 23. The exhibit highlights a journey for ceramicist Scott Day and pastelist Tracey Maras. Free. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

“It’s A-mazing, What Art Feels Like”
Mondays-Sundays, 9am-5pm and Saturdays, 10am-3pm. Through Sep. 26. Art is A-mazing is being presented within the structure of a maze. Unlike a standard exhibition where touching is against the rules, this work is designed to be experienced by touch. The show is for everyone, not just the visually impaired. Free. M.G.

Nelson Family Gallery, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Mansion Tours

Saturdays, Sundays, 1:45-2:45, 3-4pm. Illinois Department of Natural Resources trained staff and volunteers lead this tour of the official residence of Gov. JB and first lady MK Pritzker. Tour focuses on the history of the mansion. No self-guided tours are permitted. Reserve a spot on eventbrite.com. Free. Illinois Governor’s Mansion, 410 E. Jackson St., 217-782-6450.

Of Glass and Wood

Sat., Sep. 5, 1-3pm. Join an experienced volunteer guide for an extended, in-depth look at the Dana-Thomas House and discussion about Frank Lloyd Wright’s career. Reservations required. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Sangamon Valley Woodcarvers 35th Annual Show, Sale and Competition

Sat., Sep. 5, 10am-4pm. Woodcarvers will display their carvings and work on new ones. Some carvings will be available for purchase. Event includes people’s choice voting for best carving competition, signup for a beginning carving class, door prize drawings and vendors selling woodcarving supplies and tools. Free admission. Williamsville Community Center, Williamsville, 141 W. Main St., 217-691-5943.

■ Film & Television

Route 66: The Main Street of America

Tue., Sep. 8, 7pm. The documentary by filmmaker John Paget celebrates the centennial anniversary of Route 66 with stories of everyday heroes along the road. Includes a post-film Q&A and conversation with filmmaker John Paget and special guests. Tickets available in advance. \$20. Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-679-7323.

■ Food & Drink

The LMH Market

Saturdays, 8am-12pm. Through Sep. 19. This farmers market in the Expo Building features fruits, vegetables, eggs, poultry, baked goods and more vendor grown or produced by local operations. Includes children’s activities and free health screenings on second and fourth Saturdays of month. Free parking and admission. Logan County Fairgrounds, Lincoln, 1408 Short 11th St., 447-784-3211.

Old Capitol Farmers Market
Wednesdays and Saturdays.. Through Oct. 31. Springfield’s longest-running and most popular Farmers Market in downtown Springfield. Largest producer-only market in Illinois outside of Chicago. Old Capitol Farmers Market, Fourth and Adams streets, 217-544-1723.

■ History

Attention to Detail

Sat., Sep. 5, 10am-12pm. Join an experienced volunteer guide for an in-depth, extended look at the Dana-Thomas House and discussion about Frank Lloyd Wright’s career. Reservations required. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Edwards Place Historic Home Guided Tours

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

Elijah Iles House Tours

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

Prairieland Chautauqua

Fri., Sep. 4, 6-8pm and Sat., Sep. 5, 12-7pm. On Aug. 21, 1912, the first Chautauqua took place at Nichols Park. The big tent went up, music played, speeches and lectures took place on a wooden stage. For a whole week, hundreds of people came to see and experience the show while camping on the grounds. On September 4-5, the event will return to Nichols Park Pavilion. This year’s theme is “Route 66.”. Free. Nichols Park, Jacksonville, 110 Holkenbrink Dr., 217-271-7824.

■ Holiday Happenings

Edinburg Labor Day Picnic

Sept. 4-7. Starts evening of Sept. 4 with pageants, karaoke and more. Then it’s three more full days of fun in honor of Labor Day. Features live music, food, a chili cookoff, Saturday color run, children’s activities and a Monday morning parade. See

the Facebook page for a full schedule. Veteran’s Memorial Park, W. Masonic St., Edinburg.

Auburn Labor Day Picnic

Sat., Sep. 5 and Sun., Sep. 6. Two days of family-friendly fun featuring a 11am Saturday parade, live music, children’s activities, food, games and more. Union Park, Auburn, 115 E. Madison, 217-414-9259.

Greenview Family Funday Sunday

Sun., Sep. 6, 3-8pm. This is the 3rd annual Family Funday Sunday - Labor Day Weekend Celebration. Includes bounce houses, balloon mania, a ventriloquist, DJs, karaoke and more. The Greenview CIA Food Tent will serve burgers, hotdogs, chips, soda and water. Greenview Community Center, Greenview, 114 N. Engle St., 217-502-3839.

SCITLC Labor Day Weekend Picnic

Sat., Sep. 5, 12-3pm. Celebrate workers during this family-friendly afternoon featuring food, live music, yard games and activities for children. RSVP by Aug. 28. Free. Chatham Community Park, Chatham, 731 S. Main St.

■ Fairs & Festivals

First Sunday at the Stone House Labor Day Celebration

Sat., Sep. 5, 1-4pm. An afternoon of live music, food, historical displays and activities for all ages. Enjoy local food while learning more about Rochester’s history and the historic buildings and collections at the park. Free. Rochester Historical Park, Rochester, West Main, 217-588-9880.

■ Fundraisers & Galas

Celebration of 101 years of Concordia Seminary 1875-1976

Fri., Sep. 4, 7-9pm. Celebrate 101 years of God’s blessings on Concordia Seminary, which moved from Springfield to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1976. A buffet dinner for \$15 per plate. ralphwoehrmann@gmail.com. Trinity Lutheran School, 515 S. MacArthur Blvd., 217-522-7059.

Cookout to Benefit Veterans

Sat., Sep. 5, 12-6pm. Event includes food, cash bar, children’s activities, bake sale, 50-50 drawing and silent auction. Hosted by Roofers Local 112. All proceeds will go to local veterans. VFW Post 10302, 2349 Stockyard Road, 217-717-5620.

■ Local Government

Sangamon County Board

Tue., Sep. 8, 6pm. Monthly meeting of the Sangamon

County Board. Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth St., 217-753-6650.

Springfield City Council Committee of the Whole
Tue., Sep. 8, 5:30-9pm. The Committee of the Whole meets twice a month on Tuesdays. Municipal Center West, 300 S. Seventh St., 217-789-2151.

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

Zoo Tots
Sat., Sep. 5, 10am, 1pm. Each month, you and your little ones ages 3-5 will learn about a new animal in the zoo classroom. Each class includes a story, an animal encounter, craft and a snack. Registration fee includes admission to the zoo for the participating child and one adult. Registration required 24 hours before each class. Visit bit.ly/Zoo_Tots. Activity #350501. Residents \$15, non-residents \$20. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

■ **Nature, Science & Environment**
Fall Star Parties
Fri., Sep. 4, 8-10pm. Friday night Star Parties are held at the Campus Observatory on the roof of Brookens Library. Free. UIS Observatory, Brookens Library, One University Plaza, 217-206-6589.

Sanctuary Explorations with Artist in Residence Kevin Veara
Tuesdays, 8-9am. Through Sep. 29. Join acclaimed artist and naturalist Kevin Veara as he explores the sanctuary in search of species and inspiration for his next art piece. Free. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 E. Clear Lake Ave., 217-303-1996.

