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Transparency troubles

SPD doesn't post racial data for traffic stops on its new transparency portal, despite state mandate to collect information

POLICE | Dilpreet Raju

The Springfield Police Department launched a "transparency page" in August that relays crime statistics, but questions have arisen about why certain information is – or isn't – included.

The SPD's page does not include the number of cases closed by police or state-mandated transparency reports. While SPD's own documents initially stated quarterly audit data would be included on a public transparency page, those materials have not been posted on the portal and SPD now says it's not required.

Mayor Misty Buscher hailed the portal at the time of its release, saying the city could be more "productive" by relying on well-sourced data, and SPD Chief Joseph Behl said more data will be "extremely eye-opening for the community."

However, advocacy groups, Springfield City Council members and *Illinois Times* have questioned why the transparency page doesn't include information about traffic stops by race, which has been a hot-button issue for SPD and other police departments nationwide. According to data from the Illinois Department of Transportation, 48.5% of Springfield drivers stopped in 2025 were Black, although Black people only represent around 17% of the city's population. Black drivers were five times more likely to be stopped by SPD than white drivers.

Behl said the traffic stop tab of SPD's transparency page is imported with a different management system than the data that SPD is legally required to submit to the IDOT for the state's annual Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Study. He also gave an example, to both City Council and *IT*, of a time he stopped someone for driving erratically but did not note the driver's race.

"(T)here was somebody upset with me that we don't put race on all these tabs. We don't put it on there because it's not available," Behl said during a Sept. 3 interview with *IT*.

"I made a traffic stop some time ago; when I made that stop, I ran a young lady('s information) over the radio – just checked to make sure her driver's license was valid. Never once was there a race discussed, so that traffic stop is logged but the race isn't there," Behl told the City Council Oct. 20.

Amanda Brown, director of communications for the city, responded to a series of inquiries *IT* emailed to Behl, SPD communications liaison Nikki Monari and other high-ranking SPD personnel over the course of two months that went unanswered. Behl also declined a face-to-face request for an interview by *Illinois Times*. Brown said Behl's example "appears to have been misunderstood."



Illinois Times compiled SPD's annual traffic stop reports for 2019 through 2025 and collated the data into a spreadsheet that can be accessed at illinoistimes.com. CREDIT: ADOBE STOCK PHOTO

She wrote: "Traffic stops are logged by Sangamon County Combined Dispatch dispatchers when officers call them out over the radio. When officers run an individual through law enforcement databases, the individual's race is not communicated to the dispatcher because it is not a required data point for that inquiry. The Illinois uniform traffic citation does not contain a demographic identity for race.

"Dispatch logs this information in the computer-aided dispatch system, which automatically populates into the records management system (RMS). Race data is not included in this process, as it is not a part of the uniform traffic citation… (t)he stop sheet is sent to IDOT as a part of the traffic study; it is not sent to the city's law enforcement databases and those data points are not logged into RMS."

Since 2004, police departments across the state have been legally required to submit information for the study that strictly delineates traffic stops by race, reason for stop, outcome of stop and any search procedures. One of the first paragraphs of state law governing these studies clearly states that whenever a police officer "issues a uniform traffic citation" or warning citation, the reporting officer will record "the name, address, gender and the officer's subjective determination of the race of the person stopped."

That means SPD is essentially submitting duplicate information to the state and to its own databases whenever an officer conducts a traffic stop, but less information is sent back to SPD.

Although SPD's transparency page now includes a link to the state's traffic study page, interested individuals would have to seek out a given police department's report from separate annual documents spanning thousands of pages.

Illinois Times compiled SPD's annual traffic stop reports for 2019 through 2025 and collated the data into a spreadsheet for anyone to peruse. It can be accessed at illinoistimes.com.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois notes traffic stop data is one way to assess policing in practice. The national ACLU has said traffic stops, especially "non-safety" related stops, result in more uses of force – particularly against Black people – and rarely turn up illegal contraband.

Ed Yohnka, director of communications and public policy for ACLU of Illinois, told *Illinois Times* that SPD should be posting as much information as it can about the types of traffic stops its officers make, especially if police officers want to gain trust among marginalized communities.

"Including the additional information about race and the reason for stops in the (transparency) dashboard would be instructive for local residents, especially residents who have expressed concern about racial bias in stops in Springfield for a number of years," Yohnka wrote. "But simply posting a web page is not enough. Community members deserve a dialogue with police – in Springfield and every community – about how police analyze data around enforcement strategies such as traffic stops. How are stops for minor infractions – for a light bulb that is out, for example – part of a strategy for public safety? How do police feel when they see disparities by race in the number of people stopped for traffic stops or asked for consent searches? These are issues deserving of a larger, public conversation where police can hear from the community – a conversation far more helpful than posting data on a website."

SPD officials have denied a pattern of racial bias in traffic stops, but last year agreed to implement some changes following discussions with representatives from the Springfield chapter of the ACLU. Officers are now required to document their reasons for requesting to search a car for contraband following a stop, and grant money was used to fund a new program that helps motorists fix safety equipment on their cars to help avoid stops for broken taillights or other minor issues.

An SPD general order stating quarterly audit data for traffic stops would be required to be posted on the department's public transparency page was later changed to omit that requirement and backdated to Sept. 2, the day prior to Behl's meeting with an *IT* reporter. The day after the meeting, *Illinois Times* emailed Behl and Monari asking about the general order contradicting Behl's statement.

