Illinois Times

FREE October 29-November 4, 2026
Vol. 52, No. 14







BEST OF SPRINGFIELD® 2026











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BEST OF SPRINGFIELD® 2026

Every year, we ask our opinionated readers to tell us about their favorite people, places and things in the Springfield area. Over the decades we've been doing this, we've continued to tweak both the process and the results issue to try to keep things fresh and interesting.

This year, more people voted for their favorite nonprofit than anything else, but food still dominated the voting with eight out of the 10 top categories. But breakfast, bakery and donut shop took precedent, with burgers and horseshoes failing to make the top 10 for the first time in years.

New this year was a "text to vote" option that allowed businesses to campaign for votes by giving customers an easy way to vote in a specific category.

Wondering how all this works? Here are answers to the most common questions we hear:

Q. Are the results real? Don't you just pick your advertisers to win?

A. The Best of Springfield results are based on what our readers chose as the best, which is not always the same as what our staff would prefer. Just ask the advertising department, there are many winners who have never spent a dime with us and others who frequently advertise but failed to win their category. While advertising helps remind people to vote for you, it certainly doesn't guarantee the outcome.

Q. Why did national companies or chain stores win some of the categories? If you're a locally owned business, shouldn't you support other locally owned businesses?

A. See previous answer. We encourage our readers to vote (and shop) local, but ultimately, we don't control the votes.

Q. Why wasn't _____ category included

A. There are already more than 200 categories, so from a logistical perspective we have to consider the attention span of both the voters and readers. However, we do add and subtract categories based on reader feedback and current events. This year, we separated out wedding venue as a different category from event venue and added best gym under 100 members so that smaller gyms weren't competing against those with thousands of members. We also added categories for hot dog, appliance sales and hospice, among others.

Keep in mind that there needs to be at least four or five contenders in a category to make it competitive, so if you're asking for "Best battery store," "Best place to buy a musical instrument," or "Best clock shop" (all actual requests we've had), we're taking that into consideration. If you think of a great category we've missed, email our associate publisher, James Bengfort, at jbengfort@illinoistimes.com.

Q. Why wasn't _____ one of the options when I voted?

A. We hold an initial nomination round beginning in mid-August. The top five vote-getters in each category move on to the final voting. So if you want to lobby for a particular person or business to win, the time to start is in the nomination round.

Q. Why don't all of the winners have a write up this year?

A. We used to publish a short blurb on each of the top picks. However, we do have many repeat winners, and it can be hard to find something different to say each year. Starting in 2019, we switched to a format with longer (but fewer) profiles. We now try to highlight new winners and categories to make it more interesting and informative for the reader.

We welcome comments on this, or anything else in our publication, which can be sent to letters@illinoistimes.com.

– Michelle Ownbey, executive editor

CATEGORIES WITH THE MOST VOTES:

1. Nonprofit
2. Breakfast
3. Bakery
4. Donut shop
5. Pizza
6. Restaurant for dessert
7. Asian
8. Nail salon
9. Drive-thru
10. Overall restaurant

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BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2026 WINNER

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL of Central Illinois

For more information and recordings visit mywacci.org



Weapons of Mass Distraction:
How Our Adversaries Manipulate Information to Disrupt Our Security

Speaker: Karl Stoltz, Former Diplomat, Co-President of the Public Diplomacy Council of America

Thursday, November 19 * Illini Country Club
Reception: 5:30pm • Dinner 6:15pm • FREE Program 7:00pm

What is the difference between misinformation and disinformation? How is it spread? We all carry dangerous weapons of mass distraction in our pockets and purses. Russia, China, Iran, and violent extremist organizations use our mobile phones and laptops to weaken our cohesion and democratic institutions to advance their authoritarian goals. Come learn what is at stake and what we can do.

Dinner cost: $45 members of WACCI/ $55 non-members. Reservations are due by November 10 by sending to WACCI, Box 2233, Springfield, Illinois 62705 or online (preferred) at www.mywacci.org



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Illinois Times
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Statement of Frequency: Published weekly, every Thursday, 52 issues annually
Annual Subscription Price $200 per year

Illinois Times
1240 S. Sixth St.
Springfield, IL 62703
Sangamon County, Illinois
217-753-2226

Local Journalism Matters
Publisher of *Illinois Times*, *Springfield Business Journal* and affiliated niche publications.

Leadership
CEO – Kate McKenzie
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Senior Staff Writer – Dean Olsen
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For editorial submissions, advertising information, event listings, and news tips, visit
https://www.illinoistimes.com/contact



BEST OF SPRINGFIELD® 2026

ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

Abraham Lincoln historic site
Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site
15888 History Ln., Petersburg
217-632-4000
Finalists: *Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Lincoln's Tomb, Abraham Lincoln Long Nine Museum, Edwards Place Historic Home*

Art studio/gallery
The Pharmacy Gallery & Art Space
623 East Adams St.
801-810-9278
Finalists: SAA Collective, Whimsy Tea Company, Studio on 6th, Wild Rose Artisans Gallery & Boutique

Charity event
Fat Ass 5K & Street Party for Charity
fatass5k.com
Finalists: Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade, Boo Crew Haunted House, Chatham Jaycees Sweet Corn Festival, A Night of Stars Prom, Rock & Run for Mental Health

Director of local theater
Gus Gordon (1776)
420 S. Sixth St.
217-523-2787
Finalists: Reggie Guyton, Morgan Kaplan and Andrew Maynerich, Scott Richardson, Hayden Thongsithavong (ACTT)

Drive-time radio show name and station
All Things Considered, NPR 91.9 WUIS
One University Plaza
217-206-9847
Finalists: Sam Madonia 6-9 Morning Show, AM Springfield, 97.7FM/970AM WMAY, Jim Leach, 99.7 CVS Classic Hits, Rocki & Lacey, The Morning Routine WNNS, Josh Roberts, The Ride Home & 104.5 WFMB

Festival
Old Capitol Art Fair
springfieldoldcapitolartfair.org
Finalists: Springfield PrideFest, Chatham Jaycees Sweetcorn Festival, Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade, Lincoln Memorial Garden's Fall Festival

Free entertainment
Levitt Amp Music Series
springfieldartsco.org/levittampspringfield
Finalists: Old Capitol Farmers Market, Fae Folk Art Festival, Penny Lane Jerry Garcia Tribute, Annual Artisan Market



PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

BEST COMEDIAN
Chili Bowl Mullet Man

John Scogin initially is wary of being told he's won an award with *Illinois Times* as best local comedian.

"How did I win an award? I didn't enter any competition," Scogin tells *IT* upon receiving the news.

After proof of the credentials of the reporter, Scogin says, "OK, sorry. But I just had a scam caller yesterday."

At this point, Scogin's other persona comes out, that of the Chili Bowl Mullet Man. In 1988, at a young age, Scogin got a bowl haircut up front but let the hair grow in the back. He has never changed his hairstyle since, unlike the vast majority of those who wore mullets back in the '80s. He cuts his own hair, which may not come as a surprise when seeing him up close.

Local media, including an IT profile about 10 years ago, has detailed Scogin's eccentric life, which includes walking four to five miles a day around Springfield. He has 16,000 followers on his Facebook page and gained some national notoriety in 2015 when he was featured on MTV's "Ridiculousness."

Scogin is not a standup comedian. He has created a character that people seem amused by, especially with that hairstyle. When he walks across town every day, the horn honks and car window greetings are the daily affirmation that the Chili Bowl Mullet Man is something of a Springfield institution.

"I'm just out here doing my own thing, man," said Scogin, who works at a retail clothing store as a day job. "If I can make someone smile or laugh, I've accomplished my daily goal."

Fun activity for grown-ups
Old Capitol Farmers Market
Downtown Springfield
downtownspringfield.org/old-capitol-farmers-market
Finalists: Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade, Brunch at Vondra Social House, Vine & Rind, Annual Artisan Market

Holiday Event
Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular at the Carillon, The Springfield Park District/ Rees Carillon Society
carillon-rees.org/event/jack-o-lantern-spectacular/
217-306-1838
Finalists: Dana-Thomas House Holiday Tours, Old Capitol Holiday Walks, Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade, Christmas in Chatham

Local comedian group
Capitol City Improv
420 S. Sixth St.
217-523-2787
Finalists: The Portuguese Rodeo Clown Company, Rolling Laughs, Southern Fryed Radio

Local individual comedian
Chili Bowl Mullet Man
facebook.com/ChiliBowlMulletMan
Finalists: Jeremy Nunes, Tim Laffey, Cassandra Simpson, Kathy Brennan

Local living author
Shatriya Smith
garveytubman.com
Finalists: Courtney Wick, Jeremy Nunes, Ian Winterbauer, Marla Harms Judge, David M. Briggs

Local podcast
Community Voices, NPR Illinois 91.9 WUIS
One University Plaza
217-206-9847
Finalists: Ope A Ghost, Ray Lytle's Morning Disaster, Elevate Springfield, Robert Ferriell, Derailed Podcast, The Mosaic Project SPI

Local sports team
Springfield Lucky Horseshoes
1415 N Grand Ave.
217-679-3511
Finalists: Glenwood Titans, Rochester Rockets Football, SHS Springfield Solons/Senators, Sacred Heart-Griffin Cyclones



ONLINE CALENDAR SUBMISSION

Friday by 5pm for the following Thursday issue

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

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



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Museum

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
212 N. Sixth St.
217-558-8844
Finalists: Kidzeum of Health and Science, Illinois State Museum, Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, Illinois State Military Museum

Place to buy local art

Old Capitol Art Fair
Downtown Springfield
springfieldoldcapitolartfair.org
Finalists: Wild Rose Artisans Gallery & Boutique, Studio on 6th, Fae Folk Art Festival, Annual Artisan Market

Place to go downtown

Hoogland Center for the Arts
420 S. Sixth St.
217-523-2787
Finalists: Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery Beer Garden, Dumb Records, Anvil & Forge Brewing and Distilling Company, The Cats' Pyjamas Cat Cafe, Whimsy Tea Company

Place to see a play or musical indoor

Hoogland Center For The Arts
420 S. Sixth St.
217-523-2787
Finalists: UIS Performing Arts Center, The Legacy Theatre, Theater in the Park - New Salem, Indoor Auditorium, Lanphier Auditorium

Place to see a play or musical outdoor

The Muni
815 E Lake Shore Dr
217-793-6864
Finalists: Sherman Village Park Amphitheater The Amp, Kelso-Hollow Amphitheater at Lincoln's New Salem (TIP), Union Square Park

Place To Take A Selfie

Illinois State Fair
801 E. Sangamon Ave.
217-782-6661
Finalists: Downtown Springfield, Dumb Records Elephant, My Heart's Downtown Heart, The Spot 90's Bar & Grill

Play or musical

***Come From Away*, The Legacy**
101 E. Lawrence Ave.
217-528-9760
Finalists: Mamma Mia, The Muni; Beetlejuice Jr., STC; Phantom of the Opera, HCFTA; Frozen, The Muni; Alice by Heart, ACTT



PHOTO BY BETHANY PAYNE

TOWING COMPANY

Tuxhorn Towing

It was with some trepidation when a reporter walked onto the lot of Tuxhorn Towing at the corner of Sixth Street and North Grand Avenue on a recent weekday.

Growling dogs. Razor wire fences. Impounded cars, with angry car owners trying to get those cars back from indifferent shop owners behind bulletproof glass. That's the stereotype of any tow yard.

What a surprise, therefore, when JR Tuxhorn IV greeted the reporter with a "What can I help you with?"

"We stopped towing (illegally parked cars) maybe 10 years ago," says JR, whose great-great-grandfather, John Tuxhorn, established Tuxhorn Towing at the same location in 1919. "We didn't need the aggravation anymore."

There are still towing companies in Springfield that will haul off your car that has overstayed its welcome in designated lots, but no longer with the pink-colored trucks, 10 of them, that JR and his father have under control. JR's son, JR Tuxhorn V, is also part of the family business, as is his brother, Jared Tuxhorn (pictured above).Tuxhorn Towing has been in business in Springfield for 106 years. They no longer want to hassle with locals, or non-locals, who park too long in, say, an apartment complex or the back of a bar parking lot.

That, JR says, is more in keeping with modern-day towing. Municipal governments can just put a Flock camera on a vehicle parked too long in a spot it shouldn't have and send out a digital ticket, although more likely than not get the payment.

Now, Tuxhorn Towning has a greater business interest in rescuing a stranded driver or hauling freight from one central Illinois spot to another.

When the pink Tuxhorn trucks show up now, it's most likely to rescue a driver whose tire just blew out on the highway, or some other kind of distress.

"Customers are happy to see us now," JR says with a laugh. "We want to help our customers, not have a standoff with them."

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Adults.....$10.00
Children (4 thru 11).....$5.00
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Carry-Outs Will Be Available



BEST OF SPRINGFIELD® 2026

Portrayal of a female lead in a theatrical production

Olivia Garren (Lydia, *Beetlejuice Jr* - Hoogland)

Finalists: Zoe Chase (Grace, The Hello Girls - STC), Evelyn Barnard (Christine Daae, Phantom of the Opera - Hoogland), Elena Dean (Anne, SIX: Teen Ed – Main Stage Bound), Kierie Pickett (Alice - ACTT's Alice by Heart)

Portrayal of a male lead in a theatrical production

Jackson Thornton (*Beetlejuice, Beetlejuice Jr.*, STC)

Finalists: Devin Michael Leming (Seymour, Little Shop of Horrors - Hoogland), Layne Kretzinger (Phantom, Phantom of the Opera - Hoogland), Payne Osborn (Alfred - ACTT's Alice by Heart), Everest Kording (Ponyboy - ACTT's The Outsiders)

Public art/mural (intersections)

Art Alley

Downtown Springfield

downtownspringfield.org/artification

Finalists: Penny Lane, Lincoln on The Alamo, Pharmacy Art Gallery Route 66 Mural by Lyndsay & Spencer Stokes, My Heart's Downtown Heart

Radio personality or team & station

Dina and DJ Blake, 101.9 The Wolf WFLZ

3501 E. Sangamon Ave.

217-753-5400

Finalists: Jeff Williams, Community Voices, NPR Illinois, 91.9 WUIS; Jim Leach, 99.7 CVS Classic Hits; Rocki & Lacey, The Morning Routine, WNNS; Josh Roberts, 104.5 WFMB

Tourist spot in Springfield not related to Abraham Lincoln

Dana-Thomas House

302 E. Lawrence Ave.

217-788-9452

Finalists: Lincoln Memorial Garden and Nature Center, Route 66 Motor Heads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, Illinois Route 66 Experience at Illinois State Fairground, Lake Springfield

Visual artist

Felicia Olin

feliciaolin.com

Finalists: Lyndsay Stokes, Jeff C. Williams, Thom Whalen, Donald Landry



PHOTO BY STEVE HINRICHS

AUTO DEALER (NEW) AUTO SALESPERSON

Isringhausen Imports Brandon Horner, Isringhausen Imports

Isringhausen has a well-established reputation as a low-pressure, transparent dealership that serves customers from all over, not just here in central Illinois. Consistently winning top honors as the best auto dealership, the business now has another feather to add to its cap thanks to one of the helpful and friendly salespeople – Brandon Horner.

In a repeat win for best auto salesperson, Brandon clearly strikes a chord with customers. Coming up through the service department, where his eagerness to learn more and assist customers first became apparent, Brandon has earned his place as a reputable and patient salesperson. Always ready to answer a text or a call, no matter the question, buyers frequently note in reviews his genuine warmth, calling him "pleasurable," "caring" and "kind throughout every step of the transaction."

Perhaps it's the satisfaction of working for such a welcoming and philanthropic business like Isringhausen, or maybe it's just his nature. Either way, congrats to Brandon for once again achieving the spectacular feat of giving people a reason to enjoy the auto-buying process.

CANNABIS

Biggest cannabis selection

Ascend - Springfield

3201 Horizon Dr., 217-492-8060

628 E. Adams St., 217-679-3283

Finalists: Maribis of Springfield, Share Springfield, High Profile, Shangri-La Springfield

Biggest CBD selection

Maribis of Springfield

3025 Lindbergh Blvd., 217-280-5461

2451 Denver Dr., 217-280-5753

Finalists: Simply CBD, CBD Botanicals, Prairie State Hemp, Tribble Vapors

Budtender and location

Larry, Share

3600 S. Sixth St.

217-441-8820

Finalists: Allyson, Maribis of Springfiel; Audrey, Maribis of Springfield Lindbergh; Eli Shaw, Shangri-La; Christina Yoc, CBD Botanicals

Cannabis dispensary

Ascend of Springfield

3201 Horizon Dr., 217-492-8060

628 E. Adams St., 217-679-3283

Finalists: Maribis of Springfield, Share Springfield, High Profile, Prairie State Hemp, Shangri-La of Springfield

Cannabis strain

Blue Dream (not dispensary exclusive)

leafly.com/strains/blue-dream

Finalists: Kush, Fugazi Funk - Nomad, Bedford Grow I-95 & 8 Mile from CBD Botanicals

CBD store

Prairie State Hemp

450 E. Jefferson St.

217-670-0222

Finalists: Maribis of Springfield, Simply CBD, CBD Botanicals, Tribble Vapors

Edible

Bedford Grow Chocolate Bar - Maribis of Springfield

bedfordgrow.com

Finalists: Effin Deep Sleep Dark Cherry - Ascend, Daze Off Moondrop, Grön, Jelly Brand from CBD Botanicals


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217-588-8161
Finalists: Avexia Balm or Lotion, Nature's Grace Cloud 9 Lotion, Pain Stick – Phetora, EyeDentify at Simply CBD

Place to buy accessories for cannabis use

Penny Lane
2901 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-787-2996
Finalists: Happy Daze Gift Shop, Maribis of Springfield, Shangri-La Springfield, Upper Limits

CIVIC & COMMUNITY

Apartment community

Lake Pointe Apartments
1608 - 1636 Toronto Rd.
217-529-2900
Finalists: Lincoln Square Apartments, Cardinal Ridge Apartments, Cobblestone Place, Prairie Vista Apartments

Business giving back to the community

Cafe Moxo
2661 Chatham Rd
217-788-8084
Finalists: Scoop Du Jour, Lulu's Diner, Scheels, United Community Bank

City official

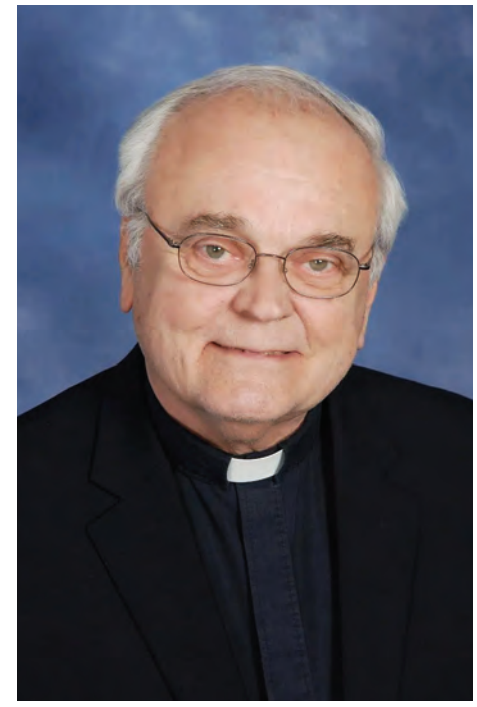
Shawn Gregory, Alderman Ward 2
springfield.il.us/Departments/CityCouncil/Ward2.aspx
217-789-2216
Finalists: Misty Buscher, Mayor of Springfield; Jennifer Notariano, Alderwoman Ward 6; Erin Conley, Alderwoman Ward 8; Brad Carlson, Alderman Ward 7

Clergyperson

Msgr. John Ossola (Posthumously)
Church of the Little Flower
900 Adlai Stevenson Dr
217-529-4511
Finalists: Rev. Susan Phillips, First Presbyterian; Pastor Eddie Lowen, West Side Christian Church; Rev. Martin Woulfe, Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist; Pastor Brooks Wilson, Southside Christian Church

CLERGYPERSON

Monsignor John R. Ossola (posthumously)



Monsignor John R. Ossola never seemed to outgrow his love of childhood. Whether riding roller coasters with eighth-graders, sharing cookies in a school cafeteria or discussing theology with youngsters, the longtime Springfield priest had a gift for connecting with people, especially children.

That connection is part of the legacy of Ossola, who has been posthumously named pastor of the year.

Ossola, who died July 5 at age 87, served the Catholic Diocese of Springfield for more than six decades, including 21 years as pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and later as pastor of Little Flower Catholic Church.

Anne Antonacci, who worked at Little Flower School, described him as a "true shepherd."

"He could make them laugh. They respected him," she said of his relationship with children.

Gail Saner, a longtime Little Flower teacher, recalled Ossola's enthusiasm for teaching theology. He regularly engaged youngsters in religious discussions and took students on tours of Springfield houses of worship, including Protestant churches, synagogues and the mosque.

He also delighted in accompanying graduating eighth-graders on their class trip to Six Flags in the St. Louis area.

His devotion to young people extended beyond the classroom. He organized trips to Europe, mission work in Haiti and Appalachia, canoe excursions and outings to his cabin near Carlinville.

Bill Moredock, president of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, remembered Ossola's compassion during difficult times, including the death of a student in an automobile accident.

"He said the right things, and he was always that way, very pastoral in his approach to things," Moredock said.

"He was everybody's dad in a way," Moredock added, noting that as Ossola aged, he became more grandfatherly.

Even after retiring in 2014, Ossola remained a familiar presence at Little Flower School, attending athletic events and joining students for lunch.

He particularly enjoyed cheeseburgers and cookies.

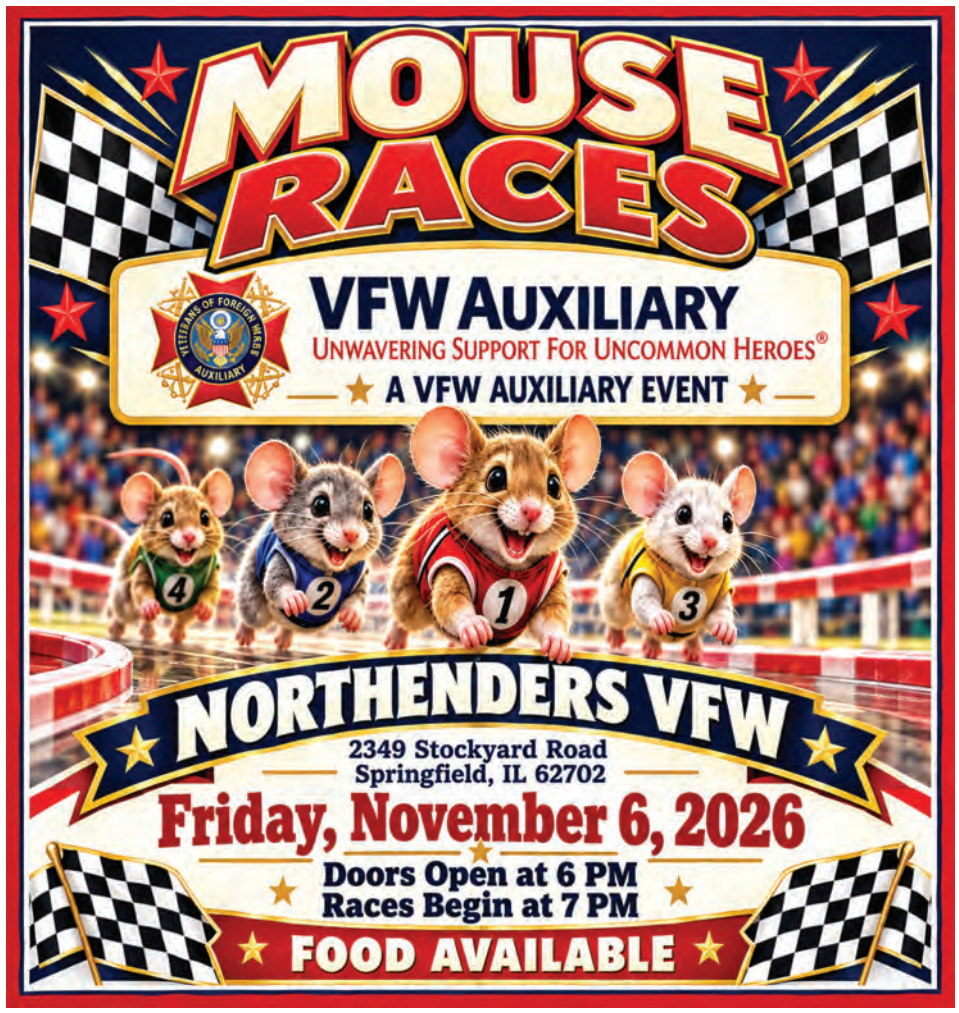
His ministry began with his ordination in 1964. Over the decades, he taught at several Catholic schools, directed diocesan youth programs and officiated countless weddings.

In a 2019 homily, as he struggled with Alzheimer's disease, Ossola offered a simple explanation of Christian service: "By giving to others, by caring for them, showing them God's love."

For those who knew him, that was more than a sermon. It was how he lived.

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BEST OF SPRINGFIELD® 2026

County official

County Coroner Jim Allmon
903 E. Capitol Ave.
217-753-6610
Finalists: Reggie Guyton, Sangamon County Board District 21; Don Gray, County Clerk; Tom Rader, Sangamon County Board District 8

Facebook page

Sangamon County Crime Watch (SCCW)
facebook.com/groups/587948536124919
Finalists: 217 Foodies, 217 Problems, Springfield Families Helping Families, NPR Illinois 91.9 UIS

Nonprofit

Springfield Urban League
100 N. 11th St.
217-789-0830
Finalists: Animal Protective League, WILD Canine Rescue, Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault, Compass for Kids

Place to volunteer

Animal Protective League
1001 Taintor Rd.
217-544-7387
Finalists: WILD Canine Rescue, Friends of Sangamon County Animal Control, PBJ Springfield, Food Not Bombs

Unsung hero

Brian Skeeters, Sangamon County Crime Watch
Finalists: Charlene Powers Walsh, WILD Canine Rescue; Tiara Standage, Intricate Minds; Shawn Gregory, Alderman Ward 2; Gordon Davis, Whimsy Tea

Up-and-coming leader

Brian Skeeters, Sangamon County Crime Watch
Finalists: Nicole Shomidie, 217 Foodies/Boozers; Tiara Standage, Intricate Minds; Shawn Gregory, Alderman Ward 2; Jay Shanle, Downtown Springfield Inc.

DRINK

Bartender

Jessica Cloyd, Curve Inn
3219 S. Sixth St.
217-529-5806
Finalists: Justin, Clique; Eric Ferrell, Vondra Social House; Tiffany Matthews, Mama Lee's Sandbar; Maddy, Goodfellas Pub



BEST PLACE TO VOLUNTEER

Animal Protective League

One of the first things anyone who works at the Animal Protective League will tell you is how great the people of the city and surrounding areas were in response to the June 10 tornado that destroyed the bulk of the facility's property.

