



17 THEATER | *Seussical Jr.*



18 MUSIC | Dennis Glavin



15 FOOD | Homemade caramel

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Changing demographics in Beardstown

Longtime Latino organization disbands as community's ethnic makeup shifts

CULTURE | Maria Gardner Lara

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City awards next round of cannabis grants

Eight businesses receive \$100K each

CANNABIS GRANTS | Dean Olsen

Arriel Williams plans to open 7's Groceries on Nov. 1 at the location formerly occupied by Save-A-Lot on Clear Lake Avenue, and he says a \$100,000 business grant from the city of Springfield will be "extremely important" to his future success.

"It's helping me out a lot," Williams, 50, a Springfield resident and native, said after the Springfield City Council voted Oct. 6 to approve the grant, along with seven others, all funded through local sales-tax dollars generated by the legal sale of adult-use cannabis.

Williams said he will use the \$100,000 grant to buy inventory for sale in the store. The money represents about 40% of startup costs for his business, he said.

Williams, who owned rental properties in the past and said he recently sold a 60-unit residential complex he owned in Chatham, plans to hire 10 to 15 workers by the time he opens 7's Groceries, a full-service grocery store, at 2520 E. Clear Lake. He said he already has hired the first two employees, who will be meat-cutters.

Williams said he named the supermarket after his daughter, Sevyn, who just turned 7 years old. He said he grew up in the neighborhood, visited the store with relatives as a child when it was known as Bud's, and dreamed of buying it someday when he worked in Springfield's hotel industry and for Jewel-Osco and County Market.

He said he purchased the 14,000-square-foot building, which includes 10,000 square feet of retail grocery space and a parking lot, from Quincy-based Niemann Foods, for about \$400,000.

Niemann previously operated the store under its Save-A-Lot brand and closed the store in December.

7's Groceries will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, Williams said, adding that neighborhood residents have told him they are looking forward to having a supermarket close by again.

The eight grants represented the fourth round of disbursements in the city's Cannabis Business Grant program since the program began in 2022. The city's share of sales taxes on cannabis sales began to be collected in January 2020.

The other seven \$100,000 grants were awarded to: SafeStep Transportation, 1100 South Grand Ave. E.; Manny D's, 1801 E. Cook St.; Rose Cole LLC, doing business as Elderberry & Plumb Bookstore, 926 S. Seventh St.; Nehemiah Expansion, 2208 E. Kansas



Arriel Williams stands at the entrance to 7's Groceries, a full-service grocery store that the Springfield native plans to open on Nov. 1 at 2520 E. Clear Lake Ave. on the city's east side. The building previously was operated by Quincy-based Neumann Foods as a Save-A-Lot supermarket until the store closed in December 2025. PHOTO BY DEAN OLSEN.

St.; AJz Corner 1st LLC, 1100 S. 11th St.; Daugherty Undercoat Shop, 1828 S. Wirt Ave.; and All In One Management and Services Inc., 801 South Grand Ave. E.

Final grant amounts and disbursements depend on agreements being worked out between the recipients and the city, according to Amy Rasing, director of the city's Office of Planning and Economic Development.

Springfield is one of the few municipalities in the state that uses its cannabis tax revenue to promote minority-owned businesses. The city receives about \$1.5 million in local sales taxes from Springfield cannabis dispensaries each year, according to Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory.

The City Council decided to devote half of the city's 3% sales-tax revenue from cannabis

sales to help pay off the city's fire and police pension-related debts. The council decided that the other half would be used for economic development in areas of the city adversely affected by the failed "war on drugs."

Homeowners requesting home-improvement grants, as well as minority-owned businesses interested in the grants, must be in the Cannabis Occupation Area designated by the City Council.

That area originally was bounded by Carpenter Street on the north, Ash Street on the south, Dirksen Parkway on the east and the 10th Street rail corridor on the west. Business owners must live in Springfield.

The council in February voted to double the size of the Cannabis Occupation Area.

Previously confined to the city's east side, the area now extends west to Fourth Street, and part of the northern border extends to North Grand Avenue rather than stopping at Carpenter Street. Also new to the area are parts of the Enos Park and Pillsbury Mills neighborhoods.

Gregory, who spearheaded creation of the cannabis grants program, said about 45 minority-owned businesses have benefited from the program so far, and \$2.3 million has been allocated to businesses and homeowners.

"It is doing what we want it to do," he said of the program. "It is working." □

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

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NEWS



Left to right: Kat Beeler, Janette Stewart, Abigail Bussey, Amber Maler, Eden Lyons, and Love Billops are part of the 10-person cast. PHOTO COURTESY DEBORAH BROTHERS

The Turnaway Play looks at a groundbreaking study

ABORTION | Mary Young

What happens when someone seeks an abortion and is turned away, compared to someone who has access? *The Turnaway Play* addresses this question through the experiences of women who participated in the Turnaway Study, an investigation that recruited roughly 1,000 women across 30 facilities in the U.S. between 2008 and 2010. Written by Lesley Lisa Greene, the approximately 70-minute play combines research, real stories, drama, humor and audience participation.

Led by Dr. Diana Greene Foster, the Turnaway Study followed women who sought abortions across the country and compared the experiences of women who received abortions with those who were denied them. The study took into account their health, finances, relationships and family lives over a period of time. Her research revealed that being denied a wanted abortion was associated with worse financial, health and family outcomes.

Foster's sister, playwright Lesley Lisa Greene, drew on the words and experiences of study participants and researchers to create *The Turnaway Play*. The characters give audiences a way to encounter the people behind the findings and talk about a subject that is all too often avoided.

For co-directors Dr. Mark Buckholz and Deborah Brothers, both experienced directors with either central Illinois venues or Lincoln Land Community College, respectively, a story based on historical facts, real people and lesser-told stories strikes a chord.

For Brothers, the melding of art and social activism has always held meaning in her life.

"I love theater that is based upon history or interviews, and especially theater that lets us

hear stories not typically represented," she said, noting that *The Turnaway Play* reminds her of her many years staging Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* at LLCC.

"Each show was created from real data-statistics, interviews and the legal conditions impacting women's daily lives. While players certainly bring a range of emotions and literary interpretation to the script, they never forget – and the audience should never forget – that this show is based on facts and reality, i.e., the lives of real people," Brothers said.

Buckholz and his wife met the play's producer, Pamela Salela, and through their casual conversations, discovered a like-mindedness which inspired them to help bring the story to a local audience.

"Our production is part of a national effort to stage the play and get its message out to a broad public in numerous communities," he said.

He also felt that with the current political and social climate, it was important to tell this story.

"Various interests are advocating policies that appear to undo women's and civil rights. Facts and arguments supporting personal freedom – and particularly women's health and bodily autonomy – need to better circulate," he said. "Solid data helps citizens arrive at intelligent beliefs about complex issues like abortion."

The production will feature the following participants: As the researchers, Tina Dye as Dr. Foster, Elisa Orelana as Luisa, Tomisin Fijabi as Serena, and Phoebe Meyer as Rhonda. Portraying the women of the study are Kat Beeler as Brenda, Love Billops as Sofia, Abigail

Bussey as Kiara, Eden Lyons as Martina, Amber Maier as Amy and Janette Stewart as Angela.

The Springfield Area Arts Council is a co-producer of the production and executive director Bella Szabo said the SAAC appreciates the opportunity to be a part of a project that will make audiences think, reflect and share their thoughts.

"We are excited and proud to collaborate with an independent theater group to bring this nationally acclaimed play to Springfield," Szabo said. "Strong arts communities are built through partnerships that bring together organizations, artists and community members with different skills, experiences and perspectives. These collaborations expand what is possible and create opportunities for meaningful work to take place in our community."

From *The Turnaway Play* website: "Through humor, honesty and candid stories from the study participants, this play aims to reduce stigma, normalize, humanize and open a dialogue that affects over half of the population. We hope this play helps activate communities to vote to expand and protect reproductive rights. Science tells a tale, and it's time to listen."

The staged readings will be performed at 7 p.m. on Oct. 9-11 at First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., Springfield. A panel discussion will follow the Saturday, Oct. 10, reading. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at givebutter.com/turnaway.

**Audience advisory: the play contains some language and discusses mature, complex subject matter. A psychologist will be on site during performances.* □

World Affairs Council of Central Illinois hosting diplomacy event

Oct. 23 reception, presentation and panel discussion at the Old State Capitol

CIVICS | Cinda Ackerman Klickna

The World Affairs Council of Central Illinois is one of 10 councils from across the U.S. to be chosen to host *Portraits of American Diplomacy*, which will include a reception, exhibit and panel discussion at the Old State Capitol on Oct. 23.

“Our chapter continues to grow, and our monthly programs are always sold out,” said Joyce Nardulli, president of WACCI. “This exhibit is a special event that we know will be of interest to people in Springfield. And, hosting it at the Old State Capitol where Lincoln once served, is the ideal location to highlight diplomacy; certainly, Lincoln engaged in diplomatic work.”

She said diplomats serve important roles; they have saved American citizens in peril, opened markets for products from our farms and factories, and built alliances to ensure our collective security and advance our ideals.

An exhibit of 21 large panels highlights the role of diplomacy from 1776 during the American Revolution to today. The panels, created in collaboration with History Associates Inc., start with Benjamin Franklin securing the French military assistance that ensured our victory over the British and then show how diplomats helped expand the nation’s borders west and spread our influence around the globe. Panels also highlight how diplomats helped America navigate two world wars and build an international system that contributed to our victory in the Cold War. The final panels explain the role of diplomats confronting 21st century challenges to American security and prosperity.

This display, which is a mobile version of permanent exhibits at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Arlington, Virginia, and the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., has already appeared at more than 20 locations across the country, ranging from high schools and universities to libraries and conferences.

The Oct. 23 event at the Old State Capitol will include a reception with



Tom Selinger from the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training will give a presentation at an Oct. 23 event at the Old State Capitol, followed by a panel discussion. PHOTO COURTESY WACCI

hors d’oeuvres from 5-6 p.m. during which time participants can explore the exhibit, followed by a presentation by Tom Selinger from the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training and a panel discussion.

The event is made possible through a grant from the World Affairs Councils of America and supported by the Una Cox Chapman Foundation and the ADST.

Selinger served 27 years in the U.S. Foreign Service with overseas tours in Kyrgyzstan, Denmark, Croatia, Albania, Trinidad and Tobago and portfolios ranging from security cooperation to American citizen services.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Selinger served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Army, including combat service with the 101st Airborne Division during Operation Desert Storm, and

worked as a political specialist for the Canadian government at its Consulate in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His interest in international affairs began during his time as a Rotary International Exchange Student in Belgium. Selinger is married to fellow diplomat Kirsten Selinger.

In retirement, Selinger leads outreach efforts at ADST.

“For the past 40 years, ADST has conducted interviews with former diplomats. I have an interesting role in selecting compelling stories from these interviews to help explain how diplomats have helped in so many situations,” he said.

“For the event in Springfield, I will be sharing information about key Illinois diplomats. One is Edmund Hull, who grew up in Springfield and assisted hostages taken during the hijacking of the Achille Lauro in 1985” (interviews are available at ADST.org and on the Library of Congress website).

Following Selinger’s presentation, a panel including Gordon Duguid, a former foreign service officer with NATO, and Kathy Johnson of Springfield, a former diplomat who served on four continents, will share their own experiences and respond to questions from moderator Jeff Trimble, former journalist for *U.S. News and World Report*.

“Diplomats, first and foremost, advance U.S. national interests and U.S. national security,” Johnson said. “We are referred to as our country’s first line of defense. Diplomacy is about building enduring relationships, deepening understanding of how other governments operate, gaining insight into the perspectives of other leaders and figuring out where collaboration is possible and when confrontation is necessary.

“If we aren’t on the ground in many countries, we won’t have the relationships to advance U.S. interests. Sometimes, it might take decades of quiet diplomacy to work through complicated issues.” □

Cinda Ackerman Klickna serves on the WACCI board of directors.



World Affairs Council of Central Illinois

WACCI is a civic organization dedicated to educating the public about U.S. foreign policy, global economic and environmental issues, and international politics through in-depth presentations and discussions. The group hosts monthly dinners and lectures, many with speakers who have served as foreign diplomats and ambassadors. Previous topics have included Panama, the fall of the Soviet Union, the role of coffee production in the world and Saudi Arabia, as examples. Two upcoming programs will focus on “Misinformation and Disinformation” (Nov. 19) and Ukraine (Dec. 1). Programs are held at Illini Country Club with a dinner (for a fee), followed by a lecture (open to all for free). The Council also hosts an annual Great Decisions forum. Information is available at mywacci.org.

WACCI is part of the World Affairs Councils of America, a network of 90 councils in 43 states dedicated to deepening the understanding of global affairs and America’s role across the world.