■ **Lectures & Meetings**
Caregivers Support Group
First Thursday of every month, 11:30am-12:30pm. Through Dec. 3. Love someone with dementia or Alzheimers? Join this group for an opportunity to connect with others who are also caregiving. Find support,

a listening ear and share resources. In Room 1. In Room 1. Group will meet monthly on the first Thursday of every month. Free. Hope Church, 3000 Lenhart Road, 217-787-1446.

Prairie Land Chautauqua
Fri., Sep. 4, 6-8pm and Sat., Sep. 5, 12-7pm. On August 21, 1912, the first Chautauqua took place at Nichols Park. The big tent went up, music played, speeches and lectures took place on a wooden stage. For a whole week, hundreds of people came to see and experience the show while camping on the grounds. We are bringing back the tradition. The theme this year is "Route 66." This is a family-oriented event. Free. Nichols Park, Jacksonville, 110 Holkenbrink Dr., 800-593-5678.

■ **Bulletin Board**
The Fiber Circle
Wednesdays, 6-8pm. Love fiber arts like knitting, crochet, embroidery, or weaving? Bring a project to this relaxed and welcoming evening of creativity and conversation. Whether you're a seasoned stitcher or just getting started, this is a great space to share tips, get inspired and connect with fellow crafters of all kinds. chathamlib.org. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce St., 217-483-2713.

Jacksonville Farmer's Market
Sat., Sep. 5, 7am-12pm and Wed., Sep. 9, 4-6pm. Shop the offerings of Jacksonville area farmers, bakers and vendors all in one place at the Jacksonville Farmers Market. Pathway Services Unlimited Inc., Jacksonville, 1905 W. Morton Ave., 217-479-2300.

Senior Tours at the Henson Robinson Zoo
Wed., Sep. 9, 10-11:30am. Each month, a new topic and area of the zoo will be explored. Each class includes a guided tour and animal encounter. For ages 50 and older. Registration required 24 hours before each class. To register visit bit.ly/Zoo_SeniorTour. Activity #310501. Residents \$10, Non-residents \$15. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

■ **Health & Fitness**
Warm Meal Wednesday
Wednesdays, 12pm. Through Dec. 31. Free meal every Wednesday at noon. Provided by community members. Intricate Minds, 619 North Grand Ave. East, 217-670-3520.

■ **Sports**
Boston Hunters vs. San Francisco Firebells
Sun., Sep. 6, 6:30pm. Women's Pro Baseball League action. \$20-\$37. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

Extreme Dwarffanators Wrestling
Mon., Sep. 7, 5pm. See little people battle it out in the ring. \$30-\$50. The Thirsty Rooster, Middletown, 104 S. Madison St., 217-445-2085.

Los Angeles Queens vs. Boston Hunters
Sat., Sep. 5, 6:30pm. Women's Pro Baseball League action. \$20-\$37. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

New York Heights vs. Los Angeles Queens
Thu., Sep. 3, 6:30pm. Women's Pro Baseball League action. \$20-\$37. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

San Francisco Firebells vs. New York Heights
Fri., Sep. 4, 6:30pm. The WPBL opens its inaugural season as New York hosts Los Angeles. \$20-\$37. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

Springfield Mile
Sat., Sep. 5, 9am and Sun., Sep. 6, 9am. The 2026 Springfield Mile is scheduled for a doubleheader weekend featuring Progressive American Flat Track racing (AFT SuperTwins and AFT Singles). Day 1 is the Springfield Mile I, and Day 2 is the Springfield Mile II. springfieldmile.com. \$20-\$150. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-632-0277.

UIS Women's & Men's Soccer vs. Lincoln University
Sat., Sep. 5, 3pm. Women's team plays at 3pm followed by men at 5:30pm. It's Senior Day and the start of conference play. Kiwanis Stadium, University of Illinois Springfield, One University Plaza, 217-206-6674.

WPBL Semifinals A - Game 1
Wed., Sep. 9. Playoffs of the Women's Pro Baseball League. \$20-\$37. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

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



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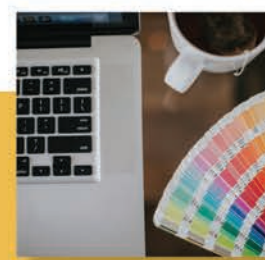
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MAY 7 TO SEPT. 24

3:30PM TO 7:00PM
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September 12th & 13th

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Silent Auction

Don't forget on Saturday Only:

Patron Buck Drawings

Kids Art Sale 10am-3pm

MUSIC: Talented Local Musicians & Rees Carillon Bells

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For more information, call Rachael at 217-523-3639.

Sponsored by Central, an American Baptist church.

MUSIC



The award-winning Chris O'Leary Band plays *The Blue Grouch* this Friday night.

Labor Day weekend music

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

It's here and so are we as the Labor Day holiday comes on Monday preceded by a full weekend of music adventures available for your entertainment pleasure. Often cited as the official, unofficial end-of-summer holiday, let's take a moment to recognize the work of the workers of the world before we hit the streets in search of frolic and fun with friends and family.

Starting our run on Thursday, I spy me playing for the Illinois Product Farmers Market at the Shed on the Illinois State Fairgrounds as the market returns from its State Fair break. Casey's Pub hosts Kerry Lee, up from Southern Illinois for country classics and more on the patio while Allan Harris and Aley Alvey bring sweet duet sounds to Mother Road Diner just as Jackson Taylor and the Sinners with Claudey Blue take it to the Stadium Smokehouse for an outlaw country, hard rockin' night.

The bars are hopping this weekend with several doing both Friday and Saturday nights like Harry's Adult Day Care giving us first Joel Honey and then The Collective, while The Blue Grouch hosts the great blues man Chris O'Leary and his killer band, then has The Warped Kids and Cringe for a pop punk tribute night, as Boone's jazzes things up with the Kevin Hart Trio then Craig Russo's Latin Jazz Project. The Railyard makes it a triple play in two days with Jason Oldham going acoustic on Friday, then Robert Micheal Beam with Bluesmattic and Robert Sampson on Saturday afternoon and Travis Ried Band in the evening for a full serving of blues, while Dockside Grill goes three for three with Jet Trio & Friends on Friday, Jason McKenzie on Saturday and Brian Steinhauer on Sunday.

Special festivities over the weekend include the S.O.B. (Springfield Oyster and Beer) Fez-tival in a new location at the home of our Ansar Shriners (putting the "fez" in festival) near Cook and Sixth streets on Saturday from

noon to 5. They've got plenty of craft beer and oysters available, plus for our concerns, live music with Not Petty, Smokestacks and Jonnie Concaroo Band, then starting at 5 p.m., a bonus Gold Maps party performance outside at Obed & Isaacs.

For live music at out-of-town events, the annual Prairie Land Chautauqua at Nichols Park in Jacksonville hosts two terrific singer-songwriters and acclaimed Illinois folklorists, as Chris Vallillo plays Friday and Bucky Halker hits on Saturday evening along with the Lamoine River Ramblers at 2 p.m., plus plenty of presentations all based on a Route 66 theme for 2026. The Rusty Bucket in Greenview presents their second annual Mini-Music Festival featuring Antone DeRocchi and The Green View on Saturday with Kent Gray and Fusion Ignite on Sunday. The long-running Edinburg Labor Day Picnic is a-happening with all kinds of activities including live music, of course. There's Molly Seaton at noon, then White Lightnin', with The Antics on directly after the demolition derby on Saturday. Sunday delivers Allan Harris and Tricia Giacommi, then Al Kitchen, with Triple Threat coming on after The Love and Marriage Show and races in the arena, as Robert Sampson gets down for the picnic windup at noon on Monday.