The language in SPD's OPS-93 accountability section was then updated to remove the phrase "for release on the departments (sic) web-based transparency portal."

IT sent repeated follow-ups to Behl and spokespersons for SPD but has not received responses from any of those individuals since the Sept. 3 meeting.

At that time, Behl told *IT* that SPD did not produce quarterly written reports for traffic stop data but would do so if there was a concern to address.

"We don't have any files generated, necessarily. If there's an occurrence or an issue with something, we would generate a file. We've not had any of those," Behl said Sept. 3.

During staff meetings, "(w)hether it's some kind of equipment or program or software or hardware or whatever, they just give us a report back and it's just a verbal report, 'Hey, this is what's going on.' If there is an issue with it, then there would be pen to paper and then we'd be like, 'OK, yeah, well, we need to investigate that, figure out what's going on, are they using this appropriately, or are they not?'"

Illinois Times sent a Nov. 17 follow-up email asking why the change to the general order was made, why it was dated Sept. 2 and filed a Freedom of Information Act request seeking internal communications. □

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Sangamon County seeks more data centers

Recent Growth Alliance ad campaign sought to build public support for current, future projects

DATA CENTERS | **Scott Reeder**

The Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance spent about $200,000 on a three-month advertising campaign to build support for a proposed data center in southern Sangamon County and send a message to other developers that they're welcome here.

The campaign began in August and wrapped up in early November. It ran on television, streaming services and radio, as well as online, in print and on billboards. Ryan McCrady, the alliance's president and CEO, said private contributions covered the cost. He declined to identify which contributors paid for the campaign.

McCrady said the ads were meant to address what the SSGA saw as misinformation about the CyrusOne project, particularly about water consumption and electricity rates. He said digital metrics showed people saw the ads and that some residents told him the campaign changed how they viewed the project. The SSGA has yet to conduct local polling to measure whether public opinion shifted.

"It was important to get the accurate information out there to the public, so those people that had not made up their minds yet could make an informed decision," McCrady said.

Kathleen Campbell, a data center opponent and former head of the audiology program at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, said the SSGA should disclose who paid for the ads and document the claims it made. The SSGA receives funding from both public and private sources, and Campbell said its public support gives residents a stake in how it makes its case.

"I understand that industry might want to put out its side, but if so, it should be clearly stated who the funding source is and any conflicts of interest they have," Campbell said. She said she remains concerned about noise and air pollution and wants residents to see the evidence behind the campaign's assurances.

Water use is one example of an assurance. McCrady said CyrusOne plans to recirculate water in a closed-loop cooling system. CyrusOne estimates each building would use about 1,100 gallons a day on average, primarily for restrooms, basic operations and humidification. The company says the cooling system would require an initial fill and could need small amounts of replacement water periodically.



Ryan McCrady, president and CEO of the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance, said a recent ad campaign was meant to address what the SSGA saw as misinformation about the CyrusOne project, particularly about water consumption and electricity rates. FILE PHOTO

McCrady also said the Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative expects the project to help spread fixed costs across more electricity sales, potentially benefiting its members.

The Sangamon County Board voted 17-10, with one abstention, on April 7 to approve a conditional use permit for the CyrusOne campus on 280 acres of farmland in Talkington Township. Nearby residents sued in July, alleging procedural violations and raising environmental concerns. Circuit Judge Adam Giganti dismissed the lawsuit Nov. 6, finding the board had a rational basis for its decision, including the prospect of jobs, investment and tax revenue.

CyrusOne projects more than 500 construction jobs during development and more than 100 permanent jobs once the campus is operating. Aaron Gurnsey, president of the Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, said the construction work matters to local tradespeople who build careers by moving from one project to the next. He also expects the campus to provide maintenance work after construction ends. Gurnsey said the council is an SSGA member and paid its regular dues without making an additional contribution to the campaign.

SSGA Chair Ed Curtis, who confirmed that $200,000 was spent to promote data centers, said the campaign was also meant to show prospective employers that Sangamon County is open to more projects. McCrady said developers still call about the area, though he said interest has cooled as companies wait to see what rules Illinois might adopt. He said the SSGA has no additional data center projects in the pipeline.

County Board Chair Andy Van Meter said he knew of no new applications and that discussions about a data center at the site of Springfield's former Pillsbury plant had faded more than two years ago. He said the county would consider another proposal if the developer found a suitable site far enough from homes. □

District 186 to close, consolidate schools

Rolls out school consolidation plan in effort to reduce $14 million deficit

EDUCATION | Maria Gardner Lara

Springfield School District 186 Superintendent Dr. Terrance Jordan rolled out a school consolidation plan and closures for the next school year Nov. 17 as part of an effort to reduce the district's $14 million deficit.

Parents, teachers and staff at the schools that would be impacted by the plan were notified on Tuesday afternoon as the district seeks to build support and address concerns leading up to the District 186 Board's Dec. 7 meeting, where the district's total budget reduction proposal will be presented.

"The financial challenges facing the Springfield School District did not happen overnight, nor are they the result of a single decision," Jordan said in a prepared statement.

"Over the years and over time, declining enrollment, reduced revenue, rising operational costs, deteriorating facilities, and increasing needs of our students have contributed to where we are today. We cannot continue to spend more than we bring in."