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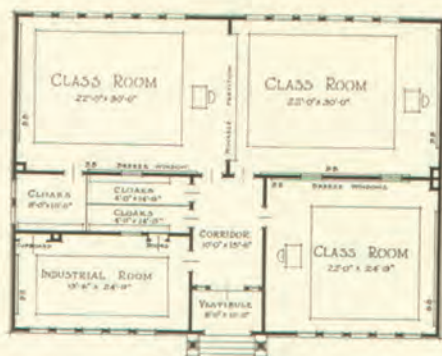
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APL seeking new headquarters

Plans to move into mobile buildings or temporary location following June tornado

ANIMAL WELFARE | Dean Olsen

Springfield's Animal Protective League hopes to erect temporary buildings at the site of its headquarters near the Illinois State Fairgrounds or move into a temporary location in the next three to six months after a June 10 tornado caused an estimated \$1.2 million in damages.

"We just want everyone to know how grateful we are for all the support that we have gotten so far," Deana Corbin, the APL's executive director, told *Illinois Times*. "And that has meant so much to me, to the staff, and has really allowed us to continue to help people in this community, which is what we're all about."

The APL's two main buildings – one for its offices and cat and dog shelter, and the other for spay and neuter procedures – were destroyed by the EF1 tornado, which moved across the property at 1001 Taintor Road shortly before midnight.

No people were present at the time, but about 155 animals were in cages and free-roaming rooms at the site in unincorporated Sangamon County, Corbin said.

A swift response by the staff and volunteers and luck resulted in all the animals – many of them too scared to make a sound – being removed from the site without any serious injuries amid torrential rain and pitch-black conditions.

The tornado tore off most of the roof of the one- and two-story shelter building and did extensive damage to the spay and neuter clinic building but didn't affect an adjacent storage shed.

Since the incident, the site – home to the APL since 1997 – has been fenced off, and the 70-year-old nonprofit's 42 full- and part-time employees have worked out of other areas at the site, their homes and elsewhere in the community. There have been no layoffs among the staff, which includes two full-time veterinarians and one part-time vet.

Despite the disruptions, animal adoptions have continued. The APL's more than 150 volunteers have continued to help out, and the spay and neuter clinic is operating out of the Sangamon County Animal Control Center temporarily.

Animals are being housed in foster homes and in spare office space controlled by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

But Corbin said the need for a more permanent solution remains.



Deana Corbin, executive director of the Animal Protective League of Springfield and Sangamon County, and Dr. Richard Speck, a part-time APL veterinarian and former president of the organization's board, stand outside the tornado-damaged APL headquarters. PHOTO BY DEAN OLSEN.

Animal shelters operated by APL, Sangamon County and organizations throughout the country have swelled in the years since the COVID-19 pandemic because of a variety of factors.

A reduction in sterilizations resulted in more unplanned dogs and cats, and rising rates of inflation made it more expensive to adopt and keep a pet, according to animal welfare groups. Staff members at APL and the county animal shelter have seen that trend locally.

Corbin, APL's leader since 2009, said she doesn't think the temporary reduction in shelter spaces has resulted in more animals being euthanized at the Animal Control Center. She said she keeps in frequent contact with the staff there on capacity issues at the center, which does euthanize animals.

Jeanne Keenan, the Animal Control Center's director of operations, agreed with Corbin's assessment.

The APL, a \$2.5 million-a-year organization, operated a no-kill, limited-admission shelter and accepted referrals from the county-operated shelter and other animal-welfare agencies within a 90-mile radius. Many of the other organizations transferred cats and dogs to the APL because the animals were sick or at risk of being euthanized because of limited space to care for them.

Some animals remain in APL's care for years, but most are adopted within 30 to 90 days, Corbin said.

Donations to APL support the majority of the organization's work, which includes a free pet food bank and reduced-price

vaccines and sterilizations. Donations haven't dropped off since the tornado, Corbin said.

The nonprofit still faces many challenges, though.

The Taintor Road site was fully insured, but Corbin said administrative hurdles connected with that insurance have delayed progress on tearing down the damaged buildings, which are smelly, a safety hazard and an impediment to any future construction at the site.

Corbin and other APL officials are working with contractors on the question of whether temporary buildings could be moved to, or built at, the site to house animals and other APL functions.

"It takes a whole team to kind of try and figure out because there's not just one quick easy solution, unfortunately," she said.

Insurance will cover any temporary buildings, but Corbin said a multimillion-dollar capital campaign, which the APL was considering to replace outdated facilities before the tornado hit, will be needed for a full rebuild. APL officials haven't announced any specifics of a capital campaign yet.

Corbin characterized the time period since the tornado as chaotic:

"Every day is a different challenge or crisis to solve – whether it's, 'How do we help Animal Control?' to 'When are we going to get these buildings torn down?' and 'Where are we going to move temporarily?'"

Any solution that APL comes up with will help the constantly full Sangamon County Animal Control Center, Keenan said. The county site has about 90 dog kennels, 85 cat kennels and a free-roam cat room for eight or nine cats, she said.

The county's "open-access" shelter doesn't turn away strays, including the box of eight 9-week-old puppies found dumped along the side of Mason Street in Springfield on Oct. 5. That type of scenario plays out almost weekly, Keenan said.

The crowded situation at the county shelter became even more overwhelming after the APL shelter's closure, Keenan said.

"Now it's just us," she said. "Anything is going to help." □

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

OPINION

LETTERS

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

WHY SO NEGATIVE?

Springfield suffers from a self-esteem problem, and this column by James Krohe Jr. definitely adds to it ("Down the gardened path," Oct. 1). We have a huge project that's federally funded coming to Springfield and instead of excitement and valid criticism (I'll take either just to be better informed), we get grumpy sarcasm and skepticism.

The column starts with, "Imagine pedaling happily along a paved path where murals and stand-alone art works distract you from the shabbiness or outright ugliness of Springfield's backsides..." We are entitled to our own opinion on what's beautiful. Personally, I love seeing through the eyes of others what I might find mundane, such as Zach Adams' photography of downtown. But sure, the backside of a building might be dull. Projects like this invite improvements such as murals, beautification and development.

Then, halfway through, we

get the all-too-often comparison to Chicago. The 606 abandoned elevated rail turned linear park and trail is cited for use statistics and positioned against the potential use of our Third Street greenway. Chicago is known for its biking and walking culture. Springfield asks for it, if not begs, and instead of seeing this as an opportunity to take a step toward growing the infrastructure for our wants and desires, we get the suggestion of a future of underutilization and desolation.

We have an opportunity with this project. We can see that and try to shape it, or we can write snarky commentary that doesn't ask for participation for improvement in our lives. I'll take that opportunity then.

Jay Shanle

Executive director, Downtown Springfield Inc.

THANKS FOR MEMORIES

Thanks for the article "North-end memories" by Mike Shepherd in the Oct. 1 issue. Having grown up on the north end, in the Ridgely School neighborhood, I enjoyed very much reminiscing with a fellow north-ender from my era.

I distinctly remember the lighted sign for Stevie's Latin Village



Artist rendering of the elevated view of the proposed Capitol Landing Bridge looking west. Credit: Image courtesy of the rdg design group website

restaurant on Ninth Street. Mike Shepherd and I were at Lanphier High School in the mid-1960s, where Mike was an all-around athlete on the football, baseball and wrestling teams.

Thank you again for the memories!

Dick Rescho
Springfield

THANKS FOR OPPORTUNITY

I appreciated the chance to hear from the candidates for state Senate and sheriff ("Candidates face off at forum," Oct. 1). Thanks to the group that organized this.

Denise Church
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

NEED MORE THAN WORDS

I often hear politicians promise to advocate for those who are struggling, especially low-income families and vulnerable populations. However, one group that continues

to fall through the cracks is the disabled community.

Programs and resources that are meant to provide support are too often inaccessible due to excessive gatekeeping, outdated eligibility criteria and waitlists that can last for years – if individuals are even allowed to get on the list. The very systems designed to help have instead become barriers, leaving many disabled individuals and their families without the services they desperately need.

When families seek help from advocacy organizations or state agencies, they are frequently told, "This is how the state runs the program," as though that excuses the failures of the system. Even when concerns are brought to the governor's office, complaints are often routed back to the same agencies that failed to provide assistance in the first place, leaving families with nowhere to turn.

It is no surprise that many disabled individuals and their caregivers eventually become discouraged and give up trying to access the support they need. No one should have to fight this hard for essential services.

Meaningful change is long overdue. Our disability service system does not simply need minor improvements – it needs comprehensive reform. We need a system that is transparent, accountable, and designed to serve people rather than create obstacles. Disabled individuals deserve timely access to services, fair treatment and a process that supports them instead of forcing them to navigate endless barriers.

I think it's time for the state to change the way disabled people are handled and the change starts with exposure.

Karendia Fullerlove
Danville

Rabbit class

SSU Professor J. Jackson's fantasy class spent a cramped evening recently, and in the dark, underneath several tables pushed together, and draped. The students crawled to the warren by means of a long tunnel made of over-ended classroom chairs. At the break, bucks and does were allowed to go up to pass hraka. Carrots, lettuce and pellets were provided for a generous silflay. The evening discussion was Adams' Watership Down.

2026 Jacqueline Jackson

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Paid influencers and advertisements

POLITICS | Rich Miller

My associate Isabel Miller and I worked on a story last week about paid influencers in campaigns. We decided to look into it after reading news reports about how the Chicago Teachers Union has been using paid influencers in its battle to control the elected Chicago school board and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson is also using them in his own reelection campaign.

Trouble is, the union and Johnson have not been disclosing that those influencer videos touting candidates are actually paid advertisements.

If you're online at all, you know about these influencers. They're usually young and some have built large followings by providing entertaining and informative content on whatever social media outlets they post on.

For the most part, it's legal conduct. But campaigns not disclosing influencers' official campaign involvement appears to be illegal under current state law, which we will get to in a bit. And since the state statute doesn't specifically mention "influencers," some folks want to make extra special sure that they're covered.

For example, state Rep. Curtis Tarver (D-Chicago) hasn't yet filed a bill, nor has he apparently found a vehicle bill for the upcoming fall veto session. As mentioned above, a new law might not even be strictly necessary and, whatever the case, the legislature has not sent a single campaign reform package to the governor's desk in years (a topic for another day). But Tarver said he plans to introduce legislation requiring social media influencers to disclose when they're being paid to push political messages.

During an interview with WGN political editor Tahman Bradley late last month, Tarver said the disclosure about who or what is paying for the content could appear on screen or be spoken, and that both the campaign and the influencer should be held responsible if that disclaimer is missing.

Tarver said proposed language is with the Illinois Legislative Reference Bureau and that he hopes to move it during the fall veto session. Tarver did not respond to our questions about the proposal.

The Illinois Election Code already requires a political committee paying for communications directed at voters and mentioning a candidate to ensure its name "is identified clearly within the communication as the payor."

State statute doesn't currently mention influencers, but a political committee that pays someone to publish an online post

is still responsible for ensuring the post identifies the committee as the payor, said Illinois State Board of Elections spokesperson Matt Dietrich.

"The onus is on the committee to include attribution on the video, or social media post, etc., of 'Paid for by,'" Dietrich said. "Only the committee, not the influencer, is obligated to follow the rules of the Campaign Finance Act."

That's the crucial gap that Tarver wants to close.

"The campaign knows they're paying the influencer for the purpose of influencing individuals, and the influencer knows they're being paid to do so," Tarver said during the WGN segment. "The campaign may disclose on a quarterly basis, or something along those lines, or weekly whereas the influencer is in real time. So both of them should be obligated to do so."