If all goes well, construction to either rebuild the existing facility or build a new one elsewhere could begin in just a few months. While the APL can always use a hand financially from donors, adoption center manager Meara Gietl says it is in need of more volunteers in the wake of the tornado, which did $1.2 million in damages.

"For what we want to continue to do for the community, we could definitely use more volunteers," Gietl said. "For example, on weekends we do off-site adoption events at PetSmart, and we need people there who can talk to other people about doing adoptions and getting that set up. We still need some animal care volunteers, specifically with dogs. We have some dogs at the Office of Emergency Management, so we need to people to clean, feed and walk them three times a day. And, any volunteers who are able to help with our foster care program would be amazing. The need for foster parents has basically quadrupled overnight."

Amazingly, none of the animals were killed during the tornado, despite roofs that were sheared and damage to the structures themselves. The APL is waiting for some insurance issues to settle before firm plans on a new facility can be made. So, in the meantime, it's still all hands on deck.

"And, we've gotten so much support from the community, which we're very grateful for," Gietl said.

Beer garden

Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery and Eatery
500 S. Sixth St
217-670-0627
Finalists: Curve Inn, The Shed, Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, Curveside Bar & Grill - Athens

Beer selection (on tap)

Anvil & Forge Brewing and Distilling Company
619 E. Washington St.
217-679-1195
Finalists: Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, Engrained Brewing Company, Bald Buddha Brewing

Coffee house

Grab-a-Java
1702 S. Sixth St., 217-523-5282
300 Chatham Rd., 217-670-1353
3115 Hedley Rd., 217-698-9773
Finalists: Hae's Bakery & Coffee Shoppe, Arrowroot Coffee Co - Roastery and Coffee Lounge, Brezie's Roasted Beans, Custom Cup Coffee

Craft brewery

Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery and Eatery
500 S. Sixth St
217-670-0627
Finalists: Hand of Fate Brewery, Anvil & Forge Brewing and Distilling Company, Engrained Brewing Company, Springfield Beer Company

Happy hour

Vondra Social House
724 E. Edwards St.
217-416-3668
Finalists: Brewski's Pub, Clique, Curate, Jamie's Route 66

Juice or smoothie bar

Smoothie King
4319 Yucan Dr., 217-679-4590
605 W. Jefferson St., 217-670-1962
Finalists: Wellthy Juice Co., Tropical Smoothie Cafe, Genius Mango Smoothie, Soleil Cafe

Margaritas

Blue Margarita Mexican Bar & Grill
3151 Horizon Dr.
217-670-1394
Finalists: Xochimilco, AZ-T-CA, Los Altos Cocina y Cantina, Ramona Tacos + Mezcal & Taquería, El Dorado

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NA cocktail

Purple Dreams - Ramona Tacos + Mezcal
4403 Yucan Dr.
217-970-5065
Finalists: The Tipsy Toad; Love Letters to Harry, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions; The Camille, Vondra Social House; Britney-tini - The Spot 90's Bar & Grill

New bar (opened after 8/1/25)

Vondra Social House
724 E. Edwards St.
217-416-3668
Finalists: The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, The Spot 90's Bar & Grill, Scoop after Dark at Scoop Du Jour, Martinis Lounge

Overall bar

Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex
600 Toronto Rd.
217-679-7323
Finalists: Curve Inn, Vondra Social House, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Curveside Bar & Grill

Place for darts

Curve Inn
3219 S. Sixth St
217-529–5806
Finalists: Jamie's Route 66, The Bird Tavern, Mama Lee's Sandbar, George Rank's

Place for pool

Mowie's Cue
1277 Toronto Rd.
217-529-7616
Finalists: Floyd's Thirst Parlor, Mama Lee's Sandbar, Docker's Tavern, The Bean - Mechanicsburg

Specialty cocktail

Line Cook's Old Fashioned - Luminary Kitchen & Provisions
3121 Hedley Rd.
217-679-1819
Finalists: French Fig Old Fashioned - Vonda Social House; Bacardi Party - Curve inn; The Tipsy Toad - Tipsy Margarita; Saturday Morning Cartoons - The Spot 90's Bar & Grill

Trivia night

Anvil & Forge Brewing and Distilling Company
619 E. Washington St.
217-679-1195
Finalists: Scoop after Dark at Scoop Du Jour, Clique, Brewski's Pub, The Creek Pub & Grill



FARM-TO-TABLE RESTAURANT SPECIALTY COCKTAIL

Luminary Kitchen & Provisions

Chefs Jordan and Aurora Coffey are in their fifth year of serving up fresh, innovative offerings at Luminary Kitchen & Provisions. The restaurant's menu changes regularly based on what is in season, offering everything from chicken cacciatore with creamy polenta to scallops with sunchoke velouté to a prime ribeye with cauliflower gratin and onion marmalade. Jordan Coffey said they work with numerous local providers and continually strive to source as much meat and produce locally as they can.

In addition to being recognized in the farm-to-table restaurant category, Luminary also earned top billing this year in the specialty cocktail category for its Line's Cook Old Fashioned. Coffey said the Line's Cook is a staple at Luminary, and it is the only cocktail that carried over from the menu at the Coffey's former restaurant, American Harvest Eatery, which closed in 2020.

"It's the only thing that never changes on our menu, and it's one of our top-selling cocktails for sure," Coffey said.

Luminary is open for dinner Wednesday through Saturday. The restaurant recently ended its regular Sunday brunch service, a decision the Coffeys made to allow them to spend more time with their children. Jordan Coffey said they may offer occasional pop-up brunches and may consider resuming regular brunch service in the future.

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Wine bar
Bloom Wine Bar & Florals
2 S. Old State Capitol Plaza
217-679-1830
Finalists: Vine & Rind, It's All About Wine, Curate, The Corkscrew, Schlee's Gourmet Bakery & Bottle Shop

Winery
Danenberger Family Vineyards
12341 Irish Rd., New Berlin
217-488-6321
Finalists: West of Wise Winery, Hill Prairie Winery, Arpeggio Winery

Asian
Magic Kitchen
4112 N. Peoria Rd., 217-525-2230
115 N. Lewis St., 217-525-6975
Finalists: Yummy Bowl, Mekong Cafe, Little Saigon Restaurant, Mimosa, Sunny China

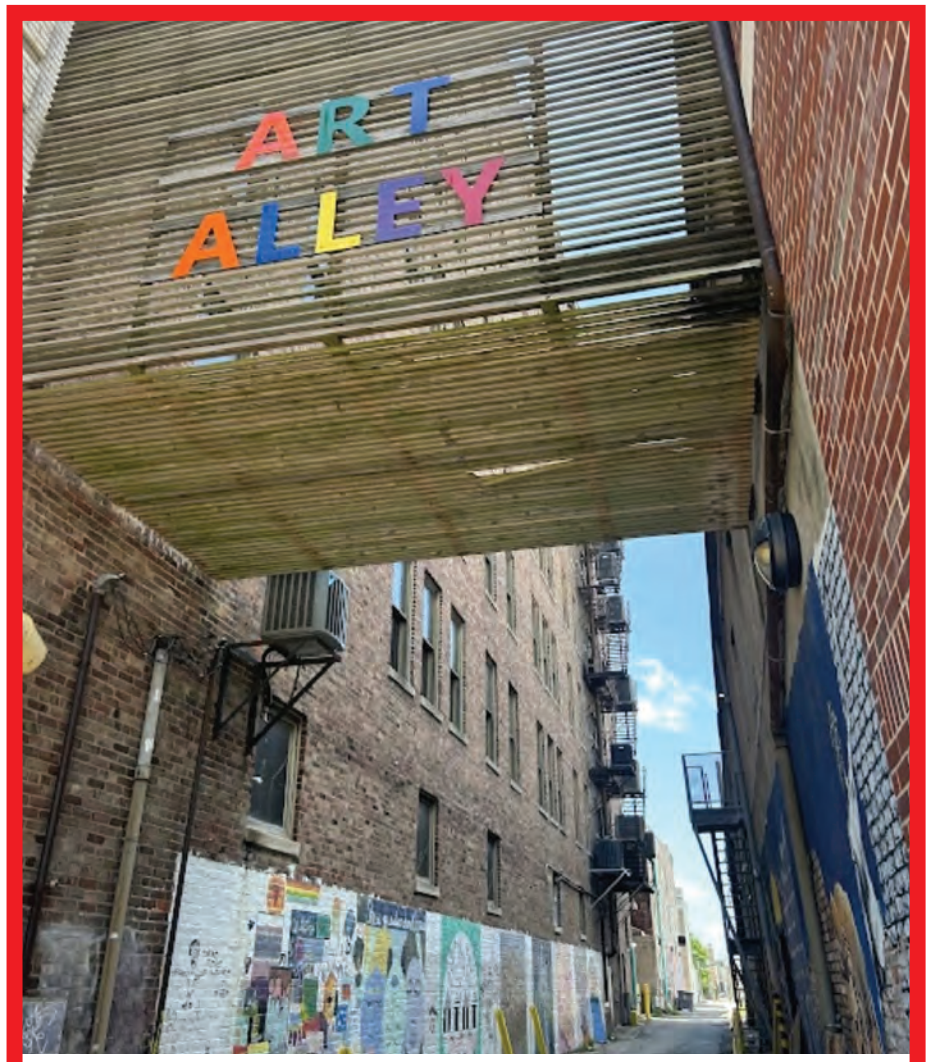
Bakery
Incredibly Delicious
925 S. Seventh St.
217-528-8548
Finalists: Cafe Moxo, Scoop Du Jour, Apple Barn, Cafe Amulet

BBQ
Mission BBQ
2401 Wabash Ave.
217-275-5610
Finalists: Twyford BBQ & Catering, Clay's Popeye's Barbecue, Hickory River Smokehouse, PT's BBQ

Biscuits and Gravy
Clock Tower Cafe
751 S. Durkin Dr.
217-679-7251
Finalists: Cafe Moxo, Star 66 Cafe, Lulu's Diner, Ritz's Lil Fryer, Vondra Social House

Breakfast
Charlie Parker's Diner
700 W. North St.
217-241-2104
Finalists: Le Peep, Lulu's Diner, Clock Tower Cafe, Star 66 Cafe

Brunch
Vondra Social House
724 E. Edwards St.
217-416-3668
Finalists: Le Peep, Boone's, Clock Tower Cafe



PUBLIC ART
Art Alley, Downtown Springfield

Art in public spaces can be a source of pride and help define the local character of a city. It can speak to a community's history, foster civic pride and tell local stories through diverse voices. The Best Of choice this year for public art checks all of these boxes and more.

Launched in 2017 by Downtown Springfield, Inc. (DSI) and its Image and Design Council in partnership with the Springfield Art Association to support downtown revitalization and creative placemaking, Art Alley is one of many beautification projects in the city that showcases local art and regional artists.

The concept began years ago as a real-time pop-up art installation. Artists were given an 8x8 plot to create their unique designs on the exteriors of buildings in the alley, which was followed by a public unveiling and reception. DSI has continually revised and updated this, and other public arts projects, through its ARTification program.

Visitors and locals alike are encouraged to take a stroll through Art Alley, located off Fifth Street between Adams and Washington streets, and enjoy the often whimsical and vibrant storytelling that this project has to offer. It's a shortcut that is not to be missed.

Build your own bowl
Yummy Bowl
3434 Freedom Dr.
217-953-3777
Finalists: Pita or Bowl, Nami Poke

Burger
Krekel's Custard & Hamburgers
2121 N. Grand Ave E.
217-525-4952
Finalists: Burger Bar and Back Door Lounge, Anvil & Forge Brewing and Distilling Company, Clock Tower Cafe, The Shed

Caterer
Nelson's Catering of Central Illinois
3005 Great Northern Ave.
217-787-9443
Finalists: Cured Catering, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Hamilton's Catering Service, Taco Joint

Chef
Michael Higgins, Maldaner's Restaurant and Catering
222 S. Sixth St.
217-522-4313
Finalists: Aurora and Jordan Coffey, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions; Kelsi Slowe, VELE; Dustin Coons, Legacy Pointe Eatery; Nate Powers, Vondra Social House; Laura Davis, Whimsy Tea Company

Chicken strips
Raising Cane's
3100 W. White Oaks Dr.
217-361-0988
Finalists: Home Plate Bar & Grill, Dairy Queen, Sharks Fish & Chicken, The Shed

Chili
The Chili Parlor
820 S. Ninth St.
217-523-4989
Finalists: Cook's Spice Rack & Chili, The Dublin Pub (Joe's Chili), D'Arcy's Pint, Cozy Dog Drive In

Cookies
Incredibly Delicious
925 S. Seventh St.
217-528-8548
Finalists: Cafe Moxo, Crumbl Cookies, Crave Cookies, Long Nine Junction

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Diner
Charlie Parker's Diner
700 W. North St.
217-241-2104
Finalists: Lulu's Diner, Star 66 Cafe, Clock Tower Cafe, Ritz's Lil Fryer

Donut shop
Mel-O-Cream Donuts
217 E. Laurel St., 217-544-4644
3010 S. Sixth St., 217-529-7708
1953 W. Monroe St., 217-546-4651
525 North Grand Ave E., 217-528-2303
4411 Yucan Dr., 217-679-1107
Finalists: Scoop Du Jour, Krispy Kreme, Dunkin' Donuts, Schnucks

Drive-thru
Grab-a-Java
1702 S. Sixth St., 217-523-5282
300 Chatham Rd., 217-670-1353
3115 Hedley Rd., 217-698-9773
Finalists: Chick-fil-A, Abelardo's Mexican Fresh, Maid-Rite, Taco Joint

Farm-to-table restaurant
Luminary Kitchen & Provisions
3121 Hedley Rd.
217-679-1819
Finalists: Curate, Engrained Brewing Company, Maldaner's Restaurant and Catering

Fine dining
VELE
3241 W. Iles Ave.
217-210-2177
Finalists: Chesapeake Seafood House, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Old Luxemburg Inn, Maldaner's Restaurant and Catering, Joseph's Fine Cuisine



DJ
Yuri K (DJ RIQ)

Sometimes the DJ (short for disc jockey, a term first coined in 1935 by Walter Winchell) takes a beating in the music industry for not really playing music, but in today's world the guy throwing down beats (and often creating them, too) for dances or curating songs for weddings and special events can be as vital as the musicians who make the sounds initially.

Our winner for DJ in 2026, Yuri K (aka DJ RIQ) certainly fits that bill, becoming a part of what he does in bringing personality into the mix as well as cool songs, hip tracks and seamless transitions to keep folks moving on the dance floor or wherever they may be. With his signature flowing white beard, Yuri K can be seen at many venues, including his home DJ spot at the Butternut Hut organizing and hosting First Fridays, a popular monthly house music and dance night. He also performs regularly at the annual Land of Lincoln House Music Festival at Lincoln Park plus is a staunch supporter of Blue Monday at The Alamo and attends many other live music events.

And best of all, the man is known for being a cool dude, ready with kind words and good deeds all while dialing up the beats, keeping the music flowing and being there when the stuff needs done, which makes him the best for 2026, before and beyond.

Food truck
The Lumpia House and Truck
1731 S. MacArthur Blvd.
447-448-8262
Finalists: AZ-T-CA Mexican Grill, Taco Joint, Twyford BBQ & Catering, Edinburgers

French Fries
Culler's French Fries, Illinois State Fair
Track statefair.illinois.gov/
Finalists: Cozy Dog Drive In, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Clock Tower Cafe, Yanni's Gyros

Fried chicken
Track Shack
233 E. Laurel St.
217-522-0044
Finalists: County Market - Fairhills Plaza, MJ's Fish & Chicken Express, Old Luxemburg Inn, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, The Shed

Fried fish
Carter's Fish Market
1900 S. Grand Ave. E.
217-525-2571
Finalists: MJ's Fish & Chicken Express, The Shed, Springfield Motor Boat Club, Clock Tower Cafe

Gluten-free menu
Legacy Pointe Eatery
1130 Legacy Pointe Dr.
217-670-1217
Finalists: Bella Milano, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Vine & Rind, Clock Tower Cafe

Gyro
Yanni's Gyros
1841 Adlai Stevenson Dr.
217-585-9300
Finalists: Gyro Stop, Pita or Bowl, Joey G's Chicago Dog & Gyros, Clock Tower Cafe



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Horseshoe
D'Arcy's Pint
661 W. Stanford Ave.
217-492-8800
Finalists: The Dublin Pub, Ritz's Lil Fryer, Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, Clock Tower Cafe

Hot Dog
Cozy Dog Drive In
2935 S. Sixth St.
217-525-1992
Finalists: Vose Corn Dogs Stand, Portillo's, Sam's Club, Springfield Motor Boat Club

Ice cream or froyo
Scoop Du Jour
95 Plummer Blvd., Chatham
217-697-8327
Finalists: Baskin-Robbins, Culver's, Dolce Anna Gelateria Italiana, Pease's at Bunn Gourmet

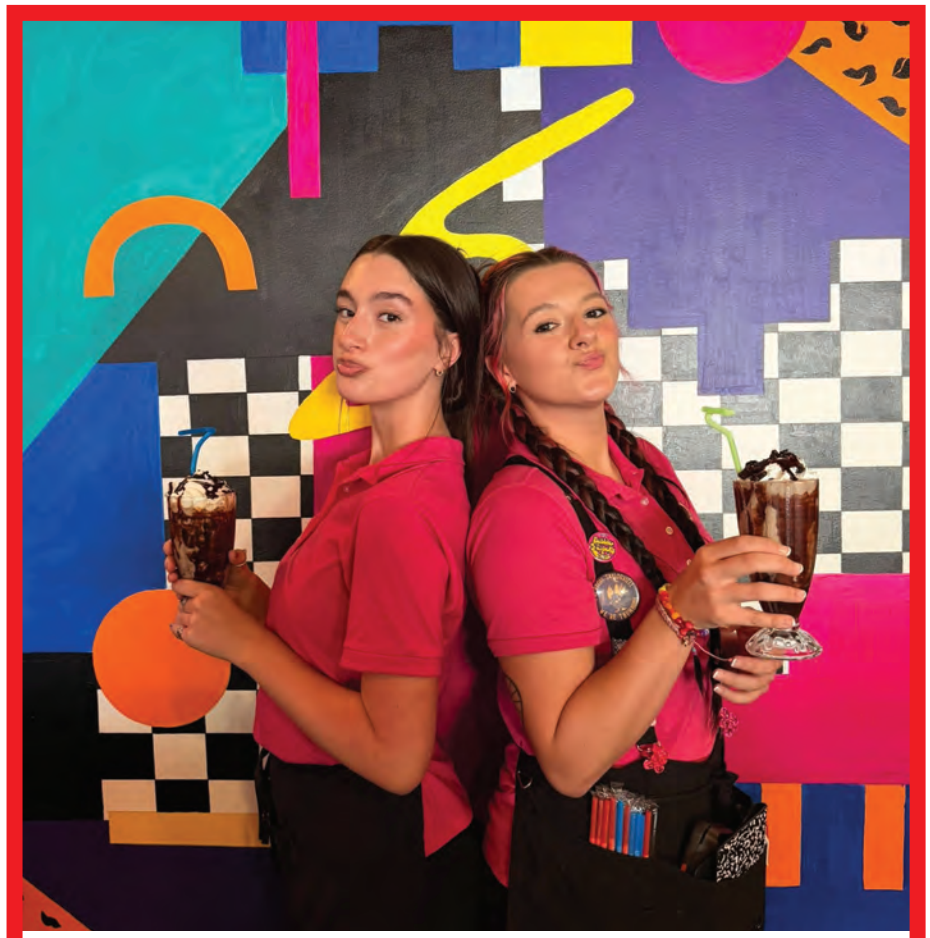
Indian
Gateway to India
3115 Chatham Rd., Ste. 5306
217-726-6890
Finalists: Flavor of India, Pita or Bowl

Italian
Sapori Pizzeria & Italian Market
1941 W. Iles Ave.
217-679-3760
Finalists: Bella Milano, Saputo's, La Piazza Cucina Italiana, Di Carlo's Pizza

Lake club
Firefighters-Postal Lake Club
940 W. Lake Shore Dr.
217-691-6472
Finalists: Island Bay Yacht Club, Springfield Motor Boat Club, Elks Lodge #158, Aqua Sports Club, Prop Club

Late-night eats location
Star 66 Cafe
3752 Camp Butler Rd.
217-523-0611
Finalists: Bill's Toasty - Taylorville, 3rd Shift Kitchen, California Kitchen, IHOP

Mexican restaurant
Xochimilco
2941 W. Iles Ave., 217-546-3116
3210 Northfield Dr., 217-544-9206
Finalists: Aztca Mexican Grill, Ramona Tacos + Mezcal, Rancho Chico, Los Altos Cocina y Cantina, Taqueria El Dorado



NEW RESTAURANT (OPENED AFTER 8/1/25)

The Spot 90's Bar and Grill

Jordan Blevins opened The Spot 90's Bar and Grill this summer in the space that formerly was home to Finley's Tap House. The Spot is '90s themed, and customers will be hit with nostalgia upon entering the restaurant, with compact discs adorning the ceiling and bright-colored décor featuring movies, musicians and sports stars from the 1990s. The restaurant's soundtrack also is from the same decade.

Even the menu has a '90s theme, with offerings such as the Saved by the Beef sandwich (house-smoked brisket, melted provolone, creamy horseradish and herbed au jus), the Mixtape pizza (fig jam, mozzarella, goat cheese, red onion, prosciutto, spinach and hot honey), the Smells Like Brussels Spirit appetizer (smoked bacon, sweet chili, crispy onion strings, scallions and sriracha aioli) and the Honey, I Fried The Chicken entrée (hand-battered fried chicken strips served with fries and house-made honey mustard).

Blevins said that while The Spot's menu features bar and grill classics, it carries on the Finley's Tap House focus on fresh ingredients.

"We want to still elevate the food and keep things fresh but get the price point down," Blevins said at the time of the restaurant's opening. And no worries, Finley's popular cheese curds, now known as cheese nugz, still grace the appetizer menu.

Located on Ginger Creek Drive on Springfield's west side, The Spot is open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday.

New restaurant (opened after 8/1/25)
The Spot 90's Bar & Grill
3236 Ginger Creek Dr.
217-572-1996
Finalists: Vondra Social House, Bespoke Cafe + Kitchen, Curveside Bar & Grill - Athens, The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, Los Altos Cocina y Cantina

Outdoor dining
The Railyard on Route 66
2242 S. Sixth St.
217-670-1501
Finalists: Curate, Vondra Social House, Ramona Tacos + Mezcal, Dockside Grill at Lake Springfield Marina

Overall restaurant
D'Arcy's Pint
661 W. Stanford Ave.
217-492-8800
Finalists: Chesapeake Seafood House, VELE, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Vondra Social House

Pizza
Sapori Pizzeria & Italian Market
1941 W. Iles Ave.
217-679-3760
Finalists: Bernie and Betty's Pizza, Di Carlo's Pizza, Gabatoni's Italian Restaurant, Antonio's Pizza

Place for date night
VELE
3241 W. Iles Ave.
217-210-2177
Finalists: Bella Milano, Old Luxemburg Inn, Vondra Social House, Vine & Rind, Ramona Tacos + Mezcal

Place for Steak
VELE
3241 W. Iles Ave.
217-210-2177
Finalists: Texas Roadhouse, Old Luxemburg Inn, Longhorn Steakhouse, Saputo's

Restaurant for dessert
Pease's at Bunn Gourmet
2941 Plaza Dr.
217-793-1840
Finalists: Incredibly Delicious, Star 66 Cafe, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Village Tea Room & Gift Shop

Seafood
Chesapeake Seafood House
3045 E. Clear Lake Ave.
217-522-5220
Finalists: VELE, Cooper's Hawk, The Old Luxemburg Inn, Clock Tower Cafe

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Server

Biridiana Reza, Ramona Tacos + Mezcal
4403 Yucan Dr.
217-970-5065
Finalists: Classity Chanel, Clock Tower Cafe; Kristen, The Dublin Pub; Adi, Star 66 Cafe; Ashley LeMasters, Vine & Rind

Soul food

Boyd's New Generation
1831 S. Grand Ave. E.
217-544-9866
Finalists: Aunt Lou's Soul Food, MJ's Fish & Chicken Express, Luminary Kitchens & Provisions, 710 Rippy G's

Soup

Cafe Moxo
2661 Chatham Road
217-788-8084
Finalists: Panera Bread, Star 66 Cafe, Head West Sub Shop, Whimsy Tea Company

Sports bar and grill

Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex
600 Toronto Rd.
217-679-7323
Finalists: Home Plate Bar & Grill, Brickhouse Grill & Pub, The Corner Pub & Grill, J.T. Costelloe's Pizza Pub and Grill

Sub/Sandwich

Head West Sub Shop
2432 Denver Dr., 217-744-7990
1124 W. Jefferson St., 217-793-9101
530 E. Capitol Ave., 217-789-9101
3311 Robbins Rd., 217-726-9202
Finalists: Monty's Submarines, Jersey Mike's Subs, Jimmy John's, Potbelly Sandwich Shop

Sushi

Happy Sushi
846 South Grand Ave. E.
217-528-9799
Finalists: Mimosa, Izumi Rotary and Bar, Japan House, Osaka, Yummy Bowl

Tacos

Taco Joint
710 S. Grand Ave. E.
217-790-3304
Finalists: Aztca Mexican Grill, Taco Gringo, Ramona Tacos + Mezcal, Xochimilco



PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

MEN'S CLOTHING STORE

Crafted Stag

The Crafted Stag is the people's choice as best men's clothing store, but there's a lot more than just men's clothing inside the nearly 3-year-old establishment owned by 43-year-old Springfield native Grant Hammer.

There is a full bar. There are three barber's chairs, two that service walk-ins and another by appointment only. There are leather coaches and a big canoe by some of the couches. There are candles, and colognes and even a small section with some women's clothing.

So, how does Hammer describe his store in Parkway Pointe?

"I would say it's like a clubhouse for men," Hammer said. "We want the place to be one where men – and women – can hang out, and have more of an experience, not just a place to buy stuff."

Indeed, the store's website reads "Beer, Barbers, Bros, Clothes" on the homepage.

Hammer, who worked in communications before opening the store, came up with the name in honor of some of the many ski runs he's had at various mountains across the country. The interior does have kind of an apres ski lodge type of feel to it.

Hammer's sense of adventure extended to his professional life, when he ditched the 9-to-5 world to take a shot as an entrepreneur. Business, he said, has grown every year.

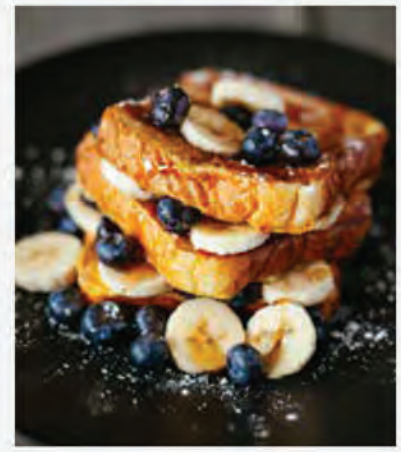
The clothing is on the higher end side, and it tends toward outdoorsy styles. The store also does a brisk business renting tuxedos and other formal wear.