For a super Sunday treat, discover the incomparable Rogers & Nienhaus at Trails End in Curran or see Dueling Pianos with Aaron Lutzow and Lewis Knudsen tickle the ivories at Hill Prairie Winery near Oakford. Also longtime, central Illinois music man Michael Burnett invites you to a party celebrating his birthday at Danenberger Family Vineyard joined by Suns of Circumstance with special guest Johnnie Owens.

Until next time, have a safe and pleasant Labor Day weekend. ☐

Illinois Times is in its second year as a Report for America newsroom,

which allowed us to add a full-time reporter to our staff in July 2025.

This position is partially funded by a grant of \$20,000 for the second year. We are expected to raise \$40,000 from community support to cover our share of this position.



Before joining *Illinois Times*, Dilpreet Raju reported on disparity through public health, wrongful convictions and the state's burgeoning marijuana industry for Capitol News Illinois, a nonprofit news service, as a reporting fellow.

Raju, a Schaumburg native, has a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. He pursued the Report for America program because of the nonprofit's dedication toward preparing journalists for a life of reporting news that matters.

Since 1975, *Illinois Times* has delivered trusted, local journalism. As a free publication and now a nonprofit media organization, we rely on reader support, along with advertising, to stay strong, especially in challenging times. Your gift will help us grow and continue reporting on the stories that matter.

Please support this reporting expansion by making a tax-deductible donation today. Make a gift or become a monthly donor by visiting illinoistimes.com and clicking the "Support Us" button in the top right corner.

Make checks payable to Local Journalism Matters and send it and the below information form to: Illinois Times, Attn: Kate McKenzie, 1240 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703

Questions? Call 217-515-2142 or email kmckenzie@illinoistimes.com



☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other: \$ _____

Your Contact Information

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Father-daughter team treasures common bond



104 N. Main St., Decatur, IL 62523 | (217) 423-0041 | www.decaturcoinandjewelry.com

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Nicole Harbour

From a young age, Bennie Strumpher had a passion for coins.

"I became interested in them when I was about 10 years old," he said. "My dad worked at a coal mine and he came home with a sock full of coins – they paid him in silver dollars. So he laid the coins out on the table. They were pretty and I fell in love with them."

From sorting through silver dollars in a bank vault as a child to traveling along the trade show circuit with his family as an adult, Strumpher's love affair with coins helped guide his life.

In 2007, he found a place for that love

to take root when he bought Decatur Coin and Jewelry, a business that has been located at 104 N. Main St. in downtown Decatur since 1972.

Bennie Strumpher wasn't the only Strumpher with an affinity for coins. His daughter, Samantha, happily followed in his footsteps.

"I went to a lot of coin shows with my dad," she said. "I'd take coins around to dealers and sell them for him. I'd leave with a box full of coins and I'd come back with a hand full of checks or cash."

"She was really little, probably 10 or 12 then," Bennie Strumpher added.

And she's been by her father's side at Decatur Coin and Jewelry since



the very beginning, mostly handling the vintage costume jewelry customers bring in.

"I love being with my dad and experiencing with him daily the passion he has for this place, and that he's helped me



create, as well," she said.

Handling everything from coins, pocket watches and vintage paper money to costume, gold and silver jewelry, Bennie and Samantha believe it's their ethics and service that make their business stand out from others. "We're a 'pay-it-forward' organization," Bennie Strumpher said. "If you have something worth a lot of money, we're going to offer you a lot of money, about 90 percent on the dollar. We have paid out over 14 million dollars to people just like you in the past few years," Strumpher said.

"We are professional numismatists and travel the coin show circuit buying investor grade coins that we seldom encounter here at the shop.

"We 'know' where the value is and many of my long term clients have become wealthy by paying for our experienced eyes. High eye appeal coins I sold just a few years ago for a couple of hundred dollars are worth thousands today," Bennie Strumpher said.

Bennie and Samantha are staying busy, enjoying their customers and enjoying their work.

"I don't have to work. I do this because I enjoy it," said Bennie Strumpher. "I could have retired a long time ago, but I've been doing this for 40 years, and I hope to keep doing it as long as my eyes and health are good." "I love what I do," Samantha Strumpher agreed. "I love all the jewelry, and the coins, too."

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MUSIC

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

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

Thursday Sep 3

Kerry Lee
Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 5:30-8:30pm

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

Devin Clemons
East Side Inc., Virginia, 7-10pm

Karaoke
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm.

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

Tom Irwin
Illinois State Fairgrounds, The Shed, 5-7pm

JCB Entertainment Karaoke
La Fiesta Chatham, Chatham, 6-10pm

Allan Harris and Aley Alvey
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

Karaoke
The Railyard, 6:30pm

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

Jackson Taylor with Clauday Blue
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 7pm

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

Karaoke
The Topsy Toad, 8pm-12am

Friday Sep 4

Kevin Hart Trio
Boone's, 5:30-8:30pm

First Friday
Butternut Hut, First Friday of every month, 4pm.

John Drake
Cafe Amulet, Petersburg, 5-8pm

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

The Pleiades
DH Brown's, 8pm

Karaoke with Hi-Tek Redneck Entertainment
Dockers Tavern, Spaulding, 8:30pm-12:30am.

Jet Trio and friends
Dockside Grill at Lake Springfield Marina, 6-9pm

Sonic Sunday, Hemlock Row, Scarlet's Darling
George Rank's, 7:30pm

Joel Honey
Harry's Adult Day Care, 7pm

Summer of George
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Hipbone and The Joints
KC Lake Club, Chatham, 6-9pm

Rock Mafia
The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, 6-10pm

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

Capt. Quirk
Long Bridge Golf Course, 6:30pm

Karaoke
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Johnny Owens
Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, 6-8pm

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

Jason Oldham
The Railyard, 6-9pm

Chris O'Leary Band
The Blue Grouch, 7pm

The Rick Mari Band
The Topsy Toad, 7-10pm
Positively 4th Street
Trading Post Saloon, 7-9:30pm

Bustin' Loose
Weebles Bar & Grill, 6:30-10:30pm

Saturday Sep 5

Not Petty
Ansar Shrine, 11:30am-12:30pm

Smokestacks
Ansar Shrine, 2-4:30pm

The Jonnie Concaroo Band
Ansar Shrine, 2:30-4:45pm

Chris Canterbury
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7-10pm

Craig Russo Latin Jazz Project
Boone's, 6-9pm

John Till
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Greg Bickers Band
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7-10pm

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

Storm Front
Chatham Community Park, Chatham, 12-3pm

Ethan Anderson
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 2-5pm

Scratching the Surface
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 7pm

La Original Banda El Limón, with special guest Julián Torres y Mariachi Cenzontle.
The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Decatur, 7pm

Jason McKenzie
Dockside Grill at Lake Springfield Marina, 1-4pm

The Collective
Harry's Adult Day Care, 7pm

3's Company with Chris Warren and Rod VandSandt
Harry's Adult Day Care, 7-10pm

Joel Honey
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Dave McEathron Quartet
It's All About Wine, 5-8pm

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

The Rick Mari Band
Mowie's Cue, 7-10pm

Gold Maps
Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery, 5-8pm

Robert Micheal Beam with Bluesmattic and guest Robert Sampson
The Railyard, 12-3pm

The Travis Ried Band
The Railyard, 6-9pm

Stereo Typical
Rocco's, Decatur, 7-10pm

Antone DeRocchi
Rusty Bucket, Greenville, 3-6pm

The Green View
Rusty Bucket, Greenville, 8-11pm

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

Hat Trick
Sunset Inn Pub, 6-9pm

The Warped Kids, Cringe
The Blue Grouch, 7pm



Ed Smith, left, and Carl Bopp, who are also known as Sound Decision, will play from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday at Lime Street Café.