Currently, those payments must also be disclosed on the committee's quarterly campaign finance report. The Election Code requires committees to list the "full name and mailing address" of anyone paid more

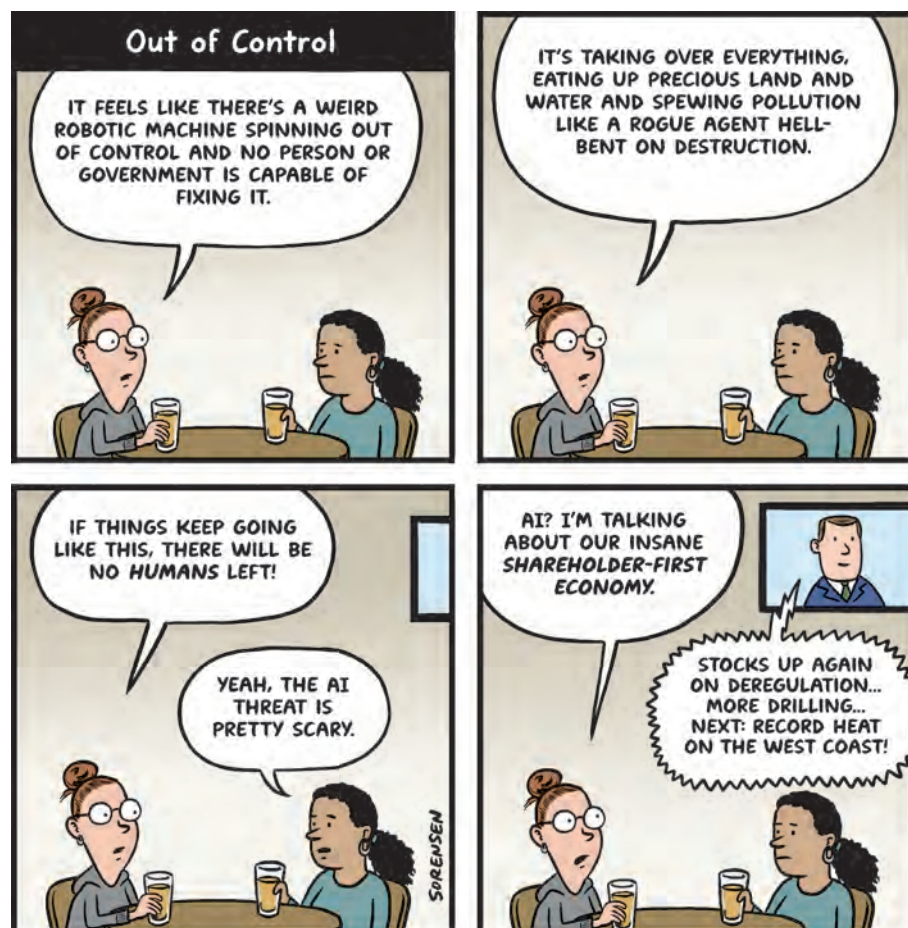
than \$150 in aggregate during the reporting period, along with the amount, date and purpose of the expenditure.

If a campaign uses a consultant to recruit and pay influencers, the report can't always stop at the consultant. Once payments to the consultant reach \$3,000 during the quarterly reporting period, existing state statute requires the committee to disclose how much went to each influencer, why they were paid and who benefited if the consultant was "only a conduit for payment to another."

California and Texas already have requirements aimed specifically at paid political influencers.

California requires influencers to disclose when a political committee pays for a post. A new law signed this month will make the influencer and the committee jointly liable for civil or administrative penalties if the disclosure is missing. Texas requires social media users paid to post or repost political advertising to identify who paid for it. □

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



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SPRINGFIELD

Changing demographics in Beardstown

Longtime Latino organization disbands as community's ethnic makeup shifts

CULTURE | Maria Gardner Lara

Young people bearing the flags of countries in Latin America and Africa, along with girls dressed in traditional folkloric skirts, walked under the banner of a Latino civic organization in the recent Beardstown Fall Fun Festival parade, although it may be the last time the longstanding group participates.

Claudia Zabala, an ESL middle school teacher, helped lead Amigos Unidos Committee's (Friends United) entry in the parade of about 100 people. For 28 years, the group has walked in the parade and organized the annual Fiesta Patrias festival. The festival, held in Art Zeek Park in the Cass County town, typically takes place in mid-September to coincide with Mexican Independence Day.

Originally from Sinaloa, Mexico, Zabala said she's very loyal to her roots.

"Wherever I go, I take with me my culture, my music and my traditional dances," she said.

Over the years, she's collected the items the young people wear for the festivities.

"We are who gives color to the parade," she said.

Zabala stood out in her elaborate makeup as a "catrina," a skeletal figure associated with the Day of the Dead, a Mexican holiday. Gems adorned her face, and she carried a crown of bright, colorful flowers on her head that matched her long, fuchsia skirt.

Several groups walked under the committee's banner, including one from the local Catholic church. Amigos Unidos also invited two new teams to join – families from the Dominican Republic, and another representing the Congolese community.

Some students carried a banner that read "Celebrate Diversity."

Zabala said participating in the event is about visibility, "that the people of Beardstown notice we are here."

"We have a lot to contribute, a lot to teach them, just as we learn a lot from them," Zabala said.

Zabala said it's a lot of work organizing their place in the fair and the festival, and that's why this will be the last year.

"Just five people, we can't do it all," she said of the current group of volunteers.

The committee's president, Marisela Chavez, is a parent educator for the Beardstown School District and has been involved since Amigos Unidos' inception 28 years ago.

Chavez remembers arriving in Beardstown when there were only 10 Mexican families in town. Latinos now make up 40% of the town's



Members of Amigos Unidos Committee (left to right) Claudia Zabala, Jesús Gómez, president Marisela Chávez, Lidia Márquez and Armando Trujillo pose with girls in folkloric dresses at the start of their entry in the Beardstown Fall Fun Festival parade on Sept. 26.

population, according to a 2024 U.S. Census estimate, which is likely an undercount. The community grew rapidly during the 1990s, drawn to jobs at the meatpacking plant. In addition to Mexicans, the 40% figure includes those from Central America, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Caribbean.

"We wanted to bring the folkloric dances, the musical groups, bring our foods so that everyone would come – all the community to show up and participate," she said.

Regarding the group's retirement, Chavez said, "I think I want to leave space for other people to come along and form a committee, so that they, too, can bring a piece of Mexico to Beardstown."

At this year's Fiesta Patria, Chavez organized a display of pictures of past festivals for participants to take if they recognized themselves or someone they know in them.

Juan, a 27-year resident of Beardstown who declined to provide his last name, looked closely at the photos. He said he's been

attending the festival for a long time. It gives him an opportunity to "spend time together with Mexican people," he said.

"That's the main point... to appreciate the culture, to know who we are and where we are from," he said.

Regarding the announcement this will be the committee's last time hosting the festival, he said, "It's a bit sad that they're not going to do it again, perhaps because of what's happening in the country and the problems facing Hispanic people."

Beardstown United

Prior to the Amigos Unidos Committee, a group called Beardstown United formed in the mid-1990s. Made up of Latinos and white Americans, the group sought to reduce racial tensions between longtime residents and new arrivals working at the slaughterhouse, Zabala said.

She recalled shopping at a grocery store and an older white man yelling racial

profanities behind her "that at that time I didn't understand, but can hear."

A grocery store attendant followed her to her car and apologized.

Zabala said relations between Latinos and white residents improved over time.

"Little by little we went by softening things, until now where there's interracial marriages," she said.

Beardstown United first participated in the Beardstown Fall Fun Festival parade during that time. The group carried a large piñata on a pickup truck and children were dressed in folkloric Mexican clothing.

"It was a matter of representing ourselves in the community as people who want to integrate ourselves, and not as people who want to cause problems," Zabala said.

She remembers that first time participating in the event because she took her children, including her 5-month-old son. They won first prize for best parade entry.

"If you see the newspaper at the time, there

are (pictures of) my kids and the town's oldest residents," she said.

That group disintegrated and several years later Julio Flores, a community liaison at the Beardstown School District, led the formation of a new group called Amigos Unidos, or Friends United.

The Salvadorean native led the group for 20 years until he decided to return to El Salvador, and Chavez took the role of president, she said.

The group's focus has always been on cultural events. Amigos Unidos initiated a celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe, akin to a patron saint for Mexico, until nuns at the local church took charge. It also hosted a Cinco de Mayo event for a couple of years.

Zabala said the group initially hosted an annual Mexican Independence Day festival, back when the majority of immigrants in town were Mexican. The annual event is now known as Fiesta Patrias, which is held in mid-September to coincide with days of festivities for Mexican independence as well as several independence day celebrations for countries in Central America.

Declining participation

At this year's Fiesta Patrias, held on Sept. 13, Chavez read excerpts of "El Grito de Dolores," the famous call-and-response speech by Catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla proclaiming independence from Spain.

Despite warm and pleasant weather during the festival, crowds this year were noticeably smaller compared to previous years.

Zabala attributed the low turnout to changing demographics of the immigrant population in town. She said initially the dominant immigrant groups were from Mexico, but over the years they've arrived from Central America, Venezuela, Haiti and parts of Africa. Several Beardstown residents *Illinois Times* spoke with credited the demographic changes to immigration policies and shifts in recruitment at the town's largest employer, JBS USA, a pork meat packing plant that is the largest of its kind in the state. *Illinois Times* reached out to JBS for comment, but did not receive a response.

With less immigration from Mexico, Zabala said interest in the festival has waned.

"Mexicans who arrive from Mexico bring the drive to host festivals more than those born here — not so much," she said.

She said now it's not uncommon for someone to say, "Well, that's a Mexican celebration, and I'm Dominican. So, why am I going to go?"

Osmelany Bovea and her husband sat on lawn chairs under the shade of a large tree as they watched their children kick a soccer ball around.

Bovea said she attended the festival in part because her mom works at one of the immigrant social service organizations that had



A Dominican group walks in the Beardstown Fall Fun Festival parade under the Amigos Unidos Committee banner.

a table promoting its programs.

She tied the low attendance to fear among the immigrant community of getting caught up in President Donald Trump's mass deportations.

Bovea said just four years ago, the festival "was on fire" with not much room to maneuver in the park because there were so many people.

"Attendance has gone down because of the persecution that exists," she said. "The people carry a lot of fear and don't want to go out. While the situation appears to have cooled off, the people haven't let their guard down," she said. "They go out less and with precautions."

She added, "As Latinos, it affects us. Even if we have papers, we're affected by it."

Immigration-related arrests have skyrocketed across the country since Congress approved \$85 billion for the Department of Homeland Security under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act in July 2025.

Reports say previously the department's annual budget was around \$10 billion. Over the summer, the department received another \$70 billion to fund its operations until 2029.

The funds aligned with Trump's mass deportation goals, which was a key part of his campaign for a second term. While the president claims immigration enforcement targets "criminals," reports find the majority of individuals being arrested have no criminal

record. The Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, an online database, finds "many of those convicted committed only minor offenses, including traffic violations."

The Trump administration steered away from attention-grabbing immigration arrests after ICE agents killed Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis. But even though tactics have changed, the number of deportations has hit record numbers. Cases of federal agents killing immigrants in pursuit of immigration enforcement continue to occur.

In the months leading up to the festival, federal agents killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, 52, a Mexican national and 35-year Houston resident, and Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero, a 25-year-old Colombian national, in Maine. In July, Juan Jairo Coronilla Duran, a Mexican national vacationing in Florida, died as he ran away from agents and was hit by a tractor trailer.

Earlier this month, a video circulated of a man in a northern suburb of Chicago being pinned to the ground as he pleaded with federal agents for his release, yelling that he's a citizen.

In another video, a Venezuelan man and DoorDash driver is shot by ICE agents and arrested while a bullet is lodged in his back.

"Unfortunately, social media helps us to stay informed but also enters us in a cycle of anxiety and depression," Bovea said.

She added, "It really is a difficult situation that we hope in God that it can change."

Several attendees told *Illinois Times* there was a report of ICE's presence last year in Beardstown, but no arrests were confirmed.

Zabala said last year the committee canceled the September festival and didn't participate in the Fall Festival parade out of precaution.

"We didn't want to put someone at risk standing along the parade route looking and waiting for their child in the parade and that an ICE raid happens and takes them away," she said.

This year the fear of federal agents showing up at the festival was still there, "but we decided this will be our last one and we'll just pray that immigration agents don't show up," Zabala said.

Zabala has dealt with "la migra" immigration agents herself, having been deported during President George H.W. Bush's term.

She was living in California at the time with her husband, who worked in the fields picking crops.

"Around the whole town, 'la migra' was present, and I was always hiding and running from them," she said.

When she returned and several years had passed, they moved to Beardstown.

After she received her permanent residency status, Zabala began working in the school

district as a teacher's assistant in 1998.

"Since there were very few Latinos that helped in the classroom, and with the little English that I knew, they gave me work and little by little my English improved," she said.

After eight years, she sought her teaching degree at Western Illinois University.

"I would see the need of the students who needed a bilingual teacher," Zabala said. She would eventually earn master's degrees in bilingual education and linguistics.

Dwindling sponsors, young people

Beardstown is where Zabala raised her three children. She said they are all university graduates, and one is enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and her daughter serves in the Illinois National Guard. But her adult children no longer live in Beardstown, having found work elsewhere.

"There's very few young people that stay in the area," she said.

Zabala said another reason the committee decided to dismantle is due to the challenges associated with raising funds for their activities.

There were fewer girls and young women participating in the competition for queens of the fiesta, which is an important fundraising avenue, she said. The contestant who sold the most tickets was crowned queen.

This year, Ayelen Gabriel won the juvenile title for Fiesta Patrias Queen 2026. Her poofy dress and earrings featured monarch butterflies, which is a symbol for the immigrant rights' movement. She was taking a break from dancing with a juice blend of beets, watermelon and strawberries that she bought from one of the vendors lined up around the park.

Gabriel said she participated in the competition to follow her sister, who held the title years ago.

"I want to represent my culture, and I want to help in all of the ways that I can," she said.

