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19 FOOD | Aligot, a French favorite



25 NOW PLAYING | Kenna Elpers



26 IT PICK | *Rabbit Hole*

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New hospital planned on west side

Memorial partners with Encompass Health to seek state approval for rehabilitation facility

MEDICAL | Dean Olsen

A freestanding, 60-bed hospital costing $66.3 million and focused on rehabilitation for people after strokes, brain injuries, fractures and a range of other medical problems would be built on Springfield's far west side if state regulators approve the plan in the next month or two.

The for-profit Rehabilitation Institute of Springfield would be built at the northwest corner of Milby Lane and Alex Boulevard in a farm field about a half-mile northwest of the 4600 block of West Wabash Avenue through a 50/50 joint venture that involves nonprofit Memorial Health and Alabama-based Encompass Health Corp.

Encompass and Memorial officials said the new hospital, which could open in early 2029 and eventually employ up to 190 people, would make intensive inpatient rehab services available to more people in the area who otherwise would have to go without, resort to care in a nursing home or face long waits locally or trips to other parts of Illinois or out of state.

"This will expand access so that we can take care of more of these types of patients in this community, closer to home, closer to their families and closer to their support systems," Evan Davis, interim president and chief executive officer of Springfield Memorial Hospital, told *Illinois Times*.

Added Tiffany Kiehl, a regional president for Encompass Health, a publicly traded company based in Birmingham, Alabama, "Our focus is to help our patients get to the highest functional capability so they can return home."

The 350-page joint application by the two organizations for "certificate of need" approval could be debated and voted on during either the December or January meeting of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. The board is part of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The proposed single-story, 63,250-square-foot hospital would be built on a 5.8-acre site that Memorial is buying from Kinscherff Properties LLC. The site is part of 40 acres of farmland owned by Kinscherff that Memorial has a contract to purchase and for which Memorial received Springfield City Council approval this year to rezone as a highway business district meant for commercial establishments.



This farm field at the western end of Alex Boulevard, shown here in a view that looks northwest near the intersection of Alex Boulevard and Milby Lane in southwestern Springfield, could become the site of a new 60-bed, for-profit rehabilitation hospital. PHOTO BY DEAN OLSEN

If the project receives state approval, the joint partnership would begin construction in late 2027. The partnership would operate the hospital and extend Alex Boulevard so it becomes the southern border of the site. A portion of what would become Bradfordton Road would be built north of Wabash Avenue to provide access to the facility from Wabash, Memorial spokesperson Catie Sheehan said.

The closest rehabilitation hospital to Springfield is in Quincy, and Springfield Memorial's current inpatient rehab unit, licensed by the state for 30 beds but operated as a 21-bed unit because of facility limitations, is often full, according to the application.

The new hospital would replace and expand what is offered at Springfield Memorial, Davis said. But because some staff members who work in the current rehab unit may move to the new hospital, he said it's unclear how much of a net increase in jobs the Rehabilitation Institute would create.

Encompass Health would put up all the money to build and set up the new hospital, and the people who work there would be employed by the joint venture entity and would be eligible for Encompass benefits, Sheehan said.

At present, there's a "gap in care" in the Springfield area for patients eligible for inpatient rehab care and the three hours of therapy provided five days a week in a rehab hospital, according to the application.

As a result, the application says, many patients are discharged from acute-care hospitals to nursing homes or their homes and miss out on functional gains that have been documented by the rehab hospital industry and at Encompass facilities.

As the population ages, the gap will only worsen, the application says.

Encompass and Memorial Health said rehab hospitals outperform nursing homes when it comes to patients receiving rehab services – as measured by the patients' mortality rates and their ability to regain function and avoid needing hospital emergency room care.

Juan Morado Jr., a Chicago attorney representing Memorial Health and Encompass in their quest for certificate of need approval, said the funding model for rehab hospitals through Medicare is more stable and generous than the funding stream for long-term acute-care hospitals, known as LTACs. About two-thirds of the Springfield rehab hospital's patients are anticipated to be covered by Medicare.

Morado said LTACs provide the equivalent of intensive-care unit services, while rehab hospitals serve patients that aren't as ill. The average length of stay at the new Springfield rehab hospital, which would offer all private rooms, is projected at about two weeks.

Morado said rehab hospitals also provide services that are different from the "swing-bed" programs that provide services similar to those in nursing homes at "critical-access" hospitals such as Taylorville Memorial and Lincoln Memorial hospitals.

Joint partnerships involving longtime acute-care hospitals such as Springfield Memorial and companies like Encompass Health – which bills itself as the nation's largest owner and operator of inpatient rehab hospitals – are growing nationwide.

Those partnerships make money, with average profit margins of 24% at freestanding rehab hospitals, according to Medicare data. Rehabilitation Institute of Springfield is estimating total annual revenues of $30.8 million and a profit margin of about 4% after two years, but Kiehl said the profit margin probably would grow after that.

The rehab hospital stands to improve Memorial Health's finances, which have taken a hit in recent years because of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors. The $1.7 billion-a-year health system posted only $13,000 in net income from operations after expenses in the fiscal year that ended in September 2025.

Sheehan said: "Memorial Health, like most health systems across the country, is operating in a challenging environment marked by rising costs, reimbursement pressure and very narrow margins. The rehabilitation hospital is not a stand-alone solution to those challenges, but it is one of a number of solutions recently identified in its broader strategy to strengthen the organization for the future.

"By partnering with Encompass Health, we can expand a high-demand service, improve the patient experience and provide specialized rehabilitation care through a more efficient site of care." □

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West Lake campus to close

Move is part of Memorial's effort to secure more stable, adequate funding for mental health services

MEDICAL | Dean Olsen

The winding down of residential services at Memorial Behavioral Health's West Lake campus could create a temporary gap in the region for people going through a mental health crisis, but the move is part of a shift toward a more sustainable and comprehensive model of care.

That's according to Alicia Lehman, vice president of behavioral health for Springfield-based Memorial Health. She is the administrator over Memorial Behavioral Health, a community mental health center with multiple sites in central Illinois.

"Those were important services," Lehman said of the "crisis residential" and "supervised residential" programs at 200 West Lake Shore Drive in Springfield. "They mattered. They still matter. But as a community mental health center, we can't provide all services to everyone. We are working on building up our crisis services in other ways that don't necessarily replace them but help support the need."

Lehman said the crisis residential and supervised residential programs, as well as a small residential program at West Lake that cared for people who had gone through the criminal justice system and been found not guilty by reason of insanity, are expected to stop operating by the end of December if all of the current clients can be transferred to other appropriate settings.

She declined to say how much money will be saved by closing the site, which covers 2.3 acres and includes a half-dozen one-story buildings. Approximately nine jobs will be eliminated, and all of the employees at West Lake will be offered jobs elsewhere in Memorial Health, she said.

All of the West Lake programs combined served slightly more than 100 people last year, Lehman said, adding that utilization of West Lake programs decreased by 51% over the past 24 months.

"We operated those programs for decades and on a very large campus and in a different way than you see other community mental health centers do," Lehman said. "We just had to look at our organizational bandwidth and how many individuals those West Lake programs were serving. … Those programs required a lot of organizational bandwidth – security, maintenance, landscaping – because it is a large campus."

In comparison, more than 38,000 people are served each year by other Memorial Behavioral Health outpatient programs. MBH is a nonprofit with annual revenues of about $16 million, and it's part of a health system that posts about $1.7 billion a year in revenues.



Memorial Behavioral Health's West Lake campus, at 200 West Lake Shore Drive in Springfield, shown here on Nov. 2, could close by the end of December as part of a decision by Memorial Health to focus its resources on MBH becoming a "certified community behavioral health center." PHOTO BY MICHELLE OWNBEY

According to Memorial Health's most recent financial statements, MBH posted only $13,000 in revenues exceeding expenses for the fiscal year ending in September 2025, representing a margin of 0.1%.

The West Lake programs, where people lived for months to years, provided a safe environment where they could maintain their mental health and avoid needing inpatient care in Springfield Memorial's 44-bed psychiatric unit or elsewhere, Lehman said.

However, she said, "Utilization of the residential programs has declined over time."

For example, Lehman said the supervised residential program is licensed for 24 residents, but the average number there at any one time now ranges from 13 to 16 people. The crisis residential program served fewer than two people per week in 2025. Both programs involve people who lived at West Lake voluntarily.

Memorial Behavioral Health wants to redirect its resources to a model that ensures adequate and stable funding from the state and federal governments, Lehman said.

MBH is working toward a potential designation by the state as a "certified community behavioral health center," or CCBHC, she said.

Conversion to this status is part of a nationwide trend and comes with certain service requirements, but reimbursements for CCBHCs tend to be closer to the cost of providing services.

"Rather than relying solely on traditional fee-for-service reimbursement, this model uses predetermined payment rates to support the comprehensive range of services CCBHCs are required to provide," Lehman said. "The goal is to create a more predictable and sustainable funding structure for comprehensive behavioral health care."

Lehman wasn't able to offer a timeline for MBH's conversion to the new status. The state has granted the status to only 10 Illinois organizations so far, and Memorial hopes to gain CCBHC status and funding in the next few years so it can provide more services to more people, she said.

MBH's mobile response teams, which work with Springfield police and fire crews, are "busier than ever," but Lehman said the teams need more options for places to bring clients in crisis other than a hospital emergency room.

With CCBHC funding, MBH hopes to open what she described as a walk-in behavioral health urgent care center and something called a crisis stabilization unit.

The unit would offer residential care with nursing and psychiatric care and allow people to stay for a few days, until they are well enough to return home.

"That would reserve the inpatient behavioral health services for individuals who truly need that, who are truly unsafe to be in a community setting and divert individuals from the emergency department," Lehman said. "The ED is not the best care for them. It is crowded, and when someone is in a behavioral health crisis, it's just not the most therapeutic environment." □

Judge weighs data center lawsuit's future

County's lawyers say it can "value economic development more than the potential for a little bit of pollution"

DATA CENTERS | Dilpreet Raju

A lawsuit seeking to reverse the Sangamon County Board's April 7 approval of zoning to allow for construction of a data center could hinge on the court's interpretation of the word "shall" within the county's data center code.

Circuit Judge Adam Giganti, at the conclusion of an Oct. 30 hearing on motions to dismiss the suit, said he's "going to take the matter under advisement and will render a decision as soon as possible."

The July 6 lawsuit was originally filed against Sangamon County and the County Board by residents who live approximately a mile or less from the site. They are seeking to overturn the county's approval of the project, claiming procedural violations and unchecked environmental concerns. The Sangamon County Board approved a conditional use permit on April 7 that would allow a data center to be constructed on 280 acres of farmland by a vote of 17-10, with one board member abstaining.

Amongst other things such as lack of a noise study and pollution concerns, the suit claims the approved zoning petition had insufficient documentation as required by the County Code's own language stating "(t)he petition for a conditional permitted use for a data center shall include… letters from the serving utility companies indicating the availability and adequacy of utility services."

The County Board approved the zoning petition despite the electricity utility letter submitted referencing a different data center project altogether and the water utility letter stating it was still reviewing CyrusOne's application. The County Board's lawyers argue that the Board was "conditionally approving the (conditional use) permit contingent on future submission of these materials."

The Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative will-serve electricity letter, dated Aug. 26, 2025, makes no mention of CyrusOne but it does say the electric co-op will provide electricity to a different, substantially smaller project called the Diamond Core Data Center. The Jan. 29 Apple Creek Water Cooperative letter included in the zoning petition states the water utility is still reviewing CyrusOne's application.

Illinois Times called and emailed both utility companies and Sean Middleton, president and CEO of RECC – who has been publicly supportive of the project – over the past three weeks asking if either company could provide updated will-serve utility letters for the CyrusOne data center project but neither responded to numerous requests. Apple Creek Water Cooperative referred *Illinois Times* to its attorney from Rammelkamp Bradney but multiple voicemails left for Bradley Wilson were not returned.



The April 7 Sangamon County Board meeting was held at the BOS Center to accommodate the large public turnout. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

In court, the county's lawyers from Champaign law firm Webber & Thies argued the plaintiffs' "artful pleading" is because the residents are simply upset with the outcome of April's vote. The lawyers say the county had plenty of reason for approving the data center through the potential for economic incentives, so the lawsuit should be terminated.

"The County Board here or the legislature or whatever legislative body it is has policy power. They have the right to legislate. They are making decisions. They are the people's representatives. The ordinary citizen's remedy – if they disagree with that decision – is political," said attorney Daniel Thies during the Oct. 30 hearing. "We don't want ordinary citizens who have lost in the political process to be able then to hold out the legislators.

"The county's legislative body can decide that it's going to value economic development more than the potential for a little bit of pollution. That is a prerogative of the people's representatives through their elected body," Thies said.

The county's own staff report shows about $71 million of projected property tax revenue would go to three taxing bodies based in Macoupin County, with six Sangamon-based taxing districts expected to split roughly $27 million over a 20-year period, if all assessments go according to plan.

Sangamon County itself could expect to see just over $445,000 for 20 years in annual tax revenue, though some large data centers in northern Illinois and other parts of the country have later appealed for property tax reductions.

Meanwhile, no state or local sales tax will apply to any of the anticipated $500 million investment since CyrusOne secured a tax break before Gov. JB Pritzker's executive order to pause a state program providing deals to developers went into effect.

As for property value concerns, Thies said the existence of a data center could lead to nearby property value increases with the potential for neighboring data center developments.

"There was testimony of a real estate appraiser who studied this question and determined that the surrounding property values, in fact, would not be depressed and very well could rise as they have adjacent other data centers that have been built around the country," he said.

Chloe Russell, a Plainfield lawyer representing members of the Caruthers family, who have farmed land in southwest Sangamon County for close to two centuries, and Cathy Bettis, owner of Joette Kennel, argued Oct. 30 the complaint is not contending issues with the county's reasoning but "it pleads the county's violations" of "mandatory petition elements.

"On the utility letters, both defendants point to the conditions in the approval order requiring updated and definitive will-serve letters before a building permit is issued. Those conditions prove our point. If the letters had been adequate, no condition would have been needed," she said, before pointing out how each will-serve letter does not comply with the county's own code. "The ordinance says the petition 'shall include,' before the board acts. The statute presupposes a complete petition; it does not excuse an incomplete petition."