But it's not snobby. A sense of humor is expressed in some of the store's product descriptions, and Hammer wants laughter coming from the bar/barber's side of the store.

"Can you have a drink getting your hair cut?", Hammer is asked.

"Oh yeah," he said. "We encourage it."

FOOD & DRINK





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Illinois Times

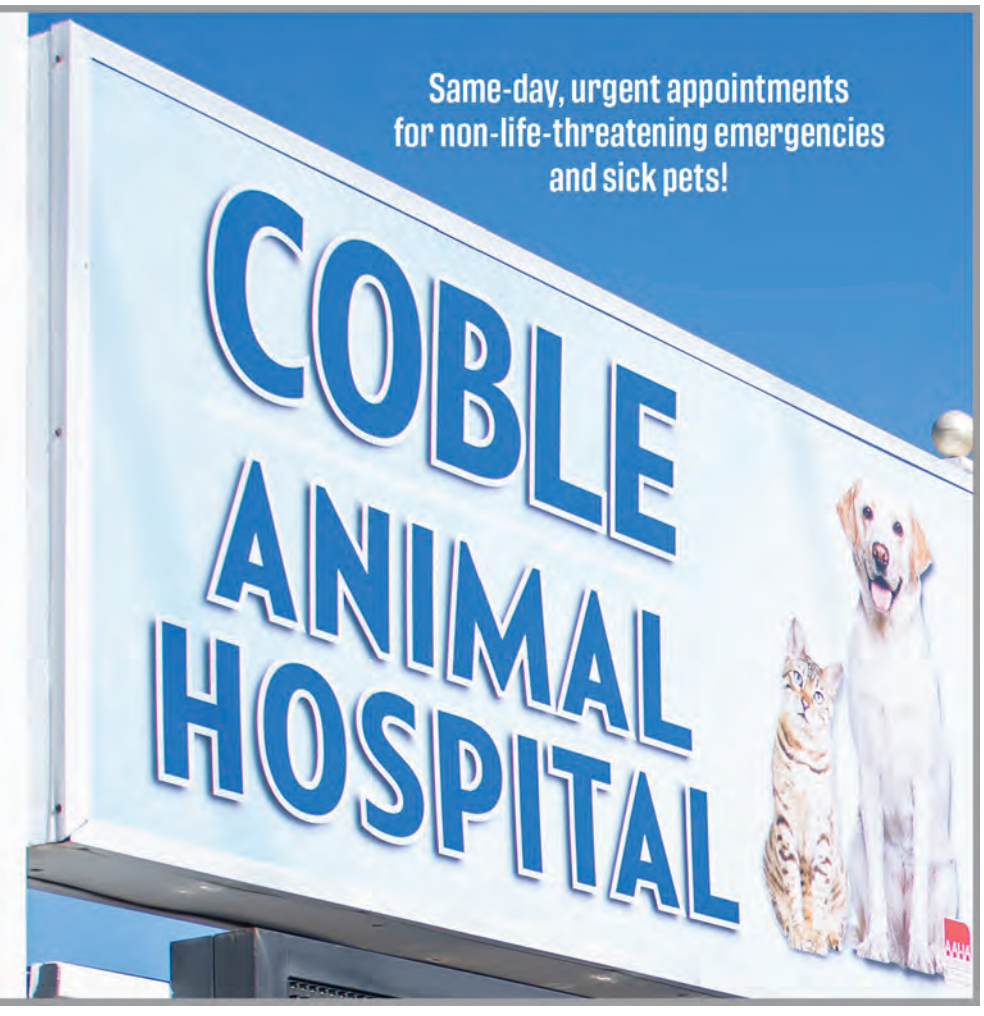
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Mekong Cafe
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217-391-2511
Finalists: Magic Kitchen, Little Saigon, Hawaiian BBQ, Thai Kitchen 2, Hello Thailand

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2406 W. Jefferson St.
217-698-9256
Finalists: Wing Stop, The Stadium Smokehouse Bar and Grill, The Curveside Bar & Grill – Athens, Wings Etc.

GOODS & SERVICES

Accountant
Maggie Haugh, Peterman Financial Group
1515 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-546-0400
Finalists: Danielle Alstott, Toelle, Alstott & Associates, P.C.; Troy A. Washko, CPA; Brett Hage, Humke & Hage, PC; Kyle McGinnis CPA

Auto service
Floyd's Imports
2320 Prairie Crossing Dr.
217-585-1214
Finalists: Wilkerson's Service Center, Vern's Auto Repair, Lauterbach Tire & Auto Service, Monkee Wrench Auto, Law Automotive



PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

BEST BARBER
Brent Fish, The Crafted Stag

Before he became a barber about five years ago, Brent Fish served in the U.S. Marine Corps and later worked in law enforcement and as a prison guard.

"My work life has a lot less stress in it now," said Fish, 33.

Fish has a chair inside The Crafted Stag, also a winner as best men's clothing store in this year's Best of Springfield, and the vibe is distinctly non-regimental. A full bar surrounds the three chairs overall in the store, so customers can get a little tipsy if they want before leaving barbers a tip.

Fish decided to change careers after talking with his brother, who had been a barber for more than a decade at that point.

"Being able to be my own boss and talk to people while I'm working – that sounded pretty good to me. When my brother said he liked doing it, that was good enough for me to try it," Fish said.

A good barber usually also is a good conversationalist, and Fish has lots of stories to tell his customers. He loves hearing others' stories even more. And if a customer isn't in the mood to talk? He won't force it.

"Usually, I can tell in the first two or three minutes how much conversation a customer might want."

Fish is one of the few barbers who, in addition to standard cuts, offers a straight-edge razor shave. That takes an extra 10 minutes but, hey, that allows for more talk and maybe a little more drinking – for the customer only, of course.

"If you come in, I want you to feel like you can relax, be yourself and maybe pamper yourself a little," Fish said. "Some barbershops, I've felt, have a 'get 'em in, get 'em out' attitude. I want you to take it easy and feel like you're with friends."

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120 Chatham Rd., 217-787-1651
617 Bruns Lane, 217-787-3001
2120 N Peoria Rd. 217-544-0139
Finalists: Bank of Springfield, INB, Heartland Bank and Trust, Alliance Community Bank

Barber
Brent Fish, The Crafted Stag Supply
3455 Freedom Dr.
217-698-6300
Finalists: Logan Baptiste, Hair of the Dog; Dave, Beggs Barbershop; Sameth Hun, Sammy's Barbershop; Kraig Devore, The Men's Room

Barbershop
Hair of the Dog
323 E. Monroe St.
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Heartland Credit Union
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2717 E. Sangamon Ave.
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Finalists: CEFCU, Illinois Educators Credit Union, Credit Union 1, Navy Federal Credit Union



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2701 W. White Oaks Dr., 217-726-6564,
4349 Conestoga Dr., 217-787-5580
Finalists: Davis Cleaners, Peerless Cleaning & Restoration Services, Lucky Lady Coin Operated Laundry and Drop Off

Event planner

Pole Barn Chic Events
4491 Old Chatham Road
217-685-7389
Finalists: Bloom Wine Bar & Florals, Paul's Paradise at Paul Tree Farms, The Pasfield House, Having A Ball Productions Inc

Event rental company

Noonan Equipment & Event Rental
801 North Grand Ave. E, 217-528-1513
3031 S. Koke Mill Road, 217-546-7368
Finalists: Paul's Paradise at Paul Tree Farms, Rustic Love Rentals, Signature Event Rentals, Lakeside True Value

Event venue

Paul's Paradise at Paul Tree Farms
12430 IL-125, Pleasant Plains
217-215-5019
Finalists: Bloom Wine Bar & Florals, Long Bridge Golf Course & Restaurant, Pole Barn Chic Events, The Pasfield House

Event wedding venue

Pole Barn Chic Events
4491 Old Chatham Road
217-685-7389
Finalists: Paul's Paradise at Paul Tree Farms, Long Bridge Golf Course & Restaurant, The Pasfield House, The Homestead Reception Center

Financial adviser

Maggie Haugh, Peterman Financial Group
1515 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-546-0400
Finalists: Tate Jones, United Wealth Financial Services; Andrew Maynerich, Maynerich Financial; INB Wealth, David Gundy, ATIA Wealth Group

Flower shop

Flowers by Mary Lou
105 S. Grand Ave W.
217-544-5491
Finalists: True Colors Floral, Flowers By Kathy, The Flower Factor, Floral Expressions



PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

THAI FOOD

Mekong Café

On a recent Thursday at about 2 p.m., it was hard to find a spot in the parking lot adjacent Mekong Café. That is a good sign for any restaurant, but particularly for one that closes from 2:30-4 p.m. every day in between lunch and dinner service.

It wasn't long after 4 p.m. that the parking lot began filling up again, and that's how it's been most of the two decades of service for the family-run Thai, Vietnamese and Laotian restaurant.

The reason, of course, is the food. Married couple and owners Somsavinh and Lisa Mahnee offer a menu that doesn't overwhelm with you too many pages of choices but still has a wide variety of dishes.

But it's more than the food, too. The Mahnees make sure they spend a couple minutes, at least, with all the customers when they pay at the register, and other family members work in the kitchen or as servers.

"My husband has a love for food, and my son, Andrew, is now our head chef," Lisa Mahnee says. "Our customers are loyal. Even during COVID, our phone never stopped ringing and people never stopped coming in line. We've been so blessed here."

Somsavinh, whom everybody calls "Win," immigrated to Springfield from Laos in the early 1980s. He later met and married Lisa and they opened Mekong Café in 2007. Looking around at different tables on a recent visit, it was clear that this is a restaurant where not everybody orders the same one or two dishes.

They are well known for their various curries, though, which range from mild to two-alarm fire. The various Pad Thai dishes are a consistent choice for many.

"We're a small family business, and we want people to feel welcome when they walk in," Lisa Mahnee says.







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Hair salon

Willow & Birch Salon
521 E. Washington St.
217-726-7050
Finalists: BJ Grand Salon & Spa, KM Hair Works & Spa, Appearances Salon & Retreat, Unique Enchantments Salon & Gift Shoppe, Meraki Salon & Spa

Hair stylist

Brandy Kristin, Unique Enchantments Salon & Gift Shoppe
1313 Adlai Stevenson Dr.
217-414-6552
Finalists: Maggie Veach, KM Hairworks and Spa; Natalie Grider, Appearances Salon & Retreat; Tara Mason, BJ Grand Salon; Underwood, Foiled & Feathered Hair Studio

Insurance agent (national agency)

Damon Priddy, State Farm Insurance
2951 Montvale Dr.
217-787-5400
Finalists: Trae Covington, State Farm Insurance; Mark Cortesi, State Farm Insurance; Julie Hale, Country Financial; Jake Surratt, Country Financial

Insurance agent (independent agency)

Bailey Family Insurance
957 Clock Tower Dr.
217-441-2342
Finalists: Missy Haley, United Financial Services; Tracy Formea, Formea Insurance - Chatham; Todd Sowle, Troxell; Nicholas Koch, Troxell; Ryan Augustine, Troxell

Junk removal

That One Guy Junk Removal & Dumpster Rentals
3131 S. Third St.
217-553-6529
Finalists: Two Men and a Truck, Affordable Junk Removal, Springfield Junk Away, Anything Goes Hauling

Lawyer

Scott Hanken, Attorney at Law
1100 S. Fifth St.
217-544-4057
Finalists: Pat Sheehan (Sr.) - Sheehan & Sheehan; Greg Sgro - Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP; Sara Vig, Vig Law; Tony DelGiorno, DelGiorno Law Office

BEST ATTORNEY

W. Scott Hanken



Representing clients charged with horrendous crimes gives W. Scott Hanken a degree of satisfaction many people may not understand.

"It does take a special mindset to do this," said Hanken. "There are certain jobs that need to be done. Some call them the dirty jobs. It doesn't mean I'm pro-crime. … You have the same rights as anyone else and deserve to have someone to fight for you."

Hanken, 63, a Springfield-based lawyer and sole practitioner, has 37 years of experience and focuses on defending clients charged with felony and misdemeanor crimes that include DUI and other traffic offenses.

"I handle everything between speeding tickets and first-degree murder," he said.

Hanken, a Springfield native, is a 1981 graduate of the former Griffin High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Marquette University and a law degree from Creighton University.

His first job out of law school was as a Sangamon County assistant state's attorney. In private practice, he began specializing in criminal law when the publicity surrounding his defense of Penny Brown, charged in 1991 with murder in the death of her 18-month-old daughter, Penny Marie Lynn Brown, resulted in inquiries from many other prospective clients.

Hanken's work resulted in charges being dismissed against Brown, then in her mid-20s, after an alleged confession Brown made to police was thrown out in court. Hanken successfully argued that Springfield police bungled their investigation. He contended that Brown was unable to understand Miranda warnings or the consequences of waiving her right to remain silent because she was mentally handicapped and devastated by her child's death.

Brown believed a former boyfriend may have been responsible for the toddler's death from injuries to the head and torso. No one else was ever charged in the case, and Hanken later represented Brown in a civil rights lawsuit against the city of Springfield – for the alleged confession coerced by two former police detectives – that resulted in an out-of-court settlement in which the terms were undisclosed.

Hanken's high-profile clients have included Dale Lash, 64, of rural Loami, who is serving a life sentence for the 1999 murder of Lori Hayes of Auburn, and former LifeStar Ambulance paramedic Peggy Finley, 47, who is preparing for a trial for first-degree murder in the 2022 death of Earl Moore Jr. of Springfield.

Hanken said he takes seriously his responsibility to be a confidante for people dealing with some of the most stressful times of their lives.

"Sometimes the best advice I can give a client is something they don't want to hear," he said. "At the end of the day, people want to feel like they had their day in court."

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617 Bruns Lane, 217-787-3001
2120 N. Peoria Rd. 217-544-0139
Finalists: Heartland Credit Union, Bank of Springfield, CEFCU, Corey Kates, INB

Moving company

Two Men and a Truck
210 North Grand Ave. W.
217-250-2689
Finalists: Underfanger Moving & Storage, Prime Moovers, Hillier Storage and Moving, The Moving Company

Nail salon

Galaxy Nail Bar
3864 Wabash Ave.
217-888-8338
Finalists: City Nail Salon, BJ Grand Salon & Spa, Soak Nail Massage & Spa, Polish Nails N Spa

Photographer

Tara Long Photography
taralongphotography.com
Finalists: Kristi Mitchell Photography, Kari Bedford Photography, Tabitha Bock Photography, Haley Stewart Photography

Real estate agency

The Real Estate Group
3701 Wabash Ave.
217-638-7653
Finalists: Keller Williams Capital, RE/MAX Professionals, Springfield Real Estate, River Birch Realty

Real estate team

The Killebrew Team, The Real Estate Group
3151 Pleasant Run
217-546-1234
Finalists: Winchester Sales Team - The Real Estate Group; The Jane Hay Sales & Staging Team – The Real Estate Group; The Pedigo Team, The Real Estate Group; The Deb Sarsany Team, The Real Estate Group

Realtor

Adam Bugos, Winchester Sales Team at The Real Estate Group
3701 Wabash Ave.
217-306-1000
Finalists: Kyle Killebrew, The Real Estate Group; Eric Pedigo, The Real Estate Group; Heather Camille, The Winchester Sales Team - The Real Estate Group; Erica Brittin, Jane Hay Sales and Staging Team - The Real Estate Group

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Tattoo shop
Newage Tattoos & Body Piercings
1305 Wabash Ave.
217-546-5006
Finalists: Redbird Electric Tattoo, Springfield Classic Tattoo, Electric Quill Tattoos, The Skin Studio

Tire shop
Discount Tire
2871 S. Veterans Pkwy.
217-546-3130
Finalists: Lauterbach Tire & Auto Service, Brahler Tire & Auto Service Center, Pomps, Car-X Tire & Auto

Towing service
Tuxhorn Towing
1158 N. Sixth St.
217-522-8211
Finalists: Shaner's Towing, Tom's 24-Hour Towing, Capital City Towing, R & S Towing

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Assisted-living community
EverTrue Concordia Village
4101 W. Iles Ave.
217-793-9429
Finalists: Rochester Estates Senior Living, Villas of Holly Brook, Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities, Springfield Supportive Living, Cedarhurst of Springfield

Chiropractor
Dr. Tana Frisina, Frisina Family Wellness,
1533 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-787-4345
Finalists: Dr. Samantha Waggener, Waggener Chiropractic & Wellness Center; Dr. Wendi McKay, Springfield Clinic Chiropractic; Dr. Cody Needham, Needham Chiropractic; Dr. Sean McCaffrey, McCaffrey Health Center

Cosmetic surgeon
Dr. Nicole Sommer, SIU
747 N. Rutledge St.
217-545-8000
Finalists: Dr. Tim Daugherty, SIU; Dr. Nada Berry, SIU; Dr. Joel Wietfeldt, Springfield Clinic Center for Plastic Surgery; Dr. Matthew Johnson, SIU; Dr. Jose Munoz, Prairie Aesthetic Surgery



PLAY OR MUSICAL

Come From Away, The Legacy Theatre

A popular, award-winning musical currently making its way across theaters in the Midwest and beyond, *Come From Away* is based on the true story of Gander, Newfoundland – the location of one of several airports that took in diverted international planes after U.S. airspace was closed on 9/11. Within hours, the town's population nearly doubled, and residents quickly came together to provide for and shelter the "come from aways" in an extraordinary display of compassion.

The show's powerful message and exceptional ensemble work was on full display at The Legacy Theatre in October 2025 and moved voters to bestow accolades on the production. Skillfully directed and choreographed by Ed MacMurdo and featuring a talented, hard-working cast of 12 actors, each embodying dozens of characters with only the change of an article of clothing or adopting an accent, the Legacy's *Come From Away* left an indelible mark on audiences.

A complex, tightly knit one-act, the production was praised for its minimalist approach and committed, diverse performances. Well-executed vocal and music direction, excellent scenic design, simple but evocative sets and lights all coalesced into a pitch-perfect production that reminded viewers of the kindness of strangers and our own shared humanity.









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Finalists: Dr. Brittany Sweet, Springfield Clinic; Dr. Taylor Tennill, Springfield Clinic; Dr. Elle Davis, Springfield Clinic

Dietitian

Amanda Figge - Memorial Wellness Center
320 E. Carpenter St.
217-788-3948
Finalists: Gayle Jennings - SIU, Donna Chesnut - HSHS St. John's Hospital, Sibyl Cox - SIU

Esthetician

Stevie Hills, Willow & Birch
521 E. Washington St.
217-726-7050
Finalists: Andrea Bradley, BJ Grand Salon; Emma Jacobs, Sweet Caroline Aesthetics; Rosa Reim, BJ Salon West; Casey Urban, The Skin Studio

Golf course

Long Bridge Golf Course & Restaurant
1055 W. Camp Sangamo Rd.
217-744-8311
Finalists: Edgewood Golf course, The Rail Golf Course, Piper Glen Golf & Social Club, Panther Creek Country Club

Gym or fitness center

YMCA
601 N. Fourth St., 217-544-8846
4550 W. Iles Ave., 217-679-1625
Finalists: FitClub, Armor Fitness, American Jujitsu, Pure Performance Fitness Center

Gym under 100 members

Pure Performance Fitness Center
320 S. Fourth St.
217-891-0691
Finalists: Pilates Studio of Springfield, American Jujitsu, Bungee x Dené Fitness, Unapologetically Fit



HOSPICE
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Hands of God Hospice

The staff of Hands of God Hospice are the "hands and feet" that move the business' God-given mission to comfort patients with dignity, integrity and respect when their life expectancy is six months or less and no curative treatment is desired.

President and CEO David Lithgow and his wife, chief financial officer/chief operating officer Brenda Lithgow, try to stay out of staff's way so they can fulfil the company's biblical mission statement found in 2 Corinthians 1:3:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort."

Any accolades Hands of God Hospice receives goes to the staff, David Lithgow says.

"The attentiveness of the staff, the compassion that they show, the dedication that they have to their craft – we're very, very blessed by that," David Lithgow says. "People have seen them and understand their passion for the industry, their compassion for the patient and their loyalty to our company."

The patient-centered, God-focused Hands of God Hospice incorporated in 2021 and began taking patients in late 2022.

Hands of God Hospice has an office on the former Benedictine Campus in Springfield, but serves Sangamon, Logan, Christian, Moultrie, Macon and Shelby counties. Patients don't have to be Christian.

Staff directives are:

• Help the patient have a good day.

• Let them know that they are your most valuable patient that you're seeing at that moment.

• Just love them.

One patient loves strawberry milkshakes.

"Once a week, every other week, our aide might take him a strawberry milkshake," David Lithgow says. "She did for his birthday. He took two sips of it. That's all he could have, but that didn't matter. It just made his day. …

"We just want to bring comfort."

Hair Removal

Stevie Lievens, Willow & Birch
521 E. Washington St.
217-726-7050
Finalists: Kristen Sloan, BJ Grand Salon & Spa; Emma Jacobs, Sweet Caroline Aesthetics; Casey Urban, The Skin Studio; Jerica Nichols, Blink

Health food grocery store

Food Fantasies
1512 Wabash Ave.
217-793-8009
Finalists: Harvest Market, Hy-Vee, Just Right Eating, Roaring Lion Ranch & Retreat's Botanical Market & Apothecary

Holistic-health center

Frisina Family Wellness
1533 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-787-4345
Finalists: Peace, Love and Sweat, Pure Synergy Massage, Salt & Light Wellness Spa, Springfield, WholeSelf Healing Resilience Center

Homecare

SYNERGY HomeCare
3259 W. Iles Ave.
217-303-8555
Finalists: Home Instead, Hands of God Hospice, BrightStar Care

Hospice

Hands of God Hospice
1500 N. Fifth St.
217-284-9070
Finalists: Hospice at Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), Moments Hospice, Elara Caring

Hospice Care

Hands of God Hospice
1500 N. Fifth St.
217-284-9070
Finalists: Hospice at Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), Moments Hospice, Gentiva Hospice, Elara Caring

Independent-living community

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1929 W. Iles Ave.
217-546-6762
Finalists: American Jujitsu, Gracie Barra Springfield, Gracie Humaita Springfield, YMCA

Massage therapist
Makayla C. Bertrand, LMT Springfield Stretching and Massage
1535 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-685-8381
Finalists: BJ Grand Salon & Spa, Janet Icenogle, Advanced Bodywork, Alicia Depew, Bethany Shackelford - Recovery Shack

Medical doctor
Dr. Aziz Khan, SIU
315 W Carpenter St.
217-545-8000
Finalists: Dr. Jennifer Richards, Real Family Medicine; Dr. Veronica Savage, Springfield Clinic; Dr. Joshua Ellison, Memorial; Dr. Amelia Frank, SIU Medicine

Medical equipment
Vono Medical Supplies
400 N. First St.
217-522-2403
Finalists: Memorial Home Services, American Medical Supply & Service Co., Apria Medical

Medical facility
Springfield Clinic
1025 S. Sixth St.
217-528-7541
Finalists: Springfield Memorial Hospital, SIU, Memorial Care Koke Mill, HSHS St. John's Hospital

Medical spa (Botox, filler, etc.)
Absolut Aesthetics & Wellness Medspa
949 Clocktower Dr
217-679-3598
Finalists: Rose Aesthetics & Wellness Clinic, Springfield Clinic Dermatology, SpaMed at SIU Medicine, Dr. Jose Munoz & Prairie Aesthetic Surgery



COFFEE HOUSE DRIVE-THRU

Grab-A-Java

Another coffee nod goes to local gem Grab-A-Java. A perennial winner of *Illinois Times*' Best Coffee House, it's also received past recognition in the best public art and best barista categories.

Grab-A-Java deserves praise not only for its tasty brews and savory or sweet treats but also perseverance amid the rise of a slew of new coffee chains popping up all over the city. Founded in 1996 by Meg Evans and Peter Lazare and currently owned by Bill and Vicky Legge, Grab-A-Java's long history is not only a testament to the quality of its coffee and fast, convenient locations but their quirky approach to the business. With witty art banners to put smiles on the faces of passers-by, free sticker days that you forget about until a barista offers you one and then suddenly your day gets substantially brighter, and cheerful employees who seem genuinely glad to serve you, Grab-A-Java continues to appeal to those seeking their morning jolt or afternoon tea.

For the recent International Route 66 Mother Road Festival, Grab-A-Java held a parking lot party at its Sixth Street store during the Friday night car cruise, offering community members not only a close up view of the passing cars but free food, face painting and treats for the kids while Dave Littrell provided live music – everyone was welcome to enjoy the event at no charge.

You can check out the menu, the full gallery of banner art or donate to a worthy cause, all on the Grab-A-Java website. Here's to another 20 years of serving the community!











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Mental health therapist
Amanda Armstrong - SIU
400 N. Ninth St.
217-545-8000
Finalists: Lauren Henton, Luminary Counseling and Solutions; Jessica Viola, Luminary Counseling and Solutions; William Acton, Mental Health Savage; Dr. Rebecca Loschen, SIU

Minor emergency clinic
Springfield Clinic Urgent Care Plus
350 W. Carpenter St.
217-546-5395
Finalists: Memorial Urgent Care - Koke Mill, Priority Care MacArthur - HSHS Medical Group, SIU Medicine Express Care

Nurse
Amanda Clouser - SIU
315 W. Carpenter St.
217-525-8000
Finalists: Melanie Reynolds, Memorial Koke Mill; Ashlie Long, Springfield Clinic; Michelle Hazen, Springfield Memorial Hospital; Shelby Kern, HSHS Multispecialty Care

Orthopedic care
Orthopedic Center of Illinois
1301 S. Koke Mill Rd.
217-547-9108
Finalists: Springfield Clinic Orthopedics, SIU Medicine Orthopedics, Magelitz Clinic Conservative Medicine

Personal trainer certified
Bradley Emmett, American Jujitsu
1615 W. Jefferson St.
217-588-0170
Finalists: Molly Hahn, Instinct Fitness & Wellness; Dustin Bateman, New Hope Fitness Training; Dayton Burnett, YMCA; Jeremy Ferry, Pure Performance

Pharmacy
Hy-Vee Pharmacy
2115 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-726-1003
Finalists: Potter Drug - Springfield/Rochester/Riverton, Harry's Pharmacy, Auburn, Curry's Family Pharmacy, Riverton, Meijer Pharmacy

Physical therapy
Physiotherapy Professionals
2201 W. White Oaks Dr.
217-546-3301
Finalists: Springfield Clinic Rehabilitation, Orthopedic Center of Illinois, Magelitz Clinic Conservative Medicine, Trent Wiseman - Springfield Clinic



PHOTO BY KARI BEDFORD

THEATER DIRECTOR
Gus Gordon

"I'm old enough to remember our nation's bicentennial and how emotional and exciting that time was for our country," Gus Gordon said in a recent article about the musical *1776*. "In this era of overwhelming political division, I think it is very appropriate to remember the incredible adversity our ancestors overcame to create our new country."