She sold tamales in lieu of tickets. Whether another group will take the place of the committee, Gabriel said, "Well, I hope there is, but I wouldn't be so sure."

Zabala said economic support from businesses has also dwindled. She said a bank patronized by many immigrants only donated \$25. When soliciting donations from a car dealership, "They gave us a hat instead of money," she said.

"Like this, we can't go on," Zabala said.

She chides the small donation from JBS, the multimillion-dollar meatpacking company, as insignificant, like "taking a hair off a cat."

That donation covered the cost of a northern Illinois band, Estilo Versatil, that performed at this year's festival.

Several pairs of people frequently danced on the square. Among the dancers was

Aidelyn Cline, who drove up from Decatur with her son to attend the festival.

Cline said the festival was an opportunity to be together and show unity, not just as Mexicans, but as Latinos.

"In these times with the administration that we have, we are seeing more discrimination, seeing more persecution," she said. "And so, it's important for us to maintain unity and stay informed about our rights, because independent of the situation of every person, we all have human rights," she said.

Among the dancers were several young men wearing traditional masks of a bull from Michoacan, Mexico, that are usually showcased during their Carnival celebration in the spring. The members had family ties to the area, and they called themselves "El Carratero." Kids eagerly broke the two piñatas they brought during the festival.

"It's just a pleasure we have to celebrate our traditions," said the family patriarch, Antonio Zelaya Pérez.

"The committee has a lot of respect from the community, because since I can remember they've been holding these beautiful events," he said.

Zelaya Pérez said he's skeptical the committee will actually retire.

"That's what they say, but they won't retire," he said.

Zabala's role in the committee has been to run its social media and organize the committee's parade entry.

She said she is willing to pass on the responsibility of organizing the festival to another person or group, but is hesitant to give up the parade entry.

"Well, I'm thinking that next year I want to organize it, but I'm not sure if it will be in the same capacity as this year, since I won't have the support of the committee," she said.

Nicole Ramos carried a large cup with shrimp ceviche she purchased among the dozen vendors at the festival. She wore a shirt with the colors of the Honduran flag, white and dark blue.

"We came to celebrate as a family, representing my country," said the Honduran native, who has been attending the festival for 11 years.

Zabala, one of the founding organizers of the committee, said, "We hope two years from now, the community will miss it, and perhaps other people will come around wanting to revive the committee."

"And we're available to tell them how it's done," she said. □

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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How to make homemade caramel

It's easier than you think once a few techniques are mastered

FOOD | Ashley Meyer

Making scratch-made caramel can be daunting. Between the intimidating prospect of boiling sugar and the risk of it seizing up into a crystallized lump, many choose to avoid the process entirely. This is a shame, because once a few key techniques are mastered, making caramel is only slightly more complicated than boiling a pot of water. It's also relatively inexpensive, requires limited ingredients and is intensely flavorful with perfectly balanced notes of sweet, slightly bitter, buttery toffee. Caramel sauce is the simplest type to make and requires no candy thermometer. It is as adaptable as it is delicious, with a range of optional add-ins from fresh rosemary to bourbon or cider.

Caramel is made by heating sugar to its melting point, which causes the sucrose molecules in the sugar to break down into different flavor components and turn a lovely rich brown color. It is made by heating sugar on the stove until it liquifies and turns clear. This liquefied sugar is then cooked until it begins to darken and take on a delicious, honeyed aroma. It is critical during this step that you do not stir the caramel, as stirring will cause crystals to form that will render the caramel gritty and hard, rather than unctuous and smooth. The addition of acid in the form of cream of tartar also helps prevent the sugar from recrystallizing, as does the inclusion of an inverse sugar such as corn syrup or honey.

The longer the caramelizing sugar cooks, the darker and more intense it will become. It's important to watch the pot closely (no walking away!), as the caramel can turn from amber to mahogany to black and burnt in a flash. It will also keep cooking even after the pot has been removed from the stove, so pull it when it's a



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couple shades lighter than your desired end point.

At this stage, some type of dairy, either in the form of butter or heavy cream, is added to give the caramel a richer, rounder flavor. Unsweetened coconut cream works well as a vegan substitute. The caramel will bubble up vigorously when the cream is added (warming the cream first helps mitigate how much it bubbles up), so make sure there is plenty of room in the pot so it doesn't boil over. Once the cream or butter has been added, wait a few

minutes for the caramel sauce to cool before adding any additional ingredients like vanilla or bourbon.

The caramel sauce can then be transferred to a heat-proof glass jar and stored in the refrigerator for up to a month. It's ideal for drizzling over freshly sliced farmstand apple slices, sweetening up a steaming cup of coffee or boosting flavor in a myriad of recipes from brownies to bread pudding. It also is a fabulous homemade gift to have on hand during the holiday season.

While making caramel is deceptively simple, cleaning up afterward can be a terrible chore. Once the caramel hardens it's difficult to remove with scrubbing, but thankfully it dissolves quickly in hot water. Fill the pot with hot water and bring it to a boil on the stove. Turn off the heat and let it sit for a few minutes before carefully pouring out the hot water and washing as normal.

Caramel sauce

2 cups white sugar
 ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar
 ½ cup water
 1 tablespoon corn syrup (light or dark is fine)
 1 cup heavy cream, slightly warmed
 (unsweetened coconut cream is a good vegan substitute)
 Optional add ins: ½ teaspoon salt, ½ cup bourbon, 2 teaspoons vanilla, 1/2 cup cider syrup (made by boiling down 2 cups cider to ½ cup)

Combine the sugar, cream of tartar, water and corn syrup in a heavy bottomed saucepan that has at least four quarts of capacity. Stir briefly to dissolve the sugar, then stop stirring and turn the heat to medium-high. Bring the sugar mixture to a boil and continue cooking until the caramel is amber in color. Remove the pot from the heat and carefully stir in the warm cream (the mixture will bubble up). Let the mixture cool for two minutes, then stir in your add-ins of choice, if using. Let the sauce cool for another 30 minutes before transferring to a heat-proof jar. □

Ashley Meyer is a chef and freelance writer based in Springfield.

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Seussical Jr. is a triumph right through

THEATER | Courtney Wick

Sprightly co-directed by Jasmine French and Reggie Guyton for Springfield Theatre Centre, *Seussical Jr.* is a kinetic, family-friendly mash-up of Dr. Seuss's popular rhymes and tales. Brought to life by a 40-member cast of children age 5 to 17 from all across central Illinois, this production radiates whimsical energy.

"Kids come into this with a spirit, attitude and joyfulness that is really infectious," said Guyton. That youthful spontaneity shines through every scene of this silly but sapient show. The focus and dramatic flair displayed by all performers is remarkable; if any of them aren't having a blast on stage, they're master actors already.

The story is hosted by the mischievous Cat in the Hat, played charismatically by Zola Westfall. Channeling the bold comedic energy of Melissa McCarthy, Westfall commits to every voice and antic, delivering laugh-out-loud results. The Cat stirs up chaos for a young Who named JoJo, played by third-grader and STC newcomer Romeo Montague. Montague brings a sincere child-like wonderment to the madness swirling around him, accompanied by a beautiful singing voice. During his solo, "It's possible," there will not be a dry eye in the house. Not crying is actually impossible.

When asked about his favorite part of the show, Montague's candid answer proved just as charming as his performance. "Being JoJo," he said.

Will Manfredo shines as Horton the Elephant, anchoring the show with a stunning vocal performance and poignant vulnerability. Horton is a demanding role that keeps Manfredo on stage for much of the run, but he carries that weight effortlessly. His rendition of "Alone in the Universe" is delivered with such pure, heartfelt magic that one believes this 10th grader might really be on a solitary plight to protect the Who's.

"I have a lot of friends in this show and I've made a lot too, being able to express myself with this character and great directors – the whole experience is just amazing," said Manfredo.

Playing opposite him, Zoe Jennings is utterly delightful as the one-feather bird Gertrude McFuzz. True to her namesake, she delivers a Zooey-Deschanel-type quirkiness and infuses her character with genuine humor and warmth.

High school junior Avianna Fuentez makes an impressive and sassy marsupial, the Sour



Romeo Montague as JoJo and Zola Westfall as the Cat in the Hat with the cast of *Seussical Jr.*
CREDIT: PHOTO BY EMILY NOEL

Kangaroo – especially with her sidekick young kangaroo, played with cheeky wit by Ellery Behl.

"We have a lot of younger kids here, and it's nice helping those kids out. It's my favorite when tech week comes around and we pull it all together," said Fuentez.

A standout of this production is Nileana Viña Peña as the effervescent Mayzie La Bird. Armed with a powerhouse belt, rich vibrato and star quality, Peña delivers a professional performance. If you dropped her directly onto a Broadway stage or Disney Channel set tomorrow, nobody would bat an eye. She is a bonafide theatrical force and an absolute marvel to watch.

Several featured players also command attention with their hilarious acting and vibrant vocals. Aiden Rudd and Maleigha Wilson are wonderful as Mr. and Mrs. Mayor. Marcus Butler delivers a memorable and funny Grinch. Grayson Eisele brings an agile comedy to the unruly Wickersham brothers and ensemble member Bee Otwell consistently catches the eye with an undeniable stage presence.

Visually and stylistically, the production feels like a show conjured entirely by children – and that is high praise. Far from diminishing the adult staff, it appears designed to evoke that nostalgia of neighborhood kids in a backyard staging an imaginative spectacle.

Think *Lord of the Flies*, if it had gone infinitely better and they had simply formed a musical theater troupe. The costumes are bright, expressive clothes rather than bulky mascot animal suits, and the hair and makeup are refreshingly subtle, (both designed perfectly by Betsy Butell). The set design and its pieces, created by Guyton and T. David Parker, serve as wonderful off-kilter nods to Seuss's love of squiggly lines and a colorful palette. The choreography by Brianna Nichole Austin deftly highlights the cast's individual personalities.

With the core themes of community and empathy, it's the best show to bring together a multi-age cast.

"Building friendships with people who aren't from the exact same space that you are, and the message of sticking up for the little guy, is what makes this production special," French reflected. That off-stage camaraderie translates into an on-stage triumph. Springfield Theatre Centre's *Seussical Jr.* is an exuberant romp that proves great theater comes in all sizes. □

Seussical Jr. continues its run at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in the LRS Theatre Oct. 2-4 and 9-11. Friday and Saturday performances start at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m. Tickets are available by calling 217-523-2787 or visiting hcfia.org/tickets.

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DRIVE IN

We will be open Friday and Saturday Nights only through October.

GATES OPEN AT 6:30 PM

Create memories with your family and friends - catch a double feature under the stars this weekend: Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October 10, 2026.

SCREEN 1- 91.3 FM
Verity, R
7:30 PM Start time
Resident Evil, R,
9:40 PM

SCREEN 2-106.3 FM
Hotel Transylvania, PG,
7:15 PM Start time
Nightmare Before Christmas, PG, 9:00 PM

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BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2026 IllinoisTimes

Results coming Oct 29

Seussical Jr.

Springfield Theatre Centre presents

Directed by Jasmine French & Reggie Guyton

Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Book by Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty
Co-Conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty & Eric Idle
Based on the Works of Dr. Seuss

October 2-4 & 9-11

Tickets available only at www.hcfta.org

For information on Springfield Theatre Centre visit www.springfieldtheatrecentre.com

ASL interpreted performance: October 4th

ART & CRAFT FAIR
Sat. October 17th
8:30 am to 2:00 pm

St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church
700 East Spruce St. Chatham, IL

Net proceeds from the Art & Craft Fair to benefit the Ball-Chatham School Titan Fuel Program & St. Joe's TEAM.

Come do your holiday shopping, with many fine art and craft items to choose from.

KIDS KORNER: with free crafts & coloring pages
Special Guest: Princess Rapunzel from the movie "Tangled" Hope to see you there!

For more information, please contact:
Nichole Poss at: nlkuchar@gmail.com
Visit Church Website at: www.stjoschatham.org (under service-art & craft fair)

Complimentary Coffee!
Food & Drink items will be available for purchase
Sale of Food & Drink items will benefit the St. Joseph the Worker Pre-School.

MUSIC

Going for October music

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

My goodness, this is what we dream of for October weather with the reality being even better. Here's hoping it holds on through this weekend full of fun, fests, fine times and who knows what, where and why as live music discoveries wait to be made if you choose to go find them. I have complete confidence in your abilities to do so, so let's go.

We begin our weekly adventures with the monthly Thursday Night Live at Motorheads for a local talent showcase of ever-changing musicians as this edition includes Albert Capati, Mike Newberry, Joe Calandrino, Steve Gragert, Roger Wainwright, Mattison Avenue (Allison Jones and Matt Smegal) and Mandy Rose. Dan Grover mans the stage at Mother Road Diner for our only other live music in town along with those ubiquitous karaoke nights and open mics listed.