Tom & Geoff
Whiskey Ridge Saloon, Breckenridge, 6-9pm

Sunday Sep 6

Jason McKenzie
AJ's Corner, Chatham, 1pm

Whiskey Killers
Brookhills Golf Club, 3-6pm

Trail Blazers
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

John Drake
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 2-5pm

Michael Burnett and Suns of Circumstance with Johnnie Owens
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 2-5pm

Russell Dickerson with special guest Blake Proehl
The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Decatur, 7pm

Brian Steinhauer
Dockside Grill at Lake Springfield Marina, 1-4pm

Triple Threat
Edinburg Labor Day Picnic, Edinburg, 8pm

Dueling Pianos with Aaron Lutzow and Lewis Knudsen
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 2-5pm

The Tangents
It's All About Wine, 3-6pm

Satellite
Jamie's Route 66, Southern View, 3-6pm

Antone DeRocchi and Jaigh Lowder
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 5-8pm

Jason Oldham
Patriots Pub, Waverly, 2pm

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

Chris Camp and His Blues Ambassadors
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

Around the Bend
Rochester Historical Park, Rochester, 1-4pm

Kent Gray
Rusty Bucket, Greenville, 2-5pm

Fusion Ignite
Rusty Bucket, Greenville, 7-10pm

JackAsh
The Shed, Pawnee, 1-4pm

Rogers & Nienhaus
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-7pm

Monday Sep 7

Rick Mari Band
The Alamo, 7pm

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

2nd Street Harmony
Rusty Bucket, Greenville, 2-5pm

Music Mondays Open Mic Night
The Bird Tavern, 6:30-9pm.

Labor Day Open Mic
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 2-6pm

Tuesday Sep 8

Karaoke Night hosted by Alan Livengood
Fluid Lounge, 7pm

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

Open jam with Living Bratz
George Rank's, Second Tuesday of every month, 8pm

Karaoke
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 6pm.

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

Wednesday Sep 9

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

Karaoke
Clique, 9pm-1am

Wasted Wednesday Karaoke
Door 4 Brewing Co., Decatur, 9pm

Al Kitchen
Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6pm

Open jam with Kristi White
Goodfellas Pub, Second Wednesday of every month, 7pm

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

Micah Walk
Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery, 6-8pm

JCB Entertainment Karaoke
Puerto Vallarta, 12pm

MARKETPLACE

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Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. seeks Senior Application Developer in Springfield, IL to design, develop, and enhance software solutions, consolidate data, lead migration from Java/Oracle to .NET/SQL Server, and guide development teams. Telecommute avail. Salary range: from \$132,600 to \$145,000. If interested send CV to: lrsrecruit@lrs.com, **Subject: Ref: SAD**

ONLINE CALENDAR SUBMISSION

Friday by 5pm for the following Thursday issue

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

It's fast and easy. Go to www.illinoistimes.com Click on "Submit an event"

Happy 76th birthday my love! I miss you terribly.



Theodore "Ted" Zelinski

Just wanted to say you look chic today, but you eclipse dress sure, the color is daring and not overbearing, but beneath you're striking success.

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Tuesdays, September 22 –
October 27, 2026

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Rhumba II
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All Waltz
8:30 – 9:30 pm

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF Sangamon - Springfield, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff
vs.
BEAUFORD T. MOORE; ROSE A. MOORE; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; CAPITAL ONE, N.A.; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant
26 FC 4
CALENDAR
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on September 30, 2026, at the hour 9:00 a.m., Harvatin & Goebel, P.C., 1100 South Fifth Street, Springfield, IL 62703, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-33.0-405-008. Commonly known as 548 W. CANEDY ST., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704. The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgement of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 25-378959
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13292800

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON, STATE OF ILLINOIS
PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff(s),
vs.
DONALD ANDERSON A/K/A DONALD W. ANDERSON, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF ILLINOIS, CHRISTINA MARIE

ANDERSON, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant(s).
Case No. 26 FC 21
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment heretofore entered by the said Court in the above entitled cause, the Sheriff of Sangamon County, Illinois, will on October 13, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 AM, at the COUNTY BOARD CHAMBER, 2ND FLOOR, SANGAMON COUNTY COMPLEX, 200 S. 9TH STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described premises and real estate in the said Judgment mentioned, situated in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment, to wit:
Common Address: 2002 E. KEYS AVE., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
P.I.N. 14-23.0-377-001
Contact the Law Office of IRA T. NEVEL, LLC, 175 North Franklin, Suite 201, Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 357-1125, for further information.
The terms of the sale are: Ten percent (10%) due by cash or certified funds at the time of the sale and balance is due within 24 hours of the sale. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court.

The property is improved by a Single Family Residence, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenants thereunto belonging and will not be available for inspection prior to sale. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
Ira T. Nevel - ARDC #6185808
Timothy R. Yuell - ARDC #6192172
Greg Elsnic - ARDC #6242847
Aaron Nevel - ARDC #6322724
175 North Franklin St. Suite 201
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 357-1125
Pleadings@nevellaw.com
SL
26-00166
8051-968855

PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF:
GLENN R. WERONKO, Deceased
No. 2026PR315
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of GLENN R. WERONKO, Deceased.
Letters Testamentary were issued on August 25, 2026 to Mary J. Weronko, as Executor, whose attorney is Katherine E. Perry, Edwards Group LLC, 3223 S. Meadowbrook Road, Suite A, Springfield, IL 62711. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before March 8, 2027 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 August 26, 2026.
EDWARDS GROUP LLC
David O. Edwards — 6229192
Katherine E. Perry - 6309676
3223 S. Meadowbrook Road,
Suite A Springfield, Illinois 62711
(217) 726-9200
david@edwardsgroupllc.com
katie@edwardsgroupllc.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. SFORZA, DECEASED.
Case #2026-PR-318
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of JOHN A. SFORZA. Letters of Office have been issued to HEATHER R. MILLER, 237 Crystal Lake Road, Groton, CT 06340, 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 March 3, 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 25th day of August 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 JOSEPH P. PISANI, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-317
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of JOSEPH P. PISANI. Letters of Office have been issued to MARY M. CONTRI, 2720 Meadow Pointe Drive, Springfield, IL 62702, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th

Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Administrator, or both, on or before March 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 Administrator and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 24th day of August, 2026.
Patrick J. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of DORIS A. CLARKE, Deceased.
IN PROBATE
No. 2026-PR-314
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Doris A. Clarke, deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on August 24, 2026, to Thomas J. Clarke, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Brandon R. Clark, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 17th day of March, 2027, or three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 24th day of August, 2026.
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Brandon R. Clark
Registration No. 6329553
205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705-2459
(217) 544-8491
bclark@bhsllaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JEFFREY B. CONN, Deceased
NO. 2026-PR-313
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of JEFFREY B. CONN, Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on August 20, 2026, to Stewart M. Conn, 407 W. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, IL 62545 as Administrator, whose attorney is Alex B. Rabin, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 2nd day of March 2027 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 20th day of August 2026.
Alex B. Rabin
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP
1119 S. Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
217-789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD DEAN SERVIS, Deceased
NO. 2026-PR-270
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of DONALD DEAN SERVIS, Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on August 20, 2026, to Monell Servis and Jaqueline Denise Mini-Reyman, 2 Providence Lane, Springfield, IL 62711 and 86 Downing Drive, Chatham, IL 62629 as Co-Administrators, whose attorney is Alex B. Rabin, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 2nd day of March 2027 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 20th day of August 2026.
Alex B. Rabin
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP
1119 S. Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
217-789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of: Virginia N. Pitchford, Deceased
Case No. 2026PRO00301
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Virginia N. Pitchford. Letters of Administration were issued on Aug. 19, 2026 to Amanda R. Cooley as Executor, 14 Island View Lane, Springfield, IL 62712. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the Executor, on or before Feb. 27, 2027. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Administrator within 10 days after it has been filed.
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER T. MANION, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-309
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of CHRISTOPHER T. MANION. Letters of Office have been issued to LAUREN ELIZABETH CHAPMAN, 15 Hyde Park Place, Springfield, IL 62703, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan,

Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Administrator, or both, on or before March 3, 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 Administrator and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 17th day of August, 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
SHREBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRENDA KAY DALBY, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-307
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of BRENDA KAY DALBY. Letters of Office have been issued to RYAN EDWARD BIETSCH, 2320 Stokebridge Road, 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 March 2, 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 14th day of August, 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
PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC, Plaintiff,
Vs.
STEPHEN WILLISIE, et. al., Defendants.
Re: Estate of KELLY L. MCKEAN, Deceased.
2026-FC-133
NOTICE
TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF KELLY L. MCKEAN:
Notice is given of the death of Kelly L. McKean. The Court has appointed Dan E. Way as Special Representative for Kelly L. McKean, deceased, in the above-entitled cause seeking a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale on property located at 6 West Grand Court, Springfield, IL 62704 a/k/a 6 West Grand Court, Jerome, IL 62704.
The address of the Special Representative is Way Law Offices, LLC, 1100 S. Fifth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. You may direct any questions you have to him, or you may retain counsel of your own choosing, or represent yourself, or do nothing.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers> to learn more and to select a service provider.
If you need additional help or have trouble

e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.
/s/ Dan E. Way
Special Representative for Kelly L. McKean, deceased.
Dan E. Way #6204735
WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC
1100 S. Fifth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
Tel. 217-525-7003
dan@danwaylaw.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN M. BRANDT, DECEASED.
NO. 2026PRO00288
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
Notice is given of the death of JOHN M. BRANDT, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on August 12, 2026, to SCOTT J. BRANDT, 503 Ridgeview Drive, Sherman, IL 62684; TODD F. BRANDT, 1018 Bankfield Court, Naperville, IL 60540; and MARK W. BRANDT, 1270 Monmouth Drive, Lemont, IL 60439, whose attorney is Rammelkamp Bradney, P.C., 232 West State Street, P.O. Box 550, Jacksonville, Illinois 62651.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the 20th day August 2026, being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk of the court.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers>. htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Dated this 12th day of August 2026.
SCOTT J. BRANDT, TODD F. BRANDT, and MARK W. BRANDT, Executors of the Estate of JOHN M. BRANDT, Deceased
BY: RAMMELKAMP BRADNEY, P.C.
Attorneys for Estate:
Rammelkamp Bradney, P.C.
Richard R. Freeman #6198969
232 West State Street
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
Telephone: (217) 245-6177
Fax: (217) 243-7322
Email: rffreeman@rblawyers.net

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: GERALD L. KUHN, SR., Deceased.
Case No. 2026-PR-304
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of GERALD L. KUHN, SR., of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on May 24, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on the 12th day of August, A.D., 2026, to KATHLEEN J. KUHN, of 4101 West lles Avenue, Apt. 2321, Springfield, Illinois, 62711, as Executor, whose attorney of record is R. Stephen 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 Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the Executor, 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 Co-Executors and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 12th day of August, A.D., 2026.
Estate of GERALD L. KUHN, SR., Deceased,
By: KATHLEEN J. KUHN, Executor,
PREPARED BY:
R. Stephen Scott (02533391)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
By: /s/ R. Stephen Scott
Attorneys at Law
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-8200
Facsimile: (217) 753-8206
rss@scottscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN RE THE ESTATE OF: WALTER FRANKLIN GOODMAN JR., No. 2026-PR-302
Deceased.
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Walter Franklin Goodman Jr. Letters Testamentary were issued on August 11, 2026, to Jane H. Hayden of 108 Cedar Dr., Clinton, IL 61727, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Dan E. Way, WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC, 1100 S. Fifth St., Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth St., Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before February 22, 2027, which is not less than six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, 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.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers>. htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or contact your local Circuit Clerk's office.
Dated this 11th day of August 2026
Dan E. Way #6204735
WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC
1100 S. Fifth St.
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 525-7003

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers>. htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or contact your local Circuit Clerk's office.
Dated this 11th day of August 2026
Dan E. Way #6204735
WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC
1100 S. Fifth St.
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 525-7003

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of: Shari Dipasquale, Deceased
Case No. 2026PRO00297
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Shari Dipasquale. Letters of Administration were issued on Aug. 10, 2026 to Kathryn Gillum as Administrator, 3152 Elmhurst Dr, Springfield IL 62704. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit

Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the Executor, on or before Feb. 20, 2027. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Administrator within 10 days after it has been filed.
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of Timothy L. Scranton, Petitioner
And
Ashley R. Martin, Respondent
Case No. 2026-DN-000163
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Ashley R. Martin, 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 27th day of October, 2025, 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 Brigitte Drake, Petitioner
And
Melvin Hayes, Respondent
Case No. 2026-DC-000058
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Melvin Hayes, 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 20th day of September, 2025, 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 Daivon Lee DeMartino Jr.
For change of name to
Von Lee Butler
Case No. 2026-MR-000274
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct. 20, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Daivon Lee DeMartino Jr. to Von Lee Butler pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Sept. 3, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Atlas Neil Rodgers
For change of name to
Atlas Neil Alexander
Case No. 2026-MR-000274
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct. 20, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Atlas Neil Rodgers to Atlas Neil Alexander pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Sept. 3, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Ivy Josiah Burchett
For change of name to
Ivy Josiah Lawson
Case No. 2026-MR-000251
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct. 6, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Ivy Josiah Burchett to Ivy Josiah Lawson pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Aug. 20, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH

Sangamon County, IL Request for Proposal Annual Financial Audit Services

Sangamon County, Illinois is accepting proposals for professional financial audit services for fiscal years 2026 - 2028. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for annual financial audit services will be available beginning July 27th, 2026. Copies of the RFP may be picked up at the address listed below or may be requested by calling the Sangamon County Auditor's Office at 217-753-6630.