No doubt Gordon, who directed *1776* for the Hoogland Center for the Arts, had been thinking about staging one of his favorite musicals the week of July 4 on the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. That careful choice and thoughtful directing resulted in sold-out audiences experiencing a powerful production, earning him this year's best theater director.

Assembling a first-rate cast and stellar staff and crew, in addition to staging a bold production, are all decisions a director makes. Audiences and voters agreed that those choices deserved recognition. For Gordon, though, he was also motivated by the lessons contained within the piece and how audiences might view them through a modern lens.

"My hope is that this production will bring people together and remind the audience that even when we strongly disagree with one another, we can still work together to accomplish something meaningful," he said of the show.

Pilates studio
The Pilates Studio of Springfield
1305 Wabash Ave.
217-341-3896
Finalists: Happy Hour Pilates, Pulse Pilates Studio, The Pilates Collective, YMCA

Spa (no injections used)
Willow & Birch Salon
521 E. Washington St.
217-726-7050
Finalists: BJ Grand Salon & Spa, Peace, Love & Sweat, The Skin Studio, The ColorBar Salon and Spa Lounge

Weight-loss clinic
Memorial Wellness Center
320 E. Carpenter St.
217-788-3948
Finalists: Frisina Family Wellness, New Beginnings Wellness, Rose Aesthetics & Wellness Clinic, Absolut Aesthetics & Wellness Medspa

Women's healthcare center
Frisina Possibilities
1535 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-787-4425
Finalists: Center for Women's Health at Springfield Clinic, Luminary Counseling, Women's Mental Health, Jade Rainbolt - Pelvic Floor Physical Therapist

Yoga instructor, certified
Ashley Krstulovich, WholeSelf Healing Resilience Center
1340 S. State St.
217-803-1139
Finalists: Amanda Armstrong, Ahh Yoga; Angie Ryan, Balance Yoga; Sally Stephens, Treehouse Yoga; Steve S, Ahh Yoga

Yoga studio
Ahh Yoga
2201 W. White Oaks Dr.
217-725-2373
Finalists: FitClub, Treehouse Yoga, YMCA, Balance Yoga

HOME & GARDEN

AC/Heating company HVAC
Henson Robinson Company
3550 Great Northern
217-544-8451
Finalists: Gatschenberger Rich Heating & Cooling, Darrin Wood Heating and Cooling, Allied Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, Black Tie Home Services


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Duct Dusters LLC
Finalists: Peerless Cleaning & Restoration Services, Filter Free Services

Carpet and flooring
Staff Carpet
304 W. Browning Rd.
217-528-4879
Finalists: Arizona Tile, Calhoun's, Flooring of Springfield Inc., Champ's Floor Covering

Cleaning service (residential)
Maids R Us, Inc.
1405 Adlai Stevenson Dr.
217-757-8872
Finalists: Lasagna Lady Cleaning Co., Crunchy Cleaning Co., Cardinal Cleaning, Inc., Chelsea Strode

Electrical company
Ryan Electrical Solutions
4151 W. Jefferson St.
217-698-4877
Finalists: Ruby Electric, B and B Electric Inc, R. Watts Electric, Moughan Electric

Foundation repair
Woods Basement Systems, Inc.
524 Vandalia St., Collinsville
618-708-4055
Finalists: Foundation Recovery Systems, Bryant Masonry and Chimney Repair, Moman Construction

Furniture store
Hendricks Home Furnishings
217 N. Springfield St., Virden
217-965-3337
Finalists: Magnolia Lane Home Decor & More, Furniture Row, Slumberland, Marx Fireplaces & Lighting

Garden center
Farmer's Market by Bohn's Farm & Greenhouses, Inc.
1933 Wabash Ave.
217-787-1061
Finalists: New City Greenhouse, Pleasant Nursery Inc, Lowe's, Menards

Gutter company
Sutton's
1926 N. Peoria Rd.
217-528-3911
Finalists: Springfield Gutter Services, KML Seamless Gutters, Central Illinois Gutters



PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

NEW BUSINESS DOWNTOWN (OPENED AFTER 8/1/25)

Arrowroot Coffee Co - Roastery and Coffee Lounge

Anyone who's a regular at the Old Capitol Farmers Market downtown and loves coffee is probably already familiar with this year's best new business. Its popular coffee truck has been a regular sight for years – serving up delicious hot and cold drinks with a smile.

What's new is the brick-and-mortar cafe, which opened in the former Recycled Records location at 625 E. Adams St., which has a cool city vibe with the same coffee offerings and specialty drinks. It also offers latte flights, tea, chai, hot chocolate, baked goods and bagel sandwiches.

Owner/Bean Boss Jacob Dinardo, along with his team Lauren (Barista/Oat Milk Aficionado) and Ellie (Barista/Good Vibes Enforcer), proudly work with local famers and providers to serve quality, sustainable items in a relaxed, modern setting. Guests can chill with each other in the lounge area that overlooks Adams Street or grab a single table, plug in and get some work done.

In addition, customers can buy Arrowroot's ethically sourced and electric-roasted coffee beans or some Arrowroot-themed merch. Even if you're not a regular coffee drinker, it's worth stopping by this future solar-powered coffee shop to see why IT readers gave Arrowroot a deserving nod.

Handyman
Reliable Handyman Services, Inc.
3415 Chatham Road
217-860-7436
Finalists: Gabe's Home Improvement LLC, Clean Cut Painting & Handyman Springfield, Hayden Services, Lucas McDowell's All Around The Home LLC

Home builder
Buraski Builders, Inc.
3757 S. Sixth St.
217-529-5172
Finalists: Andrew Cochran Construction, Zinn Construction, Adam Coady Construction, Pasley Builders Inc.

Home furnishings
Hendrick's Home Furnishings
217 N. Springfield Ave., Virden
217-965-3337
Finalists: Magnolia Lane Home Decor & More, Kennedy Sue Gift & Home, Marx Fireplaces & Lighting, Paige Henderson Designs

Home improvement store
Menards
2250 Chuckwagon Dr., 217-698-8815
2701 Marketplace Dr., 217-522-1835
Finalists: Lowe's Home Improvement, Lakeside True Value, Marx Fireplaces & Lighting

Home Inspector
Ryan Scott, Scott Home Inspections
shinspections.com
217-272-0007
Finalists: Zach Clements, ZC Home Inspections; Peter Denby, Denby Home Inspections

Home remodeling company
Buraski Builders, Inc.
3757 S. Sixth St.
217-529-5172
Finalists: Reliable Handyman Services Inc., Zinn Construction, DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen of Springfield, Paige Henderson Designs

Kitchen design
DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen of Springfield
3730 Wabash Ave.
217-529-9300
Finalists: Paige Henderson Designs, Big Dog Construction, Bailey's Hardwood, Duggins Design Center

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Landscape company
Knob Hill Landscape Company
661 W. Camp Sangamo Road
217-314-9435
Finalists: Green View Landscaping, Scooter's Lawn Care Inc., Paul Tree Farms, KLC Turf Pro & Tree Service

Landscape designer
Green View Landscaping
greenview.com
800-798-7337
Finalists: Tripp Landscaping, Artisan Stone Products, Scooter's Lawn Care, Inc., CopperTree Landscape Architecture, June Bug Lawncare

Landscape supply
Artisan Stone Products
2475 Peerless Mine Road
217-697-8433
Finalists: Paul Tree Farms, Tripp Landscaping, Bedrock Materials, Woare's Inc

Lawn care
Scooter's Lawn Care, Inc.
3805 North Dirksen Pkwy.
217-473-1472
Finalists: JP's Lawn Care, Inc., Sprinklawn Irrigation Inc, Stolleis Lawncare, KLC Turf Pro & Tree Service

Nursery
Pleasant Nursery Inc.
4234 Wabash Ave.
217-522-2222
Finalists: Farmers Market Garden Center, Hilltop Nursery, Paul Tree Farms, Tripp Landscaping

Paint store
Dellert's Paint Company
1627 MacArthur Blvd.
217-787-5474
Finalists: Sherwin-Williams Paint Store, Don Smith Paint & Wallpaper

Painter
Dan Deweese Painting and Wood Finishing
4745 Industrial Ave.
217-638-3143
Finalists: Reliable Handyman Services, Inc., Nick Shutt, Peaceful Painter, Lockwood Finishes

Paving
Brahler Paving & Concrete Services
brahlerpavingconcrete.com
217-836-8031
Finalists: P.H. Broughton & Sons Inc., Ron Furman & Sons Paving, Illinois Paving, Smith Concrete



RESTAURANT FOR DESSERT
Pease's at Bunn Gourmet

Located in The Gables, Pease's at Bunn Gourmet is an elegant west-side eatery offering tasty treats, comfy seats and a variety of hand-crafted confections.

Just walking in the door is to encounter a smorgasbord of options for your sweet tooth, including decadent cakes, flavorful cheesecakes, a variety of ice cream flavors and the not-to-be-missed towering wall of candy. Guests can pair their favorite dessert with a gourmet coffee or a glass of wine and relax inside the warm and welcoming shop. Or they can also venture into the courtyard for outdoor dining and sipping, although patrons might encounter a curious finch or two, patiently waiting for a dropped crumb.

And while it's best known for its desserts, Peases at Bunn Gourmet offers a full menu of breakfast and lunch items, from quiche and omelets to gourmet grilled cheese and a chipotle black bean burger, plus plenty of soups and salads. There's also live music on the weekends, encouraging customers to sip, snack and linger.

Launched more than a decade ago, Pease's at Bunn Gourmet continues as a successful collaboration between two long-established businesses into a popular retail shop. Consistently a winner or finalist in the Best of Springfield, Pease's at Bunn Gourmet is sure to continue as a popular local favorite.

Pest control company
Sonny Adams Pest Control
1550 Knights Recreation Dr.
217-544-2122
Finalists: Bacon's Termite & Pest Control, Sentinel Pest Control, Orkin, Newberry's Termite & Pest Control

Place to buy a mattress
Just Beds
3120 Montvale Dr.
217-836-6179
Finalists: Verlo, Hendricks Home Furnishings

Plumbing company
Rick Ray and Sons Plumbing
1514 W. Jefferson Road
217-525-0001
Finalists: Easterday Plumbing, Jesse Wilkin Plumbing, Flentje's Plumbing, Black Tie Home Services

Pool & spa supplies
M & M Pools/Spas
1201 W. Jefferson St.
217-787-1468
Finalists: Bollmans Pool & Spa Co., Southern Ledge Pools and Patios, Platinum Pools

Pool builder
M & M Pools/Spas
1201 W. Jefferson St.
217-787-1468
Finalists: Lambert Custom Pools, Illini Pools, Platinum Pools, Southern Ledge Pools and Patios

Power washing
Zellers Pro Wash LLC
2311 Knoxville Dr.
217-481-5319
Finalists: Petersburg Power Washing, Full Blast Pressure Washing, Capitol City Redi-Wash, Clean Sweep Exteriors

Roofing company
Acosta-Angeli Roofing
2144 S. MacArthur Blvd., Suite 204
217-993-2748
Finalists: Sunley Roofing, Suttons Siding and Remolding, Central Roofing, Coady Roofing, Blackhawk Roofing

Tree farm
Paul Tree Farms
12430 IL-125, Pleasant Plains
217-626-6001
Finalists: Pleasant Nursery Inc., Seaney Farms, Honey Bear Tree Farm, Parkside Tree Farm

TOP LAWYERS
SPRINGFIELD AREA
BASED UPON A SURVEY OF THEIR PEERS



These LEADING LAWYERS have been recommended by their peers to be among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois.

James W. Ackerman	Ackerman Law Office PC	Springfield	217.789.1977	Personal Injury: General; Workers' Compensation
Matthew J. Cate	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	Springfield	217.544.4868	Commercial Litigation; Creditor Rights/Comm Collect; RE: Commercial; RE: Resident
Randy S. Paswater	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	Springfield	217.544.4868	Creditor Rights/Commercial Collections; Elder; Family; Trust/Will/Estate
Bernard G. Segatto III	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	Springfield	217.544.4868	Close/Private Held Bus; Commercial Litigation; Land Use/Zoning; RE: Commercial
Randall W. Segatto	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	Springfield	217.544.4868	Close/Private Held Business; Elder; Real Estate: Commercial
Brittany Kink Toigo	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	Springfield	217.544.4868	Family; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Barry Hines	Barry Hines — Attorney at Law	Springfield	217.953.4051	Agriculture; Real Estate: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate
Michael Glenn Barton	Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC	Springfield	217.793.9300	Agriculture; Close/Private Held; RE: Commercial; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Mark S. Cochran	Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC	Springfield	217.793.9300	Agriculture; Environmental; Public Utilities; Real Estate: Comm; Trust/Will/Estate
Andrew G. White	Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC	Springfield	217.793.9300	Agriculture; Energy; Real Estate: Commercial; RE: Residential; Trust/Will/Estate
Robert A. Stuart Jr.	Brown Hay & Stephens LLP	Springfield	217.544.8491	Association/Non-Profit; Trust/Will/Estate
Joseph N. Rupcich	Cassiday Schade LLP	Springfield	217.993.5644	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Medical Malpractice Defense; PI Defense: General
Joy C. Syrcle	Cassiday Schade LLP	Springfield	217.993.5643	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Medical Malpractice Def; PI Def: General; Transport Def
Sarah Delano Pavlik	Delano Law Offices LLC	Springfield	217.544.2703	Close/Private Held Business; Trust/Will/Estate
Thomas Chester Pavlik Jr.	Delano Law Offices LLC	Springfield	217.544.2703	Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Cred Rts/Comm Collect; RE: Comm; Secured Transact
Betsy A. Blakeman	FeldmanWasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Family
Ashley D. Davis	FeldmanWasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Family
Carl R. Draper	FeldmanWasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee; False Claims Act/Whistle Blower
Howard W. Feldman	FeldmanWasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Construction; Family; ADR: Family
Kelli Ellen Gordon	FeldmanWasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Family
Stuart H. Shiffman	FeldmanWasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Civil Appellate; Criminal Appellate; Criminal Defense: Felonies/Misdemeanors
Stanley N. Wasser	FeldmanWasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Construction
Jason E. Brokaw	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Civil Appellate; Employment: Management; Government/Municipal/Lobbying/Admin
Creighton R. Castle	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Assoc/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; Mergers/Acquisitions; RE: Comm; Tax: Business
David A. Herman	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Comm Lit; Elect/Poli/Campaign; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Ins/Coverage/Reins; TW&E
R. Mark Mifflin	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Commercial Litigation; Governmental/Municipal/Lobbying/Administrative
Christopher E. Sherer	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Civil Appell; Elect/Poli/Campaign; Family; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Trust/Will/Estate
Matthew R. Trapp	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Civil Appellate; Close/Private Held Bus; Commercial Lit; Gov't/Muni/Lobbying/Admin
Jason R. Vincent	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felonies/Misdemeanors; Family
Thomas G. Hamill	Harrison LLP	Springfield	217.546.6940	Trust/Will/Estate
Todd A. Bresney	Kanoski Bresney	Springfield/Quincy	217.523.7742	Personal Injury: General
William J. Harrington	Kanoski Bresney	Springfield/Quincy	217.523.7742	Personal Injury: General
Robert M. Javoronok Jr.	Kanoski Bresney	Springfield/Quincy	217.523.7742	Personal Injury: General; Workers' Compensation
Todd L. Lindquist	Kanoski Bresney	Quincy	217.222.5504	Personal Injury: General
Kathy A. Olivero	Kanoski Bresney	Springfield/Quincy	217.523.7742	Workers' Compensation
John J. Waldman	Kanoski Bresney	Springfield/Quincy	217.523.7742	Personal Injury: General; Workers' Compensation
Jonathan T. Nessler	Law Offices of Frederick W Nessler & Assoc Ltd	Springfield	217.698.0202	Nursing Home Negligence; Personal Injury: General
Stephen Scott Morrill	Morrill & Fiedler LLC	Springfield	217.789.5411	Governmental/Municipal/Lobbying/Administrative
James E. Neville	Neville Richards Zittel & Siegel LLC	Springfield	618.277.0900	Medical Mal Def; PI Def: General; Prod Liability Def; Transport Def; Toxic Torts Def
Timothy S. Richards	Neville Richards Zittel & Siegel LLC	Springfield	618.277.0900	Medical Malpractice Defense; PI Def: General; Products Liability Def; Toxic Torts Def
James A. Borland	Quinn Johnston	Springfield	217.753.1133	Personal Injury Defense: General; Products Liability Defense
James A. Hansen	Schmiedeskamp Robertson Neu & Mitchell LLP	Quincy	217.223.3030	Commercial Litigation; Medical Mal Def; PI Defense: General; Products Liability Def
Delmer R. Mitchell	Schmiedeskamp Robertson Neu & Mitchell LLP	Quincy	217.223.3030	Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Medical Mal Def; Mergers/Acquisitions; Prod Liab Def
Harold Baker Oakley	Schmiedeskamp Robertson Neu & Mitchell LLP	Quincy	217.223.3030	Close/Private Held Business; Health; Mergers/Acquisitions; Trust/Will/Estate
Pamela E. Hart	Scott & Scott PC	Springfield	217.753.8200	Elder; Family; Real Estate: Residential; Trust/Will/Estate
Gregory A. Scott	Scott & Scott PC	Springfield	217.753.8200	Adoption/Reproductive Technology; Family Appellate; Family; Trust/Will/Estate
Jared M. Scott	Scott & Scott PC	Springfield	217.753.8200	Family; Trust/Will/Estate



R. Stephen Scott	Scott & Scott PC	Springfield	217.753.8200	Bankrpt/Workout: Comm; Close/Private Held; Tax: Bus; Tax: Individ; Trust/Will/Estate
Michael M. Durr	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold LLP	Springfield	217.789.1200	Close/Private Held; Commercial Lit; RE: Assoc/Condos; RE: Comm; RE: Residential
Alex B. Rabin	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold LLP	Springfield	217.789.1200	Close/Private Held; Gov't/Muni/Lobby/Admin; PI: General; Workers' Compensation
Jeana Kim Reinbold	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold LLP	Springfield	217.789.1200	Bankruptcy: Individual; Bankruptcy/Workout: Comm; Creditor Rights/Comm Collect
Gregory P. Sgro	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold LLP	Springfield	217.789.1200	Land Use/Zoning/Condemn; PI: General; RE: Comm; RE: Finance; Trust/Will/Estate
Timothy M. Shay	Shay & Associates Law Firm LLC	Springfield	217.523.5900	Personal Injury: General; Personal Injury: Prof'l Malpractice; Workers' Compensation
Nicholas T. Williams	Shay & Associates Law Firm LLC	Springfield	217.523.5900	Personal Injury: General
Michelle L. Blackburn	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Family; Trust/Will/Estate
James R. Enlow	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Bankruptcy: Individual; Bankruptcy/Workout: Comm; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning
James G. Fahey	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Civil Appellate; Employment: Management; Personal Injury Defense: General
C. Clark Germann	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Min/Nat Resource; RE: Comm
Stephen F. Hedinger	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Animal; Environmental; Mineral/Natural Resource
Michael G. Horstman Jr.	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Assoc/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; RE: Comm; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Brian D. Jones	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Bank/Financial Institutions; Close/Private Held; Employee Benefits; RE: Commercial
John A. Kauerauf	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Association/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held Business; Employment: Management
Kirk W. Laudeman	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Medical Malpractice Defense; PI Def: General; Prof'l Malpractice Def; Transport Def
Brian D. Lee	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Civil Appellate; Commercial Litigation; Employment: Management; PI Def: General
James M. Morphew	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Election/Political/Campaign; Governmental/Municipal/Lobbying/Administrative
Lisa A. Petrilli	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Commercial Litigation; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Land Use/Zoning; RE: Commercial
David A. Rolf	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Agriculture; Commercial Litigation; Land Use/Zoning; PI Def: General; RE: Commercial
Peggy J. Ryan	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Family
John R. Simpson	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Stephen A. Tagge	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Banking/Financial; Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Cred Rts/Comm Collect; RE: Comm
Joshua J. Watson	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Family
Matthew A. Brewer	Wolter Beeman Lynch & Dennis LLP	Springfield	217.753.4220	Personal Injury: General; Workers' Compensation

These EMERGING LAWYERS have been recommended by their peers to be among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois who are age 40 or younger OR who have been admitted to the practice of law for 10 or fewer years.

Samantha A. Bobor	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Employment: Management; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Labor: Management; School
Jackson B. Fredman	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Civil Appellate; Commercial Lit Family Appellate; Family; Gov/Muni/Lobbying/Admin
Benjamin M. Sgro	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold LLP	Springfield	217.789.1200	Personal Injury: General; Real Estate: Commercial; RE: Residential; Workers' Comp
Stephanie I. Shay-Williams	Shay & Associates Law Firm LLC	Springfield	217.523.5900	Personal Injury: General; Workers' Compensation
Aaron D. Evans	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Close/Private Held; RE: Commercial; RE: Residential; RE: Finance; Trust/Will/Estate
Laken Smaha	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Family

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- Server - Biri
- Finalist: Mexican, Margarita and Chef Mane

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Chief, Institute for Plastic Surgery and Director of SpaMed



DERMATOLOGY PRACTICE
SIU Medicine Dermatology



MEDICAL DOCTOR
Aziz Khan, MD
Executive Director, Simmons Cancer Institute



MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST
Amanda Armstrong, LCPC
Pediatric Psychology



NURSE
Amanda Clouser, FNP-C
Hematology-Oncology

SIU MEDICINE

BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2026 Illinois Times WINNER

BEST OF SPRINGFIELD® 2026

Tree trimming/removal

Sangamon Tree Service
facebook.com/sangamontreeservice
217-414-5730
Finalists: Jeremiah's Tree Service, To the Top Tree Service, Staab Tree Service, Kresse Tree Wurxx

Window and siding company

Sutton's
1926 N. Peoria Road
217-528-3911
Finalists: Gabe's Home Improvement, Bacon & Van Buskirk Glass Co., JC Siding

KIDS STUFF

Children's clothing store

Once Upon a Child
4225 Wabash Ave.
217-679-7134
Finalists: Sweet Pea Consignment, Just Kids, Gypsy Soul, Studio on 6th

Children's support organization

Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery
1011 N. Seventh St.
217-525-6800
Finalists: The James Project, Community Child Care Connection, YMCA, Children's Miracle Network, Family Service Center

Dance studio

Springfield Dance
5531 International Pkwy.
217-483-3623
Finalists: Above & Beyond Dance Company, Dance Arts Studio, Dayna's Dance Revolution, Tracey & Heather's Dance Synergy

Daycare center

Head Start | Springfield Urban League
1108 E. Cook St.
217-528-0893
Finalists: Silverleaf Children's Academy, Springfield, Kimmy Kares Day Care, Springfield Christian Preschool, Calvary Day Care

Family fun spot

Kidzeum of Health & Science
412 E. Adams St.
217-679-2123
Finalists: Knight's Action Park, Lincoln Memorial Garden and Nature Center, Ergadoozy, B's Creative Studio



VEGETARIAN-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

Pita Or Bowl

Pita Or Bowl serves up delectable Mediterranean and Middle Eastern food at the corner of Ninth Street and South Grand Avenue in Springfield. Pita Or Bowl's menu is filled with a variety of colorful dishes, large portions and fully customizable fare, making it a great choice for a fast casual lunch or dinner, or quick and filling carryout or delivery anytime.

Diners and reviewers often praise Pita Or Bowl's ability to "have it your way." Customers can choose among fresh pitas, bowls or wraps, and there are protein options for vegetarians and meat-lovers alike. Protein choices include tasty vegetarian falafel or cauliflower, fall-apart chicken shawarma, lamb kufta or shish kabob and gyro meats. Each protein can be paired with the customer's favorite bases such as rice, hummus or baba ganoush along with fresh veggies, tons of toppings (the Arabic pickles are delicious) and sauces that range from creamy and garlicky to spicy.

Don't skimp on the sides, either. Grab some hummus or lentil soup to share with your crowd and delight in Pita Or Bowl's crispy, salty, homemade pita chips. Whenever I have a bring-a-side-dish-to-share event, a quick pick up or delivery of Pita Or Bowl's hummus, baba ganoush, pita chips and baklava are a crowd-pleasing no brainer.

Pita or Bowl is a convenient option for anyone craving insanely delicious Mediterranean food with a fast-casual ambiance or hearty takeout.





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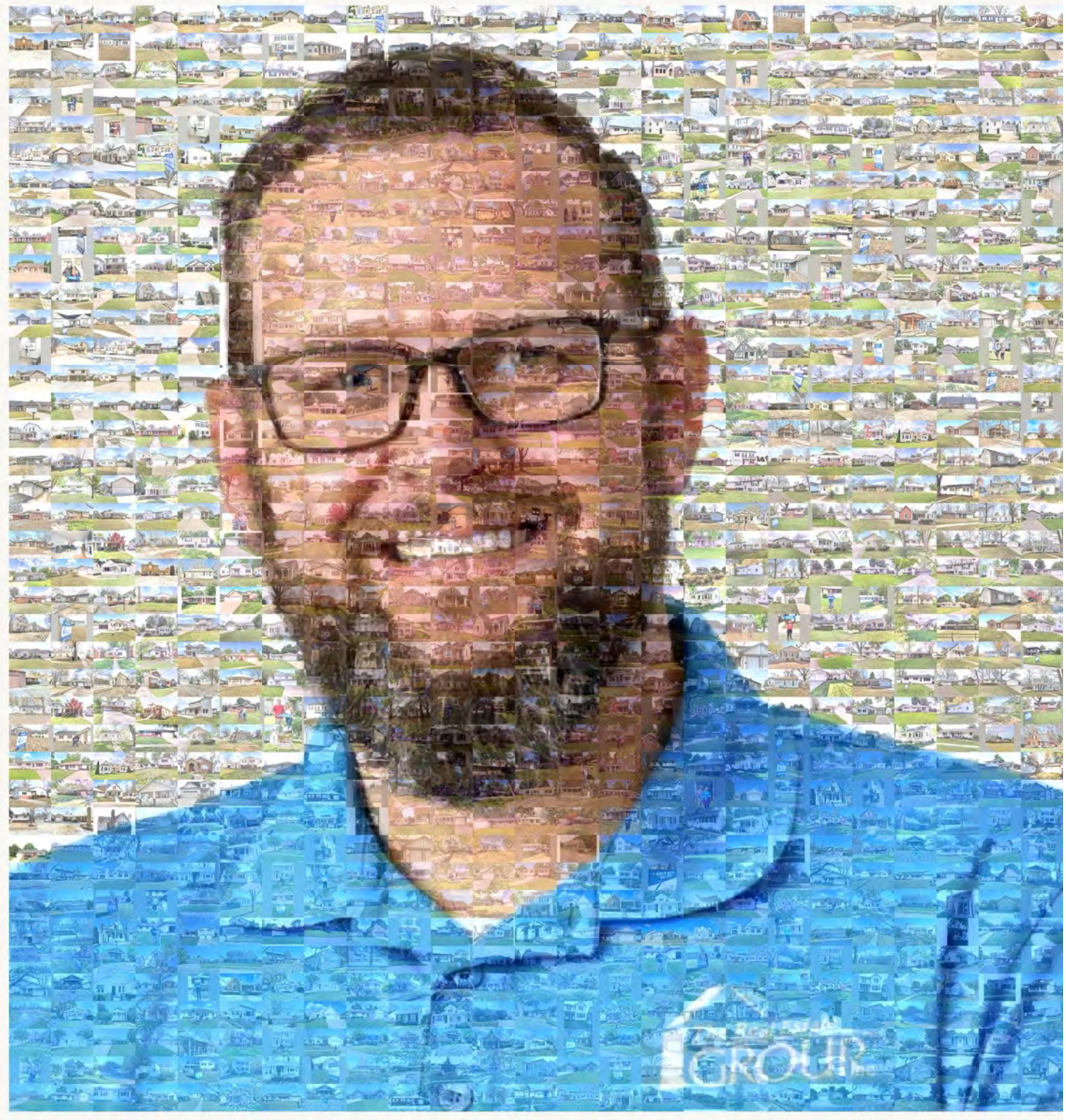
Cheers to you.