The school consolidation plan would help reduce the debt by $8.2 million and involves the construction of a new school building on South 11th Street, near University of Illinois Springfield. Students from Laketown, Hazel Dell and Southern View elementary schools will transition to the new school. Once the new school is completed, the existing three elementary schools will be closed.

Jordan said the proposal to build a new school is part of the school's future plan that's been in development for nine years.

The cost of the new facility will be paid for with revenue from a 1% sales tax approved by Sangamon County voters in 2018 that can only be applied towards facilities and not operational expenses, he said.

"This is going to allow us to be more fiscally responsible because we're taking three small schools and creating one school where we can provide services for our students," Jordan said. "That's going to cut down on administrative costs. It's also going to cut down on our utilities and operational costs that's associated with running three buildings."

Feitshans Elementary School would be set to close in two years with more than 300 of its students moving to Wilcox, Matheny-Withrow and Ridgely Elementary schools.

McClernand and Harvard Park elementary schools will also be closed as part of the plan.

Students currently enrolled at McClernand, which is located in the Enos Park neighborhood, will be transferred to Enos, Jane Addams and Graham Elementary Schools. Harvard Park students will be transferred to Lincoln Elementary School, a new school to be located at 300 S. 11th St., which is now Lincoln Magnet School.



Laketown Elementary School, 1825 Lee St., will be closed along with Hazel Dell and Southern View elementary schools as part of District 186's school consolidation plan. A new school on South 11th Street, close to the University of Illinois Springfield, will be constructed to house the students from those three schools. CREDIT: HOMES.COM

Enos Park resident Elizabeth Wake said one of the reasons her family purchased their home on North Fifth Street was the proximity to McClernand Elementary School and she was eager to enroll her son into kindergarten there.

"We were very excited to walk him to and from school and really become a part of the neighborhood," Wake said.

But she said the loss of the school has larger implications than just her family.

"We're losing such a big chunk of what makes Enos Park a true community," Wake said.

Wake said her family will consider a private school instead, citing concerns that the consolidated plan will lead to more children in each classroom.

"What I'm going to look for are the smaller class sizes, the schools that can give more individualized attention – schools that are not completely overburdened and the teachers are not overworked…" she said.

"I understand the need for (more) money, but when is it right to risk childhood development and childhood education for a balanced budget?"

Wake said cuts ought to be made to administrative positions with larger salaries so that reductions aren't implemented at the expense of impacting class sizes and children's learning experience.

There will also be changes at the middle school level. Students attending Grant Middle School will be transferred to Franklin, Jefferson, and Washington Middle Schools.

"Grant Middle School will be repurposed as another middle school program model starting in the 27-28 school year," Jordan said in a recorded presentation.

The plan calls for the creation of a magnet school, which would be located at the Grant Middle School site at 1800 W. Monroe Ave. Students enrolled in gifted programs at Lincoln Magnet School, Iles Middle School and Franklin Middle School will be transferred to the new school.

"We are serving fewer students than we have in the past, but we are still operating many of the same buildings and maintaining the same infrastructure," he said. "We must take a serious look at how we use our facilities and resources to ensure they align with our current student population."

Other planned cuts will come from program reductions. The superintendent wouldn't say whether cuts to teachers, staff, and administrators were part of the plan.

The school district has been operating with a deficit budget for several years. The Illinois State Board of Education permits the school to operate with a deficit for up to three years.

"And so, we really don't have a choice but to have a balanced budget this year," Jordan said. "So that's why the cuts are so deep. This is the last year of a three-year deficit spending plan."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, school districts across the country received enormous amounts of federal funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), passed under the Biden administration. District 186 received more than $100 million, Jordan said, which brought opportunities, but also long-term challenges.

"We only had a few years to spend it," he said. "And as a result, we upscaled on some things and we invested on some new programs and new ideas, and we were not able to sustain that level of resources that came as a result of that additional funding."

The school district has been managing reductions in funding at the federal and state levels over the years, said Steven Miller, the director of business services for the school district.

The state is required to reimburse 80% of the district's transportation costs. Instead, Miller said, "They prorated that this year to 68% and 55% for special ed," affecting the budget by $3 million.

Miller said they've also received cuts in federal funding for Title 1, which supports economically disadvantaged students. "We're getting about $1 million to $2 million less in Title I money than we have in the past couple of years," he said.

The school district plans to post a list of upcoming public events to allow people to share their thoughts on the proposals.

Jordan said the plan was created with district level staff. School board members were informed of the plan individually.

"When you're making these kinds of decisions, we don't want to create any kind of alarm to our staff and our students until we have a plan," he said. "So, it was important that we kept it close to district level staff."

Jordan said he understands that families and communities may find the plan difficult to accept.

"It's going to have an impact and we understand that, but we also understand that we must do this in order to ensure the success of Springfield School District 186." □

Springfield won't host second season of WPBL

Fantasy camp featuring league's top players will be held in Springfield in May

SPORTS | Adrian Dater

By all accounts, Springfield did a good job of being the host city of the inaugural season of the Women's Professional Baseball League. Games in the seven-week season, for the most part, were well-attended and there was a good relationship between players and fans, some of whom came from all parts of the globe to see the pioneering league.

But Springfield will not be the host city for season two of the league, multiple sources tell *Illinois Times*.

While there has been nothing official yet from the WPBL regarding where it will play games next season, the league is close to an announcing a different city, one that is larger and closer to a major airport, according to a top industry source.