Sangamon County Auditor's Office
200 South Ninth Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62701

Proposals for this RFP must be received by the County Auditor's Office by September 11th, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. local time at the above address. Proposals must be sealed, in writing, and in compliance with the specifications detailed in the RFP. Questions can be directed to the County Auditor's Office, 217-753-6630 or eric.black@sangamonil.gov.

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
INB, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, a national banking association,
Plaintiff,
v.
RICHARD LUFT, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
No.: 2026-FC-156
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
Notice is given to defendants, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, of the following described real estate, that the above entitled mortgage foreclosure action is now pending, and the day on or after which a default may be entered against said defendants is SEPTEMBER 28, 2026. The Plaintiff has certified that the above entitled mortgage foreclosure action was filed on July 28, 2026, and is now pending.
(i) The names of all plaintiffs and the case number are identified above.
(ii) The court in which said action was brought is identified above.
(iii) The name of the title holder of record is: Richard Luft.
(iv) A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:
Lot 29 in Charles S. Wanless' South First Street Subdivision, as platted by Plat recorded April 14, 1947 as Document Number 221411, Plat Book 14, Page 27 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in Sangamon County, Illinois.
All except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any.
Situating in Sangamon County, Illinois.
Tax ID Number: 22-04.0-408-001
(v) A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows:
2200 South Spring Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704
(vi) An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:
(A) Nature of instrument: Mortgage.
(B) Date of mortgage: March 14, 2025.
(C) Name of mortgagor: Richard Luft.
(D) Name of mortgagee: INB, National Association.
(E) Date and place of recording: March 18, 2025 in the Recorder's Office of Sangamon County, Sangamon County, Illinois.
(F) Identification of recording: Document No. 2025R04174.
INB, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, a national banking association, Plaintiff
Timothy J. Rigby (ARDC #6225930)
Alexander S. Prillaman (ARDC #6339535)
Hart, Southworth & Witsman
Suite 501, One North Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-0055
trigby@hswnet.com
aprilaman@hswnet.com
8051-968653

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING,
PLAINTIFF
VS.
MICHAEL J. DIAZ AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR STEPHEN A WOODWARD, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF STEPHEN A WOODWARD, CHRISTINA M WOODWARD, UNKNOWN HEIRS & LEGATEES OF SUSAN L. WOODWARD A/K/A SUSAN LYNN WOODWARD, UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS.

DEFENDANTS
Case No.: 2026FC000108
Property Address:
15 Goodwin Ct
Springfield, IL 62704
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to: Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Stephen A Woodward, Unknown Heirs & Legatees of Susan L. Woodward A/K/A Susan Lynn Woodward and Unknown Owners, and Non Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-entitled action, that a Complaint for Foreclosure and Other Relief has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, by said Plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of certain mortgages conveying the premises legally described as follows: LOT 15 OF GOODWIN COURT, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 27, 28 AND PART OF LOT 29 PIERIK PLACE. EXCEPT ALL COAL, MINERALS AND MINING RIGHTS HERETOFORE CONVEYED OR RESERVED OF RECORD.
P.L.N.: 22-08.0-478-037
COMMON ADDRESS: 15 Goodwin Ct, Springfield, IL 62704
And which mortgages were made by Stephen A Woodward, Susan L Woodward a/k/a Susan Lynn Woodward, as Mortgagor(s); and given to ("MERS") Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as Nominee for AFS Financial, Inc. as Mortgagee; to wit: that certain "Mortgage" dated (a) 04/07/2008, and recorded as Document No.2008R16406, that Summons was duly issued out of said court against you as provided by law, and that the said Complaint is now pending for foreclosure of said mortgages and for other relief.
Now, therefore, unless you Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Stephen A Woodward, Unknown Heirs & Legatees of Susan L. Woodward A/K/A Susan Lynn Woodward and Unknown Owners, and Non Record Claimants, file your Appearance and Answer to the Complaint in said action in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Chancery Division, on or before SEPTEMBER 28, 2026, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer for relief in said Complaint.
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Kluever Law Group, LLC
200 N. LaSalle St. Suite 1880
Chicago, IL 60601
312-236-0077
courtesults@klueverlawgroup.com
Atty. No. 6275308
Firm Case#: SMS001874-26FC1
8051-968485

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF Sangamon - Springfield, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff
vs.
BEAUFORD T. MOORE; ROSE A. MOORE; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; CAPITAL ONE, N.A.; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendant
26 FC 4
CALENDAR
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Inter-county Judicial Sales Corporation will on September 30, 2026, at the hour 9:00 a.m., Harvatin & Goebel, P.C., 1100 South Fifth Street, Springfield, IL 62703, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

THE NORTH 135 FEET OF THE EAST 40 FEET OF THE WEST 1/2 OF LOT 5 IN BLOCK 3 IN MRS. ULRICH'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, 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.
P.L.N. 14-33.0-405-008.
Commonly known as 548 W. CANEDY ST., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704.
The real estate is: single family residence.
If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms:
At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgement of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004, (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109.
25-378959
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3292800

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF
Elijah M. Gray, Minor Child
No. 2026-GR-000167
To: Octavis A. Gray and All Persons Having A Right To Notice:
Please be notified that Sari B. Fiscus has filed a Petition for the Guardianship of the Estate and Person of Elijah M. Gray, a minor child.
You are required to answer said Petition before Oct. 3, 2026 or be defaulted by the Court thereafter.
Dated: Sept. 3, 2026

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF Alivia Pettit
No. 2026-GR-147
To: Ryan C. Pettit at address unknown.
Please be notified that Julie McClure and Chase Vannier have filed a Petition for Guardianship of Alivia Pettit, minor child. You are required to answer said Petition By October 5, 2026 or be defaulted by the Court thereafter.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
WILLIAM DANIEL RICHARDS, SR.,
Deceased.
No. 2026PR310
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of William Daniel Richards, Sr., a resident of Springfield,

Sangamon County, Illinois, who died in Quincy, Illinois, on August 7, 2026. Wilma June Heineman, whose post office address is 5260 Golf Drive, Auburn, Illinois 62615, was appointed executor of his estate on August 20, 2026. The attorneys for the executor are Hart, Southworth & Witsman, One North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 501, Springfield, Illinois 62701.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62702, or with the executor, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, of this notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 20th day of August, 2026.
Timothy J. Rigby (ARDC # 6225930)
Alexander S. Prillaman (ARDC # 6339535)
Hart, Southworth & Witsman
Suite 501, One North Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-0055
trigby@hswnet.com
aprilaman@hswnet.com
8051-968502