Should we try the "double bills at the bars" angle again this weekend? OK, if you say so, here we go. Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews brings in a couple of stellar guitar-slinging, singing performers with Devin C. Williams on Friday and Daniel Cavanagh on Saturday while The Library (formerly Crows Mill Pub) hosts the one-and-only Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters on Friday, then the one-and-only Rod Grant sings on Saturday. Next, the Tippy Toad celebrates two years of being a bar with Phat Kitt on Friday and Rooster on Saturday night with celebratory drinks, food and fun happening all day Saturday.

Back to some evening singles, on Friday I spy Dennis Glavin going solo outside on The Railyard stage off of South Sixth Street, Broken Stone going all out at Curveside Bar & Grill on Route 29 near Athens and Positively 4th Street going all in at Bloom Wine Bar on the south side of the Old Capitol Plaza.

Saturday night goes bananas with bands including Sunshine Daydream being grateful for the Dead at The Blue Grouch, Pimpin' Henry hopping up the hits at The Bird Tavern and Grand Theft Auto stealing the show at Weebles.

Saturday shows off all day long with Mandy Rose getting going early at 10 a.m. at the Old Capitol Farmers Market, then Stella Coffee & Tea puts on the Springfield Uketopians at noon, while the Illinois Product Farmers Market at the Shed on the State Fairgrounds closes out its season



Dennis Glavin plays on The Railyard outdoor stage this Friday evening.

with The Tangents waking up the crowd at 9:30 a.m. and Tom & Amy shaking it down at noon. The afternoon rolls on with MKDZ getting crazy at West of Wise near Petersburg at 1 and Groundhog Jam jamming on at Whiskey Ridge Saloon near Breckenridge at 2, while at 3, Robert Sampson goes off to the Trails End in Curran and the Larson Brothers go to candyland at Peases in The Gables.

And yes, since Lincoln Memorial Garden presents its long-running and always entertaining Fall Festival this weekend, we've got bunches more live music for your listening pleasure. On the beautifully bucolic, righteously rustic outdoor stage, in this order, starting both days at 11 a.m., check out the lineup of Tater Tots Rock, Me, Myself and Schy, then Devin C. Williams on Saturday, plus Ethan Taylor Stephenson, OAT, then The Deep Hollow on Sunday.

If you're looking to get out of town (what?!), the CU Folk & Roots Festival happens Oct. 8-10 in nearby downtown Urbana featuring some 80 "high-quality folk performances and participatory activities" including headliners Dom Flemons, Cristina Vane, Esther Rose and Po' Ramblin' Boys along with Dan Hubbard, The Wildwoods, Ochin Pakhi and Prof. Jay and friends, plus many more.

Enjoy the lovely weather and get out to see some music, why dontcha! □

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& The Shrimp Shack Shooters

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07. Vegetables	\$9.99
08. Crab	\$10.99
09. Fried Tofu	\$10.99
10. Scallops	\$10.99
11. Sausage	\$11.99



Step 2: Choose Your Sauce for Seasoning

01. Hibachi Sauce (Sweet & a little sour)	07. Chef's Special (A little spicy)
02. Teriyaki Sauce (Sweet & savory)	08. Dragon Sauce (Sweet & spicy)
03. Mongolian Sauce (A little sweet)	09. General Tso's Sauce (Sweet & a little spicy)
04. Curry Sauce (A bit spicy)	10. Szechuan Sauce (Spicy & savory)
05. Thai Chili Sauce (A spicy & little flavor)	11. Garlic Oil with Parsley
06. Brown Sauce (Vegetables)	12. Hot Chili Oil (Spicy with pepper flakes)



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 Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
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OCTOBER 16, 2026

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The Animal Protective League's Upcoming Events



BOO BARK AT APL

1001 TAINTOR ROAD

**OCTOBER 10
11 AM - 2 PM**

JOIN US FOR A HOWLING GOOD TIME!
 \$3 for one dog or \$5 for two

All proceeds benefit APL

- Dog costume contest & prizes*
- Dog games and activities
- Trick or Treat path for dogs and kids
- Vendors
- Pumpkin decorating
- Paw paintings*

*Extra charges may apply for these activities

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- All dogs must be kept on a leash
- No more than 2 dogs per person
- No puppies under 4 months of age
- All dogs must be current on shots, have proof of current rabies vaccine, and be spayed/neutered.

October 10—Boo Bark Party at APL

Come out to APL from 11 am to 2 pm for Springfield's only Halloween party for dogs! Vendors, trick or treat for dogs and kids, costume contests and more! Check out our website at www.apl-shelter.org for more info!

October 25—Chili Supper and Bazaar, 11am-3pm

Join us at the Columbian Grand Hall at 2200 South Meadowbrook for dine-in or carry-out chili! Chili or veggie chili, a dessert, drink and side for \$12! Plus shop at our Paw Paw Patch Bazaar! Pre-order a quart of chili by Oct. 24 at www.apl-shelter.org to enjoy at home!

November 6—Dr. Seuss Trivia Night, 7pm

Get your group together for a whimsical night of trivia! Bring dog or cat food to donate and receive up to 20 free raffle tickets. Get more information and buy tickets online at www.apl-shelter.org.

October Adoption Events

Every Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm & Sunday, 12 - 4 pm at PetSmart
 Oct 10, PetCo, 11 am - 3 pm, 2721 S. Veterans Pkwy.
 Oct 17, Green Subaru, 11 am - 3 pm, 3861 Wabash Avenue
 Oct. 25, APL Chili Supper, Grand Columbian Hall, 11 am - 3 pm



For more information, visit our website at www.apl-shelter.org or call 217-544-7387.

Adoption Corner



Garland, a 5-year-old stunning tabby, is a shy, sensitive soul who will thrive in a calm and loving environment where he can take things at his own pace.



Sassy is a sweet chatterbox of a dog. She walks well on a leash, knows basic commands, and has excellent recall.



Splash is a 10-year-old charmer with a playful spirit and a confident personality. He likes to be the boss with his feline friends, so he'll do best as an only cat or with other FIV-positive cats.



Peppermint, is a one-and-a-half-year-old Pit Bull terrier mix with endless energy and a heart full of adventure! She is friendly, gentle, and playful!

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 Oct 8

Randy Erwin
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-4pm

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

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

Karaoke
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm.

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

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

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

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

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

Karaoke
The Topsy Toad, 8pm-12am

Karaoke
VFW Lafore Lock Post 755, 7-11pm.

Friday Oct 9

Corey Wise
48 Inn Sports Bar & Grill, Decatur, 8-11pm

Randy Erwin
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-4pm

Positively 4th Street
Bloom Wine Bar & Florals, 7-9pm

Tom Irwin and Amy Battles
Brookhills Golf Club, 4-6pm

Around the Bend
Brookhills Golf Club, 7pm

Robbie Mitchell
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

Broken Stone
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 7pm

Celtic Whistle
Decatur Brew Works, Decatur, 7-9pm

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

Jason McKenzie
The Filling Station, Rochester, 7-10pm

Billy Strums
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 7-10pm

Devin C. Williams
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Karaoke Night
JB's Hideout, Blue Mound, 8pm-12am

Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters
The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, 7pm

Silver Lake
Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 7pm

Ron DeMichiel
Legendary Small Town Trading Co., Taylorville, 5:30-7:30pm

Karaoke
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Karaoke
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 8pm.

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

Dennis Glavin
The Railyard, 6-9pm

Mississippi Leghound
Sky Lounge, 7-10pm

Phat Kitt
The Topsy Toad, 7-10pm

Saturday Oct 10

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

Exit 52
Amvets Post 100, Jacksonville, 8pm

Matt Miller and Caleb Atwood
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

TyJon Charlie
Brentford Distillers, Decatur, 7pm

Bustin' Loose
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7-10pm

Blackout Betty: Armed & Dangerous
Camouflage Bar, VFW Post 99, Decatur, 7:30-10:30pm

The Rowdy Jones Band
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 7:30pm

Daniel Cavanagh
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

The Tangents
Illinois State Fairgrounds, The Shed, 9:30-11:30am

Tom Irwin and Amy Battles
Illinois State Fairgrounds, The Shed, 12-2pm

Rod Grant
The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, 7-10pm

Devin C. Williams
Lincoln Memorial Garden,

Tater Tots Rock
Lincoln Memorial Garden, 11am-12pm

Me, Myself and Schy
Lincoln Memorial Garden, 12:45-2:15pm

Mamma Mania
Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 7pm

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

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

Mandy Rose
Old Capitol Farmers Market, 10-11am

The Larson Brothers
Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, 3-5pm

99 Proof
Pop's Place, Decatur, 8pm

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

Springfield Uketopians
Stella Coffee & Tea, 12-2pm

Pimpin' Henry
The Bird Tavern, 7-10pm

Sunshine Daydream
The Blue Grouch, 6:30-10:30pm

Rooster
The Topsy Toad, 7-11pm

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

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

Grand Theft Audio
Weebles Bar & Grill, 7:30-11pm

MKDZ
West of Wise Winery, Petersburg, 1-4pm

Groundhog Jam
Whiskey Ridge Saloon, Breckenridge, 2pm

Sunday Oct 11

Rod Grant
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

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

Rich Hogan
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 4-7pm

Shannon Wood
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 2-5pm

Johnnie Owens
It's All About Wine, 3-6pm

Ethan Taylor Stephenson
Lincoln Memorial Garden, 11am-12:30pm

OAT
Lincoln Memorial Garden, 12:45-2:15pm

Al and Kathy Kitchen
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 5-8pm

Jason Oldham
Patriots Pub, Waverly, 3-6pm

Jack Whittle Trio
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

Lick Creek
Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, 3-5:30pm

Well City
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-6pm

Hippies of the Heartland
Whiskey Ridge Saloon, Breckenridge, 2pm

Monday Oct 12

Piper & The Hard Times
The Alamo, 7pm

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

Acoustic Open Mic hosted by Kristi White
Northern Lights Lounge, 6:30-9:30pm.

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

Tuesday Oct 13

Karaoke
Fluid Lounge, 7-11pm

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

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

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

Karaoke hosted by Danny Suter
The Topsy Toad, 6pm-12am

Open Mic with Thomas J Beverly
Trading Post Saloon, 6-9pm

Wednesday Oct 14

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

Open Jam with Tom, Steve and Geoff
Butternut Hut, 7-9:30pm

Karaoke
Clique, 9pm-1am

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

Robert Sampson
Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6pm

Open jam with Kristi White
Goodfellas Pub, , 7pm

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

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

JCB Entertainment Karaoke
Puerto Vallarta, 12pm

Find more live
music events at
community.illinoistimes.com

THE CALENDAR



Brick Convention
Sat., Oct. 10 and Sun.,
Oct. 11, sessions 10
a.m.–1p.m. and 2-5
p.m. both days
Orr Building, Illinois
State Fairgrounds
801 Sangamon Ave.
\$15-\$20

FESTIVALS | Lego enthusiasts gather at fairgrounds

it OK, Lego enthusiasts, this is your weekend. For the first time, the Springfield Brick Convention is coming to the Illinois State Fairgrounds. See massive models, meet professional Lego artists and build with thousands of bricks in hands-on building zones. This entertainment-packed family event is for children of all ages and builders and collectors of all skills and interests. It also will feature special guests, vendors and more. Buy tickets online at brickconvention.com/springfield. Meanwhile, Lincoln Library also is hosting a free “Lego Monster Event” from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday where children 5 and older will be building with Lego bricks.

■ Special Music Events

The Art of Jazz - Frank Parker and UIS Jazz Ensemble
Tue., Oct. 13, 6-8pm. Well-known trompeter Frank Parker will join the UIS Jazz Ensemble. Event combines jazz sounds with the visual excitement of the Pharmacy Gallery's space and artwork by artist members. \$10 donation at door. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 217-622-1154 or 720-447-4548.

Date Night With Greek Folk Traditions

Fri., Oct. 9, 6:30pm. Join the Rebetiko Roots Ensemble and the Springfield International Folk Dancers for a musical journey through the diverse landscapes and traditions of Greece. In Partnership with UIS Music. \$18-\$22. UIS Studio Theatre, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

■ Books & Authors

Illinois in the Revolutionary War
Mon., Oct. 12, 6-7:30pm. Tom Emery, author of the book *Illinois in the Revolutionary War*, will provide narrative on a dominant figure in the war in Illinois, George Rogers Clark, and his daring capture of Kaskaskia. lincolnlbrary.info. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

■ Theater & Comedy

Misery

Fri., Oct. 9, 7:30pm, Sat., Oct. 10, 7:30pm and Sun., Oct. 11, 3pm. *Misery* is psychological thriller written by William Goldman and based on the popular Stephen King novel. Directed by John Sivak. 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.

The Turnaway Play

Oct. 9-11, 7-9pm. This play by Lesley Lisa Greene is a staged-reading event inspired by “The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having-or Being Denied-an Abortion.” \$5. In conjunction with the Springfield Area Arts Council. givebutter.com/turnaway. \$5. First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., 217-753-3519.