Even though most players lived in a Springfield hotel for the summer, the lack of a major airport was one drawback to the league continuing in Springfield, the source said. League officials and other employees who might come and go – along with out-of-town fans and parents and relatives of players – most of the time had to go to airports in St. Louis or Chicago.

Still, players and managers all had kind words for Springfield as the first host city, and the league posted some impressive first-year numbers. The league website said it sold 57,794 tickets to the 15 regular-season and eight playoff games and, to date, $1.8 million in merchandise.

The WPBL is not completely through with Springfield just yet. A WPBL fantasy camp, featuring some of the league's top players, will be held in Springfield in May, one source said. "A Camp of Our Own" is scheduled for May 13-16 at Robin Roberts Stadium.



The Los Angeles Queens won the inaugural WPBL championship by defeating the San Francisco Firebells 3-2 in the best-of-five series held at Robin Roberts Stadium. The final game was Sept. 23. CREDIT: PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

At its inception, league officials also talked about a developmental league that would be based in Springfield beyond the first season, though whether that will happen still remains unclear.

At present, the league still only consists of four teams – from Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York. Yet no WPBL games were played in those cities the first season, as all games were played at Robin Roberts Stadium. The Los Angeles Queens won the first WPBL championship. But, thanks to a reasonably strong first season, and a contract with ESPN to broadcast games, the league hopes to expand.

WPBL commissioner Justine Siegal has said the league hopes and expects to play in its respective cities, but a more centralized approach, like the model that involved Springfield, was a smarter way, financially, to start the league. In a recent talk with *The IX*, Siegal said a season two, which was never a given when the league started, is now a sure thing.

One player, in fact – Ashton Lansdell of Los Angeles – recently signed a new contract for season two.

"Our goal was to get the first season, and we've done that successfully. And I see the second season being run a bit differently, incorporating lessons learned," Siegal told the publication. "Our goal is to franchise. But we have to first build a solid league, and then we can franchise, and then my role as commissioner changes into… I just imagine (MLB) Commissioner (Rob) Manfred like 100 times scaled down. … We'll become a franchise-based league. That is definitely where we're headed."

Messages from the *IT* to the WPBL were not immediately returned.

Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau director Scott Dahl told *IT* his office had yet to hear anything official from the WPBL, but said no matter what happens, the city will have fond memories of being its first host city.

"I think it gave the city something unique, and I think a lot of people had a great experience seeing a new league featuring the best women baseball players in the world, right here," Dahl said. □



LETTERS

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

NO COMPETITION

Everyone is for the "free market" until you start cutting into big pharma's pockets (or any other major industry ("Feds, state restrict sales of hemp products," Nov. 8).
Leighton Morrissey
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

STATE WANTS MONEY

If they just had a billion dollars, they could get a state license.
David Allen
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

DISINGENUOUS

I was all for hemp when the farmers said they were going to plant it for fiber and oil and not for intoxicants, because pot already owns that space. And generations of cops thinking that hemp and pot are the same were a problem.

I was for it when it was not meant to be an intoxicating crop and just medicinal. But I feel like the industry here has lied and it was about Delta-9 all the time. If that's going to be the way it goes, then it should be taxed and regulated just like pot.
Mark Suszko
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

NEED BETTER TECHNOLOGY

The truth is that the city of Springfield has an information technology deficit ("City council member calls for transparency," Oct. 26). This is not the current administration's fault, as it goes back to years and years of underinvestment. As such, it's hard to keep up on transparency goals because we're still doing things on paper and scanning them in and so on.

City government needs to go through Lean Six Sigma and modernize a lot of its processes. This costs money upfront, but will save taxpayers in the long run. I encourage anyone in city government or running for office in city government to lean in heavily to this, because it will pay dividends in the future – fewer FOIA requests (therefore less staff time), more transparency and less aggravation. We'll be a better city for it.
Steven Simpson-Black
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

NOT A MISTAKE

I believe Tiara Standage also called the city clerk's office and was assured that she was on the speakers' list, so it was more than just an IT error.

You would think that the mayor's office would know that excluding a well-known activist who had publicly called for people to attend and speak at this meeting would start a firestorm. Mayor Misty Buscher absolutely did not have to adjourn before seeing both speakers' proof of registration. She could have used her judgment to go ahead and allow them to speak. Instead, she used her power to try to silence them. Springfield deserves better.
Megan Holt Swanson
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

MAKES IT WORSE

The cover-up almost always has worse consequences than the deed.
Marie Carnes
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

CONGRATS, STUDENTS

What an amazing evening listening to each student read their essay, all of which were so unique and captivating ("This I Believe," Nov. 5). Congratulations to them all, well-deserved.
Lisa Whitten
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes



Prairie State Hemp in downtown Springfield closed Nov. 11, the day before new state laws for consumable hemp-derived products took effect. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

BRINGS HOPE

I write to congratulate the Illinois Innocence Project for its 25 years of steadfast activism focused on freeing wrongly convicted men and women in Illinois. To date, the IIP has brought freedom to 34 wrongly convicted citizens, some who were behind bars more than 30 years as they sought redress from a criminal justice system determined to erase their lives.