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
DANA KIM LOGSDON,
Deceased.
No. 2026PR15
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Dana Kim Logsdon, a resident of Beardstown, Cass County, Illinois, who died in Beardstown, Illinois, on June 18, 2026. Tari Gail Logsdon, whose post office address is 400 W. Main Street, Beardstown, Illinois 62618, Kimberly Gail Logsdon, whose post office address is 406 W. Main Street, Beardstown, Illinois 62618, and Ryan Dale Logsdon, whose post office address is 710 W. 2nd Street, Beardstown, Illinois 62618, were appointed independent co-executors of his estate on August 18, 2026. The attorneys for the independent co-executors are Hart, Southworth & Witsman, One North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 501, Springfield, Illinois 62701.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62702, or with the independent co-executors, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, of this notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the independent co-executors and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 19th day of August, 2026.
Timothy J. Rigby (ARDC #6225930)
Alexander S. Prillaman (ARDC #6339535)
Hart, Southworth & Witsman
One North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 501
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-0055
trigby@hswnet.com
aprilaman@hswnet.com
8051-968481

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
BANK OF SPRINGFIELD, an Illinois banking corporation,

Plaintiff,
v.
HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF
MICHAEL CAVE, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
IN CHANCERY
Case 2025-FC-159
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the court in the above entitled cause the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.
(A) The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is:
Suzanna Scherf
BANK OF SPRINGFIELD
3400 Wabash Avenue
Springfield, IL 62711
Telephone: (217) 529-5555
(B) The common address and other common descriptions, if any, of the real estate is:
865 S. Oaklane Rd., Springfield IL 62712
(C) The legal description of the real estate is as follows:
The East Three Hundred Ninety-Six feet (396') of the South two Hundred Forty Feet (240') of the following described tract:
That part of the Southeast Quarter of Section Thirty-Two (32) bounded as follows: Beginning at a point in the North line of said Quarter Section Eight (8) Chains West of the Northeast corner thereof, and running thence West Twelve Hundred Eighty-Four feet (1284'), thence South Two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-eight and One-Half feet (2198 1/2'), thence East Eighteen Hundred Twelve Feet (1812') to the East line of said Quarter Section, thence North Sixteen Hundred Seventy and One-Half feet (1670 ½'), thence West Five Hundred Twenty-eight feet (528'), thence North Five Hundred Twenty-eight feet (528') to the place of beginning, all being in Township Sixteen (16) North, Range Four (4) West of the Third Principal Meridian. Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois
PIN#: 15-32.0-400-008
(D) Description of the improvement on the real estate is as follows:
Residential real property (vacant)
(E) The real estate will not be open for inspection prior to sale.
(F) The time and place of the sale is: 9:00 AM on September 15, 2026, at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, 1 Copley Plaza, Springfield, IL 62703.
(G) The terms of the sale are cash or certified funds at time of sale.
(H) The subject property is sold subject to all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, all general real estate taxes which have not yet become due and payable, with special assessments, if any, and easements and restrictions of record, and existing leases, if any, applicable zoning laws; property is sold "AS IS, WHERE IS, and with no warranties", and without any representation as to quality or quantity of the title and without recourse to Plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court.
BANK OF SPRINGFIELD, an Illinois banking corporation, Plaintiff
By: /s/ Brian D. Jones
One of Its Attorneys
SORLING NORTHRUP
Brian D. Jones, of Counsel – ARDC
#6286510
1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200
P. O. Box 5131

Springfield, IL 62705
Telephone: 217-544-1144
Fax: 217-522-3173
E-Mail: bdjones@sorlinglaw.com

To enforce Self Storage Lien in default of payment of rent a private auction will be held on Saturday September 19, 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 Friday September 11, 2026.
No personal checks will be accepted for storage units that are in lien.
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STORAGE UNIT AUCTION
Thomas Yarrington Unit#1-6
Maniza Holt Unit#4-8
Zaire Hughes Unit#7-3
Toni Hunt Unit#8-2
Leonard Swope Unit#10-8
Bonnie Sutton Unit#1-28
Kelly & Bertha Richard Unit#1-35
Charles Jones Unit#1-41
Ricky Spencer Unit#3-34
Debra Phelps Unit#4-26
Tramelle Furdge Unit#5-14
Vernice Bailey Unit#5-22
Lawrence Cleeton Unit#6-14
Chuck Harshaw Unit#6-19
Terry Broida Unit#9-37
Susan Grant Unit#10-12
Linda Byrd Unit#10-34
Lakaisa Tucker Unit#10-41
Brady Thyhurst Unit#10-44
Thomas Yarrington Unit#11-17
Linda Byrd Unit#11-43
Todd Pulliam Unit#H-9

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF
Kemani Leon Vasey, Minor Child
No. 2026-GR-000145
To: Desl Woods Jr. and All Persons Having A Right To Notice:
Please be notified that Melissa Hendricker has filed a Petition for the Guardianship of the Estate and Person of Kemani Leon Vasey a minor child.
You are required to answer said Petition before Sept. 13, 2026 or be defaulted by the Court thereafter.
Dated: Aug. 13, 2026

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LOGAN COUNTY
Leannette Black/Kamilah Webb (POA),
Petitioner
vs.
Adrienne Dodge, Respondent
Case No: 2026 OP 51
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Adrienne Dodge, this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for an Order of Protection. Unless you file your Answer or otherwise file your Appearance in this cause in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court in the Logan County Courthouse, 601 Broadway St., Lincoln, Illinois, on or before Sept. 4, 2026 a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.
Kelly Elias
Clerk of the Court
Date: Aug. 27, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF: STEVEN E. WERMCRANTZ, Deceased No. 2026PR308 DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of STEVEN E. WERMCRANTZ, Deceased. Letters Testamentary were issued on August 25, 2026 to ELIZABETH WERMCRANTZ, as Executor, whose attorney is Katherine E. Perry, Edwards Group LLC, 3223 S. Meadowbrook Road, Suite A, Springfield, IL 62711. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before March 8, 2027 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 August 26, 2026. EDWARDS GROUP LLC David O. Edwards — 6229192 Katherine E. Perry - 6309676 3223 S. Meadowbrook Road, Suite A Springfield, Illinois 62711 (217) 726-9200 david@edwardsgroupllc.com katie@edwardsgroupllc.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the Matter of the Estate of CARRIE J. PILLISCHAFSKE, Deceased. IN PROBATE No. 2026-PR-322 DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Carrie J. Pillischafske, deceased. Letters of Office were issued on August 27, 2026, to Jill Thornton, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Brandon R. Clark, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 17th day of March, 2027, or three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 27th day of August, 2026. BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP Brandon R. Clark Registration No. 6329553 205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000 P.O. Box 2459 Springfield, IL 62705-2459 (217) 544-8491 bclark@bhslaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF SANGAMON, STATE OF ILLINOIS PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff(s), vs. DONALD ANDERSON A/K/A DONALD W. ANDERSON, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF ILLINOIS, CHRISTINA MARIE ANDERSON, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,