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.

The Range Comedy Open Mic

Fri., Oct. 9, 7pm. Enjoy a night of laughter at The Range for its first comedy open mic. Are you a comedian and want to try your material at a new venue and audience? Want to try stand-up comedy? Sign at 7pm. Show starts at 7:30pm. Free. The Range Bourbon & Brew, Chatham, 316 N. Main St., 217-697-5080.

■ Art & Architecture

Artist Discussion on “Unboxed: A Study in Black and Primary”

Thu., Oct. 8, 5:30-7:30pm. Artist Austin Wells will discuss his exhibit, which explores Black identity, memory, movement and culture. The public is invited to attend the discussion. Includes light refreshments. At the Trutter Museum & Murray Gallery. Free. Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-786-2200.

Sangamon County Watercolor Society Fall Workshop

Oct. 9-12, 9am-4pm. In this Leo Kahl four-day workshop, learn foundational techniques such as composition, wet-on-wet, color mixing, brush control, color washes, dry brush and achieve overall (faster) learning than just painting on one's own. Lunch provided all days. \$550. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Sangamon Watercolor Society Annual Exhibit Awards Reception

Fri., Oct. 9, 5:30-7:30pm. This awards reception for the Sangamon Watercolor Society's Annual Exhibition is open to the public. The exhibit will be on view in the M.G. Nelson Family Gallery from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31 during normal business hours. Free. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Susan Lawrence Dana Lego Brick Building Competition

Oct. 13-14, 5:30-7pm. The Dana-Thomas House will celebrate the birthday of Susan Lawrence Dana with its first Lego competition. The juried competition will honor Dana's legacy as an advocate for the arts, design and craftsmanship while encouraging creativity among builders of all ages. Deadline for entries is Oct. 13. Winners will be announced Oct. 31. Guidelines and entry form at <https://bit.ly/4xG2o2v>. Free. 217-782-6776.

Unboxed: A Study in Black and Primary

Mondays-Fridays, 8am-4pm. Through Oct. 23. This exhibit, which runs from Sept. 28 through Oct. 23, features works by Illinois native Austin Wells. “Unboxed” explores Black identity, memory, movement and culture. The Trutter Museum & Murray Gallery is located on the upper level of Menard Hall. Free. Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-786-2200.

■ Film & Television

Good Witch/Bad Witch: A Wicked & Wonderful Celebration

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.

History in Film - Dracula

Wed., Oct. 14, 1-3:30pm. Join the Sangamon Valley Collection and the State Historic Sites of Springfield for a showing of the 1931 film *Dracula* and some history of Halloween. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

History in Film - Frankenstein

Wed., Oct. 14, 5-7:30pm. Join the Sangamon Valley Collection and the State Historic Sites of Springfield for a showing of *Frankenstein*, 1931. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

■ Holiday Happenings

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.

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. carillon-rees.org. Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-306-1838.

Main Street Monster Mash

Sat., Oct. 10, 9am-3pm and Sun., Oct. 11, 9am-3pm. The Main Street Monster Mash – Route 66 Centennial Weekend is bringing two days of family fun, community activities, history, shopping, games. Virden Square, Virden, Downtown, 217-965-6139.

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.

■ Fairs & Festivals

APL Boo Bark Party

Sat., Oct. 10, 11am-2pm. Trick or treat. Springfield's only Halloween party for dogs. We invite dog owners to grab their pets and join APL for a spooky, fun dog party. Boo Bark features pet-themed vendors, activities for kids and dogs, pumpkin painting, demonstrations and a canine contest with prizes for winners. \$3 for one dog. \$5 for two dogs. Animal Protective League, 1001 Taintor Road, 217-361-6212.

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.

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 and more. lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

■ Fundraisers and Galas

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. Complimentary food and beverages. Includes silent and live auctions, wine wall and lottery tree. \$100. LRS Hangar, 820 S. Capital Airport Dr., 217-544-0548.

Kevin Howell Benefit

Sun., Oct. 11, 2-6pm. Support Illinois State Trooper Kevin Howell and his family as he continues his battle with cancer. Includes live music by Lick Creek, food, family-friendly activities, an auction and more. Free. Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, 316 W. Birch St., 488-2685.

Mary Bryant Home 40th Annual Chili & Soup Fundraiser

Oct. 12-15, 10am-6:30pm. The fundraiser is pickup only. This community tradition features Zillion's Famous Chili Bowl Chili, homemade beef vegetable soup, homemade vegetable soup and hot dogs. The chili, soup and hot dogs are cold, ready to heat and serve. marybryanthome.org. \$15 per quart; hot dogs \$2 or six for \$10. Mary Bryant Home for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 2960 Stanton St., 217-529-1614.

■ Children's Corner

Suessical Jr.

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 caper.” Directed by Jasmine French and Reggie Guyton. springfieldtheatrecentre.com. \$19. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

■ Bulletin Board

Blanket and Coat Fair

Sat., Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Providing warm blankets and coats to families and individuals in need. Must show proof of need. Donations of items still being taken. Volunteers needed. Volunteers must call before event and attend meeting 4-5:30pm Oct. 10. Freedom in Holiness Mission, 1430 Loveland Ave., 217-522-2527.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS Heartland Bank and Trust Company Plaintiff, -v.- Dana A. Smith; et. al. Defendants. 2026FC000055 5409 Biltmore Drive, Springfield, IL 62711 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 8/5/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 11/16/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on November 18, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 5409 Biltmore Drive, Springfield, IL 62711 Property Index No. 21-03.0-472-040 The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence. The judgment amount was \$123,418.84 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 5409 Biltmore Drive into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g) (l) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE

MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES PC (630) 794-5300 please refer to file number 14-25-08252. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 14-25-08252 Case Number: 2026FC000055 NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. I3295348

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF BREAN ASSET BACKED SECURITIES TRUST 2024-RM9 Plaintiff, -v.- LARRY BRIGGITY et al Defendant 2026FC000051 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 20, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on October 29, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 316 EAST SCARRITT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703 Property Index No. 14-34.0-352-003 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of

Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-26-00828 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2026FC000051 TJSC#: 46-1301 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2026FC000051 I3294763

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v.- MICHELLE L. HERMAN AKA MICHELLE SABATH, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT Defendant 2024 FC 000160 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 23, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on October 27, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1208 OAKMONT DRIVE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704 Property Index No. 14-31.0-456-003 The real estate is improved with a single

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family residence. The judgment amount was \$131,360.85.

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

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

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

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

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

For information, contact RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES Plaintiff's Attorneys, 120 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1140, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 239-3432. Please refer to file number 24IL00461-1.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES
120 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1140
Chicago IL, 60602
312-239-3432
E-Mail: ipleadings@rsmalaw.com
Attorney File No. 24IL00461-1
Case Number: 2024 FC 000160
TJSC#: 46-1835
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2024 FC 000160
8051-969505

PUBLIC NOTICES

Death Claim

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of:
Barbara A. Braner,
Deceased.
No. 2026-PR-363
NOTICE TO HEIRS AND
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF CLAIM DATE
Notice is given of the death of Barbara A. Braner, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters Testamentary were issued on September 28, 2026, to Derek L. Guernsey, 20 S. Farmingdale Road, Pleasant Plains, Illinois, 62677, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is DELANO LAW OFFICES, LLC, PO Box 1948, Springfield, Illinois, 62705.
Notice is given to all known and unknown heirs of Barbara A. Braner of the entry of the Order as set forth above and of the entry of an Order declaring Derek L. Guernsey and James R. Braner as the only heirs of Barbara A. Braner.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 28-4 of the Probate Act, 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County, 200 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months of the first day that this Notice is published, and any claim not so 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/serviceproviders.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/FAO/gethelp.asp>, or contact your local Circuit Clerk's office.
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Sarah Delano Pavlik - 6269250
DELANO LAW OFFICES, LLC
Attorneys for Executor
One Southeast Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: 217-544-2703
Fax: 217-544-4664
sdpavlik@delanolaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of:
Cleaotha L. Bailey,
Deceased.
No. 2026-PR-364
NOTICE TO HEIRS AND
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF CLAIM DATE
Notice is given of the death of Cleaotha L. Bailey, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters Testamentary were issued on September 28, 2026, to Doris J. Bailey, 1506 East Miller Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62702, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is DELANO LAW OFFICES, LLC, PO Box 1948, Springfield, Illinois, 62705.
Notice is given to all known and unknown heirs of Cleaotha L. Bailey, of the entry of the Order as set forth above and of the entry of an Order declaring Doris J. Bailey

and Devon Bailey as the only heirs of Cleaotha L. Bailey.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 28-4 of the Probate Act, 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County, 200 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months of the first day that this Notice is published, and any claim not so 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/serviceproviders.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/FAO/gethelp.asp>, or contact your local Circuit Clerk's office.
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Andrew J. Ricci — 6297506
DELANO LAW OFFICES, LLC
Attorneys for Administrator
One Southeast Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: 217-544-2703
Fax: 217-544-4664
aricci@delanolaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JAMES SAMUEL CRAIN, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-361
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of JAMES SAMUEL CRAIN. Letters of Office have been issued to ROBERT S. JACOBS, 412 W. Vine Street, Springfield, IL 62704, 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 April 12, 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 28th day of September, 2026.
Patrick J. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217)544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
RAYMOND G. LONG, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-360
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of RAYMOND G. LONG. Letters of Office have been issued to CHERYL E. LONG, 11055 W. Colburn St., Loami, IL 62661, and DARRYL R. LONG, 7752 Basse Rd., Loami, IL 62661, as Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers,

P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Co-Executors, or both, on or before April 12, 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 Co-Executors and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 28th day of September, 2026.
Patrick J. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF:
LISA ANN TRUAX,
Deceased
No. 2026PR350
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of LISA ANN TRUAX, Deceased.
Letters of Administration were issued on September 22, 2026 to KAREN CUNDIFF, as Independent Administrator, 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 30, 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 9/28/26.
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 FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF:
JULIO COPELLO,
Deceased
No. 2026PR356
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Julio Copello, Deceased.
Letters of Administration were issued on September 22, 2026 to Valeria Copello, as Independent Administrator, 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 30, 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 9/25/26.
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
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
IN THE ESTATE OF:
CATHERINE L. KRAUS,
Deceased.
Case No.: 2026 PR 359
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF WILL AND CLAIMS
Notice is hereby given of the death of Catherine L. Kraus. Letters of Office were issued. The name and address of the Legal Representative is Mark Plesh, 1182 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota, 55105. James Ackerman is counsel for the Legal Representative. His address is Ackerman Law Office, P.C., 2601 South Fifth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62703.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 24, 2027. Any claim not filed on or before April 24, 2027, is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. Dated this 24th day of September 24, 2026.
By: /s/ James W. Ackerman
James W. Ackerman,
Attorney for Legal Representative
PREPARED BY:
James W. Ackerman (06192795)
ACKERMAN LAW OFFICE
2601 South Fifth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 789-1977
jim@ackermanlawoffices.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of:
Eric D. Rees, Deceased
Case No. 2026PR000358
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Eric D. Rees. Letters of Office were issued on Sept. 24, 2026 to Barbara M. Rees as Administrator, 2601 Montvale Drive, Apt. 229, 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 Administrator, on or before March 24, 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 FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
NORMAN C. KOEFOED,
Deceased.
Case No. 2026 PR 000347
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of Norman C. Koefoed. Letters of Office were issued to Ivy L. Koefoed, as Independent Executor, whose address is 8111 Donna Lane, Cantrall, IL 62625. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates

independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 1, 2027, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered such notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAO/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Dated: September 23, 2026
Attorneys for Independent Executor:
Sorling Northrup
John R. Simpson, Attorney (2616947)
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: jrsimpson@sorlinglaw.com

IN THE SANGAMON COUNTY COURT
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF:
JULIA E. WITMER,
Deceased.
Case No.: 2026PR336
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of JULIA E. WITMER of Springfield, Illinois, and that Letters Testamentary were issued on September 8, 2026, to RUSSELL V. WITMER, JR., as Executor, of Athens, Illinois, whose attorney is Duane D. Young of Young Law Partners, P.C., 1300 South 8th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Probate Division, 200 South 9th Street, Room 405, Springfield, IL 62701, and with the offices of Young Law Partners, P.C., Attorneys for Executor, or both, within six (6) months from the date of publication and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representatives and to their attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
RUSSELL V. WITMER, JR, Executor of the Estate of JULIA E. WITMER, Deceased
Attorneys' Address:
Duane D. Young
Registration No.: 3091457
YOUNG LAW PARTNERS, P.C.
1300 South Eighth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Telephone: (217) 544-8500
Facsimile: (217) 544-6200
8051-969743