There are many heroes in the Innocence Project, but the ones we need to remember are those still waiting for freedom and for the ones waiting for justice. The clock is ticking for them. Nevertheless, the IIP deserves our deepest respect, encouragement and support for believing in those whose options are all but lost, and for bringing hope inside our prison walls.
William Furry
Petersburg

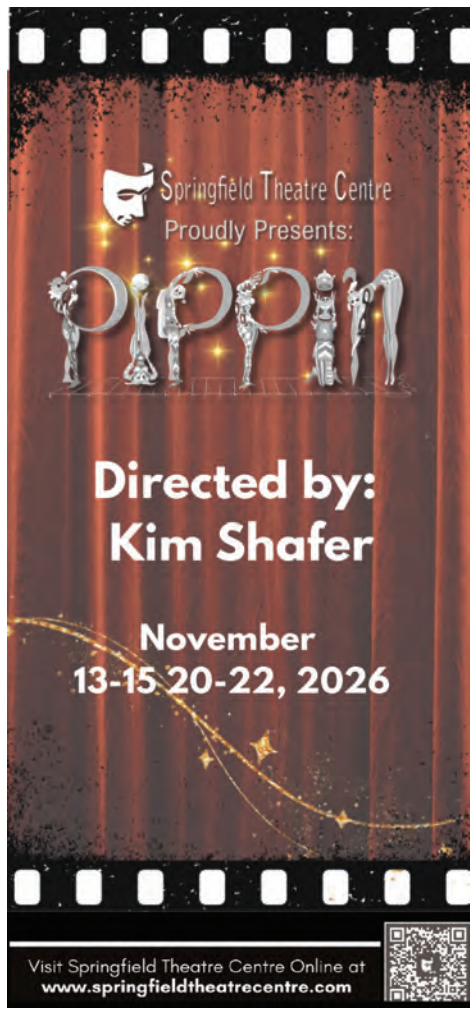
Potato Eyes

As a little kid I sat beside our oldest hired man
in the sunshine of the open loft door
while he cut up potatoes from a large bin.
"Each potato has to have an eye," he said,
showing me the black spot. "Then when it's planted,
a potato plant will grow from that eye."
I was too young to question potatoes and eyes,
nor to be aware of the Vachel Lindsay poem
about potato eyes, though I think Lindsay
gives all the press to the sweet potato,
who has no eyes at all.

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OPINION

Chicago suburbs vote overwhelmingly blue

POLITICS | Rich Miller

You may recall that after the March primary I took a look at the results and made the obvious conclusion that the Chicago suburbs were trending ever harder toward the Democrats.

"Legislative Republicans are right to be afraid of another suburban wipeout," I concluded at the time.

Turns out, I underestimated the breadth of the wipeout.

I didn't bother to look at McHenry County's primary results back then. That was a mistake. JB Pritzker became the first Democratic gubernatorial candidate to win McHenry County since 1852. Yes, 174 years ago.

Indeed, the entire statewide Democratic ticket carried McHenry this month. Pritzker and U.S. Senate candidate Juliana Stratton won by 11 points, and the rest of the ticket won by anywhere between nine and 18 points (Alexi Giannoulias, who lost the county four years ago by three points).

Two years ago, Republican Rep. Marty McLaughlin defeated Maria Peterson by four points in McHenry, and then lost to Peterson this month in the county by more than 10 points. Four years ago, Democrat Allena Barbato lost the 32nd Senate District McHenry precincts to Sen. Craig Wilcox by 12 points. This year, she defeated the Republican incumbent in the same precincts by six points. Both Democrats went on to win their races.

This was all pretty predictable had I looked at the primary totals. Democratic primary votes for governor were up by about 60 percent this year in McHenry County compared to four years ago, while Republican gubernatorial primary totals dropped by 48 percent or so.

And unless you've been hiding under a rock, you know that formula roughly predicted the rest of the suburban vote this month.

In DuPage County, the number of Republicans casting primary ballots for governor fell about 33 percent compared to four years ago. Pritzker is winning that former Republican bastion by almost two-to-one (63-33). He won DuPage four years ago by 15 points (56-41).

As recently as 2018, DuPage was still a swing county. No more.

In Lake County this November, not a single statewide Democrat took fewer than 66 percent of the vote. Earlier this year, Republican primary gubernatorial turnout collapsed by more than 48 percent compared to four years ago, while Democratic turnout rose by more than 27 percent. Back in 2014, the county voted for as many statewide Republicans as Democrats.

Throughout the suburbs, Democratic primary election gubernatorial votes rose by whopping amounts, and that predicted a corresponding but smaller increase in the Democratic general election vote.

President Donald Trump decided a while ago to deliberately nationalize the politics of this off-year election and forcefully turn the attention on himself and his proclaimed accomplishments. He even said multiple times that people should vote as if he was actually on the ballot himself.

Trump had hoped to do all this to motivate his base and attempt to stir up its turnout to near presidential election levels and overcome the usual lean toward non-presidential party candidates in off-years.

That obviously backfired.