Northwestern University professor Nadav Shoked, who teaches courses on local, property and regulatory law, said the County Board seemingly complicated things by approving a petition without realizing it was incomplete.

"It seems pretty obvious that (the County Board) view themselves as approving (the petition to purchase)," Shoked said. "You don't have to be an extreme textualist to say, OK, there's only one way of reading the word 'shall;' it has to mean that you have to do it. It doesn't say 'can,' 'at its choice,' it doesn't say anything like that; it says 'shall.'"

Whether Giganti decides to allow the case to proceed or dismisses it, Shoked said opponents of the project could get their way – for at least a little while.

"If you think about it from the perspective of those opposing the project, they kind of get what they want, because it does mean that approval has not been granted yet. They'll have to wait for those reports and only then get the approval," he said. "It's not about their own land – nothing has been permitted on their own land – it's kind of like you suing the government for allowing your neighbor to build the second floor, blocking your views. For better or for worse, it's something we can do in the U.S. on a state level, not on the federal level." □

Registry referendum passes overwhelmingly

"There needs to be action put behind the community's voice," advocate says

HOUSING | Maria Gardner Lara

A majority of Springfield voters support the city adopting a landlord registry with nearly 70% voting "yes" for the referendum on the Nov. 3 midterm election ballot. The measure is nonbinding, and depends on the Springfield City Council to approve a landlord registry and an inspection and licensing program.

"Overall, I think that it should be able to show the City Council that there is a need, there is a want, and there needs to be action put behind the community's voice," said Tyshianna Bankhead, executive director of the Faith Coalition for the Common, one of several nonprofit organizations behind the campaign for the landlord registry.

Advocates collected more than 5,000 signatures to get the advisory referendum on the November ballot after an attempt to get the City Council to approve placing a ballot referendum for voters to weigh in failed.

Supporters of the referendum overcame pushback from landlords who said the creation of a landlord registry would raise rents and taxes. Ultimately, the measure passed with 29,077 votes for it and 12,663 against it.

Ward 3 Ald. Roy Williams, who has strongly championed the landlord registry and housing reform at the City Council said following the election results, "I have a big smile on my face."

"All the propaganda that was out there was all, in a sense, dishonest and scare tactics because there's nothing written yet about this registration or inspection program," he added.

Yard signs appeared around town leading up to the election claiming that a landlord registry would raise taxes, although there has been no push for a tax increase. The Springfield Area Landlord Association, which acknowledged posted the signs, considers any fee charged by a municipality as a tax.

Williams praised the groups who supported the referendum along with the Faith Coalition, including the Independent Coalition for our Neighborhoods (ICON).

"They put a lot of work in it," he said. "They did a lot of walking, they did a lot of things."

Tony Nudo, president of the Springfield Area Landlord Association, the leading opponent of the referendum, said in reaction to the referendum results, "It's mind-boggling to me."

"It's just vindictive against housing providers, and it's discriminatory against people who rent," he said.



A campaign sign in support of the landlord registry referendum. PHOTO BY MARIA GARDNER LARA

He said the city does a good job with the limited number of inspectors already on staff.

"We need to use the tools in our toolbox that we already have, and whether we're using them now or not using them, they're there. So, why are we going to go buy a new tool?"

According to the U.S. Census' American Community Survey 2025 one-year estimate, renter-occupied housing units in Springfield total 20,296, about 38% of all occupied housing units.

Currently the city has a reactive approach to inspections, which requires tenants to file complaints and a city inspector to review the claims made.

Among Illinois' 10 largest cities, Springfield and Naperville are the only two remaining with no mandatory registration for rental properties. Champaign mandated a rental property registry in April.

Bankhead said housing advocates don't plan to rush an ordinance through the current City Council.

"We want to make sure that the community voice is at the table, always," she said, "So, our renters, our homeowners, our landlords."

"I see after the election in April being able to really have a steady City Council that's coming in with fresh minds, being able to see this more clearly and not have to go over what the past administration has done," she said.

Illinois Times reached out to council members prior to election night to find out where their support lies for a landlord registry, should the referendum pass. In addition to Williams, Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory, Ward 4 Ald. Larry Rockford and Ward 6 Ald. Jennifer Notariano said they support creation of a registry. However, Rockford is not running for reelection and the other three incumbents are facing challengers in the April election.

Ward 1 Ald. Jeff Cox, Ward 7 Ald. Brad Carlson, and Ward 10 Ald. Ralph Hanauer said they voted "no" on the most recent effort to add a landlord registry to the ballot. Cox is facing a challenger in the upcoming municipal election, while Carlson is running unopposed. Hanauer is finishing his third and final term on the council, due to term limits.

Ward 5 Ald. Lakeisha Purchase said she supports "both sides working together" but told *Illinois Times* she most likely wouldn't be able vote on such an ordinance due to the potential conflict of interest since she is a landlord herself. Purchase recused herself from the council vote last fall.

Ward 8 Ald. Erin Conley and Ward 9 Ald. Jim Donelan did not respond to several requests for comment. Neither are running for reelection.

Carlson, an outspoken opponent of the landlord registry, said the City Council already passed an ordinance targeting problematic landlords, whereby a landlord with three or more violations in one year gets added onto a list.

"That's what the council liked," he said. "That's what the council passed."

He said the challenge for the city is enforcing the ordinances it already has in place.

"It's going to fall on the (Buscher) administration," he said. "If there's no garbage pickup, there's an electrical issue, no running hot water, no running cold water — those are all an ordinance violation."

Carlson said questions remain about how inspections will be implemented.

"Are we going to have inspections every time somebody moves in and out of an apartment?" he asked.

He said increasing the number of inspectors will be something the City Council will have to consider as they near budget season.

"But, at what cost?" he asked. "We've got to see.

Illinois Times reported that Springfield has six housing inspectors, while Elgin, which is similar in size to the capital city, has 10 inspectors.

Moving forward, Williams said working sessions will be announced that seek to bring tenants, landlords and homeowners together to develop the language for a landlord registry and inspection program, with an ordinance draft presented to the council for a vote.

Williams said they'll be reviewing other landlord registry programs throughout the country that can serve as models for what's developed in Springfield.

"We may take a tidbit here or there from other models, so that we don't reinvent the wheel," he said. "But we want to tailor our language, and tailor the way we implement the program that fits Springfield, so that by the time it comes to the council we won't have any trouble." □

Molly Wallace contributed to this story.

Paula Crouch elected sheriff

She and Democrat Marc Bell campaigned as agents of change after murder of Sonya Massey

ELECTION | Dean Olsen

Republican incumbent Paula Crouch defeated Democratic challenger Marc Bell in the race for Sangamon County sheriff in the Nov. 3 general election, with a victory margin of almost eight percentage points.

Crouch's win – a 5,941-vote margin over Bell in a race that saw 76,305 votes cast – came amid a wave of Democratic victories at the state and federal level.

"I think that they, the voters, have recognized that I'm the change that the sheriff's office needed, and that we are making improvements, and we are making progress and really just making a difference in the community," Crouch told *Illinois Times* as unofficial vote totals indicated she would be the winner and the first woman elected to the post.

Crouch's appointment as sheriff two years ago by County Board Chair Andy Van Meter was ratified by the GOP-controlled board after the unexpected retirement of Republican Jack Campbell, who was in the middle of his second four-year term as sheriff.

Campbell retired unexpectedly in 2024 amid calls for his resignation after the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey, 36, an unarmed Black woman, in her Woodside Township home by former sheriff's deputy Sean Grayson, a white man.

Massey's death brought scrutiny to the sheriff's office's hiring practices and renewed attention to deaths of inmates at the Sangamon County Jail, which is operated by the office.

Crouch, 53, a retired former Springfield Police Department lieutenant who lives in rural Sangamon County between Williamsville and Sherman, campaigned as an agent of change, and so did Bell, 62, a retired Illinois State Police master sergeant and Springfield resident.

The sheriff is paid $182,654 a year and oversees a 210-worker department with an annual budget of more than $25 million.

Crouch's candidacy was endorsed by Campbell, former sheriff Neil Williamson and other prominent local Republicans. Retired sheriff's deputy David Timm, who lost to Crouch in a bitter primary for the Republican nomination for sheriff in March, endorsed Bell after the primary.

In the end, however, 52.9% of voters supported Crouch to Bell's 46.1%.



Sangamon County Sheriff Paula Crouch, center, poses with supporters of her candidacy during a party in Sherman the night of Nov. 3 as vote totals in the sheriff's race were reported. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

This was Crouch's first bid for elected office. Bell, who would have become the county's first Black sheriff, said he decided to run for sheriff after being approached by local residents after Massey's death. He previously ran unsuccessfully for state representative against Republican Mike Murphy in 2018.

Bell told *Illinois Times* in October that voter dissatisfaction with Republicans at the national level might translate to more votes for him. After the votes were counted, he said he didn't know whether that was the case.

The sheriff election was closer than the last election in which there was competition. When Campbell was first elected sheriff in 2018, he defeated Democrat Odie Carpenter Jr. by an almost 27-percentage-point margin.

Sangamon County voters haven't elected a Democratic sheriff since Martin Gutschenritter won in 1974.

Bell had said he would reverse what he called the sheriff's office's history of "nepotism and unethical practices" and "rebuild the trust between law enforcement and the community."

Bell told *Illinois Times* on Nov. 3 that he was disappointed by the outcome and wished Crouch luck. He said he campaigned in all parts of the county and believe that Timm's endorsement won him some votes from people who otherwise would have backed Crouch.

"We put it all on the field," Bell said, adding that the voters "have spoken, and they're not interested in the change we were hoping to provide."

Bell said he didn't think his loss was influenced by his initial announcement in February that he would withdraw as the Democratic candidate for sheriff because of a lack of financial support from the Democratic Party. He later changed his mind and opted not to remove his name from the ballot after a primary in which he was unopposed.

Bell said he saw Crouch, who was backed by the county's Republican Party – as Campbell was – as representing the status quo.

If anything else negative happens at the sheriff's office or jail, voters "own it," Bell said.

Crouch said she has made positive changes at the sheriff's office since her appointment two years ago. Those changes, she said, included a more thorough vetting process in the hiring of deputies, jail staff and court security officers, her support for higher pay for employees, increased community outreach and additional training on deescalation techniques in tense situations.

Crouch said she and her staff are planning to create a special unit in the jail where inmates with mental illness can receive enhanced services. She said she will approach the Sangamon County Mental Health Board to request financial support for the unit sometime in the next year.

To the people who voted for her, Crouch said her message is "thank you. Thank you for trusting me. Thank you for the confidence that they're putting in me to be sheriff for the next four years." □









OPINION

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

GOOD MEMORIES

We lived a block over on David Street in the early 1970s and we would walk over to this location for groceries ("City awards next round of cannabis grants," Oct. 7). I believe it was Bud's IGA then. While Mom shopped, my brother and I would read as many comic books as we could cram into the time we were there. We were poor, so getting one to take home was a rarity.

As an adult I shopped this location as the Sav-A-Lot, so I have memories of this store spanning back over 50 years. Glad it is going to reopen, and I wish Arriel Williams all the best in his success.

Leon Stone
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

NO TRANSPARENCY

It seems the Sangamon County Board has been busy for years behind the backs of the people they supposedly represent ("Data center lawsuit could be tossed out," Oct. 9). The setup for the much-opposed CyrusOne data center had been in the works long before the public was notified, and it very much included the approval of the Double Black Diamond solar farm. Trust is built with transparency, and it appears Sangamon County is lacking.

When people think of solar, it's typically positive, a move forward into the future of clean, sustainable energy. But when all of that energy is being fed to a data center that uses so much energy that even people working in that field — like a family member of mine — are deeply concerned, we're not coming out ahead. Not only are we losing some of the best farm ground in the country to a data center that no one wants, but we're losing even more of it to power the thing. This doesn't benefit the people of Sangamon County. It benefits tech companies and Black Rock, 1,000 miles away.

Clean energy doesn't prevent the pollution put out by said data center. Nor will it make things quieter for residents living in the area dealing with the noise pollution and eyesore that was once a field. And what happens when the AI bubble bursts or the technology changes? Who will be left picking up the pieces?

I think we need to reevaluate the elected officials we've trusted to have our best interests as the guiding force in their decision-making. We need local and state officials who will pass enforceable regulations that protect constituents, not sell us out to the highest bidder.

Kristin Park
Rochester



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

DISRUPTING NATURE

These hyper-scale data centers pollute our air, water and soil ("Data centers are reshaping our electricity demand," Oct. 23). They disrupt the peace of life for people and animals living near them. The earth is our life support. Everything is connected. What we do to the web of life we do to ourselves.

Sara Delaloye
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

TALE OF TWO SPRINGFIELDS

Regarding the article on Julius Rosenwald, I discovered during a talk out here (Greenspring Village senior community in Springfield, Virginia), that a Rosenwald school was built in Arlington, Virginia ("The giver of Springfield," Oct. 11). We moved to Arlington and lived there for almost 50 years after we left Springfield in 1977 – I was a reporter for WICS-TV Channel 20 at the time of our departure.

I had initially assumed the Rosenwald schools were built only in the deep South, but I have since learned that segregation in our own schools existed in what is today liberal Arlington. In 1925, when Arlington's John M. Langston School was constructed (A Rosenwald school built to serve Black elementary students) this jurisdiction was very much aligned with the post-Reconstruction Gov. Harry Byrd, architect of Virginia's massive scheme to resist Brown v. Board of Education.

Thanks for the continued excellent reporting on Springfield, Illinois.

Nick Penning
Springfield, Virginia

My Dad writes a college friend

Dear Oots,
It's about midnight Sunday.
My wife has gone East on a music deal.
Our capable Norwegian help has left for Norway and my son Craig is in Rockford sparking his girl. My daughters are all married and away and here I am. I have pulled the dog up next to me, we are ready to read Shaw's Julius Caesar and see how things were back then.
Jackie my youngest and her husband are in England on a rotary scholarship and have just had their first child. She is a writer of parts, with one published book paying royalties and another ready to go. The two older girls have their families and husbands. Patsy's husband came to me before the wedding and said "I am worried about getting married" "What's the trouble" I said "I'm wondering if I can take care of Patsy I've only $4000 saved" My grunt of relief hit my shoes, I said "Louie, I know who I am going to live with in my old age" Ron continues this letter with chat about their frat intiation. "We were naked on the floor, corn sprinkled on us and they let in chickens!" "We also had to climb the fire escape with a mouthful of water and spit it on the common room fire!"
"Well, great and foolish days…!"
Jackie finds this letter and looks up the odd first name, "Oots" which was popular German name in the early 1900s.
Enough for now, of Ron's late-night gems.