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
CYNTHIA L. MANN,
Deceased.
Case No. 2026-PR-344
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of CYNTHIA L. MANN, of Rochester, Sangamon County, Illinois, died on August 6, 2026. Letters

of Office were issued on the 16th day of September, A.D., 2026, to JACOB CISCO, of 5176 West Washington, Springfield, Illinois, 62711, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois, 62701. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed. DATED this 18th day of September, A.D., 2026. Estate of CYNTHIA L. MANN, Deceased, BY: /s/ Pamela E. Hart Pamela E. Hart, one of its Attorneys. PREPARED BY: Pamela E. Hart (6299974) SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C. Attorneys at Law 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200 Springfield, Illinois 62701 Telephone: (217) 753-8200 Email: peh@scotttscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MACOUPIN COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN RE THE ESTATE OF FREDERICK KESSLER DECEASED Case No. 2026PR62 CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of Frederick Lee Kessler of Gillespie, Illinois, and that Letters Testamentary were issued on September 17, 2026 to Macoupin County Public Administrator Michelle Coady, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Coady Law, 40 Adloff Lane, Suite 1, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Macoupin County Courthouse of 201 East Main Street, Carlinville, IL 62626, or with the offices of Coady Law, Attorneys for Macoupin County Public Administrator Michelle Coady, Independent Administrator or both, within six (6) months from the date of publication and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representatives and to their attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed. Macoupin County Public Administrator Michelle Coady, Independent Administrator of the Estate of Frederick Lee Kessler, Deceased Attorney's Address: Michelle Coady Registration No: 6279022 Coady Law 40 Adloff Lane Suite 1 Springfield, IL 62703 Telephone: (217) 713-2344 Email: michelle@coady-law.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS Estate of: Donald C. Kirby, Deceased. NO. 2026-PR-353 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of Donald C. Kirby of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on September 17, 2026, to Jacquelyn Kirby, 515 S. Main Street, Buffalo, Illinois 62515,

as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Randy S. Paswater, Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative or both, on or before March 24, 2027, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 17th day of September, 2026. Randy S. Paswater - 06283705 Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP P.O. Box 79 Springfield, IL 62705-0079 (217) 544-4868 paswater@barberlaw.com 372143

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS Estate of: JULIE ANN BAKER DIXON, Deceased. NO. 2026-PR-342 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of Julie Ann Baker Dixon of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on September 14, 2026, to Stephen Dixon, 200 Gadwall Court, McKinney, Texas 75072, as Executor, whose attorneys are Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before March 23, 2027, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 16th day of September, 2026. Bernard G. Segatto, III - 06190753 Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP P.O. Box 79 Springfield, IL 62705 (217) 544-4868 bsegatto@barberlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the matter of the estate of: Donald E. Hindes, Deceased Case No. 2026PR000341 Claim Notice Notice is given of the death of Donald E. Hindes. Letters of Office were issued on Sept. 14, 2026 to Gregory J. Curran as Executor, 7612 Southport Lane, Springfield, IL 62711. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the Executor, on or before March 24, 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 In the Matter of the Estate of MARILYN F. PIGNON, Deceased. IN PROBATE No. 2026-PR-343

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Marilyn F. Pignon, Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on September 15, 2026, to Philip Jon Pignon, 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 7th day of April, 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 15th day of September, 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 FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN RE THE ESTATE OF: MELBA R. KRUEGER, Deceased. No. 2026-PR-346 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of Melba R. Krueger. Letters Testamentary were issued on September 15, 2026, to Wayne R. Krueger of 805 N. Archer Ave., Norton, KS 67654, 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 Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before March 25, 2027, which is not less than six months from the date of 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/FAO/gethelp.asp, or contact your local Circuit Clerk's office. Dated this 15th day of September 2026 Dan E. Way #6204735 WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC 1100 S. Fifth Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 525-7003

Divorce STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY Re: the marriage of Arabella Bellucci, Petitioner And Khalil Al Hamdani, Respondent Case No. 2026-DN-000049

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION Notice is given you, Khalil Al Hamdani, 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 8th day of November, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition. Joseph B. Roesch Circuit Clerk

Name Change IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the matter of the Petition of Wynter Rose Baker For change of name to Wynter Rose Turner and Christian Reign Baker For change of name to Christian Reign Turner Case No. 2026-MR-000336 PUBLIC NOTICE Public Notice is hereby given that on Nov. 17, 2026 we will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Wyn-ter Rose Baker to Wynter Rose Turner and from Christian Reign Baker to Christian Reign Turner pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided. Dated: Sept. 24, 2026

Foreclosure IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS Heartland Bank and Trust Company Plaintiff, -v- Dana A. Smith; et. al. Defendants. 2026FC000055 5409 Biltmore Drive, Springfield, IL 62711 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 8/5/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 11/16/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on November 18, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. LOT 380 DEERFIELD SIXTEENTH ADDITION, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, EXCEPT THAT PART OF SAID LOT 380 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 380; THENCE NORTH 77 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 23 SECONDS WEST ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 380, A DISTANCE OF 127.86 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 380; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 380, A DISTANCE OF 127.90 FEET TO A SET IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH 43 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST, 99.63 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 51 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 01 SECONDS EAST ON THE CENTERLINE OF THE COMMON WALL OF THE RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE, 56.21 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST, 34.24 FEET TO A SET IRON PIN, BEING A POINT ON THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF BILTMORE DRIVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 55.00 FEET, WHOSE CENTER BEARS SOUTH 53 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST FROM SAID POINT; THENCE SOUTHERLY ON SAID CURVE TO THE LEFT

HAVING A CHORD OF 23.00 FEET AND CHORD BEARING SOUTH 24 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. EXCEPT ANY INTEREST IN THE COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE LAND WHICH HAVE BEEN HERETOFORE CONVEYED OR RESERVED IN PRIOR CONVEYANCES, AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS, IF ANY. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Commonly known as 5409 Biltmore Drive, Springfield, IL 62711 Property Index No. 21-03.0-472-040 The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence. The judgment amount was \$123,418.84 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 5409 Biltmore Drive into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(l) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiffs attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES PC (630) 794-5300 please refer to file number 14-25-08252. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 14-25-08252 Case Number: 2026FC000055 NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. I3295348

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF BREAN ASSET BACKED SECURITIES TRUST 2024-RM9 Plaintiff, -v- LARRY BRIGGITY et al

Defendant 2026FC000051 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 20, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on October 29, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: LOTS ONE (1) AND TWO (2) IN BLOCK FOURTEEN (14) IN W. H. ALLEN'S ADDITION, EXCEPTING THE WEST 76 FEET OF SAID LOTS AND EXCEPTING THE SOUTH 15 FEET OF SAID LOT TWO (2). EXCEPT ALL COAL, MINERALS AND MINING RIGHTS HERETOFORE CONVEYED OF RECORD. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS Commonly known as 316 EAST SCARRITT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703 Property Index No. 14-34.0-352-003 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-26-00828
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2026FC000051
TJSC#: 46-1301
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collec-
tion Practices Act, you are advised that
Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt
collector attempting to collect a debt and
any information obtained will be used for
that purpose.
Case # 2026FC000051
I3294763

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff,
-v-
MICHELLE L. HERMAN AKA MICHELLE
SABATH, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Defendant
2024 FC 000160
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure
and Sale entered in the above cause on
April 23, 2025, an agent for The Judicial
Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on Oc-
tober 27, 2026, at the Do Realty Services,
600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701,
sell at public in-person sale to the highest
bidder, as set forth below, the following
described real estate:
LOT 5 IN SIXTH PASFIELD PARK PLACE
SUBDIVISION. EXCEPT ALL COAL AND
OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING SAID
LANDS, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO
MINE AND REMOVE SAME. SITUATED IN
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 1208 OAKMONT
DRIVE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704
Property Index No. 14-31.0-456-003
The real estate is improved with a single
family residence.

The judgment amount was \$131,360.85.
Sale terms: If sold to anyone other
than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the high-
est bid by certified funds at the close of
the sale payable to The Judicial Sales
Corporation. No third party checks will be
accepted. The balance, in certified funds/
or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four
(24) hours. The subject property is subject
to general real estate taxes, special as-
sessments, or special taxes levied against
said real estate and is offered for sale
without any representation as to quality
or quantity of title and without recourse
to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The
sale is further subject to confirmation by
the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount
bid, the purchaser will receive a Certifi-
cate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser
to a deed to the real estate after confirma-
tion of the sale.

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

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

605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR
(HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO
REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS
AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSES-
SION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued
by a government agency (driver's license,
passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into
our building and the foreclosure sale room
in Cook County and the same identifica-
tion for sales held at other county venues
where The Judicial Sales Corporation
conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact RANDALL
S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES Plaintiff's
Attorneys, 120 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE
1140, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 239-3432.
Please refer to file number 24IL00461-1.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor,
Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales
Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day
status report of pending sales.
RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES
120 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1140
Chicago IL, 60602
312-239-3432
E-Mail: ilpleadings@rsmalaw.com
Attorney File No. 24IL00461-1
Case Number: 2024 FC 000160
TJSC#: 46-1835
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collec-
tion Practices Act, you are advised that
Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt
collector attempting to collect a debt and
any information obtained will be used for
that purpose.
Case # 2024 FC 000160
8051-969505

Notice by Publication

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday,
October 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City
Council Chambers, third floor, Municipal
Center West, 300 S. Seventh Street,
Springfield, Illinois, a public hearing will
be held to consider an annexation for the
property located at 1650 Bruns Lane, at
parcel 14-20.0-177-003. The annexation
consists of territory legally described as
follows: Part of the Southeast Quarter
of the Northwest Quarter of Section
20, Township 16 North, Range 5 West
of the Third Meridian, described more
particularly as follows: Commencing at an
iron pipe marking the Southwest corner
of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest
Quarter of said Section 20, thence North
00 degrees 09 minutes 05 seconds East
along the Quarter, Quarter Section line a
distance of 328.43 feet to an iron pipe
which marks the true point of beginning,
thence continuing North 00 degrees 09
minutes 05 seconds East along said
Quarter, Quarter Section line a distance of
200.00 feet to an iron pipe on the South
right of way line of Route FA 68, Section 1,
said iron pipe marks the beginning of an
11,258.74 foot radius non-tangent curve
to the right whose center bears South
28 degrees 54 minutes 21 seconds East,
thence in a Northeasterly direction along
said curve and right of way line through
a central angle of 03 degrees 36 minutes
213 seconds, a distance of 708.57 feet to
an iron pipe, thence North 61 degrees 05
minutes 39 seconds East along said South
right of way line a distance of 590.40 feet
to an iron pipe, thence North 89 degrees
40 minutes 35 seconds West a distance of
653.23 feet to the true point of beginning.

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

ESTATE OF
WILLIE CHARLES JOHNSON,
Deceased.
No. 2026PR339
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Willie
Charles Johnson, a resident of Springfield,
Sangamon County, Illinois, who died
in Springfield, Illinois, on July 9, 2026.
Danny Johnson, whose post office ad-
dress is 49 Olive Street, Lexington, Missis-
sippi 39095, was appointed independent
administrator of the estate of Willie
Charles Johnson on September 29, 2026.
The attorneys for the independent admin-
istrator 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 administrator, 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 be-
fore that date is barred. Copies of a claim
filed with the clerk must be mailed or
delivered to the independent administrator
and to the attorney within 10 days after it
has been filed.
Dated this September 29, 2026.
Mike Southworth (ARDC #6186085)
Alexander S. Prillaman (ARDC #6339535)
Hart, Southworth & Witsman
One North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite
501
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-0055
msouthworth@hswnet.com
aprillaman@hswnet.com
8051-969934

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
Plaintiff,
vs.
2015 LINCOLN MKZ
VIN # 3LN6L2GK3FR609253)
Donmanick Alexander
No. 26-MX-617
26-AF-34
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the People of
the State of Illinois, ex rel. John C. Milhis-
er, State's Attorney for Sangamon County,
filed the above-captioned matter on June
8, 2026. UNLESS YOU file a verified Claim
with the State's Attorney of Sangamon
County, Illinois at the Sangamon County
Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Room
402, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, within
45 days of this publication, A JUDGMENT
BY DEFAULT OR DECREE MAY BE TAKEN
AGAINST YOU FOR FORFEITURE OF THE
ABOVE ASSETS PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS
FORFEITURE LAW.
Joe Roesch
Clerk of Court
J.W. Pierceall
Assistant State's Attorney
200 S. 9th Street, Room 402
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 753-6690
Sangamoncounty.SAO.civil@sangamonil.
gov

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
Plaintiff,
vs.
2004 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
VIN # 1GCEC19T14E396044
Austin Dyer

No. 26-MX-594
26-AF-30
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the People of
the State of Illinois, ex rel. John C. Milhis-
er, State's Attorney for Sangamon County,
filed the above-captioned matter on June
2, 2026. UNLESS YOU file a verified Claim
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
Plaintiff,
Vs.
2013 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
VIN # 1GCRKSE03D276115
Connie Sullivan
No. 26-MX-738
26-AF-40
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the People of
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gov

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
Plaintiff,
vs.
2013 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
VIN # 1GCRKSE03D276115
Shane Sullivan
No. 26-MX-738
26-AF-40
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
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9, 2026. UNLESS YOU file a verified Claim
with the State's Attorney of Sangamon
County, Illinois at the Sangamon County
Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Room
402, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, within
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BY DEFAULT OR DECREE MAY BE TAKEN
AGAINST YOU FOR FORFEITURE OF THE
ABOVE ASSETS PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS
FORFEITURE LAW.