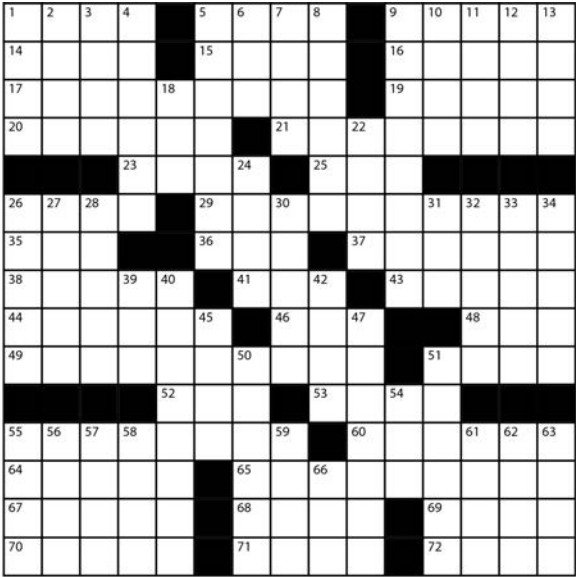
Defendant(s). Case No. 26 FC 21 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment heretofore entered by the said Court in the above entitled cause, the Sheriff of Sangamon County, Illinois, will on October 13, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 AM, at the COUNTY BOARD CHAMBER, 2ND FLOOR, SANGAMON COUNTY COMPLEX, 200 S. 9TH STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described premises and real estate in the said Judgment mentioned, situated in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment, to wit: LOTS 88, 89 AND 90 IN SPAULDING'S SECOND ILLINOIS WATCH FACTORY ADDITION EXCEPT THE SOUTH 67 FEET THEREOF. EXCEPT ALL COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING SAID LANDS, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE SAME. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Common Address: 2002 E. KEYS AVE., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702 P.I.N. 14-23.0-377-001 Contact the Law Office of IRA T. NEVEL, LLC, 175 North Franklin, Suite 201, Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 357-1125, for further information. The terms of the sale are: Ten percent (10%) due by cash or certified funds at the time of the sale and balance is due within 24 hours of the sale. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court. The property is improved by a Single Family Residence, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenants thereunto belonging and will not be available for inspection prior to sale. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff Ira T. Nevel - ARDC #6185808 Timothy R. Yeuill - ARDC #6192172 Greg Elsnic - ARDC #6242847 Aaron Nevel - ARDC #6322724 175 North Franklin St. Suite 201 Chicago, Illinois 60606 (312) 357-1125 Pleadings@nevellaw.com SL # 26-00166 8051-968855

Circle of words

Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 961

Across

1. "The King and I" woman
5. Wife of Zeus
9. Flushed
14. Takes a turn
15. Narc tail?
16. Classical mall
17. How some police patrol the streets
19. Pelvis part
20. Like llamas
21. Wages
23. Telegram "period"
25. No gentleman
26. Works on a kakuro puzzle
29. Surrounding circumstances
35. Island garland
36. Hot spot
37. Sudden raid
38. Plays "Simon Says"
41. Band booster
43. Cut back
44. Atsuta Shrine city
46. Dads
48. Fish stick?
49. Foundation
51. Wayside stops
52. Mai ____
53. Rebel (against)
55. Lazy quality
60. Second of a pair
64. Alpine tool
65. Productive one
67. Stock unit
68. Flu symptom
69. It smells
70. Certain drags
71. Listen and obey



72. Kept tabs on

Down

1. Turkish title
2. Twelve, maybe
3. Unlikely class president
4. Put a value on
5. Associates
6. Itinerary abbr.
7. Sushi ingredient
8. Antiaircraft fire
9. Bit of drizzle
10. ____ fruit
11. "Whatcha ____?"
12. Dope
13. Thanksgiving dish

18. "Dig in!"

22. Castaway's clothing
24. Perry Como's "____ Loves Mambo"
26. Beside
27. Except
28. San ____ Calif.
30. Grassy plain
31. Hockey's Bobby
32. 180, so to speak
33. Curtain fabric
34. Accomplishments
39. "____ rang?"
40. Sentence structures
42. Actor's goal
45. Month before Nisan
47. Lay low

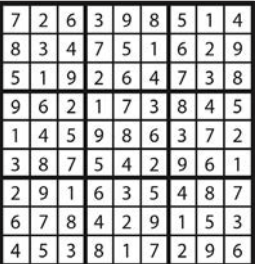
50. Native American

- house
51. Chant
54. "Go!"
55. "Schindler's ____"
56. Bounce back, in a way
57. Heavy, durable furniture wood
58. Aesop's also-ran
59. Cartoon bear
61. "Iliad" city
62. "____ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
63. Bassoon, e.g.
66. Bleed

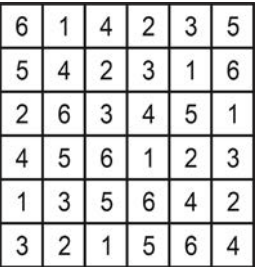
Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #960



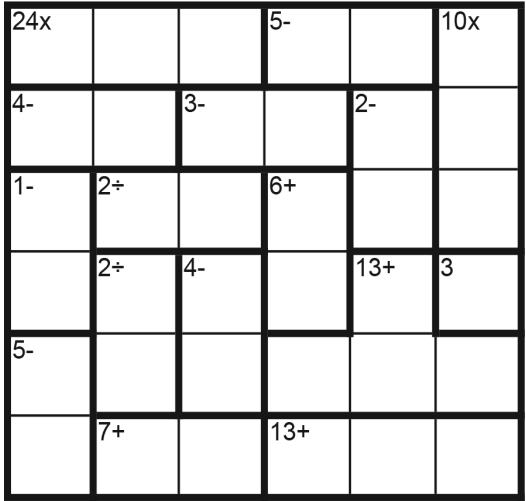
Sudoku answers from #960



JoshJosh answers from #960

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 961

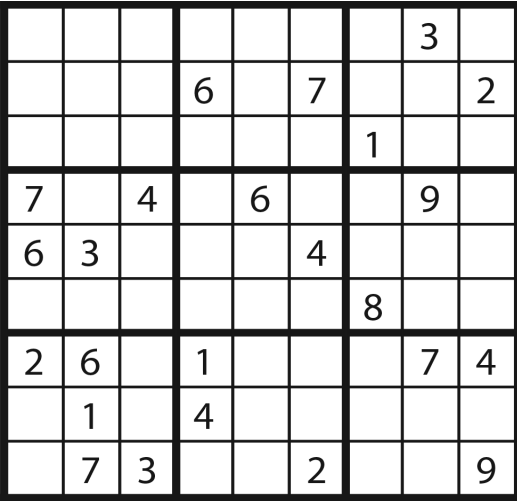
Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.



Difficulty hard

Sudoku No. 961

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



Difficulty medium

SPRINGFIELD
URBAN LEAGUE

**100TH
ANNIVERSARY**

CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2026

#KEEPIT100
6PM-12AM

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

BABYFACE

JOINING US LIVE @THE BOS CENTER FOR THE 100TH CELEBRATION

Be part of history as we celebrate the Springfield Urban League's first 100 years of impact and look ahead to a new century of opportunity. For generations, we've helped create a powerful soundtrack of progress by empowering communities and changing lives. Now, it's time to begin the next verse! Secure your tickets to the Springfield Urban League Centennial Celebration and experience music legend Babyface live at the BOS Center. The 13-time GRAMMY® Award-winning singer, songwriter, and producer is one of the most influential creative forces in music history. Prepare yourself as Babyface will join "The Movement" for an unforgettable evening honoring a century of achievement while inspiring the next 100 years of impact. Join us as we celebrate our legacy, embrace our future, and write the next chapter together.

9.12.26

BANK OF SPRINGFIELD CENTER
1 CONVENTION CENTER PLAZA, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