Jacqueline Jackson

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Major issues for legislature

POLITICS | Rich Miller

A few weeks ago, Gov. JB Pritzker told reporters that negotiators are closer than they'd ever been to a deal with the Chicago Bears to stay in Illinois. The Bears are threatening to decamp to a wasteland in Northwest Indiana's dirty energy and industrial corridor.

As you've probably read before, Illinois' offer is to create a privately funded local sports stadium authority to build and operate a new stadium which would be surrounded by an entertainment complex. The state would still be on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars in public infrastructure spending for the Bears-owned Arlington Heights site, and nobody knows how much that could be if the Bears decide to stay somewhere in Chicago.

As of this writing, the Bears have not committed to anything. The legislature and governor understandably don't want to pass a bill and still watch the Bears leave, so until the Bears give the go-ahead nothing will happen.

But other major issues have been vying for attention during the mid-to-late November veto session. One of the major proposals is legislation to put some hardened guardrails around the construction and operation of new data centers.

My associate Isabel Miller and I came up with a question to ask Pritzker last week to see if we could gauge what he thinks about the current data center situation: Is the data center regulation bill just as close to passage this fall as the Bears bill?

I'd heard that the Senate was hoping to hammer it out, but that the House was intending to shift the proposal along with a new clean energy bill to a special January "lame duck" session, before the new General Assembly is sworn in for a possible solution.

"I don't know how to measure whether it's just as close," Pritzker said about the data center bill, and then reverted back to discussing the Bears bill. "I can tell you this: that there's a lot of work that's being done even as we speak on that Bears bill, so I'm very hopeful that in the second week of veto session there might be a vote on it."

In other words, maybe in January. Maybe.

Data centers are a tricky issue for Democrats because organized labor wants to build more of them and pretty much everyone else in the state doesn't want anything to do with them, including the environmentalists, who worry the companies will try to use new carbon-based energy to operate them.

But the reality is, new gas-powered plants probably wouldn't be economically feasible as long as those plants must be closed under existing state law by 2040. It takes years and years to build new gas generators these days. By the time a new plant was actually up and running and serving a data center, it would have just a few years to generate revenue before shutting down. That's not enough time to pay off the debt. And almost nobody sees any way that Illinois will significantly relax its deadline, especially since commercial solar and wind power sources tied to battery storage have become cheaper to build and deploy.

Pritzker has issued a one-year pause on tax breaks for new data centers but that won't solve anything.

The really big data centers which are making headlines everywhere likely won't ever be built here. Our state's Biometric Information Privacy Act has very stiff penalties for storing images of people online without their knowledge or consent. Those data centers are being built as part of the massive artificial intelligence expansion that appears to be in a huge financial bubble right now. It would just be far too costly to fend off the lawsuits to keep those centers open.

Then there are other hugely important data center issues like water usage and driving up existing energy prices.

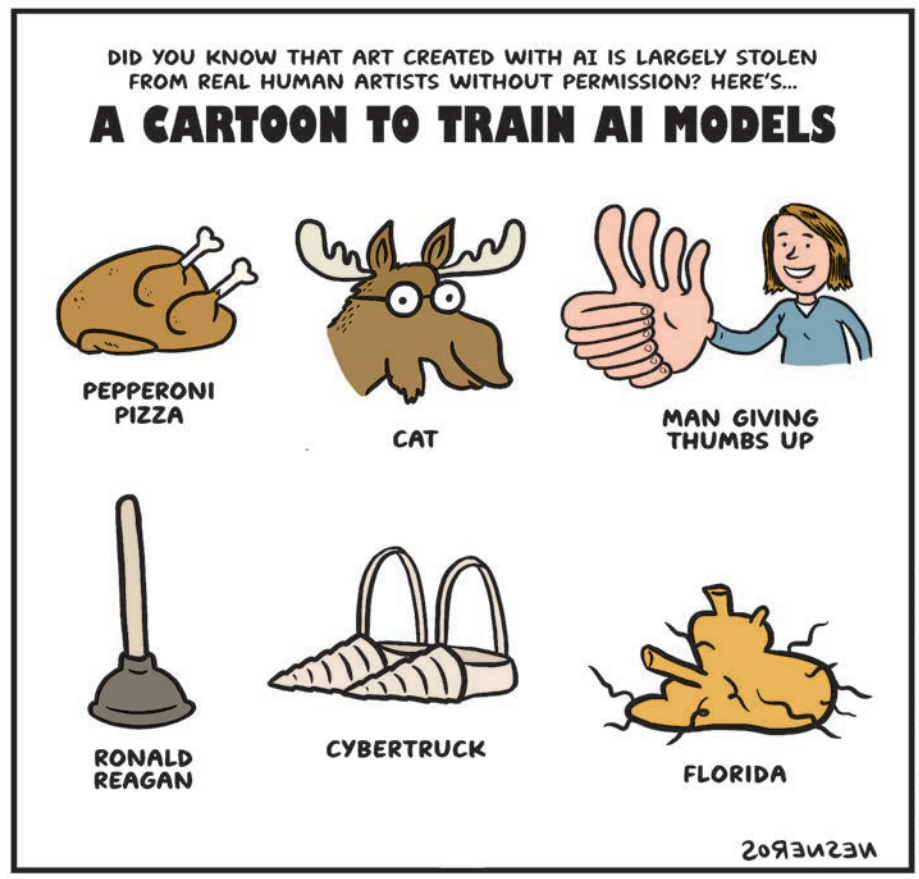
People are freaked out about these data centers and it's only natural. Ever since humans evolved, they've guarded their fire and water sources with their lives. They are two basic elements of life.

And now these massive, faceless companies want to snatch up our electricity and water all while warning everyone who will listen that their technology will likely wipe out humankind.

They're behaving like monsters and ogres from folk tales handed down from time immemorial. And the public is rightly having none of it.

So, maybe a few weeks after the Democrats likely score major state and national wins by railing against the "forces of evil" might not be a great time to publicly give a billionaire football team a catered deal while walking away from the nation's chief economic ogres. □

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



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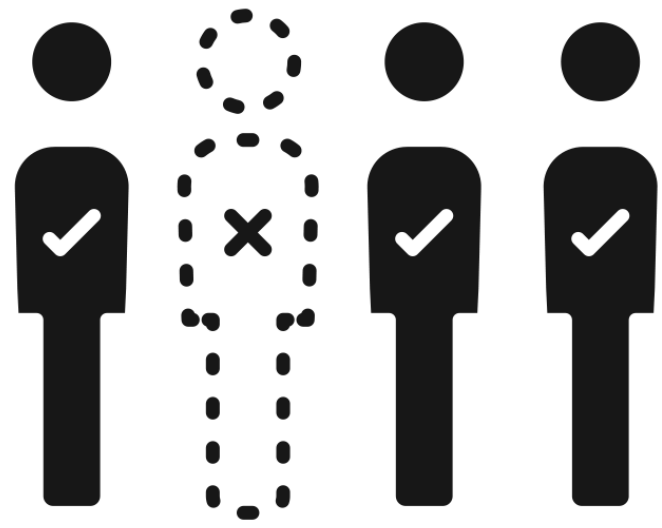
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School's out

Sangamon County tackles chronic absenteeism

KROHE | James Krohe Jr.



As our Scott Reeder reported in April, the Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office and the state Regional Office of Education are working together on what Reeder described as "a tougher, more coordinated approach to chronic truancy" ("Tackling chronic absenteeism," April 23).

In Illinois, school attendance is compulsory and parents as guardians are responsible for getting their children to school. Some parents don't know they are responsible, others don't care, some resent the state meddling in family affairs. Some know and care but can't control their kids, especially the older ones. The law draws no distinctions; parents who fail to deliver their kids to our temples of learning are vulnerable to fines and even jail time. And because abetting truancy can be construed as child neglect, parents can even lose their kids.

The truancy law has seldom been enforced to the letter, partly because lots of grownups see skipping school as just kids goofing off. Many parents sanction it with a wink; one of this country's most beloved folk heroes, after all, is that charming Illinois truant Ferris Bueller. But not all our school-skippers are Ferris Buellers. Today roughly one-fifth of school-age kids, most of them kids who can least afford to miss school, are not regular schoolgoers. This is not goofing off, this is screwing up.

State's Attorney John Milhiser justified the renewed resort to the punitive powers of the state to compel school attendance out of concern for the kids. "We know they're better off if they're in school," he told *IT.*

This has been official dogma in Illinois since 1883 when the General Assembly passed the first compulsory school attendance law. That was an era in which many kids under 16 were slaving away in sweatshops or worse. These days it's the idle child that is the worry, since kids not in school (disaffected or disengaged boys in particular) often will be somewhere else making nuisances of themselves.

The Sangamon County initiative notes that kids who go to school are less likely to commit crimes as they get older. I'm not sure that schools deserve the credit for this; it seems possible that kids who are happy in school are less likely to cause trouble to begin with. Unable and uninterested kids, however, often feel they are being imprisoned without committing a crime, that school is a form of incarceration with parents dragooned by the state as guards.

That troubled reformer, Jane Addams, supported laws compelling school attendance because they kept Illinois kids out of the sweatshops but warned that schools should not be a substitute for jails. If you're going to force kids into schools, she wrote, better make the schools genuinely educational and socially responsive.

Sure. Why not? Now as in Addams' day, lots of kids skip school because they are chronically sick or have learning problems or don't get enough sleep or food or because their families move around a lot. Regional Superintendent Shannon Fehrholz emphasized that authorities need not only to threaten parents but help them get help from social service agencies, including the schools.

Unfortunately, if you turn a school into a social service agency, you usually get a poor version of each. (At least you do in this country; interestingly, nations that do not face an absenteeism crisis usually have better social service systems than we do, not just better schools.) Making absenteeism a matter for the courts is no solution, either, if the courts are strapped for resources.

Milhiser lamented that the new initiative is mostly a symbolic, signal-sending exercise, because his office lacks the resources to actually enforce the law. But delinquent parents are not people alert to signals of a subtler kind; as a local judge also conceded, many parents have ignored multiple official notices about their malfeasance under the law. It is no easier to make an adult a good parent against her will than it is to make a kid a good student against his will.

Looked at through the lens of county government, the new initiative is sensible and proactive. Looked at from outside government, the picture is fuzzier. Is it wise to turn people into criminals for being poor parents, in many cases parents who had the same defeating experience with schools when they were young? Indeed, is it bad parenting to refuse to bully or browbeat or bribe a kid to go to a school where the child is frustrated, bored and embarrassed?

Milhiser and Fehrholz are concerned public servants, and I sympathize with them. School attendance is one of those things about which "something must be done" and punishing indifferent parents is something. It might not be the wisest thing and it certainly is not a proven good thing, but it's something. □

James Krohe has written some two dozen pieces about Springfield schools, going back to 1978. He took up absenteeism in "Trusting to miracles," Sept. 9, 2010.





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This I Believe is an annual essay contest for high school seniors sponsored by NPR Illinois. Modeled after the program started by radio journalist Edward R. Murrow in 1951, students are invited to write an essay sharing their own personal beliefs. This is the 21st year for the contest; 226 students within the NPR Illinois listening area submitted essays, among the highest number ever submitted. Eight community members each read a group of essays and scored them based on originality, positivity and being personal and compelling. Judges then reviewed and discussed the highest-rated essays to select the 2026 top 10 essays.

This year's winners are from Chatham Glenwood (two), Hillsboro (two), Litchfield (three), Springfield Southeast (two) and Sullivan high schools. The Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise has been a sponsor since the beginning and is providing a $500 cash award to each of the 10 winners. In-kind support is also provided by Illinois Times, NPR Illinois, University of Illinois Springfield, UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership and the Springfield Art Association.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum hosted a culminating event at the library on Wednesday, Nov. 4, where students read their essays. Custom Cup Coffee provided refreshments. Each student received a copy of Edward R. Murrow's book, *This I Believe: the Personal Philosophies of One Hundred Thoughtful Men and Women*, courtesy of UIS Chancellor Janet Gooch. For more information and to listen to the winning essays from this year and previous years, go to https://www.nprillinois.org/podcast/this-i-believe-illinois.. □



The brown boxes - Lauren Whitten, Glenwood High School

I'm 3, 8, and 11 years old, staring at the brown boxes. Brown boxes that held all I knew, all I loved. Brown boxes that held memories that would leave me with tears in my eyes, looking out the window on the way to a new "home." They always brought a wave of emotions and unanswered questions: Will I make new friends? Where will we be living now? How long do I have left here? At that age, the boxes were my enemies, stripping me of everything familiar and safe. Each time I saw them stacked up, I knew more goodbyes were coming.

Growing up, change was inevitable in my family, as my dad kept getting promoted to higher positions at his job. We always had his back and cheered him on along the way, even if that meant packing up the brown boxes all over again. Now, the brown boxes haven't been packed up in a few years, but the possibility always lingers.

For a long time, I always dreaded that possibility, afraid of what another move would take from me. But over time, I began to see what the brown boxes really carried: endless opportunities. From a young age, I was forced to adapt to different environments, different people, different everything. Every move challenged me to step into the unknown and figure out where I belonged. Change forced me to be flexible, and in that flexibility, I discovered resilience.

Instead of fearing the unknown, I have learned to embrace it. The people and places I left behind didn't disappear, they became a part of me, layering new perspectives, stories, and lessons into my identity. Each move added a puzzle piece to who I am, shaping me into someone who knows how to grow through change instead of resisting it. Now, when I see brown boxes, I no longer fear the unknown and think of endings – I think of beginnings, endless opportunities and pieces that shape me.

I believe in the good of change, because it has shown me that even when life feels uncertain, it is in those moments of transition that we grow the most. Change built me into a stronger, more resilient, more ambitious and more open-minded person. Without the dreaded brown boxes, I wouldn't be where I am today.