Joe Roesch
Clerk of Court
J.W. Pierceall
Assistant State's Attorney
200 S. 9th Street, Room 402
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 753-6690
Sangamoncounty.SAO.civil@sangamonil.
gov

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE Wishing to
avail themselves of the provisions under
the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, the
below storage facility gives notice of the
sale under said act; Monday the 26th day
of October, 2026 at 10:00 AM, on that day
will conduct a sale to the highest bidder,
with bidding to take place on lockerfox.
com, and payment to seller via credit/
debit card, the contents of spaces 10 Fed-
eral Storage, 2225 J David Jones Pkwy,
Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 600-2778
Adrienne Dodge 6. Julie Orrick 547.
Mark Mason 18. Gregory Gordon P43.
Bryan Bateman P11. Cheyenne Chrisman
253. Manuel Flores 492. Ashlie Robinson
66. Thaddeous Sutton 610/603. Ray
Loftan P73. Julie Ann Richards 447/448.
Johnny Spain 323. Angelinda Cortes
244. Louis Day 625/588. A'yona Holyfield
635. Brandon Mccaddon 556. Mia Allen
332. Alexandra Wiley 537. Brendan
Buscher 557. Reginald Thomas 649/694.
Briann Miller 746. Linda Ruebling 90.
Robert Shaw 792. Kimberly Balestri 853.
Leda White 615/598. Lottie Mudd 95.
BRANDON REICHERT 37. Tracy Wells 48.
Crystal White 752. Eric Kinsella 854 10
Federal Storage, 3500 South 6th Street,
Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 387-3951
Justin Smith P46 10 Federal Storage,
900 E Straight St, Springfield, IL, 62703
(217) 286-1550 Clayton Hamilton E338/
E339. Jermain Tyler E297. Angel Sullivan
15. Ray ray Williams 66. James Anders
119. Joni Walls E304. Quinetta Lawrence
F458/F459/F460/F461. Brenton Bollinger
121. Todd Jackson 103. nathaniel Byrd
202/254. Lashondra davis 197. Rachel
Rowden 212. Danita Wright 142. Van
Converse 160 Monday the 26th day of
October, 2026 at 11:00 AM, 10 Federal
Storage, 500 W Browning Rd, Springfield,
IL, 62703 (217) 339-3865 Heather
Petrakis 224D. Kenny Black 235E. Aahley
Williams 233E. alexis delgado 47A/48A.
Heather Petrakis 63B. Steve Manson
220D/221D/222D. Steve Manson
226D/227D. Allie Holmes 216D/217D.
Emily Wheeler 145C

To enforce Self Storage Lien in default of
payment of rent a private auction will be
held on Saturday October 17, 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 ac-
cepted for the auction.
Any individual wanting to retain their unit
will need to pay their entire balance on or
before Friday October 9, 2026.
No personal checks will be accepted for
storage units that are in lien.
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STORAGE UNIT
AUCTION
Danny Crawford Unit #10-5
Shermita Dixon Unit #10-9
Sherry Reynolds Unit #1-33
Thaddeus Brewer Unit #11-3
Semaj Johnson Unit #2-18
Precious Tate Unit #2-19
Bette Staley Unit #3-20
Kyle Harris Unit #3-26
Vernice Bailey Unit #5-22
Donald Carpenter Unit #6-30

Keylynnndra Moore	Unit #7-15
Shalik Rhynes	Unit #9-34
Eunice Green	Unit #10-16
Dewey Morris	Unit #10-31
Shermita Dixon	Unit #11-11
Thomas Yarrington	Unit #11-17
Robert Parker	Unit #11-29
Shayla Shanklin	Unit #B-7
Tamika Kirkwood	Unit #H-17
Susan Grant	Unit #10-12

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD,
ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT — PROBATE
DIVISION
In the Matter of
JUAN SEBASTIAN ESCOBAR PEÑA,
A Person Under Guardianship
Case No. 2026GR000146
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given to JOSE DAVID CAMACHO,
whose address is unknown, that a Petition
for Appointment of Guardian of Person and
Motion for Special Findings has been filed
in the above-entitled case.
The Petitioner, Nadia Mileidy Escobar
Pena, seeks the appointment as Guardian
of the Person of Juan Sebastian Escobar
Pena, born July 12, 2008, and requests that
the Court enter findings pursuant to
755 ILCS 5/11-5.5.
JOSE DAVID CAMACHO is hereby
notified that unless he files an answer
or otherwise files an appearance in this
case in the Office of the Circuit Clerk
of Sangamon County, 200 South Ninth
Street, Room 405, Springfield, Illinois
62701, on or before 30 days after the date
of the last publication of this notice, a
judgment by default may be taken against
him and the relief requested in the Petition
may be granted.
Nadia Mileidy Escobar Pena
Petitioner, Pro Se
Case No. 2026GR000146

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDI-
CIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON
COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF Christopher J. Violet
No. 2026-GR-131
To: Christopher L. Violet at address un-
known. Please be notified that Frederick
Moss has filed a Petition for Guardianship
of Christopher J. Violet, minor child. You
are required to answer said Petition By
November 9, 2026 or be defaulted by the
Court thereafter.

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION /
CLOSURE
Notice is hereby given that 1st Currency
Exchange No. 1, Inc., with its principal
place of business located at 2300 S.
MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, Illinois
62704 is voluntarily dissolving and closing
its business operations.
All persons or entities having claims
against the company must present their
claims in writing. Details required for a
claim include:
• The claimant's name and contact
information
• The specific amount and basis of the
claim
• Supporting documentation or invoices
Claims must be mailed or delivered no
later than October 30, 2026 to:
Attn: Lon H. Messervy, Owner
1624 South Grand Avenue East, Spring-
field, IL 62703
Citations for unpaid or unsubmitted claims
will be barred in accordance with the
applicable provisions of state law.
Date of First Publication: September 24,
2026
Date of Final Publication: October 8, 2026

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Sale to enforce Self-Storage lien in default of payment of rent will be held at 10:00 AM. Saturday October 24, 2026, at Safe-T-Storage, 3825 N. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL. Tenants must pay in full by this date.
Unit 81 Rick Hale Petersburg IL
Unit 126 Laura Waite Springfield IL
Unit 132 Erik Hill Springfield IL

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Freda Duberstine, Petitioner
And
Steven Duberstine, Respondent
Case No. 2026-DN-000083
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Steven Duberstine, 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 24th day of October, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.
Joseph B. Roesch
Circuit Clerk

LOWELL L. SHULL, Deceased
Heirs & Legatees of Lowell L. Shull
208 South Wells Street
Buffalo, IL 62515
Re: NOTICE TO DEMOLISH
Dangerous Building-208 South Wells Street, Buffalo, IL 62515
a/k/a 208 South Street
Tax ID: 16-10.0-438-006
Legal Description:
LOT FIVE (5) IN BLOCK TWENTY-FIVE (25) IN THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF BUFFALO, 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 ES-TATE OF SAID COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS, IF ANY.
SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF SANGAMON IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.
Dear ESTATE OF LOWELL L. SHULL
HEIRS & LEGATEES OF LOWELL L. SHULL: I represent the Village of Buffalo, Illinois. You are the owner of the premises known and described as 208 South Wells Street, Buffalo, Illinois a/k/a 208 South Street. You are hereby notified that pursuant to Section 65 ILS 5/11-31-1 of the Illinois Municipal Code; the Village of Buffalo that the property has been condemned as a nuisance and a dangerous building after inspection by the Village President and personnel. It is the intent of the municipal-ity to demolish, repair, or enclose the building or remove any garbage, debris, or other hazardous, noxious, or unhealthy substances or materials if that action is not taken by the owner or owners.
You have thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice (which, in the case that this notice was mailed by certified or registered mail, is the date the notice was mailed) to remedy this condition or demol-ish the building immediately or the Village will proceed to take legal action to do so.
Alex Rabin
Attorney for the Village of Buffalo
1119 South 6th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
217-789-1200
alex@casevista.com

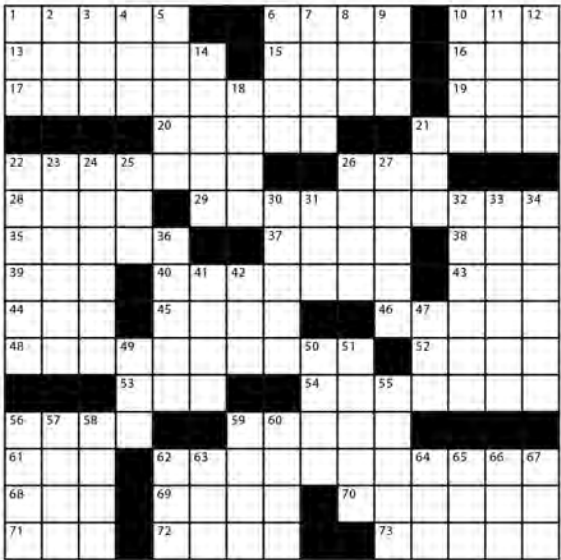
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Freda Duberstine, Petitioner
And
Steven Duberstine, Respondent
Case No. 2026-DN-000083
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Steven Duberstine, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced 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 24th day of October, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.
Joseph B. Roesch
Circuit Clerk

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
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 8th day of November, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.
Joseph B. Roesch
Circuit Clerk

Nightly-night Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 966

Across

1. On ___ (doing well)
6. Certain Slav
10. ___ mode
13. Era
15. Final Four org.
16. Allow
17. Sleepover battle
19. ___ Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
20. Guinness Book listings
21. "Baseball Tonight" channel
22. Singer Jackson
26. Physics unit
28. 1975 Wimbledon winner
29. One who steals covers
35. ___ soul (no one)
37. Archeological site
38. "Aladdin" prince
39. Spanish uncle
40. First pope
43. N.L. West, for one
44. Dr. Seuss's Sami ___
45. "American Idol" Judge DioGuardi
46. "___ no idea"
48. Place to find keys
52. Middle-___ (person who's fiftyish)
53. Defeat
54. Springsteen, to fans
56. Opposite of fem.
59. Place to exchange rings



61. First lady
62. A parental order, or this puzzle's theme
68. Note after fa
69. Not much
70. Maker of the LZR Racer suit
71. Skit-filled NBC show, for short
72. Groaners
73. Carries

Down

1. iPhone download
2. King, in Portugal
3. Magic on a scoreboard?
4. "___ Abner"
5. Bath sponge
6. Agitated state
7. ER tests
8. "Yay, team!"
9. Cave dweller

10. Film composer Clausen and others
11. Jump
12. Envelope abbr.
14. Dork
18. Plummet
21. 911 responder
22. "Praying" insect
23. Book of prophecies
24. Shiny car trim
25. "Listen up!"
26. "___ From Muskogee"
27. Artist Matisse
30. Locales
31. Cashew, e.g.
32. Tried
33. Martini garnishes
34. Unselfish sorts
36. "I didn't ___ be here"

41. Pack (down)
42. Boston skyscraper, with "the"
47. Book before Zephaniah: Abbr.
49. And so forth
50. ___-bitty
51. Pandemonium
55. Blow one's top
56. Hodgepodge
57. Bard of ___
58. Auction off
59. Like, with "to"
60. Answer to "Shall we?"
62. Tourist's aid
63. ___ Dhabi
64. ___ Speedwagon
65. Get in a pool
66. Dutch city
67. Old PC platform

Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #965

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

Sudoku answers from #965

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

JoshJosh answers from #965

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 966

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.

3÷			40x		5-
4-	15x	17+		10x	
14+	4-	18x		12+	
					1-
		9+			

Difficulty hard

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

Difficulty medium

ILLINOIS
US
66

The Last
HUNDRED
Miles

CELEBRATE THE MOTHER ROAD

OCTOBER 10-11, 2026

Celebrate the Centennial anniversary of Route 66 along The Last 100 Miles of the Mother Road. Enjoy community festivals featuring classic cars, music, food, family fun and so much more! Make plans now for this weekend of fun.



GRANITE CITY | COLLINSVILLE | EDWARDSVILLE | LITCHFIELD | CARLINVILLE | STAUNTON
HAMEL | LIVINGSTON | FARMERSVILLE | GIRARD | VIRDEN | GILLESPIE | MT. OLIVE



Scan here to
learn more!