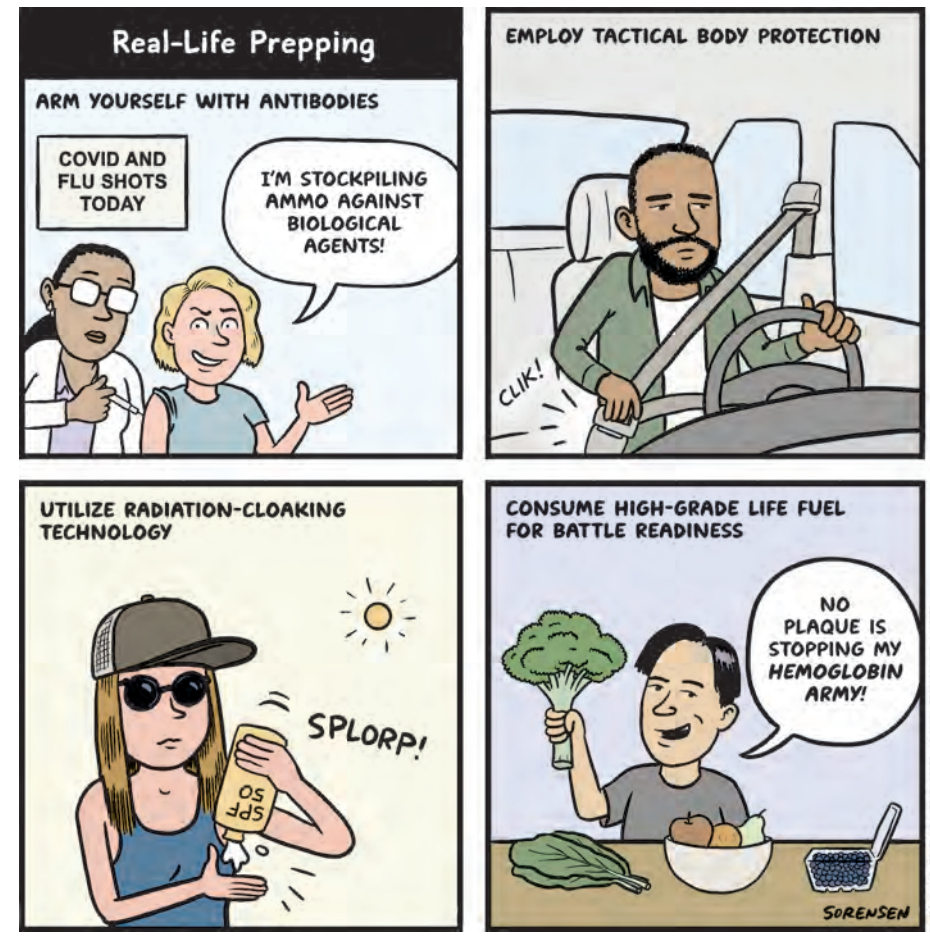
All Democratic legislative candidates involved in hard-fought campaigns lashed together PTrump and their Republican opponents, with an occasional dash of Jeffrey Epstein thrown in for good measure. It didn't matter if Republicans had no direct ties to Trump or Epstein, they're Republicans and that's more than enough for their purposes. And it worked. Both chambers have picked up several seats.

Off-year elections have regularly been nationalized over the years. I covered my first such election in 1994, when Republicans won races in downstate and southern Illinois that nobody thought they'd ever win.

The truth is there's very little that the party under fire can do in elections like that. So, all the hindsight now of raising more money, and changing some Republican rhetoric here and there, and recruiting better candidates and strengthening the state party really wouldn't have worked. Several strong Republican incumbents lost this year and raised enough money to compete. It was the voters that did it.

It may sting to hear this for some, but what hurts the Republican Party the most is Republicans themselves. They nominated Darren Bailey, who was wiped out by 22 points, and they supported Trump (or refused to criticize him), who dragged everyone else down with his historically awful approval ratings.

I do not see how the Republicans stand a snowball's chance in Hades of winning consistently in this state until Republicans themselves decide to move on from this era. Illinois Democrats could get away with losing the south as long as they firmed up the suburbs. Republicans are stuck now as mainly a regional party. □



A sharing of sound

Springfield's bells

KROHE | James Krohe Jr.

Bells once were the sweet voices in the uncomposed music that accompanied ordinary city life. In Springfield even modest churches were built with steeples and bells. Firetrucks and firehouses had bells. Streetcars had bells. Railroad locomotives had bells; I recall in particular the languorous clanging one heard when freight cars were shuttled through railyards or when the "Abraham Lincoln" rolled up to the GM&O station on Third Street.

Bells of all kinds would ring when the boys marched off to war and again when a war was over, as happened in 1918 in the middle of the night when news came of the end of World War I. A town's bells also sounded laments; all the church and fire bells in Springfield were rung simultaneously in an extended death knell on the morning of April 15, 1865, when news was received that President Lincoln was dead. These days the city might send out a text alert. You don't have to be a nostalgist to think that something has been lost. Sad to say, bells are heard less and less now that smartphones can do what bells used to. The only communal sounds we have left are made by the tornado sirens and internal combustion engines.

A bell is the voice of God, it is said. Certainly, of all the ways that God is imagined to speak to people, church bells are the most agreeable. Church bells are made of bronze, which returns a musical tone when struck, while cheaper farm and school bells were made of iron. A bronze bell is a song, an iron bell a shout.

Critic and biographer Carl Van Doren once recalled growing up in the settlement called Hope in Champaign County where his family church "stood up in our lives as visible as the steeple, as audible as the bell across the prairie." Years later, when he was a respected literary sage, Van Doren told a young poet that her poems were like bronze bells; she was delighted by the comparison, as she should have been.

Hearing ringing bells in the open air in a crowded city is a communal experience. The late Dick Hart once recalled for me the sounds of the Angelus being rung at the old chapel of the Sacred Heart convent. "A sharing of sound," he said. "Always gave me pause and a sense of peace."