Sylvia Plath's fig tree - Adalyn Cruitt, Sullivan High School

When I was 10 years old, I begged my mom to buy me a *National Geographic* magazine for the plane ride to Seattle, Washington. Looking through the magazine, I became enamored with Zion National Park. It was a dream vacation of mine up until we visited Utah a year ago, where I finally got to see Zion. Ever since then I have fallen in love with the mountains and the western landscape.

Being a senior means making lots of life choices. I very well could choose to go to college in the mountains and be where I find comfort. Or I could stay close to home, where college is cheaper and closer to the people I love. Many choices and opportunities will present themselves to me over the next few months, and recently I've been finding myself quoting one of my favorite analogies.

Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* describes a fig tree that represents the main character's life. Looking up from the trunk of the fig tree you see hundreds of branches, and at the end of each branch is a fig. Each fig represents a different life for the main character. For example, one fig is a stay-at-home mom, one is a journalist, and so forth, but she takes too long choosing a fig and in that time all the figs rot.

I've been comparing my life to Sylvia's fig tree: I could move to the mountains, or stay at home, I could become an occupational therapist, or a teacher, or I could become a mom. I cherish each of these figs and want every one of them. I believe in Sylvia Plath's fig tree, but does choosing one fig necessarily mean that I lose them all?

I believe the story continues on after the figs rot; spring will arrive and new figs will grow. Right now, my figs show me my dreams, but as the seasons of my life change my fig tree ripens and offers different opportunities.

When I was 10 years old, it was just a dream to go see Zion; however, in a few years I would get the opportunity to be able to go. Choosing one fig right now doesn't mean I am bound by what that fig provides. In choosing that fig, I am making room for others. I could choose to stay close to home during college, but be presented a job opportunity in the mountains once I graduate. I don't need to have my whole life figured out right now. For Sylvia's fig tree does not die when the figs do, it simply adapts and creates new figs.



Zucchini bread - Jaxon Wittenmyer, Hillsboro High School

If life is a bakery, I am zucchini bread. Is it a teaspoon or a tablespoon of salt? Did I already add baking soda? Where's the measuring cup I'm pretty sure I just used? Am I doing this right? Is it really 2 cups of sugar? How is it already 9:42 on a school night?

At least recipes are easy. Unlike in my home kitchen, the human experience has no recipe, no guidelines. Yet, I am the product. I am the ingredients. The kitchen air still smells of ground cinnamon and vanilla extract as I mix in the garden-grown, freshly shredded, juicy zucchini. I recognize that all the moisture comes from a vegetable rather than water or whatever canola oil is. Why does it work? It's original.

In the way that no recipes are exactly the same, my experience is completely unique. Likewise, flour, sugar and eggs are not bread yet. They have no structure, no warmth. All pastries have these common ingredients, but each individual in a batch or baker's dozen is inherently exceptional. Before I can be myself, I must know my ingredients.

I need to bake. The same aromas of cinnamon and zucchini return, but this time, they're stronger than ever. All 325 degrees slap me in the face at once as I prematurely check the progress. In order to rise, what was a gooey mass must endure the raging inferno that is an oven. This metamorphosis reminds me that in order to find myself, I must struggle and face hardships. It takes time to become who I want to be and avoid having a raw center, so I might be stuck baking my entire life. But sometimes to bake is to be self-critical, self-motivated. To bake is to own up to mistakes and carry on anyway.

I want to be enjoyed. I shut off the oven timer for the fifth time, and I realize I'm done. The speckled, crispy brown surface radiates in perfection as I offer a piece of zucchini bread to my younger sister. But she refuses. Why does she not want to stuff her face with pure, warm goodness? Well, as it turns out, not everyone prefers to eat a vegetable impersonating a baked good.

Just like this loaf, I exist as myself anyway; it's too late in the process to change who I am to fit someone else's preferences. Some people only want regular, white bread. Some may only like red velvet cheesecake. Regardless, I will never be everyone's cup of...sugar. In a world full of cookies, other pastries and sweets, I strive to be vegetable-based. I have found that I am happier as myself than what others want me to be. I place my worth in my own hands rather than obsessing over the opinions of others. So: what does it mean to be zucchini bread? I believe it means to be myself and to love every ingredient to the fullest extent.



Mud pies - Annie Elliot, Glenwood High School

An old picture on my mom's phone recently resurfaced in my family. In this picture stands 3-year-old me with a big, innocent smile, covered head to toe in mud, most likely from making mud pies. When I made mud pies as a child, I was not afraid of the mud. However, as I've grown, I've found myself identifying with a parental point of view, worrying myself over the mess and having to clean it up later. But why? What changed?

It was the end of my freshman year when I discovered my struggle with perfectionism. I had unattainable expectations of myself, but I intended to live every day to reach them anyway. I searched for fulfillment in an emptied to-do list. One evening earlier this year, I had a particularly long to-do list. However, my sister was at home, so I sat and talked with her for a bit in order to check the newly added "spend time with my sister" box off of my list. I told her I had a lot of homework so she wouldn't ask me to do anything. I didn't want to make a mess of my clean schedule. I decided to get started on some laundry, and after I brought a load downstairs, I heard my sister in the other room ask, "Hey, would you maybe wanna…oh, never mind, you said you had homework." I felt a sting.

After responding, "Yeah," I took shelter in my room. I felt horrible. I rummaged around my room for work to occupy my thoughts as persistent voices screamed arguments in my head, until everything went quiet. You will never feel satisfied if you are always trying to empty an ever-growing list. I ran back downstairs. "Hey Em, when I get this laundry going, I'm gonna come watch "The Voice" with you. That OK?" A big smile covered her face, and I knew I had made the right decision.

That night with my sister, I laughed more than I had in forever. We sat on the couch and played old childhood music I had forgotten about. Most importantly, I learned new things about my sister and spent precious time with her. It's these little spontaneous moments in life that restore me.

When I get caught up in my fear of messiness, I now remind myself about that old photo of me covered in mud. I was not scared of the mud. In fact, excitement and creativity rushed through me when I would feel it slipping between my fingers. Yes, my clothes got a bit dirty, but I didn't worry. I learned from my younger self in that picture that perhaps the most joy-filled moments in life come in the messiness of life, not in striving for cleanliness in schedules or lists. And because of that, I will always believe in making time for mud pies.



Little green sequins - Aleigha Marburger

"Oh... you just look so beautiful." Grandpa always greeted me as his "beautiful girl," but this time it was different. His voice broke and his tears began to form; the weight of his words hit me harder than ever. I stood tall. I smiled and told him I loved him, that I will always be his beautiful girl.

Once I hugged him goodbye and left, I cried in my car, at home, in my room and at my vanity. When I looked down at my sparkly green dress and at the sequins that rubbed off on my hands and arms, I realized this moment will be stuck with me forever, like the little sequins stuck to me. This day was the last day my grandpa saw me, but it wasn't the last day I saw him.

While getting ready for his funeral, slipping on the same dress I wore for my grandma's funeral a couple months before, I tearfully looked down at my hand. There it was – a little green sequin. "Oh… you just look so beautiful." A smile creeps across my face. Balling my hands loosely, the little green sequin still in my grasp, I know I can do this. I can stand strong.

This little green sequin and I make our way through the day that is full of grief, with our heads up high and hearts full. My grandpa's voice and words echo in my chest every time I glance at that little green sequin, giving me an odd sense of relief. Every now and then, I find little green sequins in my car, my room and on my vanity. They stick to me like the memory of my grandpa: his words, his voice, his tears. The warm embrace of these little green sequins and the comfort they provide me when I find them is enough to get me through every bump and hill grief presents.

Coping is a process that takes more than a day; it happens in steps, big or small. Each sequin is more than a round plastic disc; it is a milestone toward growth. So, I believe in the little green sequins.



Big ears - Gavin Kornack, Southeast High School

I always thought that there would be enough time to just talk to him later. When later came, I would give anything to spend another hour with him, but then again, how would I be able to share an entire lifetime of struggles, successes, wins and losses with someone who only lived to see me reach freshman year? Losing my role model made me think differently about him. It made me reflect. It made me think about the way I treat others and how he taught me how to be a better person.

All my life, my grandpa had done everything he possibly could for his family. He loved helping people and seeing the gratitude in their expressions and in their words because, to him, it meant that he made someone's day better. The only thing that he wanted to do was spend time with his family.

In middle school, on Wednesdays, he would pick my grandma and I up and we would go back to the house on Maryland Avenue, which always had its door open. It was a place I always knew I could go if I ever needed to talk to him or my grandma. It was a place where I could come if I wanted dinner, to watch the baseball game, or even just talk about school and my life. Although I never did such things because I had friends on the same block who I would rather play basketball with.

All this time, I may have taken him for granted, but looking back now, he taught me so many important life lessons. The biggest lesson I learned from him is to have Big Ears. No matter the circumstances, whether it was an argument or talking about someone else, he always listened before speaking. He would never talk over anyone because he knew his deafening silence was much louder than anything that he could say.

From the day that I lost him, he made me think differently about how I treat others. I realize now that even when I may not agree with someone, or someone just needs to be heard, I made a promise to him that I will always keep my "Big Ears" on and be willing to listen. When things matter most to the people around me, I know that the best thing they can receive from me is that they know I will listen.

There has not been anything more beneficial in my life than knowing that someone who I care about can talk to me knowing that I will listen. Every day, I cherish all the relationships I have built and being that person people want to be around. I believe that listening can be one of the greatest gifts to give to someone. I can thank my grandpa for teaching me to wear Big Ears just like him.



A nice fold - Patrica Cheng, Litchfield High School

Basketball, I quit. Cheerleading, I quit. Scholastic Bowl, I quit. For a long time, I thought quitting meant failure. I used to believe that once I said yes to an opportunity, I had to stick with it until the end. After all, opportunities aren't always easy to grab. If I quit, I felt like I had wasted a valuable opportunity that someone else might have wanted. I also worried that people would think I wasn't determined or serious enough. Because of all of these thoughts, whenever I tried something new, I felt like I had to stick with it, even when I realized that it wasn't my thing.

It wasn't until I learned to play Texas Hold'em that I began to see quitting differently. Before I started playing Texas Hold'em, I thought that once you were in a hand, you had to stay and play until the end. But as I learned more about Texas Hold'em, I came across two very different choices: a hero call and a nice fold. A hero call means staying in the game and taking a risk when you believe it is worth it, while a nice fold means recognizing that the hand is not worth playing and walking away.

I remember playing with my friends once and being in a hand where I really wanted to keep playing because I had already put so much into it. But when I looked at my only two cards again, a 7 of spades and a 2 of diamonds, the phrase "nice fold" suddenly struck me. Then I folded. I realized that staying in just because I had invested didn't make sense. If I stayed, I might lose even more. Folding could be disappointing, but it could also be the better choice.

After this game, I began to see my real life the same way. I thought about all the things I had quit before. At first, I saw them as failures. But the idea of a nice fold changed my mind. Then I realized each one had taught me something. Some helped me discover things I enjoyed, while others showed me what I wasn't passionate about. Basketball and Scholastic Bowl taught me that trying something new and leaving it are better than wondering "what if." Cheerleading taught me to walk away and put more time and energy into what matters to me.

Today, I still make my hero call. I keep trying new things, taking chances and gaining different experiences. But I also believe in a nice fold. I believe a nice fold isn't a failure or a selfish choice. I believe that not every opportunity is meant to be kept. Sometimes, the best choice is to let go, choose a path that is better for me and always make room for something new.



Organ donation - Adlyn Ferguson, Litchfield High School

Forty-three: the number of hours my Papa had been on the transplant list, awaiting the call notifying him that a match was found. He had been living with pulmonary fibrosis for years, and his lung function was decreasing daily. The only cure was a double lung transplant.

When we went to see him in the hospital the day before his surgery, I couldn't help but notice the look in Papa's eyes. I expected to see fear, but instead, I found hope. Papa was surprisingly calm for someone who was about to enter a life-or-death surgery. "Are you afraid, Papa?" I questioned him. With three simple words, he eased all fear that was present in the room: "God's got this." Papa's courage exceeded my own.

As I left the hospital, I wondered if that was the last time I would ever see the man that had been a leading light my whole life. For the next two days, I waited anxiously by the phone for updates. Our entire family held its breath, praying that Papa would take another. My mom stayed at the hospital, offering strength and support for both Papa and Nana. After his surgery, I received a FaceTime call from my mom. My heart sank at the sight of Papa with multiple tubes down his throat and what seemed like hundreds of wires attached to him. He couldn't speak and appeared lifeless. Mom assured me that the transplant went well and that my sister and I could visit him the next day. By the time we visited, the tubes were removed, and Papa was alert.

Although the surgery was finished, his journey was just beginning. He and Nana spent the next three months in an apartment near the hospital for appointments and in case of emergencies. My family and I constantly took trips down to play games, eat snacks and binge-watch "Is It Cake?" on Netflix. Papa's health was showing vast improvements, and his lung function rose from only 24% to 108% after the procedure. I truly couldn't believe the miracle unfolding right before my eyes.

When Papa shared his progress, I realized that he had been given a second chance at life – something that was made possible by his organ donor. We later learned that she passed away in a car accident. Though the doctors weren't allowed to share much more information, I sensed that Papa felt a responsibility to honor her life. Three years later, he still tears up when speaking of her and her family with immense gratitude.

Witnessing the gift of organ donation inspired me to become a registered donor. To me, it was a small choice, but to someone else, it could mean a second chance at life: their next breath or heartbeat. When my life ends, I hope to help save another, just as a donor saved my Papa. I believe in the life-changing power of organ donation.



Airport floors - Natalie Harris, Southeast High School

Sitting on a dirty airport carpet at 3 a.m., with the second flight of our mission trip cancelled, I felt hopeless. My itinerary at the bottom of my backpack was useless to me now. The industrial vacuum whirled by us while I wiped the grogginess from my eyes. As I looked around, I didn't know what to think. Anyone who knows me knows that I need everything planned out to a T. If there is not a plan, I will make one. I struggle with anxiety and uncertainty when there is anything left up in the air. Knowing what's going to happen down to the minute helps relieve my anxiety. But at that moment, none of it mattered.