Adam Bugos, MRP

Realtor/Broker/
Partner/Veteran

SCAN TO WATCH

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Gymnastics
YMCA
601 N. Fourth St., 217-544-9846
4550 W. Iles Ave., 217-679-1625
Finalists: Springfield Gymnastics Center, Outlaw Athletics, Teeter Tots 'n Tumblers, Capital Elite Athletics

Kid-friendly place
Kidzeum of Health and Science
412 E. Adams St.
217-679-2123
Finalists: Bounce Tag, Scheels, Hello Sunshine Makery and Marketplace, YMCA

Kid-friendly restaurant
The Creek Pub & Grill
1081 Jason Place, Chatham
217-483-8282
Finalists: Chick-fil-A, Culver's, Lulu's Diner, IHOP

Kids Birthday Party Place
Skateland South
1500 Recreation Dr.
217-546-4543
Finalists: Bounce Tag, Kidzeum of Health & Science, Hello Sunshine Makery and Marketplace, Wild Times Exotics

Kids' art classes
Springfield Art Association
700 N. Fourth St.
217-523-2631
Finalists: B's Creative Studio, Hello Sunshine Makery and Marketplace

Kids' events/day camps
Y Ninja, YMCA
601 N. Fourth St., 217-544-9846
4550 W. Iles Ave., 217-679-1625
Finalists: Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Hoogland Performing Arts Education, Lake Springfield Christian Assembly, Hello Sunshine Makery and Marketplace

Martial arts studio (kids)
John Geyston's Empowered Martial Arts Academy
1929 W. Iles Ave.
217-546-6762
Finalists: Shudo Kan Karate Club, YMCA, American Jujitsu, Gracie Barra Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Springfield Karate & Fitness

Orthodontics
TuthMvr Orthodontics
997 Clocktower Dr.
217-546-9600
Finalists: Longos Middleton, Neely Orthodontics, Maurer Family Dental, Access Dental & Orthodontics



KIDS BIRTHDAY PARTY PLACE
Skateland South

Family-owned and operated, Skateland South roller rink has been serving up fun and excitement since 1972. Skateland North, which opened a few years later, has been closed since 2009, but the original is still going strong. Located at 1500 Recreation Drive in Springfield, Skateland hosts family get-togethers, school events, fundraisers, parties and so much more.

When hosting your special event, Skateland offers all sorts of affordable party packages. A "fun" party package gets you admission, skate rental, unlimited soft drinks and glowsticks, or you can upgrade to "deluxe" or "extreme" if you want extras such as pizza, arcade game cards or cotton candy.

You also have the option to book a private party, giving you access to the entire Skateland venue rather than sharing the space with several parties. This makes Skateland a great choice for more intimate gatherings, or for a community event such as a school fundraiser or a company outing. You could even choose to host a holiday event at Skateland this winter.

If you want to skate outside of an organized event, Skateland has group lessons for all sorts of skaters – beginner through advanced. Skateland also hosts open skate times, adult skate times, toddler Saturdays and more.



Pediatrics center
Springfield Clinic
3501 Old Jacksonville Road
217-960-8193
Finalists: HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital, SIU Medicine Pediatrics, Frisina Family Wellness

Playground
Southwind Park
4965 S. Second St.
217-585-2941
Finalists: Sherman Village Park, Washington Park, Jerome Park

Private school
Little Flower School
900 Adlai Stevenson Dr.
217-529-4511
Finalists: Sacred Heart-Griffin, Springfield Christian School, St. Agnes Catholic School, Calvary Academy

Public school (9-12)
Springfield High School
101 S. Lewis St.
217-525-3100
Finalists: Rochester High School, Glenwood High School, Pleasant Plains High School, Lanphier High School

Public school (K-8)
Rochester
707 W Main St., Rochester, 217-498-9778
456 Bertrand Ave., Rochester, 217-498-6216
Finalists: Ball-Chatham Elementary School, Franklin Middle School, Farmingdale Elementary School, Glenwood Elementary School

Summer camp
Trinity Lutheran Church and School
515 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-787-2323
Finalists: Lake Springfield Christian Assembly, YMCA Camp Wa-Kon-Tah, Camp CILCA, CDF Freedom School - Springfield Urban League, Ecology Camp - Lincoln Memorial Garden

Swim lessons
YMCA
601 N. Fourth St., 217-544-9846,
4550 W. Iles Ave., 217-679-1625
Finalists: PORTA Pool, Nelson Center, Island Bay Yacht Club, Just Because

Tutoring or learning center
Sylvan Learning
2735 S. Sixth St.
217-280-8964
Finalists: Kumon Math and Reading Center of Springfield, Novel Tea Publishing

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217-414-0909

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MUSIC

Bass player
Tony Tarro, Brandy Kristin Band
facebook.com/BrandyKristinandTheRevival
Finalists: Jeff Cunningham, Bruce Williams, Tyler O'Brien, Trey Tholen

Choral group
Glenwood High School Titan Fever
1501 Plummer Blvd., Chatham
217-483-2424
Finalists: Rochester High School Madrigals, Springfield Choral Society, The Capitol City Men's Chorus, The Lincoln Troubadours

Cover music band
Brandy Kristin Band
facebook.com/BrandyKristinandTheRevival
Finalists: Deja Voodoo, The 66 Ramblers, Sunshine Daydream, The Phantom Lordz

DJ
Yuri K. - DJ RIQ
facebook.com/RIQakaYURIK
Finalists: DJ Mikee - Curve Inn, David Hale III (DJ DH3), Butternut Hut First Fridays

DJ Wedding
Troy Armstrong DJ
642 White Oak Dr., Chatham
217-501-8137
Finalists: David Hale III - DJ DH3, Shawn Balint - Top Dog Productions, Brandon Austin - BCA Weddings + Events, Devaughn Travis - DJ DSC, Justin Ford – J Ford's DJ Service

Drummer
Brandon Drew, Brandy Kristin Band
facebook.com/BrandyKristinandTheRevival
Finalists: Damien Kaplan, Robert Bryant, Lick Creek, Sean Tobin, Greg Harvey

Guitarist
Micah Walk
facebook.com/themicahwalk
Finalists: Bryan Ealy, Brandy Kristin Band, Andrew Sorenson, Matt Smegal, Brandy Kristin Band, Jeff Wheaton

Horn player
Dave Littrell
instagram.com/davelittrell
Finalists: Colin Deford, Frank Parker, Frank Trompeter, Kerri Donovan



ANTIQUE OR VINTAGE STORE

Tammi's Treasures, Antiques and More

Just off exit 82 on I-55 south sits a 25,000-square-foot, two-level store where you can find just about anything, it seems.

Opened in September of 2020, Tammi's Treasures, Antiques and More has survived the pandemic and is coming off one of its best years ever. Owner Tammi Little and her husband bought at auction the building that formerly housed Lisa's Antiques, and they added a second floor crammed full of just about everything you could imagine.

Little's store has 85 booths and 42 showcases, which she rents out to about 75 vendors. Little makes money from renting out the space, and the vendors keep the money from things they sell. Little does own many pieces of merchandise in the store, however.

Little said many of her customers like to look for something that reminds them of their youth, but she said more and more young people have become customers, too.

"I think they like to see if they can find some good bargains for household things, which we have, and they like to see things from the past," Little said.

Little also owns another antique store, Sweet Pea's, nearby. The road where the stores stand is a part of the original Route 66, and so more people are finding the store because of the increased number of tourists commemorating the 100th birthday of the Mother Road.

"I think people who just like to walk around and browse are our typical customer," Little said. "You can get things delivered to your door now, but I think a lot of people just like to try and make it kind of like a treasure hunt. That explains the name a little, doesn't it?"

Keyboardist
Tony Tarro, Brandy Kristin Band
facebook.com/BrandyKristinandTheRevival
Finalists: Damien Kaplan, Greg Owens, David Coonrod, Collective/Deja Voodoo, Roger Wainwright, Deja Voodoo

Live music venue - large
Levitt AMP Springfield
springfieldartsco.org/levittampspringfield
Finalists: Danenberger Family Vineyards, Sherman Village Park Amphitheater, Hoogland Center for the Arts

Live music venue - small
Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill
600 Toronto Rd.
217-679-7323
Finalists: Curve Inn, Dumb Records, The Blue Grouch, Weeble's Bar & Grill, The Library Pizza and Sports Bar

Music festival
Levitt Amp Music Series
springfieldartsco.org/levittampspringfield
Finalists: Penny Lane Annual Joe Utterback & Jerry Garcia Tribute Festival, Lincoln's New Salem Traditional Music Festival and Bluegrass Concerts, New Soil Music Festival, Logan's Homegrown Cigar Music Festival

Open mic
Blue Grouch with Kortney Leatherwood
510 W. Maple Ave.
217-527-8395
Finalists: George Rank's JB Open Jams, Midweek Music Meetings at Harvest Market, Roger & Mandy Open Mic, Trails End Saloon, Trading Post Saloon

Original music band
Lick Creek
lickcreekcountry.com
Finalists: The 66 Ramblers, NIL8, Unchained, Dysfunctional Family, OAT (Owen, Amy and Tom)

Overall band and genre
Brandy Kristin Band, Rock/Pop
facebook.com/BrandyKristinandTheRevival
Finalists: The 66 Ramblers, Classic and 'Old-Time' Rock and Roll; Lick Creek, Country Music Band; Deja Voodoo, 70s Rock; Dysfunctional Family, Metal

Place for karaoke
Clique
411 E. Washington St.
217-891-3288
Finalists: Curve Inn, Northern Lights Lounge, Goodfellas Pub, Dumb Records, Fluid Lounge

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Place to dance
Clique
411 E. Washington St.
217-891-3288
Finalists: Curve Inn, Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Entertainment Complex, Weeble's Bar & Grill, Fluid Lounge, The Library Pizza & Sports Bar

Songwriter
Tom Irwin
facebook.com/tom.irwin.351
Finalists: Micah Walk, Roger Smith, Keagan Cross, Kate Schwartz

Vocalist female
Brandy Kristin
facebook.com/BrandyKristinandTheRevival
Finalists: Amy Battles, Melanie Dennison, Olivia Smith, Mandy Rose

Vocalist male
Matt Smegal
Finalists: Micah Walk, Devin Williams, Steve Clark, Greg Owens

PET SERVICES

Dog-friendly bar or restaurant
Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery
500 S. Sixth St.
217-670-0627
Finalists: Scoop Du Jour, The Corner Pub & Grill, Jackson's Handlebar

Mobile pet grooming
Fur-Ever Friends Mobile Grooming
217-801-2025
Finalists: June's Grooms, Howl's Pet Grooming, Jet n Pet Grooming, Somebody's Kitty

Pet boarding
Kinner Kennels Dog Boarding
2315 Parkes Kinner Road, Pleasant Plains
217-626-1000
Finalists: Laketown Animal Hospital, Coble Animal Hospital, PawKamp, Petersburg, Yellow Dog Kennel and Daycare

Pet daycare
Kinner's On 97
5965 IL-97, Pleasant Plains
217-626-1111
Finalists: Suds N' Pups Pet Grooming & Doggie Daycare, KEEN on Petcare, Tail Command, Yellow Dog Kennel and Daycare



PET DAYCARE
Kinner's On 97

PET BOARDING
Kinner Kennels Dog Boarding

Imagine the surprise of a visitor on a recent weekday afternoon to the free-roam, fenced off area for dogs at Kinner's On 97, a large doggie daycare facility just off State Route 97 in Pleasant Plains. A door opens, and suddenly dozens of dogs run to the front of the gate greeting the visitor, all seemingly in a happy, welcoming mood.

That's the vibe one gets when stepping foot on the property co-owned by Amy and Drew DeRiemacker, along with Michael and Tricia Kinner. Along with regular daycare, Kinners offers dock diving and aquatics for dogs, with a giant pool inside that regularly hosts jumping and swimming competitions. ESPN was even here once to broadcast an event.

The current building for Kinners On 97 is a former Stone Seed operation, on land that has been owned by either a Kinner or their close family friends, the Stones, since 1835. In January 2022, the current facility was opened as a full-time doggy daycare business.

Dog owners can drop off their canines by 7-9 a.m. seven days a week and pick them back up between 4-6 p.m. It's $27 for the first dog, $24 for each additional dog and other pricing packages are available for longer stays.

A dog that wants a supervised swim in the big pool will cost their owner $15 for a 20-minute session. A 30-minute, unassisted (no trainer) swim is $30.

"When we opened, we were one of only eight indoor (doggie aquatics) facilities in the country. There is a national competition each month, and people come from all over," Amy DeRiemacker says.

Otherwise, she says, she loves the feeling of making dogs feel happy and loved when their owners are indisposed.

"We take social dogs and socialize them properly," she says.

Pet grooming
Laketown Animal Hospital
1115 Adlai Stevenson Dr.
217-529-4211
Finalists: OH MY DOG Spa, Bark Side of the Groom, Suds N' Pups Pet Grooming & Doggie Daycare, June's Grooms, Coble Animal Hospital

Pet retail store
Wild Birds Unlimited
1930 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-789-6468
Finalists: Pet Supplies Plus, Tails To Remember Pet Services, Treasures for Tails, Happy Scalez

Pet sitting
The Critter Sitter
217-836-5695
Finalists: KEEN on Petcare, Cuddlin with Canines Pet Sitting - Ann Gramlich, Pet Sitting Plus Farm, Canine Athletics

Pet training
Rediscover Your Dog
2161 Moffat Ave.
217-502-3885
Finalists: Joe Blankenship (Dog Class Pro Dog Training), Pawsitive Training Zone, Judy William's Dog Training 101, Pup's Paradis (Carol Gruwell)

Pet waste removal (pooper scooper)
Pain in the Grass LLC
PainintheGrassllc.com
217-803-POOP
Finalists: I've Got the Scoop, Doctor Doo, Happy Pet Waste Removal

Veterinarian clinic
Laketown Animal Hospital
1115 Adlai Stevenson Dr.
217-529-4211
Finalists: Petersburg Veterinary Clinic, Brewer Animal Hospital, West Lake Animal Hospital, Coble Animal Hospital

RETAIL

Antique or vintage store
Tammi's Treasures Antiques & More
490 IL Route 104, Divernon
217-628-3333
Finalists: Springfield Vintage, Abe's Tradin' Post, Sweet Peas Antique's & More

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Appliance Store
Sam's Best Brands Plus
3101 Lindbergh Blvd.
217-726-0000
Finalists: Dick Van Dyke, Best Buy

Auto dealer new
Isringhausen Imports of Illinois
229 E. Jefferson St.
217-744-8559
Finalists: Friendly Honda Springfield, Freedom Chevrolet Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram - Virden, Green Hyundai, S & K Buick GMC, Green Toyota

Auto dealer used
Freedom Chevrolet Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
625 S. Springfield St., Virden
217-965-3327
Finalists: Roberts Automotive, Friendly Honda Springfield, CarMax, AVID Autosports

Auto salesperson
Brandon Horner, Isringhausen Imports of Illinois
229 E. Jefferson St.
217-744-8559
Finalists: Brian Wilbern, Roberts Automotive; Mylas Copeland, Green Toyota Audi Volkswagen; Jeremy Lookis, Landmark Automotive; Paul Walsh, Friendly Chevrolet

Bicycle shop
Ace Bike Shop
2500 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-523-0188
Finalists: Wheel Fast Bicycle Co., Scheels, Springfield Bicycle Doctor

Bookstore - independent
Elderberry & Plumb Bookstore
926 S. Seventh St.
217-801-6925
Finalists: Prairie Archives, The Book Rack, Wildflower & Rose Bookstore - Petersburg, Books On The Square

Cashier
Bernedette Wallace, McDonald's
3250 S. Sixth St.
217-529-3320
Finalists: Caleb Smith, Food Fantasies; Joey, Whimsy Tea; Kristin Diehl, Custom Cup Coffee; Christina Yoc, CBD Botanicals



PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

HAPPY HOUR
NEW BAR (OPENED AFTER 8/1/25)

Vondra Social House

Described as a "modern, moody, high-end restaurant," Vondra Social House has been a hit since its launch in November 2025. Sitting on Edwards Street, just south of the Lincoln Home Historic site, in a 186-year-old, two-story brick building, this new hot spot has consistently received buzz-worthy praise.

Eclectic and bold, refreshing and new, the quirky and ever-evolving drinks and elevated food menu keep guests coming back for more. Owners Sierra and Eric Farrell have created a memorable and quirky space with delicious libations and sharable plates to match the venue's ambiance. Customers often rave about the carefully crafted drinks, such as the French Fig Old Fashioned and clarified cocktails like the Forget Me Not, to name only two.

Patrons can relax on the earth and jewel-toned furniture indoors or catch a glimpse of the setting sun from one of Vondra's two outdoor porches. Staff is accommodating and knowledgeable, always ready to assist an undecided guest and point them in the right direction. And if you are undecided, it's probably best to keep coming back for more so you have a chance to try every scrumptious item on the menu.

The acclaim doesn't stop at happy hour, either. Vondra Social House also took home top honors for best brunch. The Wednesday through Monday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. lineup includes favorites such as homemade cinnamon rolls, breakfast burritos and good ol' biscuits and gravy, giving diners even more reasons to make Vondra's the ultimate destination.

Clothing store - men
The Crafted Stag Supply
3455 Freedom Dr.
217-698-6300
Finalists: Scheels, Jim Herron, Ltd., Men's Wearhouse, Wilson Haberdashery

Clothing store - used
WILD Thrift & Sniff
1633 N. Dirksen Pkwy.
217-679-1875
Finalists: Clothes Mentor, Springfield Vintage, Second Time Around, Hope Thrift Center, Studio on 6th

Clothing store - women
District 23 Boutique
830 South Grand Ave. W.
217-679-1352
Finalists: Gypsy Soul, SGK Boutique I (Shayna Gibbons Keeley Boutique), JCPenney, Willow & Birch Salon

Consignment & resale store
Clothes Mentor
2329 W. Monroe St.
217-698-8485
Finalists: Second Time Around, Plato's Closet, Hope Thrift Center, Sweet Pea Consignment

Convenience Store
Casey's
721 W. Stanford Ave., 217-528-8594
1133 W. Jefferson St., 217-559-2803
3001 Ridge Ave., 217-522-5829
3961 N. Peoria Road, 217-525-8670
Finalists: Circle K, Hilltop Convenience, Qik-N-Ez, Thorntons 6th street

Gift Store
Cardologist
229 S. Sixth St.
217-525-4121
Finalists: Little Lincoln's Toy Shop, Once in a Blue Moon International Gift Gallery, Kennedy Sue Gift & Home, Unique Enchantments

Grocery Store
Hy-Vee
2115 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-726-1001
Finalists: Humphrey's Market, Schnucks, Harvest Market, Meijer, Country Market

Jewelry store
Jones Jewelers
3124 Montvale Dr.
217-787-7457
Finalists: Giganti & Giganti Fine Jewelry, Denney Jewelers, Luttrell Jewelers, Studio on 6th



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Liquor store
Binny's Beverage Depot
2490 Wabash Ave.
217-787-3401
Finalists: Riverton Party Store, Friar Tuck

Meat selection
Humphrey's Market
1821 S. 15th St.
217-544-7445
Finalists: Country Market, Hy-Vee, Harvest Market, Meijer

Natural food or supplement store
Food Fantasies
1512 Wabash Ave.
217-793-8009
Finalists: Whimsy Tea Company, The Vitamin Shoppe, Roaring Lion Ranch & Retreat's Botanical Market & Apothecary

New business downtown (opened after 8/1/25)
Arrowroot Coffee Co - Roastery and Coffee Lounge
625 E. Adams St.
217-566-5282
Finalists: Long Nine Junction, Vault 66 Pinball, Schlee's Gourmet Bakery and Bottle Shop, Gracie Humaita Springfield

New business not downtown (opened after 8/1/25)
Elderberry & Plumb Bookstore
926 S. Seventh St.
217-801-6925
Finalists: Bespoke Cafe + Kitchen, The Spot 90's Bar & Grill, Los Altos Cocina y Cantina, The Library Pizza and Sports Bar

Optical shop
Vision Care Associates
121 North Grand Ave. W.
2741 Prairie Crossing Dr., 217-528-3233
Finalists: Henderson Eye Center, Prairie Eye Center, Gailey Eye Clinic, Bergh White Opticians

Pawn shop
Stevenson Drive Pawn Shop
2223 Adlai Stevenson Dr.
217-414-0909
Finalists: Monster Pawn Springfield, Cash America Pawn



BOOKSTORE – INDEPENDENT NEW BUSINESS NOT DOWNTOWN (OPENED AFTER 8/1/25)

Elderberry & Plumb Bookstore

One day earlier this year, Lisa Plumb was having lunch with her son at Incredibly Delicious and noticed the "For Sale" sign for a building directly across the street.

"I said, 'Let's just go look,'" Plumb says. "As soon as I walked in, I could see the vision for the bookstore."

A few months later, on July 1, Elderberry & Plumb Bookstore opened to the public. Calling it a "dream come true," Plumb has brought the historic building back to life with an ornately decorated bookstore on the first floor and moved the Allstate Insurance business that has been in her family for the last 40 years to the second floor.

Walk up the steps, past the pretty flowers and old-school front porch, and one enters what feels like a lived-in, authentic, Victorian-era home. Lining the shelves of four good-sized rooms are a wide selection of current fiction, non-fiction, children's and other genres of books.

Those looking for used, hard-to-find books have other options across the city, but Plumb says the store could expand at some point to house some used books and possibly an events room or an outdoor patio. Plumb, who grew up in Buffalo, Illinois, and has worked mostly in the family insurance business, always visited bookstores in her travels across the country.

"I just love being around books," Plumb says. "And, a good bookstore is one where you feel like it's an experience. I had a special store that my mom and I would always go to, and she's since passed, but whenever I go there, I feel like she's with me. I want this store to be one where people can create memories, not just buy a book."

Plumb and her brother, Tom Elder, own the store together, hence its name with a fruity twist. Along with books, there are many gifts and craftworks for sale. One thing the store won't become, she says, is a coffee or bakery shop with some books thrown in.

"That's what you can get right across the street," Plumb said. "And we wouldn't be able to do it better than them."

Place to feed the slots
Route 66 Motor Heads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex
600 Toronto Rd.
217-679-7323
Finalists: Jamie's Route 66, Scoop After Dark, Scoop Du Jour, Clique, It's All About Wine

Produce selection
Old Capitol Farmers Market
Downtown Springfield
downtownspringfield.org/old-capitol-farmers-market
Finalists: Meijer, Aldi, Harvest Market, Hy-Vee, Country Market

Retail shop
Little Lincoln's Toy Shop
3001 W. White Oaks Dr.
217-670-1326
Finalists: Dumb Records, Kennedy Sue Gift & Home, District 23 Boutique, Unique Enchantments

Seafood selection
Robert's Seafood Market
1615 W. Jefferson St.
217-546-3089
Finalists: Hy-Vee, Harvest Market, Meijer

Thrift store
WILD Thrift and Sniff
1633 N. Dirksen Pkwy.
217-679-1875
Finalists: Springfield Vintage, Land of Lincoln Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County ReStore, Hope Thrift Center

Vape shop
Tribble Vapors
2404 Denver Dr., 217-679-6026
3429 Freedom Dr., 217-679-8382
Finalists: Upper Limits Midwest, Inc., CBD Botanicals, Vaporium

Wine store
It's All About Wine
1305 Wabash Ave.
217-546-9463
Finalists: Binny's Beverage Depot, Corkscrew Wine Emporium, Friar Tuck, Hy-Vee



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SEAFOOD SELECTION

Robert's Seafood Market

Andrea McLaughlin has occasionally had thoughts of dropping the "Seafood" from her store's name and just going with "Robert's Market," because much more than just seafood is for sale in the fourth-generation Springfield store.

There is a full selection of beef from locally-sourced farms, not to mention 35 different kinds of olive oil and vinaigrette, fresh vegetables and a solid selection of wines, whiskeys and beer.

But, McLaughlin concedes, why do an expensive rebrand to one already so well-known in the area?

"People would probably be like, 'Oh no, did you sell the business?'" said McLaughlin. She and her father, Robbie Robert, keep a business that was founded in 1916 on East Washington Street by her great-grandfather, Henry, in family hands.

Seafood is the store's true bread-and-butter – both of which are also for sale inside the store at 1615 W. Jefferson St. – and new varieties are flown in fresh four days a week. Most supermarkets have some fresh seafood to choose from, but not to the depth and breadth of Robert's.

Odds are you won't find wild, fresh skate wing like you can at Robert's, not to mention wild-caught walleye or swordfish steaks from Brazil. Yes, those items can put a dent in the wallet (the wild-caught walleye was $29.99 a pound during a recent visit), but the business has survived for 110 years for a reason. The product is high-quality and hard to find otherwise, and the foot traffic is always strong.

Robert's Seafood Market was more of a wholesale business for many years. It was the first Midwest wholesaler of Birdseye foods, for instance, but for the last 20 years or so has become just one, independent store again.

"We don't have any desire to build out a lot of stores elsewhere," McLaughlin says. "This place keeps us plenty busy enough."

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YMCA of Springfield/Y Ninja

With history in Springfield dating back to 1874, the YMCA has hosted numerous programs across multiple generations of residents over the course of 150 years.

Springfield has two YMCA locations: the Downtown YMCA and the Gus and Flora Kerasotes YMCA on the west side. Both locations offer a variety of activities that won the Illinois Times' Best of Springfield. Other popular YMCA offerings include kids' sports, adult basketball, adult exercise classes, and fitness equipment and gym classes for adults.

The YMCA is particularly known for its youth activities. Need free childcare while you work out? An after-school program or something constructive for your kids to do while out of school for the day or the summer? A parent's night out on a Saturday evening? The YMCA has options for all those childcare needs.

There are also plenty of children's events that are open to the whole community, including Easter egg hunts, a Spooky Trails Halloween event, a North Pole party and visits from Santa Claus.

The YMCA Ninja Race is a beloved kids' event, a one-day all-out obstacle course competition held in June that covers the field behind the Kerasotes Y. The Ninja Run includes giant inflatables such as slides and other exciting elements like tires, mud and foam. Both kids and their adults can compete in the YMCA Ninja Run and awards are offered to top finishers.