These days I live one block from the local Roman Catholic cathedral church and three blocks from the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul the Apostle, the local Anglican Catholic cathedral. The bells of each church chime each quarter-hour and strike the hour, with the result that I am serenaded eight times every 60 minutes, a pleasure that is diminished only because I am thus reminded that another hour has passed and my column isn't finished.

These churches are close enough that the bells of each can be heard from the other. The Anglican church sounds its bells (or convincing electronic bell imitators; to the non-connoisseur there is no difference) a minute before each hour and quarter hour. The Roman church – characteristically behind the time – sounds its more full-throated bells a minute after the clock. That way neither church crowds out the sounds of the other. I like to think this is not providential but is the result of a civilized ecumenical accommodation.

Unless my ears deceive me, the four-note melody with which churches signal the quarter hours is the same tune ("The Westminster Quarters") that sounds in London at the Palace of Westminster. It was composed in 1793 in Cambridge and hearing it is a nice reminder that Springfield is part of a much bigger world.

In the early U.S., bells also hung in statehouses (which are, along with courthouses, the churches of our shared secular faith) and were used to summon lawmakers to their duties and to alert citizens to public meetings. Alas, the two Illinois statehouses in Springfield were outfitted not with bell towers but domes. There is a big bell at the current Statehouse nonetheless – a replica Liberty Bell (crack and all) on the east lawn that was donated in the 1950s to promote the sale of government bonds. It has the pedigree of a proper musical bell, having been cast by the famous Paccard bell foundry in France, but it has no clapper since it wasn't built for ringing.

I long dismissed our imitation Liberty Bell as patriotic kitsch, but I see it differently today. Most Americans mistakenly believe that the original of the bell in Philadelphia rang out for freedom from Britain but it was made famous later by abolition societies that adopted it as a symbol. Today, when so many of us are still slaves to ignorance, to fear and to greed, a cracked liberty bell that can't be rung resonates with new meaning. □

An IT *contributor since 1975, James Krohe recalls when his school teachers used handbells to alert pupils to the start of class but that was not the bells' fault.*





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Animal Control under attack

Alderman criticizes contract, service from Sangamon County Animal Control

ANIMAL WELFARE | Dean Olsen

Springfield isn't getting its money's worth from the city's contract with Sangamon County for animal control services, especially when it comes to a lack of timely responses to complaints about stray and vicious dogs and a proliferation of groundhogs, according to Ward 3 Ald. Roy Williams Jr.

"There are tons of citizens who will tell you about the bad service," Williams told *Illinois Times* in advance of an hour-long public hearing on the topic scheduled for 5 p.m. Nov. 30 in Lincoln Library's Carnegie Room North. "I want to know what Animal Control does. What are we paying for?

"The enforcement piece is missing," Williams said. "When people let their dogs loose at night or let them roam … rarely is there a penalty. … They just take too long to come."

Williams' ward, which covers parts of the city's east and north sides, accounted for 25% of the more than 2,400 annual calls for service – the largest share of any ward, during the city fiscal year ending in February. Ward 3 was followed by Ward 2, which accounted for almost 22%.

Williams' criticisms of the Sangamon County Animal Control & Adoption Center during weekly council meetings and media interviews in recent months and years drew rebukes from county officials who said they have a cooperative relationship with most other representatives of the city.

"He doesn't know what he's talking about," said John Ridley, director of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health, who oversees the Animal Control center.

The frequency and broad swath of his critiques of Animal Control make Williams unique among Springfield City Council members.

Ridley said, "He just shoots from the hip and gets people all riled up for nothing."

The center's operations aren't perfect, Ridley said. "But we don't need to take these criticisms that are unfounded – that make us look like we're not doing our job – because they're the ones that have the microphone every Tuesday night, not us," he said.

Jeanne Keenan, the center's director of operations, agreed and said unfounded and broad accusations "demoralize our animal control officers, because they watch the City Council meetings. … It's not helpful."

Ridley added that the county doesn't have the resources or the staff to trap and remove groundhogs, raccoons, opossums and other wildlife in people's yards. And he disputed statements by Williams and Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory that the east side is "infested" with groundhogs and that there are more groundhogs in Springfield neighborhoods than in the past.



John Ridley, director of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health, and Jeanne Keenan, director of operations for the county's Animal Control & Adoption Center, are pictured standing outside the center at 2100 Shale St. in Springfield. They defended the center amid allegations of poor service from Springfield Ward 3 Ald. Roy Williams Jr. PHOTO BY DEAN OLSEN.

Gregory said at a council meeting in October that groundhogs "are really, really starting to take over our city, just like cats and dogs."

And Ridley said that contrary to Williams' statements, Animal Control officers aren't avoiding seizing stray or aggressive dogs for fear of further overloading the animal shelter, which is often near capacity or full.

Ridley also contradicted Williams' statement that the shelter has a "no-kill" policy.

The shelter has space to house 95 dogs and 80 or more cats and can handle more when abandoned litters of puppies or kittens are dumped on the sides of roads or found in houses. The shelter admits about 4,600 animals per year and tries to arrange for adoptions of as many as possible, Ridley said, adding that the euthanasia rate is 9%.

Council to discuss payments, contract

What Williams described as years of his constituents voicing dissatisfaction with enforcement of the city's animal control enforcement laws is intensifying ahead of the informational session by city and county officials and the expected renewal of the city's animal control contract with the county.