I felt on edge not knowing what was going to happen at all. As I looked around, I made eye contact with my friend Anna. While everyone was sitting by themselves in silence, she cracked a joke. I don't even remember what it was about, but the tension in the room was broken. When she snapped our minds out of it, we all started laughing and couldn't stop. Suddenly, what began as a terrible night turned into one of laughter and games. My friend Katie grabbed a worn deck of cards and dealt them out. We played games, laughed as loud as the vacuum coming towards us, and recorded silly videos. We walked around the airport at 4 in the morning, exploring everywhere we could. As soon as the Chick-Fil-A opened, we got breakfast and sat down on the same carpet, but it felt different by the time the sun went up.

I believe when losing control of plans, people can always retain the ability to control their outlook on it. If it weren't for my friends Anna and Katie to help me embrace the unknown, I would've been an anxious puddle the rest of the night. Instead, they showed me how powerful this belief can be when put into play. While I hopefully won't experience a situation like that again, on an airport floor with no luggage or a shower in days, the experience grew me as a person. I have since been able to be OK with losing control every now and then.

When I returned home, everyone asked me what I learned, and expected stories from the mission work itself. But I couldn't stop replaying the moment in my mind, where, on the dirty airport floor, the future was uncertain but we made the most of it. It's easy to look at your circumstances and wallow in them. But what I learned is that when a plan breaks down, your reaction to the chaos matters a lot more than the original plan ever did.

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Aligot is a favorite in France

Classic dish is crafted from mashed potatoes, garlic, butter, cream and cheese

FOOD | Peter Glatz



Stretchy, cheesy pommes aligot. PHOTO BY DOUG HODGE.

Last autumn, my wife, four family members and I had the good fortune of staying in a restored 16th-century farmhouse tucked away in southwestern France. We were based in Homps, a tiny village of just 80 residents, where the only local facilities were a chapel, post office and a cemetery – a place where we marveled at numerous headstones honoring nonagenarians, a testament to the benefits of a healthy rural lifestyle! Although Homps had no restaurants, corner stores or grocery stores, a 30-minute drive took us to larger nearby towns with lively weekly open-air markets packed with fresh poultry, meats and produce. As a professional chef, walking through these markets made me feel like a kid in a candy shop!

While English was widely spoken in major cities such as Paris, it was unusual to find anyone who spoke it in the countryside. Communicating with market vendors became an entertaining game of charades, often leading to a few unexpected purchases. Yet, tasked with preparing nightly dinners for six, I embraced the challenge and enjoyed every minute.

While exploring the Saturday market in L'Isle-Jourdain, I spotted a vendor energetically working butter, cream and generous amounts of cheese into garlic-infused mashed potatoes with a substantial wooden paddle in a huge copper cauldron. Intrigued, I used Google Translate to ask what she was making. "Je prépare de l'aligot," she answered. She was preparing aligot (pronounced ah-lee-goh) – a classic dish crafted from mashed potatoes, garlic, butter, cream and cheese. When she raised the paddle, a thick, stretchy strand of cheesy potatoes rose high into the air, like a cross between fondue and mashed potatoes.

Originating in 13th-century Auvergne, France, aligot was a sustaining meal monks made for pilgrims journeying along the Camino de Santiago toward Spain's Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The original version combined stale bread and cheese; however, wheat-harvest failures throughout the 17th century prompted a shift to potatoes. Nowadays, this regional specialty remains a beloved feature at local markets and village festivals.

Authentic aligot calls for tomme fraîche – a mild, unsalted, pressed cheese characterized by its signature elastic stretch when melted. Because tomme fraîche is hard to find outside of France, a blend of mozzarella (for that iconic stringy pull) and Gruyère (for rich, nutty depth) makes a great substitute. Be sure to grate the cheese fresh – pre-shredded cheese contains anti-caking agents – and allow it to come to room temperature before stirring, ensuring a smooth, seamless emulsion with the potatoes.

Most aligot recipes use waxier varieties like Yukon Golds for a creamier purée. Boiling them unpeeled helps retain their starch. When cool enough to handle, you can easily remove the skins with a towel. Unlike traditional mashed potatoes, aligot relies on glutinous starch for its signature stretch. Mash the potatoes with a ricer or food mill – never with a food processor.

To create that signature velvety, elastic texture, blend the two cheeses into the warm, creamy mashed potatoes. As they melt and unify, the mixture emulsifies, allowing it to stretch dramatically – often a foot or more over the pot – before snapping back. During a recent beer-and-cheese dinner event for 40 guests at my restaurant, I prepared aligot myself. The relentless, energetic paddling required to stretch it properly was so taxing that I eventually handed the wooden spoon over to my younger kitchen staff.

Pommes aligot – cheesy potatoes

Subtly garlic-infused, warm and comforting, pommes aligot is a wonderful side dish for roasted meats and sausages. Serve hot and lift high with a wooden spoon for maximum drama!

After retiring from a 40-year career in dentistry at age 66, Dr. Peter Glatz embraced his lifelong dream of becoming a professional chef. For the next seven years he gained hands-on experience in kitchens nationwide. His transition from the exacting world of dentistry to the inventive world of culinary arts is a testament to the possibility of reinvention by teaching cooking classes at Prairie Fruits Farms and Creamery in Champaign.

Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients:

2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes
8 ounces low-moisture whole-milk mozzarella, grated
8 ounces Gruyère cheese, grated
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into ½-inch cubes
¾ cup heavy cream
3 garlic cloves, grated with a Microplane
Kosher salt and ground black pepper, to taste

Preparation:

Combine the grated mozzarella and Gruyère in a bowl. Let sit on the counter for 20-30 minutes. Dropping cold cheese into hot potatoes will cause the fats to seize and separate instead of emulsifying smoothly.

In a small saucepan over medium-low heat, gently warm the heavy cream and grated garlic together until barely simmering. Remove from heat, cover and let steep while the potatoes cook.

Place the unpeeled Yukon Golds in a large pot, cover with cold water by at least an inch, and add a generous tablespoon of kosher salt. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce to a simmer. Cook for 15–18 minutes, or until the potatoes are completely tender and yield when pierced with a paring knife. Drain in a colander. When cool enough to handle, peel with a towel and cut into 1-inch chunks.

Pass the warm potatoes through a potato ricer or food mill directly back into the dry, warm cooking pot. Stir in the cubed butter until fully melted. Gradually pour in the warm garlic-infused cream, stirring vigorously with a wooden spoon until smooth.

Place the pot over low heat. Add the grated cheeses one handful at a time. Stir constantly in a circular motion with a wooden spoon, lifting the spoon to stretch the cheese into long strands. Wait until each batch is fully melted and incorporated before adding the next.

Once you add all the cheese, beat the mixture over low heat for three to five minutes. The potatoes will transform from a standard mash into a glossy, elastic ribbon that pulls away from the pot sides and stretches when lifted.

Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve immediately while piping hot, pulling and cutting the ribbons directly onto plates.

View these and more veteran tributes online at illinoistimes.com/veterantributes

Joshua Aaron Siudyla



served in the United States Air Force from May 6 to July 11, 2006. A proud veteran, Josh was also a master craftsman and carpenter. He could build anything from a roof to furniture and was a perfectionist about his work. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, camping and spending time with friends and family. Josh had a special place in his heart for his dog, Sally. We honor Josh's love for his people, community and country.

Edward "Eddie" Mroczkowski



served as a sergeant in the United States Army during the Iraq War. "My favorite handsome veteran, I am eternally proud and grateful for your dedication, courage and sacrifice. You are the light of my life and forever the family favorite on both sides. Your loving wife, Emily."

Steve McGown



served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. "To my husband: Love you forever."

James A. Lewis



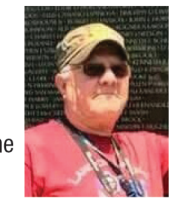
served in the United States Army and worked as a pipefitter. "We are forever grateful for the lessons our father taught us, the wisdom he shared and, most of all, the love he gave us. We miss him dearly."

Steve Chrans



served as a Specialist 4 with the 1st Air Cavalry in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.

William L. Neuman



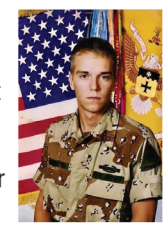
served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. "Thank you for your service.

Carrie A. Turley



served in the United States Air Force during the Iraq War, with a rank listed as TSG. "Thank you for your service.

Brian J. Bowles



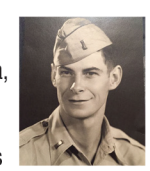
served as a specialist in the United States Army during Desert Storm. "Thank you for your service. We love you!"

Freddie Leo Barnett



served in the United States Army during World War II. "My grandfather proudly served our country in Germany during World War II."

Jack Pierson



Navy, WW2; Army, Korea,
KIA 19 May 1951
1st Lieutenant
Always Remembered us

Jason Israel



served in the United States Air Force as an F-15 Strike Eagle weapons systems officer, a C-130J Hercules pilot and T-6 instructor pilot. He served during Operation Enduring Freedom, completing two deployments to Bagram, Afghanistan. After retiring from active duty in 2020, he continued serving as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

David Cooksey



served as a private first class in the United States Army from 1954 to 1957, following the end of the Korean War. His service included time at Fort Hood, Texas, followed by 18 months in Germany. This tribute honors his service as a father and veteran.

Terrance Tranquilli



served as a sergeant in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. "Thank you for your service. I love and miss you."

Charles Kuznik



served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War as a DC2, E-5. "Proud to have served at the riverboat fuel center in Vung Tau, Vietnam, and aboard the USS Manatee AO-58."

Michael C. Barham



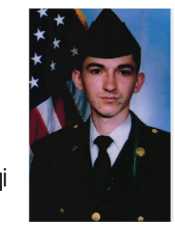
U.S.-Army-SGT.
You are truly missed!

Bernard J. McCabe Jr.



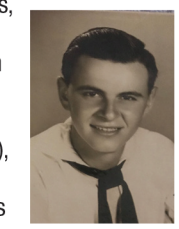
a retired United States Army colonel, served in Vietnam, Panama, Iraq, Mogadishu and the War on Terrorism. His tribute honors all veterans.

D. Paul Kirchgesgner



served during the Iraq War. His entry lists service from 1997 to 2004 with the 233rd Military Police Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and also identifies the 123rd Military Police.

Andrew R. Smith



Radioman third class, U.S. Navy
Andrew served from 1944 to 1946 in World War II on the USS Passaic (AN 87), a net tender in the Pacific Theater. He is now 97.

William W. Owens



E-5, Vietnam
Lost to Agent Orange.

Roberta Rhodes Woodward



U.S. Air Force
Mom proudly served her country. She served during the Vietnam War and traveled as far as Thailand. She was a fighter and a survivor until she was called home in 2018. We love and miss her so very much.

Jacob Palmatier



Operation Iraqi , reedom, CPL, Jacob died in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle.
He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Benning, Ga. He was and is the best of us, he is our hero, our joy, our blessing. Miss you every second of each and every day.

Duane Longstreth



Private First Class, U.S. Army, Died Aug. 7, 2003, while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Duane was a great neighbor, was very easy to talk to and, despite the uncertainty and unstable nature of an invasion, he still had a sunny disposition.

Veteran Tributes Sponsored by

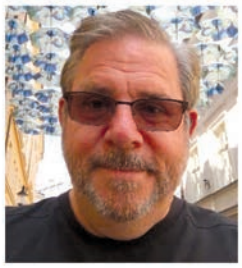
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Weapons of Mass Distraction: How Our Adversaries Manipulate Information to Disrupt Our Security

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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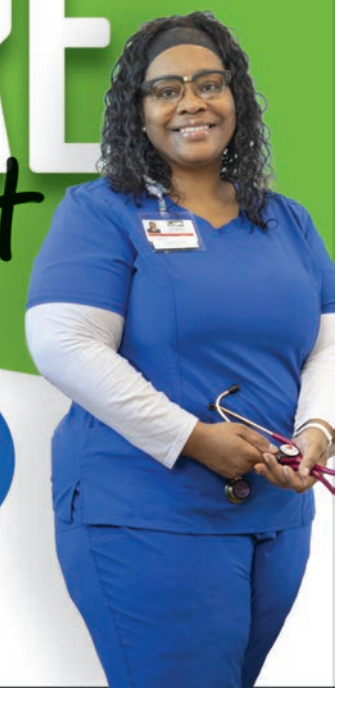
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The attempt to steal Lincoln's body

HISTORY | John O'Connor

The city was electric. Downtown Springfield was crammed on the night of the century's closest presidential election.

Two miles to the north, in the crisp autumn silence of Nov. 7, 1876, an audacious, if preposterous, scheme was unfolding. Thugs had broken into Abraham Lincoln's tomb to steal his body.

Counterfeiters crippled by the imprisonment of a master engraver had hatched the heist, convinced that the government would pardon their confederate and surrender cash to boot for the return of the 16th president's remains.

It was the pluck and good luck of a stoic Irish immigrant, Patrick Tyrrell, an early hero of a nascent U.S. Secret Service, which foiled the criminal venture 150 years ago. But it followed a string of debacles that night, including the inability of the burglars to move the casket, an officer's accidentally fired gun which allowed the criminals' escape and, during the subsequent manhunt, the good guys unwittingly shooting at one another atop the tomb.

Its aftermath created sleepless nights for those responsible for safeguarding the tomb, prompting the eventual burial of the president's remains deep in concrete.

While the enterprise was unorthodox, the villains chose a prime target. Just a decade earlier, Lincoln had ended the Civil War, preserved the Union, set in motion an end to slavery and had fallen to an assassin's bullet for his efforts. Critical review of his tenure was still decades away, said Jacob Friefeld, director of the Center for Lincoln Studies at University of Illinois Springfield.



The Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery on Oct. 29, 2026. PHOTO BY JOHN O'CONNOR

"If they wanted to get people's attention, that was a good body to steal because Lincoln, at this point in 1876, is still an American saint," Friefeld said. "He's a hero."

The story began a year earlier, when Tyrrell busted Benjamin Boyd's counterfeiting operation in Fulton, 176 miles northwest of Springfield. Boyd was a notoriously skilled engraver whose plates produced impeccable reproductions of paper currency.

Counterfeiting was rampant in the 19th century. Before there was a national currency, nearly every bank issued its own paper banknotes, Secret Service archivist Michael Sampson said.

"People not familiar with all the different varieties that existed assumed that each was genuine," Sampson said.