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SONGWRITER

Tom Irwin

Any serious conversation about Springfield's music scene must include this year's best songwriter winner, Tom Irwin. If you enjoy live music in central Illinois, you've certainly enjoyed Tom's music – from his early days in Condition 90 to his current trio, OAT, with his son, Owen, and Amy Battles. Maybe you were there when he opened for Willie Nelson at the Illinois State Fair.

My own introduction came in the early 2000s. I spent most Sunday nights at Brewhaus listening to Tom's band, The Hired Hands. The lineup wasn't always the same, but always a who's who of Springfield's finest – Chris Warren, Reggie Britton, Keith Voegele, Tim Harte, Bruce Williams, Owen Irwin, Tom Woolsey, Pete Romano, the late, great Raoul and more. Later versions became The Raouligans, honoring Tom's good friend, and The Hayburners. What I remember most is the energy those lineups brought to his songs and the contagious joy that radiated from the stage.

His studio work is just as strong. Among my favorites are 2012's beautifully written and recorded *Sangamon Songs*; 2017's All That Love, produced by Wilco's John Stirrat; and 2025's *One for the Kiddos,* a family-friendly collection available as a free download on his website, with an accompanying book available.

What I appreciate most about Tom is his support of other musicians. He always offers encouragement and welcoming stages, from his weekly Songwriter's Circle at Underground City Tavern years ago, where I workshopped more than a few songs, to his current Midweek Music Meetup every Wednesday at Harvest Market.

There simply isn't enough room here to say everything Tom deserves. Congratulations, my friend. We already knew you were the best; now you have the hardware to prove it.

Want to go hear Tom? Find him Oct. 30 at George Rank's (full band) and Nov. 6 at Bar Bella with Amy.







PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

RETAIL SHOP

Little Lincoln's Toy Shop

After outgrowing its previous location, Little Lincoln's Toy Shop recently moved two doors down to reopen in a larger space.

The independently owned toy store is now in a 5,400-square-foot location at the end of the West White Oaks shopping center, in space previously occupied by the Jane Hay Sales and Staging Team. Little Lincoln's made the move over Labor Day weekend, and even though it is now just steps away from its previous 3,200-square-foot space at 3001 W. White Oaks Drive, the relocation has meant greater visibility for the store.

"We've had a great turnout," said owner Ryan Leake. "We've had quite a few customers come in and say they hadn't seen us before, even though we were just a few doors down."

Little Lincoln's specializes in unique, quality toys from brands such as Fat Brain Toys, BRIO, Peaceable Kingdom, Douglas Plush and Squishable, just to name a few. With the move, the toy store has been able to expand its offering of children's books and also add a "kidult" section, featuring items such as puzzles, art sets and collectibles.

"Things that are all geared toward millennials and up," Leake said of the new inventory. "We've tried to age up our range of offerings from where we were before."

This is the third location – and expansion – for the toy store. Leake opened the original Little Lincoln's in 2018 at 3450 Liberty Drive. The shop moved to the former West White Oaks location in early 2024.



PLAY TO PLAY POOL

Mowie's Cue

Illinois has long been home to some of the most famous – or infamous, depending on one's point of view – pool halls in the country.

The 1961 film classic *The Hustler*, starring Paul Newman and Jackie Gleason, was directly inspired by the hustling scene at Bensinger's Pool Hall in Chicago. But pool, known otherwise by its more gentlemanly name, billiards, has suffered a steep decline in participation, and places to play, since its mid-20th century salad days.

Digital competition for the gaming dollar, no-smoking laws, real estate costs, difficulties in maintaining quality of felt tables where drink and food stains are common – it all has contributed to pool's decline.

But one place in Springfield has always been a reliable haven for pool lovers – Mowie's Cue. While there aren't as many tables to play as in its past, there are still two high-quality Diamond brand tables just off to the right upon entering. Most every night, the tables are in use, with other players waiting for their turn.

There is still something about the sound of a fresh break from a speedy, on-target cue ball that livens up a joint, and when the pool games start happening is when Mowie's really comes alive. Today, there are also mechanical dart boards, a slots room, a juke box and a couple of pinball machines, including a vintage, very cool Bobby Orr-as-a-Blackhawk machine called "Power Play."

There is nothing fancy about a night at Mowie's Cue. The big, long bar has a great old-school divey feel to it still, and the pizzas from the back of the kitchen have enough cheese and grease to properly sop however many pints of draft brew have been consumed to that point.





BEST PLACE FOR DARTS
BEST BARTENDER

Curve Inn Jessica Cloyd, Curve Inn



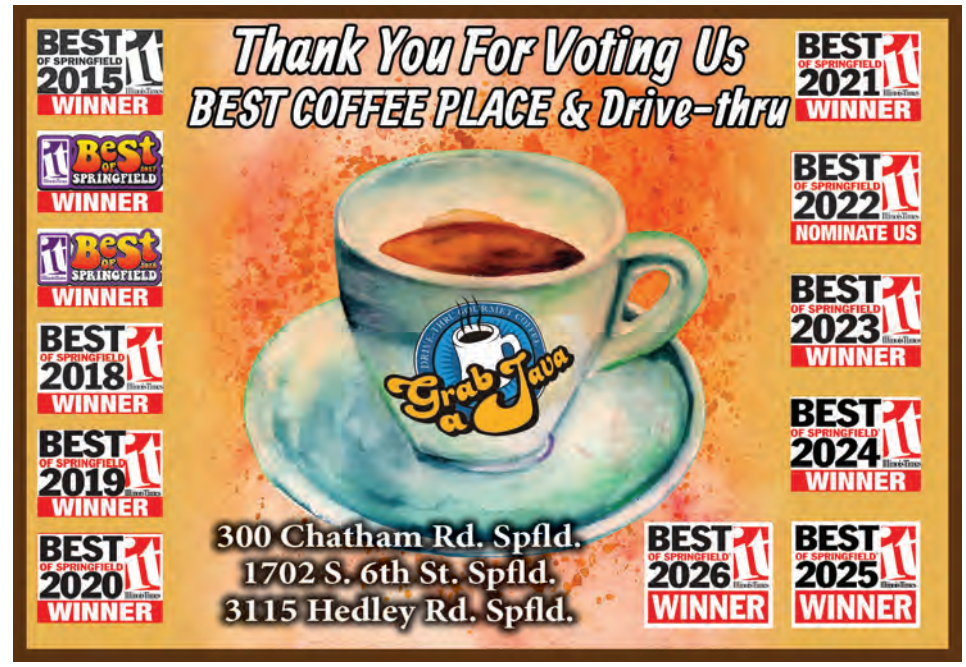
What can we say other than it says a lot when the winner of the best place to play darts and the place with the best bartender in Jessica Cloyd has been closed due to fire for most of 2026. As the Curve Inn owners Ami and Ray Merchant put it, "from the ashes we rise," and the hugely popular music venue, restaurant and bar is most certainly doing just that right now. From Facebook posts on the Curve Inn's page, you can follow the rebuild process and see that no official start date is listed, but bands are booked, help is hired and the reopening is most likely very soon.

Jessica has won the best bartender award before and may likely again (yes, Jess, to her many friends and patrons, is really that good) once the beers start flowing and the food gets cooked, all directly served from the newly rebuilt bar and totally redone kitchen.

Those already content dart-throwing folks are sure to appreciate and enjoy the remodeled space more than ever as we welcome back the revitalized Curve Inn to our bar community very soon, and just in time to celebrate the Route 66 centennial as a special spot directly on the Mother Road.

Perhaps we need a new category for "best bar to rise again," but in the meantime The Curve continues to be the best at a lot of things to our readers.







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BEST PLACE TO TAKE A SELFIE

Illinois State Fair

Definitely a newer category only available since the coming of the ubiquitous cellphones and those equally ubiquitous selfies (*IT's* BoS has been around a long time), this one is puzzling in that if you can take a selfie almost anywhere, why does the Illinois State Fair come out on top as the best of all? Our guess says it's all the different places and interesting oddities on the grounds including a young, gigantic, axe-wielding Abe statue, buildings called Illinois, Artisan, Coliseum and Exposition, a truly gargantuan giant slide, a gazebo and a grandstand, all there without the fair even going on.

So add in the actual stuff happening during the annual big event and you have your choice of a selfie with whatever breed of livestock you prefer or catching yourself chomping down on something to eat, either on a stick or deep-fried or both. Plus, there's picturing yourself having a whale of a time at the many live music shows or experiencing entertaining Conservation World spectacles, and who could dare forget selfies on all those rides there are to ride on or the superb vantage point from above on the cable cars.

We must also make a mention of and give thanks for the recent renovations and restorations along with the ongoing general improvements made on the grounds as a big bonus in making the Illinois State Fair the best place to take a selfie in 2026.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN SITE

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site

Of the numerous Abraham Lincoln sites created and preserved in and around Springfield, the one our readers chose as the best for 2026 sits about 20 miles north by west of the capital city near Petersburg. The state park officially named Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site was home to young Abe from 1832 until 1837 when the intrepid 28-year-old moved to Springfield.

The original settlement disappeared a few years after he left and lay abandoned until "an imaginative recreation of the log village" was built as a Civilian Conservation Corps program during the Great Depression. It's now home to more than 20 "historically furnished buildings" plus a visitor center and a 250-seat auditorium as well as a 500-seat outdoor amphitheater that currently hosts Theatre in the Park's summer productions.

Outside the village, the site encompasses some 700 acres with a campground, playground and picnic area, plus plenty of central Illinois woodlands to roam through on marked trails. The many popular annual events and activities include a Militia Muster reenactment in April and a Candlelight Walk in October, along with several summer season happenings, plus the very popular Traditional Music Festival and Bluegrass Concerts held in September, making this wonderfully special place the very best to our readers.

The site has come a long way since closures due to state budgets cuts of years past, and for that we are very grateful, while wishing more of the best to come for New Salem. a

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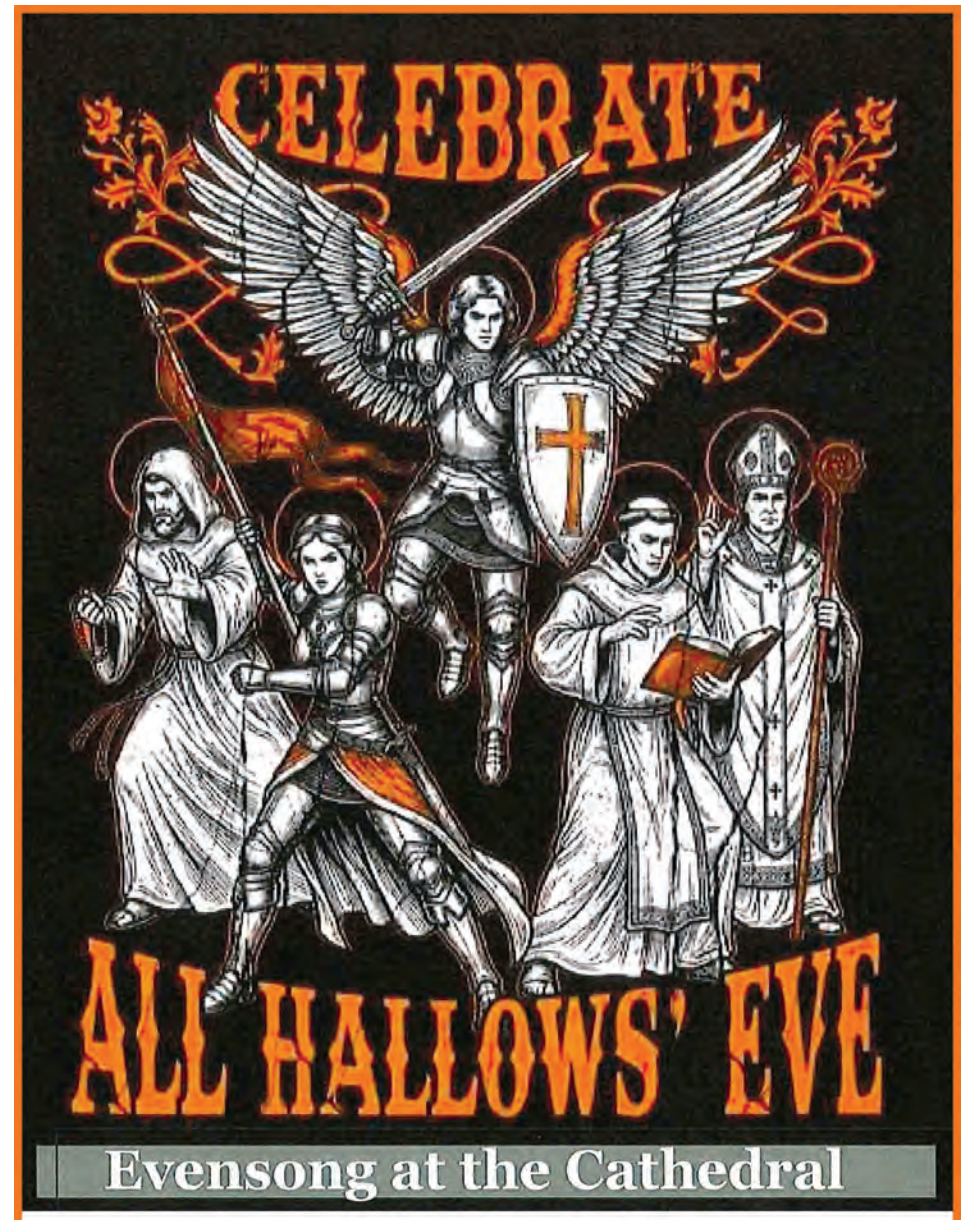
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Evensong at the Cathedral

Ever spend Halloween in a Church?

Did you know the word Halloween hails back to the ancient Christian prayer service known as All Hallows' Eve? All Hallows' Eve is the beginning of Allhallowtide, a three-day celebration of the Saints, the Martyrs, and all the Faithful Departed.

Please join us on October 31st at 4:00 PM

for Evening Prayers and a spooktacular organ concert featuring Dr. Paula Pugh Romanaux and Pale Blue and Friends, followed by a reception.

October 31, 2026 @ 4 PM
Cathedral Church of St Paul
815 South 2nd Street, Springfield
stpaulscathedralevents@gmail.com



KITCHEN DESIGN

DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen of Springfield

A new ownership team took the reins this year at DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen of Springfield, a full-service kitchen, bath and interior remodeling company.

In July, Matt and Beth Bozarth purchased the local DreamMaker franchise from Curt and Deb Trampe, who had owned and operated the business for more than 20 years.

The Bozarths said they were drawn to DreamMaker because its core values and franchise support matched their vision for small business ownership. DreamMaker's code of values emphasizes honesty, integrity and a customer-first approach to design and remodeling.

The Bozarths also said the Springfield team and the business foundation built by the Trampes were important parts of their decision to purchase the business. The Trampes built up a remodeling business known locally for its quality work, reliable service and experienced team.

At the time of the purchase, the Bozarths said they were committed to "continue serving customers in a way that keeps DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen of Springfield the area's top choice for quality bath, kitchen and home remodeling."

The local franchise is part of Waco, Texas-based DreamMaker. The company operates more than 45 locations nationwide, including three in Illinois — the Springfield franchise and two in the greater Chicago area.



BEST GUITARIST

Micah Walk

Our music categories are always hotly contested, proving again and again just how much we're invested in our robust musical community. The best guitarist is up there as a main contender every time since most bands have a picker or two in the lineup, but this year's winner comes from a different place than the usual "killer" lead guitarist.

Our readers chose Micah Walk, who plays as a studied, finesse musician. He's known more for his fluid chording and precise picking as well as his songwriting capabilities (he's won that category several times) than for shredding, screaming, lead guitar parts. Through his work with the Micah Walk Band, The Deep Hollow and The Shenanigans, plus his solo performances on acoustic guitar and as a duo with fellow comrade-in-music Dave Littrell (who won in 2025 for best guitar) and his recent entertainment addition of Live Music Trivia (you got to go to know), Micah has become one of our main go-to musicians in town, known as a being good guy as much as for having good chops.

Micah also regularly teaches guitar and through decades of weekly music lessons has brought us a new generation of finely skilled and properly educated musicians, and that alone deserves its own mention. Congrats for being the best Micah – keep working on those scales, always with a metronome.



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The best male/female performer were from the same show, so the writer did an overview that's applicable to both and then a separate blurb on each, however you want to lay that out.

Our two best performers for 2026 hail from the same production, Springfield Theatre Centre's *Beetlejuice Jr.* This show is a whimsical and musical gothic funhouse adaptation of the Tim Burton cult-classic film. It's a big, irreverent, zany show that's filled with heart and enormous sand worm puppets. It's not surprising then, that audiences remembered two of its most impressive and talented young stars. The directing team labeled both teens as two of the hardest-working and kindest actors around, and not just in their age group.

PORTRAYAL OF A FEMALE LEAD IN A THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

Olivia Garren

as Lydia Deetz in *Beetlejuice Jr.*

Olivia Garren, a Taylorville High School student, played the mournful goth wannabee, Lydia Green, with a poise and professionalism far beyond her years. She anchored the production, capturing Lydia's sharp, dry wit and profound grief without ever delving into caricature. Whether commanding the stage during soaring, pitch-perfect deliveries of anthems like "Dead Mom" or leaning into the dark, comedic eccentricities of the netherworld, Garren always kept the audience rapt.

Perhaps that's because she is already a seasoned professional at the Hoogland – performing in PAVE, ACTT, Hoogland Education and multiple STC shows.

"I love Lydia's character, but she's a big stretch because I'm a happy person and she's sad all the time, but it's fun to play someone so different from myself," said Garren.

Audiences would not have suspected Garren's sunny, offstage disposition considering her onstage depth.

As *Beetlejuice Jr.* director Nicole Sivak observed, "Olivia is a force – a real talent with a great sense of characterization and is nothing like the angsty teen she portrayed. I can't wait to see what she does next."

PORTRAYAL OF A MALE LEAD IN A THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

Jackson Thornton

as Beetlejuice in *Beetlejuice Jr.*

Rochester High School student Jackson Thornton portrayed the iconic role of Beetlejuice with a morbid darkness and cartoon physicality most adult performers never manage to attain.

"Jackson could play that part on Broadway, he was that good," said *Beetlejuice Jr.* director Nicole Sivak.

From his initial booming entrance, Thornton owned every inch of the stage – slithering through the ensemble, snapping into maniacal gestures and driving the show's chaotic momentum with electric comedic timing. He sang flawlessly through a characterized, gravelly vocal-fry that could have easily damaged the vocal cords of a lesser actor. He also delivered a demonically joyful performance that stuck with audience members.

Thornton said the highlight of his experience was "to make jokes and scare kids, all while doing a funny voice."

Sivak said of her time working with him, "He is an amazing performer and was so helpful backstage with his young cast members – they all looked up to him."

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MUSIC



Fragile Porcelain Mice (above), NIL8, Unthynck and Rikki Marvel will play Saturday night at Arlington's.

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 29

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

Brandy Kristin Band
BOS Center, 5:30-9pm

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

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

Karaoke
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm.

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

Harris Trio
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 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 Tipsy Toad, 8pm-12am

Good Times Karaoke
VFW Lafore Lock Post 755, 7-11pm

Friday
Oct 30

Gary Williams
48 Inn Sports Bar & Grill, Decatur, 8-11pm

Daniel Cavanagh
The Backyard, Taylorville, 6-9pm

2nd Street Harmony
Bloom Wine Bar & Florals, 6-9pm

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

Hipbone and The Joints
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

Jim & Tommy
Copper and Oak, Lincoln, 6pm

Branded
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 7-11pm

Thomas J Beverly
Decatur Brew Works, Decatur, 7-9pm

The Pleiades
DH Brown's, 8-10pm

Halloween Karaoke
Fluid Lounge, 8-11pm

OAT
George Rank's, 8-11pm

Jim Hollis
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 7-10pm

Blind Mind, Dark Surface, Artificial Light
Goodfellas Pub, 7-10pm

Blue Note Trio
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo
Lime Street Cafe, 7-10:30pm

90's Daughter with Cherry Bomb
Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 6-10pm

Devin C. Williams
Legendary Small Town Trading Co., Taylorville,

Karaoke
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Karaoke
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 8pm.

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

Halloween Karaoke
Pier 55 Lounge, 8pm-12am

AllNighter
Rocco's, Decatur, 7-10pm

Storm Front
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 8-11pm

The Get Down
Y-Zoe's Bar, Taylorville, 8pm-12am

Saturday
Oct 31

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

NIL8, Fragile Porcelain Mice, Unthynck, Rikki Marvel
Arlington's, 6pm

BuK
The Bird Tavern, 9pm-12am

Grand Theft Audio
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7pm

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

99 Proof
Da Burg Bar & Grill, Warrensburg, 8pm

Menace to Sobriety
The Funky Monkey, Taylorville, 9:30pm-12:30am

Spoonbenders and Go! Tsunami
George Rank's, 7:45-11pm

Dance Monkey
Goodfellas Pub, 6pm

Square of the Roots
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Hat Trick
The Hideout, Mason City, 8pm

Exit 52
Kuhl Tyme Korner, Jacksonville, 8pm-12am

Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo
Lime Street Cafe, 7-10:30pm

Jeff Young and the Bad Grandpas
Mowie's Cue, 7-10pm

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

Karaoke with Hi-Tek Redneck Entertainment
Pearl's Pub, Auburn, 8:30pm-12:30am

Blue Sky Revival, Mace Hathaway, Smokestacks, LowPhatt, Captain Trip and the Space Cadets
Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, Southern View, 5pm-2am

Revel in Red
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 7pm

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

Brushville
Taylorville VFW, Taylorville, 8pm

Karaoke with DJ Chris
The Bean, Mechanicsburg, 8pm-12am

Kortney Leatherwood
The Bird Tavern, 6-9pm

Brandy Kristin Band
Weebles Bar & Grill, 6pm

Sunday
Nov 1

Avery Kern
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Rich Hogan
Copper and Oak, Lincoln, 2-5pm

Thornhill
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 1-4pm

Dale Hanabarger
It's All About Wine, 3-6pm

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

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

Jade Horton
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-6pm

Monday
Nov 2

Matt & Nikki Hill
The Alamo, 7pm

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

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

Tuesday
Nov 3

Karaoke
Fluid Lounge, 7-11pm

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

Open jam with Casey Cantrall
George Rank's, 8-11pm

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

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

Wednesday
Nov 4

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

Karaoke
Clique, 9pm-1am

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

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

The Red Ribbon Revue
Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery, 6-8pm

JCB Entertainment Karaoke
Puerto Vallarta, 12pm

Roger & Mandy's Open Mic
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 7-10pm

Find more live music events at community.illinoistimes.com

















Monster Mash Halloween Dance
Fri., Oct. 30, 7-9 p.m.
Southwind Park
4965 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62703
217-585-2941

Holiday Happenings | Dance to the "graveyard smash"

it This Friday night, get in that costume and make this a Halloween to remember. All ages are welcome at this event presented by the Springfield Park District. Participants will enjoy delicious snacks, groovy tunes and plenty of candy. The event's name recalls the famous "Monster Mash" song by Bobby "Boris" Pickett & The Crypt Kickers. And if it's anything like the song, the dance also will be a "graveyard smash," too. Register at bit.ly/SPD_Oct_Dance. The activity number is 370250. See the *IT* Calendar for a list of more Halloween events.

■ Books & Authors

***The Demon's Record Box* book signing and *Halloween I & II* double feature**
Sat., Oct. 31, 9pm-12am. Central Illinois author B.T. Kirgan is releasing The Demon's Record Box, a supernatural horror novel blending demonic mythology, psychological unease and a small-town record store into an oddly satisfying concoction. The book signing will be from 9 to 10pm followed by a Halloween double feature. A limited amount of copies will be available. Free admission. Illinois Theater, Jacksonville, 200 E. Court St., 217-898-2875.

Society of Midwestern Authors
First Tuesday of every month, 6-7:45pm. Love to write? Check out this skilled, supportive group of local writers for critiques of your work, discussion and networking. chathamlib.org. Free. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce St., 217-483-2713.

■ Theater & Comedy

Come From Away
Sat., Oct. 31, 2pm. Based on true events surrounding 9-11, it tells the story of the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, whose residents unexpectedly welcomed the world on Sept. 11, 2001. When 38 planes were diverted to their town, the people of Gander opened their homes, shared meals, offered music and laughter, and forged lasting connections with 7,000 stranded travelers. hcfta.org. $21-$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

■ Dance

Ballroom Halloween Tango Lesson and Social Dance
Sat., Oct. 31, 6-10pm. Learn to tango. Lesson from 6 to 7pm, and all styles of ballroom social dance from 7 to 10pm. Cost is $10 for the lesson or $10 for the dance. Only $15 for the whole night. No partner or experience needed. Costumes not required, but encouraged. See website for more info and tickets. springfieldsocialdanceclub.com. $10-$15. Grant Conservatory of Music and Dance, 501 W. Elliott Ave.

Learn to Line Dance
Mondays, 7-8pm. Through Nov. 17. Line dance series or drop-in class with Moriah (10-week session, sign-up now to reserve a spot.). $10 per class. Springfield Social Dance Club, 501 W. Elliott Ave., 217-416-5597.

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

■ Art & Architecture

"Living Waters"
Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11am-5pm. Through Nov. 11. Exhibit explores the beauty and mystery of aquatic life through vitreous glass paintings by Rosalinda Post-Lucas and watercolor paintings by Debbie Megginson. springfieldart.org. Free. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

"Wicked"
Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11am-5pm. Through Nov. 11. "Wicked" presents a hauntingly unique collection of 2D and 3D artwork from the artist community in central Illinois. at the Underground Gallery. springfieldart.org. Free. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

Capitol Creations Art Classes
Saturdays, 10am-12pm. Through Oct. 31. Classes are hosted by Studio on 6th and will feature different blacklight paintings each week. Reservations required. allpaintshop.com. $25. Old State Capitol State Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-785-9363.

Date Night and Evening Tour
Fridays, 5:30-7pm. Through Oct. 30. Spend an enjoyable evening in the Dana-Thomas House. Itinerary includes 5:30pm relaxation time followed by a 6pm guided house tour. Snacks and nonalcoholic drinks allowed.

Only interested in a house tour? Just arrive at 6pm. Reservations recommended. eventbrite.com. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-785-9363.

Make & Mingle
First Wednesday of every month, 5:30-8:30pm. An open studio experience in the Condell Studio. Bring a project and make new friends, discuss ideas, tackle project challenges and mingle with other art-minded individuals. No instruction or materials provided. No reservations needed. Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

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

Sangamon Watercolor Society Annual Art Exhibit
Mondays-Fridays, 9am-5pm and Saturdays, 10am-3pm. Through Oct. 31. See artwork created by the members of the local watercolor society. springfieldart.org. Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

■ Food & Drink

Mostaccioli and sausage dinner, bake sale
Sun., Nov. 1, 11:30am-5pm. To benefit the parish. Carry-outs will be available. Adults $10, ages 4-11 $5. St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Chatham, 700 E. Spruce St., 217-483-3772.