When the federal government issued the first centralized currency in the 1860s to finance the Civil War, counterfeiters delighted – unsuspecting recipients were prone to trust the government's so-called greenbacks.

By the end of the war in 1865, one-third to one-half of all currency in circulation was counterfeit, Sampson said. The Secret Service debuted that year to stop the stream.

With Boyd locked up in the state penitentiary in Joliet for 10 years, the quality of the fake bills, known as "queer," suffered. James "Big Jim" Kennally's small-time, Chicago-based ring was in a bind.

In 1876, Kennally took a plan to two Chicago associates, Terence Mullen, bartender at a dive called The Hub about a mile west of the Loop which Kennally co-owned and Jack Hughes, one of Kennally's "shovers," who spent his days putting the queer into circulation.

They would haul Lincoln's casket hundreds of miles from its Oak Ridge Cemetery monument to the Indiana sand dunes on Lake Michigan's southern shore, where the shifting landscape would bury it until the Illinois governor issued a pardon for Boyd and turned over $200,000 – in today's dollars, $6.3 million.

But first they had to get past Tyrrell, whose arrest of Boyd had earned him a promotion to chief of the Secret Service's Chicago district. Tyrrell was a burly, square-jawed man, meticulous and incorruptible. According to his great-great-grandson, R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr., the family is descended from Richard Tyrrell, a 16th century Irish warlord who commanded troops in rebellion against English rule.

Thus, Patrick Tyrrell "was a very tough man," said Emmett Tyrrell, 82, founder and editor of *The American Spectator* magazine. "He was a fighter from Day One."

He was also lucky. When an original gang member backed out, Mullen and Hughes sidled up to a horse thief named Lewis Swegles. Swegles agreed to join the plot – and because he was a $5-a-day Secret Service informant, tipped off Tyrrell.

The gang had chosen Nov. 7, Election

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90's BAR & GRILL
Free Appetizer
with purchase of TWO entrees!
3236 Ginger Creek Drive Springfield, IL

Springfield Ceramics & Crafts Club
Holiday Market
&
SWEET SHOPPE
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2626 South Pasfield, Springfield
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November 12th & 13th
9am - 7pm
November 14th
9am - 2pm
2601 Montvale Dr. Spfld (Montvale Estates)



R. Emmett Tyrrell, great-great-grandson of Patrick Tyrrell, sits beneath a lithograph of Lincoln that the late president's son, Robert Lincoln, presented to Patrick Tyrrell for his work to foil the attempt to steal Lincoln's body. PHOTO BY JEANNE HAUCH

Day, knowing that the city's attention would be riveted by presidential returns. Democrat Samuel J. Tilden bested Republican Rutherford B. Hayes by 252,666 votes out of 8.3 million cast, but the contest ended with Hayes in the White House by one Electoral College tally.

Tyrrell, joined by Secret Service Chief Elmer Washburn and two agents borrowed from Allan Pinkerton's detective agency, arrived at the cemetery and posted themselves in the vestibule inside the tomb's main entrance. At the time, the sarcophagus was in a separate room with an entrance at the back of the tomb.

Later that night, the conspirators arrived. After struggling to saw through the padlock on the catacomb door, Hughes and Mullen entered and removed the lid of the sarcophagus. They couldn't lift the casket, which weighed as much as 500 pounds. They removed the container's end but were only able to slide the coffin out about 15 inches.

At this point, according to Tyrrell's report, provided by the Secret Service, Swegles announced he would summon a fourth man whom Swegles had recruited to drive the wagon. Instead, he alerted Tyrrell, who led the rush to the catacomb in stocking feet – he had removed his boots to keep the sound of his footsteps from carrying. It was during the charge that a Pinkerton agent's cocked pistol discharged, piercing the silence.

"It was an unfortunate circumstance," Tyrrell wrote in his report. Reaching the catacomb, his call for surrender went unanswered.

"I struck a match and entered and to my surprise, no fiend was there – the marks of their devilish work plainly visible," Tyrrell reported.

Mullen and Hughes had fled upon hearing the gunshot. Tyrrell ordered his men to search the area. He ascended to the tomb's terrace where he saw a shadowy figure and fired several times, dodging returned volleys before realizing he was in a gunfight with a Pinkerton agent. "What a mistake!" Tyrrell wrote later.

If Tyrrell was concerned about the criminals' escape, he didn't have long to worry. Within days of the Springfield brouhaha, Mullen and Hughes returned to Chicago and the pair were simultaneously collared at The Hub.

In May 1877, a local jury found Mullen and Hughes guilty of conspiracy to steal Lincoln's remains and attempted larceny for would-be theft of the casket. Each was sentenced to a year in prison – joining Boyd in Joliet. Remarkably, Kennally was never charged.

As for Lincoln's remains, the tomb's custodian, John Carroll Power, hid Lincoln's body in the tomb's basement, fearing another attempt to pilfer it. A 1901 tomb renovation concluded with the casket 10 feet in the ground, encased in concrete.

Despite the foibles along the way, the late president's son, Robert Lincoln, was satisfied with the work of the Secret Service. Emmett Tyrrell maintains a large framed lithograph of the Great Emancipator which Robert Lincoln presented to Patrick Tyrrell with a plaque dated April 14, 1887, reading, "for loyalty and service to his father, Abraham Lincoln."

"He got his man," Emmett Tyrrell said. □

John O'Connor is a retired Associated Press reporter. An Illinois native, he has lived in Springfield since 1994.



MUSIC

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

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

Thursday
Nov 5

Randy Erwin
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-4pm and Nov. 6, 10am-4pm

SOLD OUT-Fred Eaglesmith & The Family Band
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

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

Jackpot Karaoke with Debbie Cakes
Curve Inn, 7-11pm

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

Karaoke
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm.

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

Molly Seaton, Shawn Harris and Jimmy Bonefeste
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
Nov 6

Natu Visinia
48 Inn Sports Bar & Grill, Decatur, 8-11pm

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

J Edwards
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

Tom Irwin and Amy Battles
Bar Bella, 7-9pm

Hippies of the Heartland
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

First Friday
Butternut Hut, 4pm.

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

JackAsh
Curve Inn, 7-9pm

Dance Monkey
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 7:30pm

ZZ King
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8pm

Kortney Leatherwood
The Filling Station, Rochester, 9:30pm-12:30am

White Lightnin'
The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 7pm

Micah Walk
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

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

Seager Shymansky
Legends Entertainment, 6:30-9:30pm

Karaoke
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Karaoke
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 8pm.

2nd Street Harmony
Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery, 6-9pm

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

Harris Trio
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 6:30pm

Rod Grant
The Bird Tavern, 6-9pm

Positively 4th Street
Trading Post Saloon, 6:30-9pm

Not Quite Brothers
Twisted Tree Music & Event Hall, Jacksonville, 7pm

Taylor June
Walby's Place, Ashland, 7-10pm

Saturday
Nov 7

Karaoke
AJ's Corner, Chatham, 8pm-12:30am

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

The Tangents
Boone's, 6-9pm

Cody Lee Moomey
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

99 Proof
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7pm

Birds of a Feather
Butternut Hut, 8-11pm

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

Karaoke by DJ Jon
Crazy Dog Saloon, Cantrall, 7pm

Devin C. Williams
Curve Inn, 7-10pm

River City Eagles
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 7-10pm

Dancing Queen
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8pm

Joel Honey
Don's Place, Jacksonville, 8-11pm

Grounded
Goodfellas Pub, 7pm

Blue Country Revue
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Money Shot
Kuhl Tyme Korner, Jacksonville, 8pm-12am

Afternoon Delight
Legends Entertainment, 6:30-9:30pm

Echoes of Pompeii
Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 7pm

Kenna Elpers and Mark Perkins
Midway Bar & Grill, Harvel, 3:30pm

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

Maui Grimm
Mowie's Cue, 8-11pm

Eric and Kortney
Northern Lights Lounge, 2-5pm

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

Ethan Anderson
Pier 55 Lounge, 8-11pm

Broken Stone
Pop's Place, Decatur, 8pm-12am



BLAINE BAILEY WILL PERFORM AT 7 P.M. SUNDAY AT THE BACKROOM LOUNGE IN RIVERTON. PHOTO BY CINDY HARRIS

Lick Creek
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 8-11:30pm

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

Craig Gerdes
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 6pm

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

Hippies of the Heartland
The Salvation Army of Springfield, 1-3pm

Hargrave
The Thirsty Rooster, Middletown, 7-9pm

Lehman Musiq
Town Hall Pub, Loami, 7-10pm

Rod Grant
Whiskey Ridge Saloon, Breckenridge, 1-4pm

Sunday
Nov 8

Joel Honey
AJ's Corner, Chatham, 1-4pm

Pat Jones
American Legion Post 279, Jacksonville, 3-6pm

Blaine Bailey
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

Robbie Mitchell
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

After School Special
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 2-5pm

Bob Besser
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 4-7pm

Robert Sampson
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 1-4pm

The Jonnie Concaroo Band
It's All About Wine, 3pm

Stefan Huffman and Aley Alvey
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 2-5pm

Wowie Zowie
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 5-8pm

Men of Essence
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

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

Kenna Elpers
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 10am

Keith Dunlap
The Shed, Pawnee, 3-6pm

Exit 52
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-7pm

Antone DeRocchi
Walby's Place, Ashland, 3pm

Dallas Whittaker
Weebles Bar & Grill, 11am-2pm

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

Monday
Nov 9

Kingdom Brothers
The Alamo, 7pm

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

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

Tuesday
Nov 10

Karaoke
Fluid Lounge, 7-11pm

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

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

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

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

Wednesday
Nov 11

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

Karaoke
Clique, 9pm-1am

Robert Sampson
Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm

Open jam with Kristi White
Goodfellas Pub, 7pm

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

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

JCB Entertainment Karaoke
Puerto Vallarta, 12pm



Kenna Elpers plays a brunch time set at the Stadium Smokehouse this Sunday..

November music-making

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

Here we are, as promised, back with a *Now Playing* for the first full weekend of November in 2026. With the Best of Springfield behind us (until next year) and the elections over (are they ever, really), let's see what's about to commence in the world of local, live music.

Speaking of BoS stuff, *IT*'s annual party at the BOS Center last Thursday (interestingly enough the BoS party at the BOS Center is only a delightful coincidence) was a smashing success with lots of good food, dandy drinks and fine company, accompanied by award-winning music from the Brandy Kristin Band who walked off the night with several BoS wins in the hard-fought music category.

Here's a heartfelt personal thanks to all who voted me Best Songwriter (an honor I cherish). But as we like to say, everyone's a winner who received any recognition, nomination or mention, even those that felt they should and didn't. There's always next year.

Our big news this week is the reopening of the Curve Inn after a do-over of the building and grounds in the wake of the devastating fire last spring. The perennial popular place began again this past Monday as a restaurant and bar with JackAsh booked on Friday and Devin C. Williams on Saturday. Huge congratulations go to Ami and Ray Merchant, the owners and operators, plus an enormous thanks is due our community for helping so much in so many ways in the rebuild. The music keeps coming all month and into the foreseeable future as we can now "swerve to the Curve" once again. We might need to discuss the "dive bar" designation after all the wonderful restoration, but that's for another conversation, and a lighthearted one at that.

Now to encompass and employ all the enlightenment and enjoyment through entertainment that you care to muster up, let's try a three-fer with a visit to the Stadium Smokehouse out on Peoria Road. The Harris Family Trio, coming out of the locally-based Harris Family Band (celebrating 60 years as a sibling group in 2026), performs on Friday evening, then rural Illinoisan Craig Gerdes of cool country music fame (his 2026 album *Highs N Lows* was submitted for Grammy consideration in the Traditional Country category) hits on Saturday night, while southern Indiana native Kenna Elpers (a recent "The Voice" show participant and bonafide, emerging country music personality in her singing, songwriting and performing) serves it up Sunday morning for the brunch-time show. How about that for a smokin' weekend?

Since we ended up here on Sunday's schedule, what the heck is going on this week with over 20 listings on the official Funday? Compared to 27 on Friday and 37 on Saturday, that's quite a jump from what we normally see for a Sunday. Perhaps it's not our place to wonder why but to simply partake in the abundance of music happening with Dallas Whittaker at Weebles (11 a.m.), Robert Sampson at Hill Prairie Winery near Oakford (1 p.m.), Stefan Huffman and Aley Alevy at Locals in Pawnee (2 p.m.), After School Special at Curveside Bar & Grill near Athens (2 p.m.), Exit 52 at Trails End Saloon in Curran (3 p.m.), Bob Besser at Golden Fox Brewing in Decatur (4 p.m.) and Wowie Zowie at Mother Road Diner (5 p.m.) for an on the hour rundown of about a third of the acts in the calendar.

Please peruse the listings for all the other goings on and then go experience the experience of local, live music in person, if you please. □



FREE SCREENING

Friday, November 13
6:00pm - Doors Open
7:00pm - Film Screening
8:00pm - Q&A with Filmmakers
Union Theater
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

As part of our 25th Anniversary, the Route 66 Film Festival is honored to collaborate with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to present a special screening of the documentary, *After Ike*.

After Ike retraces Lt. Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower's pivotal 3,251-mile journey from Washington, D.C to San Francisco along the Lincoln Highway in 1919. This experience shaped his vision for U.S. highways that profoundly impacted small-town America and communities of color. The 60-minute film delves into the convoy's challenges and transformative effects.

This special screening is free to attend
but advance registration is required through the ALPLM website:
https://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov/events/

ROUTE 66 INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

250 AMERICA
Abraham Lincoln
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



Rabbit Hole **|** Fri.-Sat, Nov. 6-7, 7:30 p.m., Sun., Nov. 8, 2 p.m., Thu.-Sat., Nov. 12-14, 7:30 p.m. | Studio Theatre, UIS Public Affairs Center, One University Plaza 217-206-6240 | uis.edu/theatre

THEATER | Drama charts path from grief to love and hope

it UIS Theatre presents David Lindsay-Abaire's Pulitzer Prize-winning play about a happy suburban couple, Becca and David Corbett, whose lives are changed forever when their young son, Danny, is killed in an accident. Months later, according to Concord Theatricals online, "Becca wants to start afresh in a new home and give away their son's possessions, but Howie wants to keep the memory of Danny alive. Can they ever find their way back to each other?" Will the Corbetts overcome grief and find love and hope? There's only one way to find out. This play is directed by Eric Thibodeaux. Tickets range from $10 to $20.

■ Special Music Events

The Art of Jazz
Tue., Nov. 10, 6-8pm. Dave McEathron will burn up the keys accompanied by Max Beckman, bass; Dion Doss, drums; and Dr. Beto Rodriguez, guitar. The gallery's new exhibit, "Ignited Spirit," serves as the backdrop for this performance. thepharmacygallery.com. $10 donation at the door. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 217-622-7903 or 217-494-2231.

George Birge with Highway Home
Sat., Nov. 7, 8pm. From 2013 to 2020, country music artist George Birge was half of the duo Waterloo Revival with Cody Cooper. Since 2020, Birge has recorded independently. $20. Boondocks, 2909 N. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-679-0145.

Illinois College Engelbach-Hart Music Festival: Faculty Collage Concert
Sat., Nov. 7, 7:30-9:30pm. This annual concert highlights the exceptional talents of the Illinois College music faculty. Part of the Engelbach-Hart Music Festival. Free. Illinois College Rammelkamp Chapel, Jacksonville, 215 Park St., 217.245.3192.

Illinois College Engelbach-Hart Music Festival: The Craig Russo Latin Jazz Project Concert
Sun., Nov. 8, 3-5pm. This concert will celebrate the rich rhythms of Latin music. The Craig Russo Latin Project delivers vibrant, world-class Latin jazz, blending Afro-Cuban rhythms with masterful improvisation and dynamic performances. Part of the Engelbach-Hart Music Festival. Free. Illinois College Rammelkamp Chapel, Jacksonville, 215 Park St., 217.245.3192.

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

Veterans Day Salute
Sat., Nov. 7, 4-5:30pm. This concert is dedicated to celebrating the courage, sacrifice and unwavering commitment each branch embodies in defense of our freedom. Free. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 815 S. Second St., 217-544-5315.

■ Books & Authors

Every Step of the Way
Tue., Nov. 10, 6-7pm. Retired oncology nurse Pamela Bradley will share insights from her book, *Every Step of the Way: A Mother's Journey to Save Herself After Saving Her Daughter.* Pamela's daughter, Sarah, survived her battle with childhood cancer. Pamela will share what her family learned on their cancer journey. To register, call or visit www.williamsvillelibrary.org williamsvillelibrary.org. Free. Williamsville Public Library and Museum, Williamsville, 217 N. Elm St., 217-566-3520.

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

■ Theater & Comedy

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

Carl Giannetto
Fri., Nov. 6, 8pm. Carl Giannetto started performing stand-up comedy at the age of 14. In high school he was featured on the nationally syndicated Bob and Tom radio show calling in live during one of his classes. Edmo's, Edinburg, 106 West Washington St., 217-230-9046.

A Night of Poe
Fri., Nov. 6, 8, 10pm and Sat., Nov. 7, 2, 4pm. See Edgar Allan Poe's most famous tales come alive through immersive theater, live music, theatrical storytelling and expertly crafted cocktails. $55. The Inn at 835 Boutique Hotel, 835 S. Second St., 217-523-4466.

Rob Little
Fri., Nov. 6, 8pm and Sat., Nov. 7, 7:30pm. Rob Little brings his brand of humor to central Illinois. Presented by Donnie B's Comedy Club. donniebs.com. Prairie View Reception Center, Chatham, 8855 State Route 4, 217-483-7999.

■ Dance

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.

Line Dancing
Wed., Nov. 11, 7pm. Lessons and dancing. Free. The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 210 W. Route 125, 217-626-2508.

■ Art & Architecture

"Lines" Exhibit
Mondays-Fridays, 8am-4pm. Through Dec. 4. The Trutter Museum & Murray Gallery will host the exhibit "Lines" from Nov. 2 until Dec. 4. The exhibit features glass works by Springfield-based artist Mario Clarke. Visitors can view the exhibit from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and attend a closing reception in the museum/gallery from 5:30 to 7:30 pm Dec. 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The museum and gallery are on the upper level of Menard Hall. Free. LLCC James S. Murray Gallery, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-786-2200.

"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.

Art Night
Thu., Nov. 5, 5:30-7:30pm. Monica Zanetti of Wild Rose will guide participants in creating their own Day of the Dead-themed painting. All ages welcome, but children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Reservations required. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Attention to Detail
Sat., Nov. 7, 10am-12pm. An extended-length specialty tour. Join an experienced volunteer guide for an in-depth look at the Dana-Thomas House and discussion about Frank Lloyd Wright's career. Reservations required. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

"Held" Opening Reception
Sat., Nov. 7, 6-8pm. See Grace Snively's exhibit of mixed media/acrylic on canvas paintings. A gallery talk with Snively will follow at 6:30pm. Exhibit runs through Nov. 29. Free. David Strawn Art Gallery, Jacksonville, 331 W. College Ave., 217-243-9390.

"Held"
Tuesdays-Saturdays, 4-6pm and Sundays, 1-3pm. Through Nov. 30. See Grace Snively's exhibit of mixed media/acrylic on canvas paintings. David Strawn Art Gallery, Jacksonville, 331 W. College Ave., 217-243-9390.

"Ignited Spirit" Exhibit Opening
Fri., Nov. 6, 6-9pm and Sat., Nov. 7, 6-9pm. This new exhibition features original works in acrylic, mixed media, pastel, photography, mosaic, and - new to the gallery - fashion design. thepharmacygallery.com. Free. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 217-494-2231 or 217-622-7903.

Of Glass and Wood
Sat., Nov. 7, 1-3pm. Join an experienced volunteer guide for this extended-length specialty tour and discussion about Frank Lloyd Wright's career. Reservations required. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

■ History

Civil Civics with Lincoln Library: 2026 Fall Film Series
Tue., Nov. 10, 6-7:30pm. Struggles between the indigenous peoples of North America and those seeking to conquer it were continuous. This week, the group will watch and discuss episode 13, "Native Resistance in the West, 1850s-1870s," and episode 23, "Native Radicalism and Reform, 1969-1978," from the Great Courses series "Native Peoples of North America." Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900 ext. 5630.

The Great Sanitary Fair: A Door to Suffrage
Thu., Nov. 5, 6pm. Laura Reyman will discuss the large-scale sanitary fairs of the 19th century and their enduring legacy on charitable giving and women-led organizing. springfieldart.org. Free. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

History Night at the Old State Capitol: The Veteran Reserve Corps
Sat., Nov. 7, 5-7pm. Explore the building on a self-guided tour and attend a 30-45-minute presentation offered at 5:15 and 6:15 pm. Learn about the Veteran Reserve Corps, a unit in the Union army during the Civil War. Reservations optional. historynightsosc.eventbrite.com. Free. Old State Capitol State Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-785-9363.

Live Podcast Recording with Lincoln historian Jonathan W. White and host Sally Helm
Fri., Nov. 6, 6:30-7:30pm. History This Week, the podcast of *The History Channel*, is leaving the studio and hitting the road for this special live recording and you can be part of this audio series. Lincoln historian Jonathan W. White will join host Sally Helm for a conversation on presidential executive powers including Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus and his Emancipation Proclamation. Audience members will get a behind-the-scenes look at the making of this popular podcast and can take part themselves during a Q&A session. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

World War I living history
Sat., Nov. 7, 10am-4pm. Speak to historians and re-enactors of the Great War that went on from 1914 to 1918. Then check out the museum. Illinois State Military Museum, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd., 217-761-3910.

■ Holiday Observances

Veterans Day Ceremony
Wed., Nov. 11, 12:30-1:30pm. LLCC will honor all veterans, including LLCC faculty, staff and students who served in the armed forces, at this 31st annual ceremony. A reception will follow. Sponsored by LLCC Student Engagement & Wellbeing. llcc.edu. Free. A. Lincoln Commons,

5250 Shepherd Road, 217-786-2200.

■ Holiday Happenings

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

Veterans Day Celebration
Tue., Nov. 10, 11am. Honor and remember the brave men and women who have served our country. Celebrate Veterans Day with Senior Services of Central Illinois, test your knowledge with historic Veterans Day trivia and enjoy the chance to win cash prizes. ssoci.org. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-503-4643.

Veterans Day Celebration
Wed., Nov. 11, 3-7 p.m. Celebrate Veterans Day and thank local veterans for their service at this event. Free hot dogs and chili from 4 to 7pm. Firefighters-Postal Lake Club, 940 W. Lake Shore Dr., 217-691-6472.

■ Fairs & Festivals

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

■ Fundraisers & Galas

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

Forever Home Feline Ranch Trivia Night Fundraiser
Fri., Nov. 6, 7-10pm. Trivia starts at 7pm. Features cash prizes, silent auction, mulligans and more. Bring a donation of Purina Cat Chow, Purina Kitten Chow, or Today cats litter and receive raffle tickets. For reservations, call 217-503-9898 or email felineranch@gmail.com. Outside snacks allowed but outside drinks not allowed. Food will be available from the VFW kitchen. $15 per person, $150 per table of 10. VFW Lafore Lock Post 755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Road, 217-503-9898.

Illinois Innocence Project 25th Anniversary Celebration
Sat., Nov. 7. Celebrate 25 years of freedom and reform with the Illinois Innocence Project. Details TBA. Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-206-6569.

Masterpieces & Melodies
Thu., Nov. 5, 6:30-8:30pm. Celebrate Ball-Chatham School District students while raising funds to enrich the educational experience of the district's students, teachers and staff. Includes light appetizers and mocktails with live music provided by student ensembles. $25. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

■ Children's Corner

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

■ Nature, Science & Environment

Prairie State Orchid Society Plant Sale and Talk
Sat., Nov. 7, 1-4pm. There will be an intermission from the sale between 2 and 3pm, during which guest speaker Dr. Lawrence Zettler will give a presentation on orchids. Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-4116.

■ Lectures & Meetings

Learn to Homebrew Day
Sat., Nov. 7, 12-5pm. Learn about the world of homebrewing from the Prairie Schooners Home Brew Club. Several local home brewers will conduct brewing demonstrations. Also learn about the club itself and future events. Free. Bald Buddha Brewing, 3351 S. Sixth St. Road, #4, 217-679-4665.

■ Bulletin Board

Coin Show
Sun., Nov. 8, 9am-4pm. U.S. coins and paper money, gold and silver bullion, ancient and modern coins. Hosted by the Central Illinois Numismatic Association. $1. Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Dr., 217-741-1159.

Fall Book Adoption
Through Nov. 5, 10am-7pm and Sat., Nov. 7, 10am-2pm. 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.

Job Macabre: More Funeral Home Shenanigans
Sat., Nov. 7, 10:30am-12pm. The Lincoln Library Investigations Unit presents a roundup of this year's most disturbing, dastardly and downright unbelievable deeds from the funeral industry. lincolnlibrary.info. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

Moonlight Market Pop-up Shop
Wed., Nov. 11, 6-8pm. Shop local and enjoy an evening inside the Ale House while supporting two Moonlight Market vendors. Features Natural Glow Candleworks and Homemade Goodies. Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery, 500 S. Sixth St., 217-670-0627.

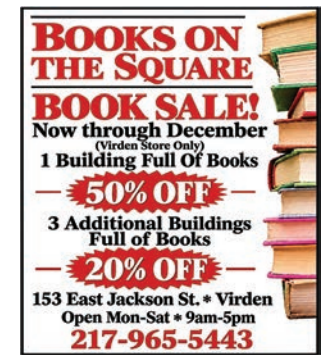
Westside Market
Second Sunday of every month, 2-5pm. Through Nov. 8. Features vendors selling a variety of items including crafts, food and more. Also includes music and community connection on the Westside. Parking lot of Papo's Cafe, 3290 W. Iles Ave.

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.

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

MARKETPLACE





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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Death Claim

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
MARGARET J. CODRON,
Deceased.
Case No. 2026-PR-395
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of MARGARET J. CODRON of 310 East Madison, Auburn, Illinois 62615, on October 3, 2026.
Letters of Office were issued on the 26th day of October, A.D., 2026, to CAROL A. HAMM, 153 N. Springfield Street, Auburn, Illinois 62615, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Sangamon County Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 29th day of October, A.D., 2026.
Estate of MARGARET J. CODRON,
Deceased,
BY:/s/ Pamela E. Hart
Pamela E. Hart, one of her Attorneys
PREPARED BY:
Pamela E. Hart (6299974)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217)753-8200
peh@scottnscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In Re the Matter of the Estate of:
JAMES H. PURDON, II,
Deceased.
2026-PR-285
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of JAMES H. PURDON, II, of Pawnee, Sangamon County, Illinois.
Letters of Office were issued on May 29, 2026, to Nichole L. Purdon, of 5010 Lake Drive, Percy, IL 62272.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court or with the representative, or both on or before May 10, 2027, which date is not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of any claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representatives and to the attorney within 10 days after it is filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit: circuitclerk@sangamoncountyil.gov.
/s/ NICHOLE L. PURDON, Executor
/s/ JAMES W. KELLEY - #6196401
Attorney
Prepared By:
James W. Kelley - #6196401
Attorney for Estate
165 W. Broadway
P. O. Box 373
Sparta, IL 62286
Phone: (618) 443-3091
Email: jwkelley2023@gmail.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Estate of:
NANCY WALL,
Deceased.
NO. 2026-PR-394
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Nancy Wall of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 22, 2026, to Brett Wall, 10270 Bell Fountain Road, Dawson, IL 62520, 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 29, 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 26th day of October, 2026.
Randy S. Paswater - 06283705
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-4868
paswater@barberlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of
MYRTLE F. BRADY,
Deceased.
No. 2026-PR-327
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of MYRTLE F. BRADY of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on September 3, 2026 to JOELLA E. MEIDEL, 3916 Lear Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62711, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is JAMES S. DUNN, 2215 Greenbriar Road, Springfield, Illinois 62704.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, Room 405, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, being November 5, 2026. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To 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://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp, or talk with your local Circuit Clerk's office.
Dated October 23, 2026
JAMES S. DUNN - Reg. #3124262
Attorney at Law
2215 Greenbriar Road
Springfield, Illinois 62704
217-414-2877
dunnandmclaw@aol.com