■ History

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

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

■ 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.

BOO-LITE
Sat., Oct. 31, 11am-3:30pm. Event includes a costume contest, games, trunk or treat, wagon rides and all-day fun. Indian Creek Farmstead and Pumpkin Patch, Petersburg, 19468 Curtis Black Top Road, 217-717-4401.

Community Candy Crawl
Fri., Oct. 30, 4-6pm. The historic village is opening up for a safe, family-friendly trick-or-treating event. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Family Fall Fest
Sat., Oct. 31, 6-8pm. Attend this open house party featuring free food, candy, fun and games. Wear those costumes and don't forget treat bags. Event includes a chili cookoff to go along with hot dogs and desserts. Williamsville Christian Church, Williamsville, 201 S. Old Route 66, 217-566-3381.

Halloween Party
Sat., Oct. 31, 6pm. Karaoke, costume contest and potluck-style dinner. VFW Lafore Lock Post 755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Road, 217-546-9515.

Harvest Festival
Sat., Oct. 31, 1-3pm. Families can enjoy an afternoon filled with fun, fellowship and fall festivities. Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 908 S. Martin Luther King Dr., 217-522-2513.

Haunted Heritage Tours
Fri., Oct. 30, 7-9pm and Sat., Oct. 31, 7-9pm. The Inn at 835 is once again inviting brave guests inside for a tour steeped in Springfield's haunted history. Explore the Inn, Obed & Isaac's, and Springfield's most storied paranormal sites. $22. The Inn at 835 Boutique Hotel, 835 S. Second St., 217-523-4466.

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

SRC Halloween Run/Walk
Thu., Oct. 29, 5:30-8pm. Besides the run/walk, enjoy food and beverages, costume contests, free swag and treats at the social. Springfield Running Center, 2943 W. White Oaks Dr., Ste. 1, 217-787-4400.

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.

Trick or Treat Event
Fri., Oct. 30, 5-7pm. Indoor Trick or Treating. Includes refreshments, face painting, coloring and lots of fun. villasofhollybrook.com. Villas of Hollybrook Springfield, 3401 Hedley Road, 217-679-9001.

Trunk or Treat
Thu., Oct. 29, 4:30-6:30pm. Come out and bring the children to this event featuring tons of treats, fun decorations, costumes and local businesses working together to make this a fun night for the community. Prairie State Bank & Trust, Jacksonville, 1052 W. Morton Ave., 800-597-2977.

Trunk or Treat
Sat., Oct. 31, 1-3pm. Carve out some time for Halloween fun. Wear your costume, bring candy-goblin friends and enjoy treats, decorations, a photo booth and baby goats. Bring a non-perishable food item(s) to donate for the micropantry. Free. Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church, 501 S. Douglas Ave., 217-546-4631.

Trunk or Treat
Sat., Oct. 31, 2-4pm. All are welcome to this event. Happens rain or shine in the church parking lot and parish hall. Our Savior's Church and School, 2645 Old Jacksonville Road, 217-546-4531.

Trunk or Treat
Sat., Oct. 31, 5-8pm. Meet local police officers. In case of rain, the event will be held in the old gym. Hosted by Riverton Police Department. Riverton High School Auditorium, Riverton, 841 N. Third St., 217-629-9800.

Trunk or Treat & Community Business Expo
Fri., Oct. 30, 5-7:30pm. Get ready for a night of candy, costumes, local businesses and fun. Hosted by Still Waters Counseling, with proceeds benefiting mental health nonprofit Everyone's Healing. Still Waters Counseling Services, PLLC, 3201 Pleasant Run, Ste A, 309-270-3848.

Zion & New Hope Trunk or Treat
Fri., Oct. 30, 6pm. The Zion and New Hope Church families present an evening of fellowship and family fun. Enjoy trunk or rreating, hot dogs, snacks, games and treats for children of all ages. Zion Baptist Church, 1601 E. Laurel St., 217-528-6113.

■ Fundraisers and Galas

Best of Springfield 2026 Party
Thu., Oct. 29, 5-9pm. Celebrate the 2026 Best of Springfield, enjoy food and beverages from local businesses and live music. Event includes vendor booths, a costume contest and chances to win more than $1,100 in prizes. Tickets available online or at Illinois Times. Tickets are also available by cash or credit card at the Illinois Times office. $30. BOS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, Seventh and Adams streets, 217-679-7814.

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CALENDAR

Prevention First Masquerade
Thu., Oct. 29, 6:30-10pm. Step into an evening of mystery, elegance and unexpected entertainment. Guests will enjoy dinner, dancing, captivating performances, a raffle featuring local favorites and experiences and surprises hidden throughout the evening. Masquerade attire and masks encouraged but not required. Proceeds support Prevention First's work. $130. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-793-7353.

Western Illinois Fellowship of Christian Athletes Banquet
Sun., Nov. 1, 4:30-8pm. Enjoy an evening at this banquet featuring St. Louis Cardinals second baseman JJ Weatherholt. Reserve a table by emailing tsweatman@fca.org or calling 217-370-2008. Presented by the Western Illinois Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Free. Twisted Tree Music & Event Hall, Jacksonville, 1061 E. Morton Ave., 217-370-2008.

■ Local Government

Springfield City Council
Tue., Nov. 3, 5:30-9pm. Regular meeting in City Council chamber. Municipal Center West, 300 S. Seventh St., 217-789-2151.

■ Children's Corner

Teen Board Games
Wed., Nov. 4, 5:30-6:30pm. Fun board games and casual hangout for teens ages 13-18. lincolnlibrary.info. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

Tiny Tots Ice Skating
Wed., Nov. 4, 8:30-9am. Preschoolers ages 2-5 will learn the basics of figure skating with professional coaches. No special equipment needed. Dress children warmly with gloves and arrive early to put on skates. Rental skates provided. No class Nov. 25. Register at bit.ly/TinyTots_Skating. Activity #350401. $77R/$97NR. Nelson Center, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-2800.

■ Nature, Science & Environment

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

■ Lectures & Meetings

Delegate to Elevate: The Art of Letting Go and Unlocking the Talent in Your Team
Fri., Oct. 30, 9-11am. Effective delegation is not about shoving off work on others, but rather empowering them to take ownership, grow skills and aid in team success. This workshop helps participants understand common issues seen with delegation, and how to identify tasks and structures that enable people to be accountable without being micro-managed. thespringfieldproject.org. Free. 1908 Innovation & Coworking Center, 1100 South Grand Ave. East, 217-753-3551.

Hiring Your First Employee
Thu., Oct. 29, 5:30-7pm. This workshop provides a step-by-step guide to hiring with confidence, covering essential procedures, legal requirements and necessary documentation for the hiring process. The goal of this program is to equip employers with the knowledge to effectively hire their first employee. ecenterdirect.com. No cost. Innovate Springfield, 1 Horace Mann Plaza, 217-522-2772.

■ Bulletin Board

Fall Book Adoption
Sat., Oct. 31, 10am-2pm, 4-7pm and Nov. 2-5, 10am-7pm. Books and more available for adoption. Bags will be available. Participants can bring their own bags or boxes. There are no prices or limits. The Friends of Williamsville Public Library and Museum will accept donations for the programs it helps WPLM provide. Free. Williamsville Public Library and Museum, Williamsville, 217 N. Elm St., 217-566-3520.

Free Produce
Sat., Oct. 31, 4-6pm. Food Not Bombs Springfield will share free produce, clothing and basic needs supplies at the northwest picnic tables. No documentation required. For more info, email foodnotbombs.spi@proton.me. Union Square Park, 500 E. Madison St., 217-753-3519.

Halloween Party
Fri., Oct. 30, 11:30am-12:30pm. A spooktacular Halloween celebration filled with fun, food and festive activities. Enjoy goblin punch, ghostly grub and a frightfully fun costume contest. $20-$25. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-503-4643.

Illinois Secretary of State Mobile DMV
Wed., Nov. 4, 10am-2pm. The Mobile DMV will provide convenient on-site services. Drivers can obtain a first-time, renewal, duplicate or corrected driver's license or state ID card as well as vehicle registration and license plate stickers. Registration is required. To reserve an appointment, call Barb Hipsher by Oct. 30. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-503-4643.

Jacksonville Farmer's Market
Sat., Oct. 31, 7am-12pm. Shop the offerings of Jacksonville area farmers, bakers and vendors all in one place at the Jacksonville Farmers Market. Pathway Services Unlimited Inc., Jacksonville, 1905 W. Morton Ave., 217-479-2300.

Stitchuation
Tue., Nov. 3, 6-7:30pm. Crafters of all kinds and all skill levels are welcome at this supportive space to work on projects. In the DeFrates Reading Room on the third floor. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

WonderClubs at the Old State Capitol
Thursdays, 4-5pm. Through Dec. 17. WonderClubs are a series of free and fun STEAM programs for children ages 3-11. Participants will experience hands-on challenges and fun crafts all while learning and wondering at our world. Registration recommended. wonderclubsOSC.eventbrite.com. Free. Old State Capitol State Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-785-9363.

■ Health & Fitness

Medicare guidance
Mondays-Fridays.. Through Dec. 7. Medicare can be confusing. AgeLinc Senior Health Insurance Program counselors can help applicants navigate the options, answer questions and assist with enrollment. Call to schedule an appointment with a counselor. agelinc.org. Free. AgeLinc, 2731 S. MacArthur Blvd., 217-787-9234.

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

MARKETPLACE

IT Positions (Springfield IL)
Software Developer, II – Multiple Pos. – Design/develop/modify software/sys. Appl.; design/implement/maintain prog./oper sys.; perform database design for sys. conformance/optimization; provide tech. analysis/coding; perform analysis/database reengineering. Travel to various unanticipated project worksites throughout the US. Salary $113,776. Req.'s Master's deg. (or foreign equi. degree) in Comp. Sci., Comp. Info. Sys., Electrical Engg, Comp. Apps., Bus. Admin., Engg. (any field), Math., MIS or related with knowledge of at least 7 tech's. from the following list: Java/J2EE, Tomcat , RESTful Services, JSON, Spring, Struts, Hibernate, C, C++, C#, JSP, Web Services, CSS, Spring Boot, Struts, Design Patterns, Hadoop (Cloudera (CDH)) , HDFS, Hive, Impala, Spark, Oozie, HBase, SCALA, SQL, Linux, Google Analytics, Adobe Analytics, Python, Perl, Flume, Solr, NoSQL databases (Mongo, Couchbase, Cassandra),JavaScript UI frameworks (Angular, NodeJS, Bootstrap), SSRS, SSIS, SSAS.
Software Developer, II – Multiple Pos. – Design/develop/modify software/sys. Appl.; design/implement/maintain prog./oper sys.; perform database design for sys. conformance/optimization; provide tech. analysis/coding; perform analysis/database reengineering. Travel to various unanticipated project worksites throughout the US. $132,600. Req.'s Bachelor's deg. (or foreign equi. degree) in Comp. Sci., Comp. Info. Sys., Electrical Engg, Comp. Apps., Bus. Admin., Engg. (any field), Math., MIS or related with 5 yrs of progressive IT exp. and knowledge of at least 7 techs. from the following list: Java/J2EE, Tomcat , RESTful Services, JSON, Spring, Struts, Hibernate, C, C++, C#, JSP, Web Services, CSS, Spring Boot, Struts, Design Patterns, Hadoop (Cloudera (CDH)) , HDFS, Hive, Impala, Spark, Oozie, HBase, SCALA, SQL, Linux, Google Analytics, Adobe Analytics, Python, Perl, Flume, Solr, NoSQL databases (Mongo, Couchbase, Cassandra),JavaScript UI frameworks (Angular, NodeJS, Bootstrap), SSRS, SSIS, SSAS.
Software Developer – Multiple Pos. – Gather technical requirements; analyze reports; provide tech. analysis/coding; perform analysis/database reengineering, Travel to various unanticipated project worksites throughout the US. $132,600. Req.'s 4 years of experience in IT and knowledge of at least 7 tech's. from the following list: LINUX, UNIX, Python, SQL Developer, Oracle, WebLogic, Java/J2EE, Tomcat , RESTful Services, JSON, Spring, Struts, Hibernate, C, C++, C#, JSP, Web Services, CSS, Spring Boot, Struts, Design Patterns, Hadoop (Cloudera (CDH)) , HDFS, Hive, NoSQL databases (Mongo, Couchbase, Cassandra),JavaScript UI frameworks (Angular, NodeJS, Bootstrap), SSRS, SSIS, SSAS.
FOR ALL: Apply HR, Lead IT Corporation, 1999 Wabash Avenue, Suite 210, Springfield, IL-62704.

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NOTICE OF SALE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SS
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
REGIONS BANK D/B/A REGIONS MORTGAGE,
Plaintiff,
vs.
HARRISON ANDREW FORD AKA HARRISON FORD, BAILEE KI FORD AKA BAILEE FORD AND MICROF LLC,
Defendants.
CASE NO. 26-FC-49
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
406 W. ELM ST.
BUFFALO, IL 62515
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on September 30, 2026, the following described real estate, to-wit:
Permanent Index Number: 16-10.0-403-028
Commonly known as: 406 W. Elm St., Buffalo, IL 62515
will be offered for sale and sold at public vendue on November 24, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the Sangamon County Complex, County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois.
The Judgment amount is $125,601.35. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Sheriff of Sangamon County. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the mortgaged real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to the Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The Sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.
For information contact Plaintiff's Attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, 601 East William Street, Decatur, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719
The purchaser of a condominium unit at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, who takes possession of a condominium unit pursuant to a court order or a purchaser who acquires title from a mortgagee shall have the duty to pay the proportionate share, if any, of the common expenses for the unit which would have become due in the absence of any assessment acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the collection of assessments, and which remain unpaid by the owner during whose possession the assessments accrued. If the outstanding assessments are paid at any time during any action to enforce the collection of assessments, the purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title. If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1).
If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that the Law Firm of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
REGIONS BANK D/B/A REGIONS MORTGAGE,
Plaintiff,
Dated
_____ By
_____
_____
Sarah M. Stack (#6291347), Its Attorney
Of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC
Sarah M. Stack (#6291347)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
Attorneys at Law
601 East William Street
Decatur, IL 62523
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Telephone: (217) 422-1719
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754
8051-970296

NOTICE OF SALE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SS SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON) SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PNC MORTGAGE, A DIVISION OF PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
KELSEY REES AND KELSEY REES, AS INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF TYRE W REES, DECEASED,
Defendants.
CASE NO. 25-FC-78
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
1620 THORNHILL DR
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on September 30, 2026, the following described real estate, to-wit:
Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
Permanent Index Number: 21-02.0-404-017
Commonly known as: 1620 Thornhill Dr, Springfield, IL 62711
will be offered for sale and sold at public vendue on November 24, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the Sangamon County Complex, County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois.
The Judgment amount is $161,177.80. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Sheriff of Sangamon County. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the mortgaged real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to the Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The Sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.
For information contact Plaintiff's Attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, 601 East William Street, Decatur, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719
The purchaser of a condominium unit at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, who takes possession of a condominium unit pursuant to a court order or a purchaser who acquires title from a mortgagee shall have the duty to pay the proportionate share, if any, of the common expenses for the unit which would have become due in the absence of any assessment acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the collection of assessments, and which remain unpaid by the owner during whose possession the assessments accrued. If the outstanding assessments are paid at any time during any action to enforce the collection of assessments, the purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title. If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1).
If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that the Law Firm of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
PNC MORTGAGE, A DIVISION OF PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
Dated
_____ By
_____
_____
Sarah M. Stack (#6291347), Its Attorney
Of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC
Sarah M. Stack (#6291347)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
Attorneys at Law
601 East William Street
Decatur, IL 62523
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Telephone: (217) 422-1719
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754
8051-970293

PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of
ROBERT E. HOLLIDAY, Deceased.
IN PROBATE
No.: 2026-PR-385
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of ROBERT HOLLIDAY, deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on October 15, 2026, to SHERRY FEAGANS, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Maureen M. Faller, 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 Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th 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 20th day of October, 2026.
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Maureen M. Faller
(Registration No. 6308975)
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705-2459
(217) 544-8491
mfaller@bhslaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of:
Joseph A. Hernandez Jr., Deceased
Case No. 2026-PR-000370
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Joseph A. Hernandez Jr. Letters of Office were issued on Oct. 20, 2026 to Stephanie Stengel as Executor 1236 N. Oaklane Road, #272, Springfield IL 62707. 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, April 29, 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 Executor 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
CHERYL JEANNE OLMSTEAD,
Deceased.
NO. 2026-PR-373
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Cheryl Jeanne Olmstead of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 5, 2026, to Laura Kresse, P.O. Box 491, 1212 N. 3rd, Riverton, Illinois 62561, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Brittany Kink Toigo, 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 April 12, 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 5th day of October, 2026.
Brittany Kink Toigo - 06306334
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705-0079
(217) 544-4868
bk@barberlaw.com
372725

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
ESTATE OF
ROGER EDWARD RYAN,
Deceased
Case No. 2026 PR 381
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of ROGER EDWARD RYAN. Letters of office were issued on October 13, 2026 to KAY LOUISE RYAN, whose post office address is 2716 Wordsworth Drive, Springfield, IL 62711, as INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR of the will of ROGER EDWARD RYAN, deceased, and whose attorney is David Patrick Hall, Attorney at Law, 611 E. Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth St., Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative of the estate, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 13th day of October, 2026.
David Patrick Hall
Attorney for the Estate of Roger Edward Ryan, deceased
611 E. Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 210-7200
davehall@motion.net
Registration No. 6225105

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JUAN PAUL WALKER JR.,
Deceased
NO. 2026-PR-382
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of JUAN PAUL WALKER JR., Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on October 15, 2026, to Cynthia Walker, 3246 E. Carpenter Street, Springfield, IL 62702 as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Alex B. Rabin, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 25th 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 October 2026.
Alex B. Rabin
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP
1119 S. Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
217-789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Estate of:
RICHARD J. HARTMAN,
Deceased.
NO. 2026-PR-384
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Richard J. Hartman of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 15, 2026, to Michael Hartman, 4039 Snowy Egret Dr., Melbourne, Florida 32904, 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 April 22, 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 15th day of October, 2026.
Matthew J. Cate - 06272040
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-4868
matthewcate@barberlaw.com
372995

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of:
Shirley A. Moreno, Deceased
Case No. 2026PR000367
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Shirley A. Moreno. Letters of Administration were issued on Sept. 29, 2026 to Co-Administrators Maria A. Moreno, 1306 D. St., Woodbridge, VA 22191, and Mario A. Moreno, 1026 Briley St., St. Peters, MO 63376. 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 Co-Administrators, on or before April 22, 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 Co-Administrators within 10 days after it has been filed.
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
In the Matter of the Estate of
CHARLES LAUGHLIN,
Deceased
No. 2026-PR-242
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES
Notice is given of the death of CHARLES LAUGHLIN, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on July 8, 2026 to LOUIS LAUGHLIN of 1047 R. 1700 N. Road, Taylorville, IL 62568 whose attorney is DelGiorno Law Office, LLC; P.O. Box 52, Springfield, IL 62705.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S 9th St., Springfield, IL 62701or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the22nd day of October 2026, being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htmto learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
You also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1) and pursuant to Section 6-11 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-11) to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within 6 months after admission of the Will to probate.
Dated this 13th day of October 2026
LOUIS LAUGHLIN, Administrator of the Estate of CHARLES LAUGHLIN, Deceased
BY: DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
By: /s/ Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney
Co-Counsel for Estate:
Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney
IARDC No. 6277358
DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
P.O. Box 52
Springfield, IL 62705
Tel. 217-773-5337
Fax. 855-461-3250
Email: tony@delgiornolawoffice.com
Service: service@delgiornolawoffice.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of
CHRISTOPHER E. JACKSON
Deceased.
IN PROBATE
Case No. 2026-PR-172
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Christopher E. Jackson, a resident of Springfield in the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois. Letters of Administration were issued on September 23, 2026, to Earl Jackson whose address is 514 Broadway Street, Unit 1332, Pekin, IL 61555, as Administrator, and whose attorney is RILEY P. HAMILTON of FRAZIER, SABIN & SCHLOSSER, LLP, 1231 South Eighth Street, Springfield, IL, 62703.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
DATED October 9, 2026
Riley P. Hamilton (#6348477)
FRAZIER, SABIN & SCHLOSSER, LLP
Attorneys at Law
1231 South Eighth Street Springfield, IL 62703
Telephone: (217) 522.9010
Facsimile: (217) 522.9020
Email: hamilton@springfieldlawfirm.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of:
Donn C. Miller, Deceased
Case No. 2026PR000345
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Donn C. Miller. Letters of Office were issued on Sept. 16, 2026 to Kay A. Bedolli as Executor, 757 Stanton Airport Road, Riverton IL 62561. 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 April 15, 2027. 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 Executor within 10 days after it has been filed.
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of:
David H. Lowery, Deceased
Case No. 2026PR000311
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of David H. Lowery. Letters of Office were issued on Oct. 6, 2026 to Karen Martin as Executor, 2357 E. Reservoir St., Springfield, IL 62702. 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 April 15, 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 Executor within 10 days after it has been filed.
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF
PATRICIA SUE GIBSON, DECEASED.
NO. 2026-PR-368
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES
Notice is given of the death of PATRICIA SUE GIBSON, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 10 2026 to CONNIE S. COX of 782 South Spring Creek Rd., Pleasant Plains, IL 62677 whose attorney is DelGiorno Law Office, LLC; P.O. Box 52, Springfield, IL 62705.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. 9th, Springfield, Illinois or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from October 15, 2026 being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htmto learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
You also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1) and pursuant to Section 6-11 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-11) to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within 6 months after admission of the Will to probate.
Dated this 5th day of October 2026
CONNIE S. COX, Administrator of the Estate of PATRICIA SUE GIBSON, Deceased
BY: DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
By: /s/ Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney
Attorneys for Estate:
Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney
IARDC No. 6277358
DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
P.O. Box 52
Springfield, IL 62705
Tel. 217-773-5337
Fax. 855-461-3250
Email: tony@delgiornolawoffice.com
Service: service@delgiornolawoffice.com

COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF MELVIN THOMAS,
DECEASED
No. 2026 PR 374
CLAIMS NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Melvin Thomas on January 12, 2026. Letters Testamentary were issued on October 5, 2026 to Linda S. Risley, 12819 Sherman Road, Buffalo, Illinois 62515, as Executor of the Estate of Melvin Thomas, Deceased.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the Executor, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 5th day of October, 2026.
Kevin N. McDermott, Attorney
109 South Seventh Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 753-4070
Ill. Reg. No. 6196497
www.KevinNMcDermott.com

Name Change

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of
Kylar Nicole McCoy-Clouse
For change of name to
Kylar Nicole Bosie
Case No. 2026-MR-000352
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Dec. 1, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Kylar Nicole McCoy-Clouse to Kylar Nicole Bosie pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Oct. 15, 2026

Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS - CHANCERY DIVISION
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
SCOTT ROBERTS; KAREN ROBERTS; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; HABITAT FOR HUMANITY- SANGAMON COUNTY; CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Property Address:
1803 N 8TH ST, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
Case No.: 2026FC000204
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING,
UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:
LOT 2 IN BLOCK 2 IN SAMUEL CARPENTER'S SUBDIVISION. ESCEPT ALL COAL, MINERALS AND MINING RIGHTS HERETOFORE CONVEYED OR RESERVED OF RECORD. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as: 1803 N 8TH ST, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
Names of the titleholders of record: SCOTT ROBERTS and KAREN ROBERTS.
Date of the Mortgage: July 24, 2008.
Name or names of the mortgagors: SCOTT ROBERTS and KAREN ROBERTS.
Name of the mortgagee: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A..
Date and place of recording: August 1, 2008; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Sangamon County, Illinois.
Identification of recording: Document No.