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

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
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

Divorce

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

Foreclosure

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

Notice by Publication

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
DeMario J. Walker, Petitioner
and
Randi L. Brooks, Respondent
Case No. 2026-FA-000286
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Randi L. Brooks, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced and you are summoned to a child custody case and for other relief. Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, 200 South Ninth Street, Room 405, Springfield, Illinois on or before the 5th day of December, 2026, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.
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

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.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: VENDING MACHINE SERVICES
The Springfield Mass Transit District d.b.a. Sangamon Mass Transit District (the "District") is seeking proposals from qualified firms to supply, maintain, and stock vending machines selling food and beverage items at the Transfer Center and Administrative Building. Request for Proposal (RFP) documents may be obtained in-person, from the District website (www.smtd.org), or from purchasing@smtd.org on or after November 5, 2026. Proposals and all required attachments will be received in the District office at 928 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62703-2497 in SEALED envelopes or electronically to bids@smtd.org NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM CST DECEMBER 17, 2026. Any contract resulting from this RFP is subject to financial assistance contracts between and/or among the District, the United States Department of Transportation, and the Illinois Department of Transportation. This project is funded, in full or in part, by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with participation by the Illinois Department of Transportation and Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation.
The District reserves the right to accept any bid or any part or parts of any and all bids. Acceptance of any bid may be subject to concurrence by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Transportation. Furthermore, the District, the United States Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Transportation reserve the right to reject any or all Respondents and to waive irregularities therein, and all submitting Respondents must agree that such rejection shall be without liability on the part of the District for any penalty brought by a Respondents because of such rejections, nor shall the submitting Respondents seek any recourse of any kind against the District because of such rejections, and the filing of any bid in response to this solicitation shall constitute an agreement of the submitting Respondents to these conditions.
END OF LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE Wishing to avail themselves of the provisions under the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, the below storage facility gives notice of the sale under said act; Monday the 23rd day of November, 2026 at 10:00 AM, on that day will conduct a sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on lockerfox.com, and payment to seller via credit/debit card, the contents of spaces 10 Federal Storage, 2225 J David Jones Pkwy, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 600-2778 Jonathon Halsey P62. Manuel Flores 498. Angela Gardner 125. Robert Anderson 844. JOHN pennington 267. James Goltermann 524. Nancy Phillips 52. Rj Banning 517. Keith Blessant 25. Ryanne Gleason 329. Jovian Sakurai 392. Stephen Balestri 80. Thaddieous Sutton 610/603. Joslyn Ellis 231. Angel Sparrow 112. Cameron Jones 94. Denise Winston 361. Tayllor Fernandez 27. Amber Wires 520. stephanie holland 213. Thaddieous Sutton P6. Brandon Mccaddon 556. DALTON INGRAM 308/297. Ellen Blood 644. Arthur Kindred 572. DALTON INGRAM 12. Leahya Felton 612/601. Alysia Reynolds 459. Christopher Straub 673. Michelle Scrimpsher 780. Isabella Schmidt 616/597. Mildred Bailey 29. Donte Hester 115. Robert Shaw 792. Robyn e Wade 575. Crystal White 752. Mark Pressler 439. Stefanie Moy-Zobus 633/580. Ellen Blood 645, Monday the 23rd day of November, 2026 at 11:00 AM, on that day will conduct a sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on lockerfox.com, and payment to seller via credit/debit card, the contents of spaces 10 Federal Storage, 500 W Browning Rd, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 339-3865 Sydonia Bales 33A. Sean Moloney 68B. Terru Harris 95B. K.Rae Gephart 9A. Carrie Klug 237E. Haylie Smith 1A. Cameron Jones 61B. Van Williams 282e. Irene Felton 188 D. Landon Wey 197D; Monday the 23rd day of November, 2026 at 1:00 PM, on that day will conduct a sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on lockerfox.com, and payment to seller via credit/debit card, the contents of spaces 10 Federal Storage, 3500 South 6th Street, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 387-3951 Clayton Perkinton B180. Glenda Turner A107. Monique Lee B126. Tynesha Lovelace A80. Denise Logsdon P57. Krista Jones A70/A71. Laurence Jackson B176. John Williams P41. John Williams P76. Dominic Stewart P71. Jayson Oleso A29. Laurence Jackson B143. Dante Williams B123. James Fortner B119. Javon Nix B121. Debbie Randall B213. John Williams A11. John Williams A8. Britney Dyer B212. Justin Liss B141. Deborah McCormick A106, Monday the 23rd day of November, 2026 at 1:00 PM, on that day will conduct a sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on lockerfox.com, and payment to seller via credit/debit card, the contents of spaces 10 Federal Storage, 900 E Straight St, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 286-1550 James Brello E307. Sarah Watson E321. Edward Jester 33. Michelle Jacobs E277. Dean Williams E295/E324. Tanatica Womack 213/214/215. Janine Duff E344/E345. Claude Henry 189. Riley Cadle 79. Robbie CM. Woodson 191. James Smith 72. Van Converse 159

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;

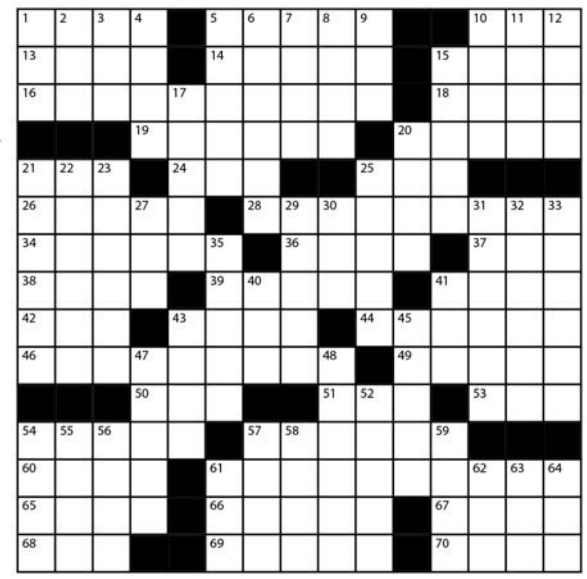
Commonly known as 1103 W. Elliott Ave., Springfield, IL 62702; Parcel No.: 14-28.0-102-035
Parcel 2
Lot 2 of Millers Subdivision of parts of Lots Number 4 and 5 in Herndon & Edwards' Addition of Outlots to the City of Springfield.
Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying 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 FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
DAVID LUTTRELL and GERALDINE LUTTRELL, a/k/a GERI LUTTRELL,
Plaintiffs,
v.
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF LESTER WATSON, SR., a/k/a LESTER WATSON, II, Deceased, LESTER WATSON, JR., UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2026FC000219

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF LESTER WATSON, SR., a/k/a LESTER WATSON, II, Deceased, LESTER WATSON, JR., UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS of the real estate described below, Defendants in the above-entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-206, 15-1218 and 15-1502 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that the above-entitled contract foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Defendants is December 9, 2026.
Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on October 28, 2026.
1. The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: David Luttrell and Geraldine Luttrell, a/k/a Geri Luttrell, 2026FC000219.
2. The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois
3. The names of the title holders of record are: David Luttrell and Geraldine Luttrell
4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:
LOT 10 IN ANDREW WALKER'S SUBDIVISION OF PART OF LOT 3 OF CALVIN LEWIS' ESTATE AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN BOOK 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 83.
EXCEPT ANY INTEREST IN THE COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE LAND WHICH HAVE BEEN HERETOFORE CONVEYED OR RESERVED IN PRIOR CONVEYANCES, AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS, IF ANY.
SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 1312 Reservoir Street, Springfield, Illinois 62702
6. The Tax Identification Number for the real estate is/are as follows: 14-27.0-231-011
7. An identification of the contract for deed sought to be foreclosed is as follows:
Name of Sellers: David Luttrell and Geri Luttrell
Name of Buyer: Lester Watson, II
Date of Contract: February 1, 2017
/s/ Joseph B. Roesch
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BROWN, HAY + STEPHENS, LLP
Emmet A. Fairfield, Reg. No. 6180505
205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705
Phone: (217) 544-8491
efairfield@bhslaw.com
8051-970852

Snack food choice

Edited by J. Reynolds - **No. 970**



Across
1. Shipping hazard
5. Pitcher, of a sort
10. Knight's title
13. Seed cover
14. Author Zora ___ Hurston
15. The "C" in U.P.C.
16. *** 1980 film
18. Follower of "ooh" or "tra"
19. Retro car
20. Propelled a boat
21. Relative of -esque
24. Phone greeting in Central America
25. Flipper
26. Hightail it
28. *** Symbol of Japan
34. Sports show-off
36. Istanbul native
37. Mineral suffix
38. Just barely
39. Relieves
41. Attention-getters
42. 52, in old Rome
43. Sandwich shop
44. Citation
46. *** CNN personality
49. Firewood measure
50. Loser to D.D.E.
51. Absorbed, as a cost
53. Tripper's drug
54. Church singers
57. Tel Aviv's land
60. 1970s-'80s sitcom setting
61. *** Bad spelling?
65. Shield border
66. TV's "Kate & ___"
67. Layer
68. Group that includes the end of each of the starred clues
69. "...wish upon ___"
70. "No sweat"

Down
1. Setting of many jokes
2. Big time
3. 18-wheeler
4. Smooth-talking
5. Little devil's opposite
6. One with obligations
7. Handle roughly
8. Everyone, in Essen
9. First word of Dante's "Inferno"
10. Skyrocket
11. Just lying around
12. Study
15. Bell sound
17. "Groovy!"
20. Sty sound
21. Start of a declaration
22. Nova __
23. Empty words
25. Leading the pack
27. Eccentric
29. "___ the bag!"
30. Seek damages
31. Ebert's former partner
32. Expresses
33. Fit together
35. Social misfits
40. HBO's "Da ___ G Show"
41. Loan figure: Abbr.
43. Textile worker
45. "___ to recall?"
47. Poker ploy
48. Deadhead icon
52. Selfish sort
54. "Hurry up!"
55. Parsley or sage
56. Earthenware pot
57. Misfortunes
58. Pepper's partner
59. Missing a deadline
61. Call to Bo-peep
62. Actress ___ Scala
63. Suffix with pant or aunt
64. Weep

Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #969

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

Sudoku answers from #969

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

JoshJosh answers from #969

JoshJosh *by J. Reynolds* - No. 970

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.

10+	4	40x		2÷	
				5-	2÷
1-		2÷	11+		
2÷				1-	2-
180x	2x		24x		
					4

Difficulty medium

Sudoku No. 970

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

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

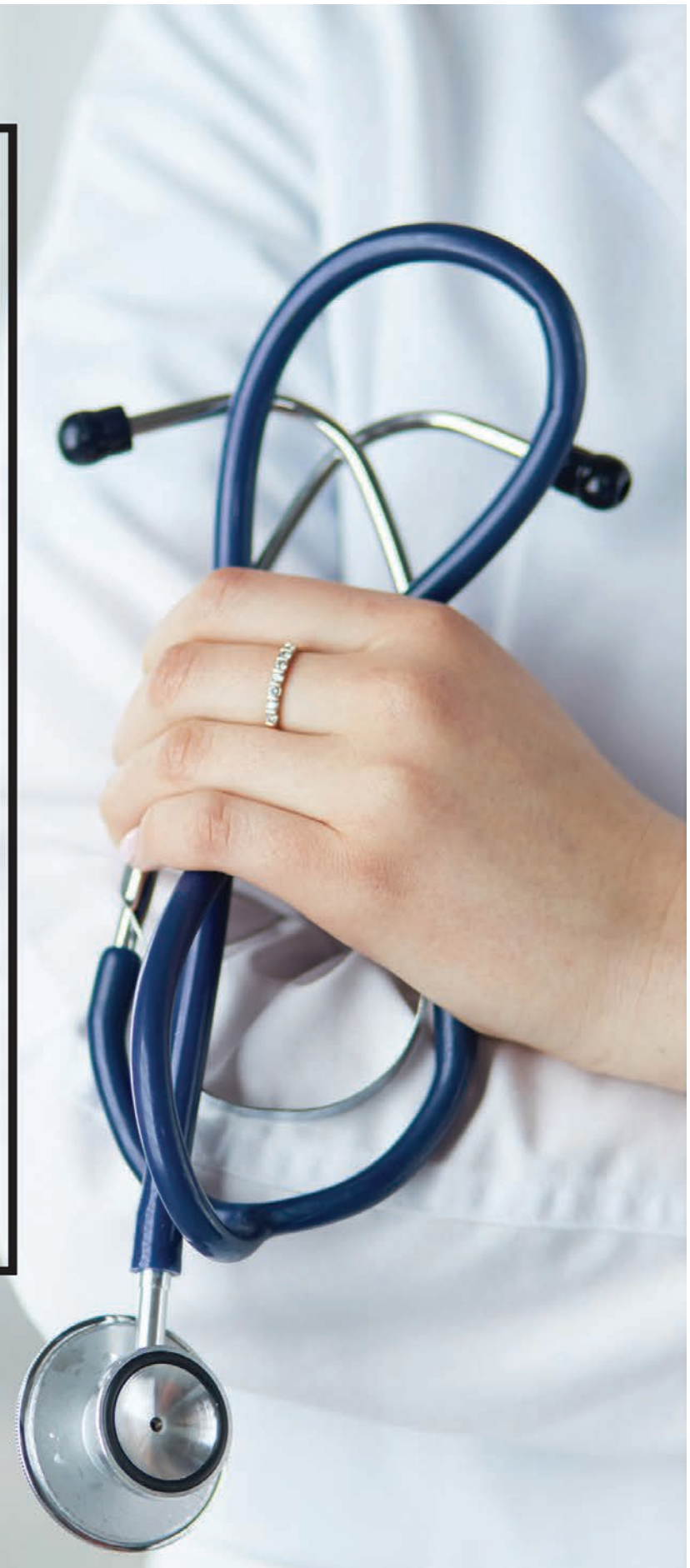
Difficulty hard

Ask Your Doctor About PrEP!

FOR HIV PREVENTION

Sangamon County Public Health can help pay for appointment fees and lab costs.

▶ **Call 217-535-3102**



IDPH
Illinois Department of Public Health

Illinois Department of Public Health
www.Prep4illinois.com