2008R29618.
NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before November 14, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.
E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://illinois-courts.gov/self-help or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org. For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegalaid.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Lender Legal PLLC
1800 Pembrook Drive, Suite 360
Orlando, Florida 32810
Tel: (407) 730-4644
Service Emails:
mjdiaz@lenderlegal.com
EService@LenderLegal.com
LLS17787-IL- ROBERTS
_s/ Meaghan J. Diaz de Villegas, Esq.__
Meaghan J. Diaz de Villegas, Esq.
Counsel of Record for Plaintiff
ARDC # 38990

NOTICE OF SALE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SS SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
REGIONS BANK D/B/A REGIONS MORTGAGE,
Plaintiff,
vs.
HARRISON ANDREW FORD AKA HARRISON FORD, BAILEE KI FORD AKA BAILEE FORD AND MICROF LLC,
Defendants.
CASE NO. 26-FC-49
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
406 W. ELM ST.
BUFFALO, IL 62515
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on September 30, 2026, the following described real estate, to-wit:
Lots 4 & 5 in Block 3 in Dr. J.C. O'Conner's Addition to 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 estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any.
Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
Permanent Index Number: 16-10.0-403-028
Commonly known as: 406 W. Elm St., Buffalo, IL 62515
will be offered for sale and sold at public vendue on November 24, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the Sangamon County Complex, County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois.
The Judgment amount is $125,601.35.
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Sheriff of Sangamon County. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the mortgaged real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to the Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The Sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.
For information contact Plaintiff's Attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, 601 East William Street, Decatur, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719
The purchaser of a condominium unit at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, who takes possession of a condominium unit pursuant to a court order or a purchaser who acquires title from a mortgagee shall have the duty to pay the proportionate share, if any, of the common expenses for the unit which would have become due in the absence of any assessment acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the collection of assessments, and which remain unpaid by the owner during whose possession the assessments accrued. If the outstanding assessments are paid at any time during any action to enforce the collection of assessments, the purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title. If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1).
If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that the Law Firm of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
REGIONS BANK D/B/A REGIONS MORTGAGE,
Plaintiff,
Dated
_____ By
_____
_____
Sarah M. Stack (#6291347), Its Attorney
Of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC
Sarah M. Stack (#6291347)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
Attorneys at Law
601 East William Street
Decatur, IL 62523
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Telephone: (217) 422-1719
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754
8051-970296

NOTICE OF SALE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SS SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PNC MORTGAGE, A DIVISION OF PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
KELSEY REES AND KELSEY REES, AS INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF TYRE W REES, DECEASED,
Defendants.
CASE NO. 25-FC-78
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
1620 THORNHILL DR
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on September 30, 2026, the following described real estate, to-wit:
Part of Lot Fifteen (15) of Thornhill Subdivision Plat No. 1, described as follows:
Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Lot Fifteen (15) North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, on the North line of said Lot Fifteen (15), 150.00 feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot Fifteen (15); thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West, on the East line of said Lot Fifteen (15), 48.04 feet; thence North 89 degrees 55 minutes 08 seconds West, 150.00 feet to a point on the West line of said Lot Fifteen (15); thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, on said West line 47.67 feet to the point of beginning.
Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
Permanent Index Number: 21-02.0-404-017
Commonly known as: 1620 Thornhill Dr, Springfield, IL 62711
will be offered for sale and sold at public vendue on November 24, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the Sangamon County Complex, County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois.
The Judgment amount is $161,177.80.
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Sheriff of Sangamon County. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the mortgaged real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to the Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The Sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.
For information contact Plaintiff's Attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, 601 East William Street, Decatur, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719
The purchaser of a condominium unit at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, who takes possession of a condominium unit pursuant to a court order or a purchaser who acquires title from a mortgagee shall have the duty to pay the proportionate share, if any, of the common expenses for the unit which would have become due in the absence of any assessment acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the collection of assessments, and which remain unpaid by the owner during whose possession the assessments accrued. If the outstanding assessments are paid at any time during any action to enforce the collection of assessments, the purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title. If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1).
If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that the Law Firm of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
PNC MORTGAGE, A DIVISION OF PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
Dated
_____ By
_____
_____
Sarah M. Stack (#6291347), Its Attorney
Of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC
Sarah M. Stack (#6291347)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
Attorneys at Law
601 East William Street
Decatur, IL 62523
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Telephone: (217) 422-1719
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754
8051-970293

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ROSETTA E DAY,
Defendant.
CASE NO. 26-FC-77
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
1801 SCARBROUGH RD
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Rosetta E Day, Defendant, this case has been commenced in this Court against you and others, asking for foreclosure of the Mortgage held by the Plaintiff on the property located at 1801 Scarbrough Rd, Springfield, IL 62702, more particularly described as:
All of Lot 1131 in Northgate Addition, 16th Plat, Springfield, Illinois, Except the North 30.20 feet thereof according to the Plat thereof recorded June 18, 1993 as Document Number 93-24746. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
Permanent Index Number: 14-24.0-180-006
Commonly known as: 1801 Scarbrough Rd, Springfield, IL 62702
UNLESS YOU FILE your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the Office of the Clerk of this Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Room 405, Springfield, IL 62701-1299 on or before November 16, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE.
CLERK OF THE COURT
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Julie Beyers (#6217185)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
Attorneys at Law
601 East William Street
Decatur, IL 62523
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Telephone: (217) 422-1719
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754
8051-970224

Notice by Publication

Notice of Vacation Hearing Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-91-1
Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-91-1 of the Illinois Municipal Code, the Village of Grandview duly enacted Ordinance 26-11 at a regular meeting of the Village Board. The Ordinance announces a hearing shall occur at a special meeting of the Village Board on December 1, 2026, at 5:20 PM CST at 2377 East Reservoir, Grandview, Illinois 62702. At the hearing, the Board shall consider the vacation of certain parts of streets, more fully described below, that are under the Village's jurisdiction and within an unincorporated area. All interested persons are encouraged to attend such that they may be heard or submit written statements concerning the proposed vacation.
The parts of streets that shall be the subject of the aforementioned hearing include:
Excess Land Area A: A 6 FEET WIDE STRIP OF LAND 269.7 FEET more or less IN LENGTH LYING NORTH OF THE NORFOLK & WESTERN R.R., EAST OF THE EXISTING 12 FEET RIGHT OF WAY AND SOUTH OF TAX PARCEL 14-24-326-006, AS PER THE ATTACHED VACATION PLAT, ALL BEING A PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 16 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST, 3RD P.M., SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Excess Land Area B: A 6 FEET WIDE STRIP OF LAND 256.8 FEET more or less IN LENGTH LYING NORTH OF THE NORFOLK & WESTERN R.R., EAST OF TAX PARCEL 14-24-326-006, WEST OF TAX PARCEL 14-24-326-014 AND SOUTH OF TAX PARCEL 14-24-326-013 AND ALSO SOUTH OF TAX PARCEL 14-24-326-018, AS PER THE ATTACHED VACATION PLAT, ALL BEING A PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 16 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST, 3RD P.M. , SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Excess Land Area C: A 6 FEET WIDE STRIP OF LAND 54 FEET IN WIDTH LYING NORTH OF THE NORFOLK & WESTERN R.R. AND SOUTH OF TAX PARCEL 14-24-326-014,
Excess Land Area D: A 6 FEET WIDE STRIP OF LAND 54 FEET IN WIDTH LYING NORTH OF THE NORFOLK & WESTERN R.R. AND SOUTH OF TAX PARCEL 14-24-326-015, AND ALSO
Excess Land Area E: A 6 FEET WIDE STRIP OF LAND 96 FEET IN WIDTH LYING NORTH OF THE NORFOLK & WESTERN R.R. AND SOUTH OF TAX PARCEL 14-24-326-016 AND ALSO THE 12 FEET WIDE RIGHT OF WAY LYING WEST OF SAID TAX PARCEL 14-24-326-016, NORTH OF SAID RAILROAD,
All of the aforementioned land areas are identified on a location map available for inspection at Village Offices.

Notice of Solicitation of Proposals for Sale of Certain Real Property
Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 and 11-76-2 of the Illinois Municipal Code, the Village of Grandview duly enacted Ordinance 26-13 at a regular meeting of the Village Board on October 20, 2026. The Ordinance authorizes the sale of a vacant and unimproved portion of a parcel owned by the Village, as detailed as Parcel F on a plat available for inspection at the Village Offices. As such, the Village hereby gives public notice that it is soliciting proposals relating to the property more fully described below:
A TRIANGULAR SHAPE TRACT OF LAND BEING PART OF TAX PARCEL#14-24-327-001, LYING NORTH OF THE NORFOLK & WESTERN R.R., SOUTH OF THE NORTH LINE OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24 AND EAST OF TAX PARCEL 14-24-326-016
The Property is being sold "as-is" for a sum determined to be appropriate by open bid. The Village makes no representation as to the condition of the Property. The winning bid will be responsible for all costs associated with closing, any costs from a title company associated with securing the conveyance of good, marketable title, any costs of survey, and any and all other usual and customary costs associated with the sale of real property.
Any person may submit a written sealed bid for the purchase of the Property. The Village will consider all bids to purchase the Property received no later than 5:30 PM CST on December 1, 2026. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any technicalities in the bidding if it should be deemed in the public interest. These decisions will be final and not subject to recourse. This request for proposals does not obligate the Village to pay any costs incurred by any bidder in the submittal of a bid or in making necessary studies or designs for the preparation of that bid.
Bids for the Property shall be submitted in hard copy, in a sealed envelope marked "SEALED PROPERTY BID." Any bids received after the aforementioned deadline shall not be considered. Sealed bids should be delivered to the Village Clerk at 2377 East Reservoir, Grandview, Illinois 62702. Submission of a sealed bid shall be considered indication of the bidder's commitment to maintain the property in accordance with the Village Ordinances.
Sealed bids shall be opened at the regular meeting of the Village Board on December 1, 2026 at 5:30 PM CST at 2377 East Reservoir, Grandview, Illinois 62702. The Village may accept the high bid or any other bid determined to be in the best interest of the Village by a vote of 3/4 of the Board, or may reject any and all bids by a majority vote.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS ANNOUNCEMENT
NOTICE
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
WEST ILES AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS
PUBLIC INFORMATION
OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2026
4:00PM-6:00PM
Notice is hereby given that the City of Springfield will hold a public information open house meeting concerning the proposed improvements to Iles Avenue from West White Oaks to Veterans Parkway.
The informational meeting will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 2200 Meadowbrook Road, Springfield, Illinois, on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. All persons interested in this project are invited to attend this meeting. The meeting room is accessible to persons with a disability. Persons with a disability planning to attend this meeting that require special accommodations should contact the individual listed below by November 12, 2026.
Exhibits highlighting proposed improvements will be shown for viewing. There will be no formal presentation.
For those unable to attend in person, project information will be made available on the City Website. Exhibits and project information will be made available on the website the day of the public meeting. Please follow the link below and look for West Iles Avenue Improvements.
https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/PublicWorks/PublicWorksDefault.aspx?RoadImprovements

For more information, contact T.J. Heavisides, City Traffic Engineer, City of Springfield, 300 S 7th Street, Springfield, IL 62701. Telephone number (217) 789-2255. Email address Thomas.Heavisides@springfield.il.us

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To enforce Self Storage Lien in default of payment of rent a private auction will be held on Saturday November 21, 2026, at 9:00a.m.
Northend Storage is located at 1907 North Grand East, Springfield, IL. 62702
This is a private auction. In order to attend you must call 217-544-4521 a week prior to the auction date.
Please leave your name, telephone number and an email address.
Cash is the only form of payment accepted for the auction.
Any individual wanting to retain their unit will need to pay their entire balance on or before Friday November 13, 2026.
No personal checks will be accepted for storage units that are in lien.
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STORAGE UNIT AUCTION
Sandra Gorney Unit# J-17
Jaidyn Mckowan Unit# 9-8
Sherry Reynolds Unit#1-33
George Smith Unit#1-39
Ledera Jackson Unit#1-44
Thaddeus Brewer Unit#11-3
Nikki Hudson Unit# 11-5
Bette Staley Unit#3-20
Tracy Gragg Unit#4-29
Khloe Herrick Unit#5-12
Lawrence Cleeton Unit#6-14
Andrea Ware Unit#7-22
Karla Taber Unit#7-30
Terry Broida Unit#9-37
Susan Grant Unit#10-12
Timothy Nyari Unit#11-24
George Smith Unit#11-26
Todd Pulliam Unit#H-9
Shalik Rhynes Unit#9-34
Thomas Yarrington Unit#11-17
Vernice Bailey Unit#5-22

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
Plaintiff,
vs.
2005 FORD ESCAPE
VIN # 1FMYU04175KA74081
Charles Lair
No. 26-MX-126
26-AF-7
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the People of the State of Illinois, ex rel. John C. Milhiser, State's Attorney for Sangamon County, filed the above-captioned matter on February 20, 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 of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois
Tanyiah Jackson, Petitioner
vs.
Michael Titley, Defendant
Case 2026-FA-000092
Notice is given you, Michael Titley for Petition to Establish Parentage of Kyrein Titley and for other relief. Unless you file your Answer or otherwise file your Appearance in this case in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, 200 South Ninth St., Room 405, Springfield, Illinois 62701 on or before Nov. 14, 2026, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Court

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of September, 2026 a Certificate of Ownership of Business was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Sangamon County, stating that:
Midwest Enterprises, LLC
intend to transact, or are transacting business in Sangamon County, State of Illinois, under the fictitious name to wit:
Deja Vu Showgirls
and that they are the sole owner(s) and proprietor(s) of said business, and the principal place of said business is located at:
3220 Lake Plaza Dr, Springfield, IL 62703

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
BANK OF SPRINGFIELD, an Illinois banking corporation,
Plaintiff,
v.
R. DOUGLAS ENTERPRISES, LLC an Illinois Limited Liability Company; RICKEY R. DOUGLAS, JR.; UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2025-FC-127
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
NOTICE is hereby given to UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants in the above-entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of 735 ILCS 5/15 1218 and 15 1502 and Sec. 2 206 that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against said Defendants is November 15, 2026.
The Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on July 2, 2025:
(i) The names of all Plaintiffs and the case number are as follows: Bank of Springfield, an Illinois banking corporation Case No. 2025-FC-127.
(ii) The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois.
(iii) The name of the title holder of record: R. Douglas Enterprises, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company.
(iv) Legal description and common address of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty are as follows:
Parcel 1
Lot 2 in Block 10 of Payne and Jones' Addition to the City of Springfield.
Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and in all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other materials, if any.
Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois;
Commonly known as 1103 W. Elliott Ave., Springfield, IL 62702; Parcel No.: 14-28.0-102-035
Parcel 2
Lot 2 of Millers Subdivision of parts of Lots Number 4 and 5 in Herndon & Edwards' Addition of Outlots to the City of Springfield.
Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and in all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other materials, if any.
Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois; Commonly known as 505 Hay St., Springfield, IL 62702; Parcel No.: 14-28.0-251-039
Parcel 3
The South 16-1/2 feet of Lot One (1) and the North 16-1/2 feet of Lot Two (2) in Block Three (3) of John F. Wolgamot's Addition to the City of Springfield.
Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and in all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other materials, if any.
Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois;
Commonly known as 1232 N. 14th St., Springfield, IL 62702; Parcel No.: 14-27.0-232-002
Parcel 4
Lot 30 of John S. Schnepp's 2nd Addition to the City of Springfield.
Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and in all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other materials, if any.
Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois;
Commonly known as 1415 E. Reservoir St., Springfield, IL 62702; Parcel No.: 14-27.0-228-012
(v) Identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:
Name of mortgagor: R. Douglas Enterprises, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company
Name of mortgagee: Bank of Springfield, an Illinois banking corporation
Date of mortgage: December 14, 2022
Date of recording: December 15, 2022
County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois
Recording document identification: Document No. 2022R26247
Joseph B. Roesch
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
SORLING NORTHRUP, Attorneys
Brian D. Jones, of counsel – ARDC #6286510
Attorneys for Plaintiff
1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200
P.O. Box 5131
Springfield, Illinois 62705
Telephone: (217) 544 1144
E-Mail: bdjones@sorlinglaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
ALVIN N. HYSLER, JR.
Plaintiff,
v.
BRYAN COPP A/K/A BRIAN COPP, JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2026FC000119
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavits for Service by Publication having been filed in the above-captioned cause NOTICE is hereby given to JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned foreclosure action is now pending in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County, against you and other defendants praying for the foreclosure of the mortgage (Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate) hereinafter described conveying the real estate legally described as follows:
Lot 120 in Wanless' Springfield Heights Addition to the City of Springfield [Grandview], Except the West 80 feet thereof. Situated in Sangamon Co., Illinois. Permanent Index #14-23.0-453-032 together with the improvements thereon including the following personal property: Shades, rods, blinds, Venetian blinds, permanently attached floor covering, storm sash, screens, TV antenna, heating unit, domestic hot water heater, light fixtures, and other fixtures and equipment attached to and property belonging to said premises.
Commonly known as 2136 E. Converse, Springfield [Grandview], IL 62702.
The name of the title holder of record and an identification of the mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:
(A) Name or names of present owner or owners of the premises: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate), Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(B) Date of Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate: September 23, 2020;
(C) Names of Mortgagor: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(D) Name of Mortgagee: Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(E) Date and place of recording: May 7, 2024, Sangamon County, Illinois, Office of Recorder of Deeds;
(F) Identification of recording: Document No. 2024R07084.
And you are further notified that unless on or before November 19, 2026, you shall answer and defend in said suit, default judgment may be entered against you on said date or thereafter.
Dated: October 7, 2026
Lucas G. Guard
Attorney of Record
ARDC No. 6317243
Guard Law
910 S. Kirkwood Rd Suite 100
Saint Louis, MO 63122
Email: Lucas@Guard.Law
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court Sangamon County
10-15-2026, 10-22-2026, 10-29-2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
ALVIN N. HYSLER, JR.
Plaintiff,
v.
BRYAN COPP A/K/A BRIAN COPP, JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2026FC000119
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavits for Service by Publication having been filed in the above-captioned cause NOTICE is hereby given to JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned foreclosure action is now pending in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County, against you and other defendants praying for the foreclosure of the mortgage (Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate) hereinafter described conveying the real estate legally described as follows:
Lot 1 in Block 1 of E.S. Hodgson's Subdivision of the Northwest Quarter of the of Section 28, Township 16 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meriden. Situated in Sangamon Co., Illinois. Permanent Index #14-28-102-029 together with the improvements thereon including the following personal property: Shades, rods, blinds, Venetian blinds, permanently attached floor covering, storm sash, screens, TV antenna, heating unit, domestic hot water heater, light fixtures, and other fixtures and equipment attached to and property belonging to said premises.
Commonly known as 1101 Kingshighway, Springfield, Illinois 62702.
The name of the title holder of record and an identification of the mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:
(A) Name or names of present owner or owners of the premises: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate), Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(B) Date of Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate: September 24, 2018;
(C) Names of Mortgagor: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(D) Name of Mortgagee: Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(E) Date and place of recording: May 7, 2024, Sangamon County, Illinois, Office of Recorder of Deeds;
(F) Identification of recording: Document No. 2024R07082.
And you are further notified that unless on or before November 19, 2026, you shall answer and defend in said suit, default judgment may be entered against you on said date or thereafter.
Dated: October 7, 2026.
Lucas G. Guard
Attorney of Record
ARDC No. 6317243
Guard Law
910 S. Kirkwood Rd Suite 100
Saint Louis, MO 63122
Email: Lucas@Guard.Law
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court Sangamon County
10-15-2026, 10-22-2026, 10-29-2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
ALVIN N. HYSLER, JR.
Plaintiff,
v.
BRYAN COPP A/K/A BRIAN COPP, JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2026FC000119
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavits for Service by Publication having been filed in the above-captioned cause NOTICE is hereby given to JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned foreclosure action is now pending in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County, against you and other defendants praying for the foreclosure of the mortgage (Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate) hereinafter described conveying the real estate legally described as follows:
Lot Fourteen (14) in Block Two (2) of E.S. Dodson's Subdivision of the North West Quarter of section 28, Township 16 North, Range 5 of the Third Principal Meridian, in the City of Springfield. Except the coal and other minerals underling the surface of said land and all rights and casements in favor of the estate of said coal and minerals.
Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
Permanent Index #14-28-101-041 together with the improvements thereon including the following personal property: Shades, rods, blinds, Venetian blinds, permanently attached floor covering, storm sash, screens, TV antenna, heating unit, domestic hot water heater, light fixtures, and other fixtures and equipment attached to and property belonging to said premises.
Commonly known as 1122 N. Lincoln, Springfield, IL 62702.
The name of the title holder of record and an identification of the mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:
(A) Name or names of present owner or owners of the premises: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate), Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(B) Date of Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate: March 25, 2025;
(C) Names of Mortgagor: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(D) Name of Mortgagee: Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(E) Date and place of recording: NONE, Sangamon County, Illinois, Office of Recorder of Deeds;
(F) Identification of recording: Document No. NONE.
And you are further notified that unless on or before November 19, 2026, you shall answer and defend in said suit, default judgment may be entered against you on said date or thereafter.
Dated: October 7, 2026.
Lucas G. Guard
Attorney of Record
ARDC No. 6317243
Guard Law
910 S. Kirkwood Rd Suite 100
Saint Louis, MO 63122
Email: Lucas@Guard.Law
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court Sangamon County
10-15-2026, 10-22-2026, 10-29-2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
ALVIN N. HYSLER, JR.
Plaintiff,
v.
BRYAN COPP A/K/A BRIAN COPP, JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2026FC000119
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavits for Service by Publication having been filed in the above-captioned cause NOTICE is hereby given to JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned foreclosure action is now pending in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County, against you and other defendants praying for the foreclosure of the mortgage (Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate) hereinafter described conveying the real estate legally described as follows:
West 87 feet and 11 in. of lot 23 of Harvard Park subdivision in Southwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 15 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Permanent Index #22-03.0-334-001 together with the improvements thereon including the following personal property: Shades, rods, blinds, Venetian blinds, permanently attached floor covering, storm sash, screens, TV antenna, heating unit, domestic hot water heater, light fixtures, and other fixtures and equipment attached to and property belonging to said premises.
Commonly known as 2200 S. 11th, Springfield, IL 62703.
The name of the title holder of record and an identification of the mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:
(A) Name or names of present owner or owners of the premises: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate), Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(B) Date of Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate: September 25, 2018;
(C) Names of Mortgagor: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(D) Name of Mortgagee: Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(E) Date and place of recording: May 7, 2024, Sangamon County, Illinois, Office of Recorder of Deeds;
(F) Identification of recording: Document No. 2024R07083.
And you are further notified that unless on or before November 19, 2026, you shall answer and defend in said suit, default judgment may be entered against you on said date or thereafter.
Dated: October 7, 2026.
Lucas G. Guard
Attorney of Record

ARDC No. 6317243
Guard Law
910 S. Kirkwood Rd Suite 100
Saint Louis, MO 63122
Email: Lucas@Guard.Law
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court Sangamon County
10-15-2026, 10-22-2026, 10-29-2026

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will hold an organizational meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, for the purpose of election of officers, as established in Article III, By-Laws of the Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission. The Meeting will be held at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West.
Docket No. 2026-039
Ben Ferris
Assistant Zoning Administrato

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Freedom Journey-Bristow, Petitioner
And
Travis Bristow, Respondent
Case No. 2025-DN-000090
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Travis Bristow, 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 29nd 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
Plaintiff,
vs.
2005 HYUNDAI SONATA
VIN # KMHWF35H65A211287
Lyrin Borders
No. 26-MX-774
26-AF-47
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the People of the State of Illinois, ex rel. John C. Milhiser, State's Attorney for Sangamon County, filed the above-captioned matter on July 21, 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

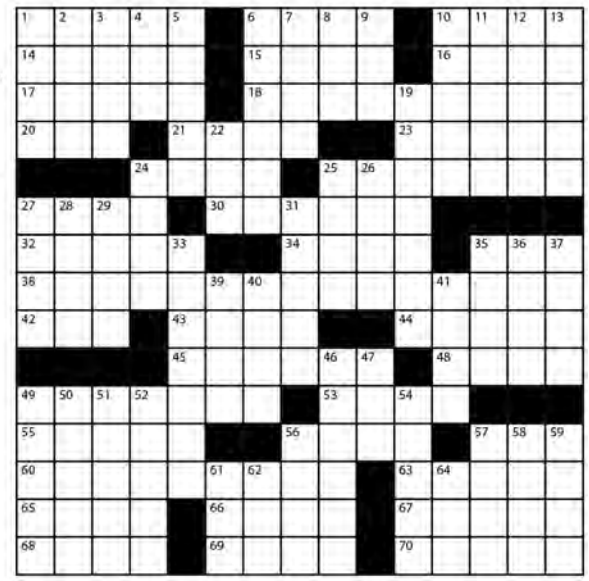
CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF:
Elmer L. Wardell,
deceased.
NO. 2026PR000393
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Elmer L. Wardell. Letters of office were issued on October 22, 2026, to Roxanna M. Wardell, 309 W. Charles St., Buffalo, IL 62515, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Steven C. Mills, P.O. Box 382, Springfield, IL 62705. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth St., Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Steven C. Mills
Clark R. Mills
Attorneys for Executor
P.O. Box 382
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 753-2444

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF:
Kathy D. Krusz,
deceased.
NO. 2026PR000387
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Kathy D. Krusz. Letters of office were issued on October 21, 2026, to Herbert L. Rigney, 525 E. Camp Sangamo Road, Springfield, IL 62707, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Steven C. Mills, P.O. Box 382, Springfield, IL 62705. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth St., Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Steven C. Mills #3123500
Attorney for Executor
P.O. Box 382
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 753-2444

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MORGAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of
MARY KAY PRATHER, Deceased.
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
IN PROBATE
No. 2026-PR-58
Notice is given to claimants of MARY KAY PRATHER, deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on October 22, 2026, to REBECCA A. PRATHER, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Maureen M. Faller, 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 Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th 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 22nd day of October, 2026.
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Maureen M. Faller
(Registration No. 6308975)
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705-2459
(217) 544-8491
mfaller@bhslaw.com

A mode of transport

Edited by J. Reynolds - **No. 969**



Across

1. Boxing site
6. Book part
10. Fish-eating birds
14. Fat or wax
15. Skater's jump
16. Authentic
17. Accused's need
18. ***Southern U.S. cuisine topper
20. "Wait a ___!"
21. Rams' mates
23. Nearby
24. Twofold
25. Soon
27. Lack of difficulty
30. Cup carrier
32. Be a bad winner
34. Hindu garment
35. When repeated, a dance
38. ***James Brown
42. Last word of "America, the Beautiful"
43. Jury member
44. Complimentary close
45. Money of exchange
48. ___ no good
49. Flocks of fish
53. Cut the crop
55. "Remember the ___"
56. Author Ayn
57. Double-crosser
60. ***Good example
63. Make amends
65. Bartlett's abbr.
66. Radio feature
67. Kindergarten adhesive
68. Loch ___
69. Television award
70. A thing to ride or the word that could follow the last word of each starred answer

Down

1. Exclamation of grief
2. Agitate
3. Grander than grand
4. Penpoint
5. "Farewell, mon ami"
6. Bobby's wife on "Dallas"
7. Central line
8. Salon goo
9. Lodge member
10. Trial's partner
11. Flinch, say
12. The "N" of U.S.N.A.
13. In a sneaky way
19. Bless
22. Took place
24. Like Beethoven
25. Mark left by Zorro?
26. "My ___!"
27. Breakfast staple
28. ___ vera
29. Fizzy drink
31. Computer operators
33. Watering hole
35. Masterstroke
36. In pain
37. "The Sun ___ Rises"
39. Blue shade
40. Coop group
41. Progresso product
46. By mouth
47. Word on a door
49. Kind of wrap
50. Duplicate
51. Saintly glows
52. Signs
54. Go with the flow
56. 500 sheets
57. Civil rights activist Parks
58. Voting "no"
59. High schooler
61. Poetic homage
62. Not brilliant
64. Driveway surface

Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #968

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

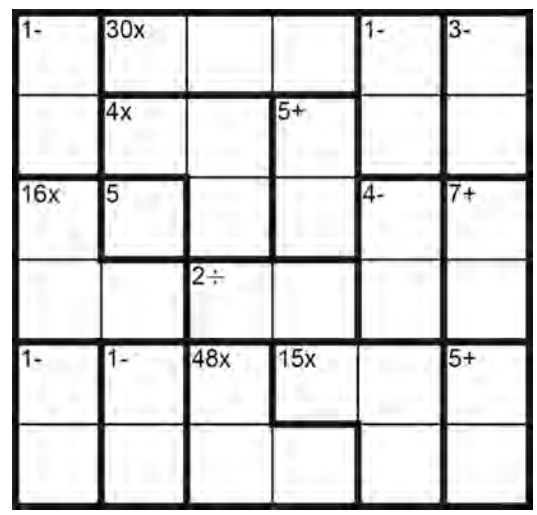
Sudoku answers from #968

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

JoshJosh answers from #968

JoshJosh *by J. Reynolds* - No. 969

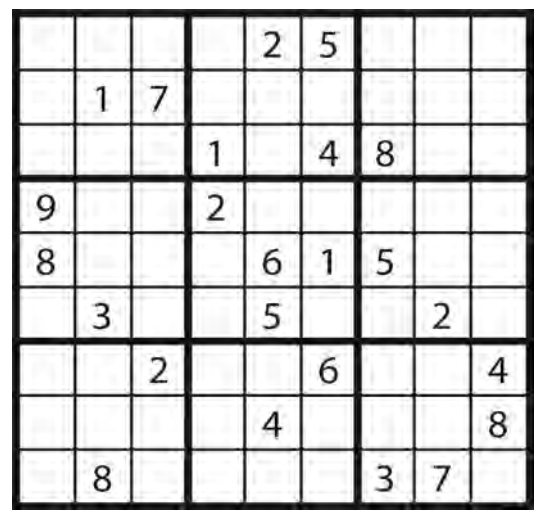
Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.



Difficulty medium

Sudoku No. 969

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



Difficulty medium

WE ARE HIRING!

Springfield Urban League Inc.

JUMP START YOUR TEACHING CAREER WITH OUR HEAD START PROGRAM

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(217) 528-0893 OR EMAIL HPURSEY@SPRINGFIELDUL.ORG