The increased tension also comes as the City Council and mayoral election approaches on April 6 and as the county, which bills for services after they have been provided, requests a $615,000 payment for services rendered from March 1, 2025, through Feb. 28, 2026.

The reimbursement requested would be a more than $76,000 increase – 14% more – compared with the previous year's payment. The increase, Ridley said, was related to "an increase in calls and all associated activities with those calls."

If approved in the weeks following the Nov. 30 info session, county officials hope to kick off a new payment system in which the city is billed quarterly rather than annually.

Ridley, who has directed the health department for three years, and Keenan, who has led Animal Control for almost four years, refuted Williams' claims of slow responses and lax enforcement, though Williams said individual complaints shouldn't be minimized and Ridley agreed.

Information from the county that Ridley said was presented to the City Council earlier this year for calls in 2025 showed an average response time of 38 minutes to respond to reports of stray dogs or cats – the most common complaint. The response time represents the time from when the call was received to when an Animal Control officer is on the way to the scene.

Other commonly reported calls and their average response times included about two hours for a complaint related to negligent care of an animal and an hour and 12 minutes for a dead racoon or other type of wildlife.

The city of Springfield represents 95% of all of the calls handled by Animal Control officers, whose duties include enforcement of city ordinances dealing with animals, Ridley said.

Williams said the complaints he receives from constituents indicate improvements are needed, regardless of the data on call responses.

County versus city control

Operations of the Animal Control center at 2100 Shale St. in Springfield, which includes five enforcement officers, total about $2 million in spending each year. That's a relatively small amount for a county government with a $206 million annual budget.

But Ridley said he spends a lot of time focused on the 18-employee center because of the importance of animal welfare to county residents and because the county's response to vicious and stray animals is more tangible than many functions of county government.

Indeed, pets can be as common, or more common, than children in homes.

Thirty-nine percent of American households include a child younger than 18, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That compares with 43.7% of U.S. households with a dog and 34.1% with a cat, according to the American Veterinary Medical Foundation.

Williams, who worries that the county is taking over too many services in Springfield that used to be the responsibility of city government, has suggested that the city consider hiring its own animal control officers so city residents receive more attention.

The city eliminated its animal control unit in 2000. A November 2000 story in *The State Journal-Register* quoted a city official at the time as saying the decision to pay the county to handle that job was to "eliminate confusion and save money."

That was about the time Sangamon County moved into what was then a new animal shelter on Shale Street to replace a 25-year-old building at 2801 N. Fifth St., near the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

The city and county in 2006 agreed to merge the city and county health departments into a single entity operated by the county.

Partly in response to Williams' criticisms, the city in November 2025 issued a request for bids for animal control and shelter services but received no proposals.

"The city is always open to exploring available options to ensure we are providing the best possible services at the lowest cost for the taxpayers," city spokesperson Amanda Brown said.

Williams said he wonders whether the political challenges of starting up such a service for the city have intimidated other organizations.

Williams, a Democrat on the officially nonpartisan City Council, said Buscher, a Republican in the officially nonpartisan position, isn't aggressive enough in holding the county accountable on animal control services because of the Republican Party's control of all countywide elected offices and the County Board.

"In the meantime, our people suffer," Williams said at the Oct. 20 City Council meeting. He told Buscher, "Your friends get to keep the contract and make the money and provide no service."

Williams also said, in an interview with *Illinois Times*, "This goes across race. This goes across party lines. In my ward, they don't feel like they have any service anyway."



Ward 3 Ald. Roy Williams Jr., shown in his office next door to his home on Springfield's east side, says he and his constituents have been dissatisfied with the Sangamon County Animal Control Center's response to complaints about stray and vicious dogs and wildlife such as groundhogs. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS.

Buscher told *IT* that she isn't overlooking any problems at Animal Control because of politics. She noted that Williams was "having a fit" about Animal Control when her predecessor, Democrat Jim Langfelder, was mayor.

"Personally, I believe Ald. Williams makes everything political and not about policy," Buscher said. "It isn't about me or a political party; it's about services and community. And that's really how I operate as a mayor."

Buscher said the county's animal control center is "doing very well. Those of us that provide services to the constituents have a limited amount of money. … I believe that they're working within their budget and they're doing everything they can to serve the constituents of not just Springfield but Sangamon County."

Buscher said she believes that Springfield would have to spend more to start up its own animal control services than what the city currently pays the county for animal control.

"I have not had a giant issue with their services," she said. "I can understand if a constituent felt something took too long or wasn't happy with the services. That does happen when you're a public servant. Everything isn't perfect all the time, unfortunately."

Leland Grove resident Jill Egizii, the volunteer president of Springfield-based WILD Canine Rescue, a foster-based rescue organization focusing on dogs, defended Animal Control's operations under Keenan.

Egizii said it's a vast improvement since the county's firing of Greg Largent as Animal Control director in 2022 following an internal review of operations and social-media allegations of mistreatment of animals.

The State Journal-Register reported that Gail O'Neill, the county health department's director at the time, cited Largent's inability to lead a unionized workforce as a factor in his dismissal. O'Neill said an investigation by Illinois State Police and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation failed to find evidence of animal abuse or neglect.

Egizii said Keenan, who previously was an environmental health support supervisor in the county health department, is "doing a really, really good job over there."

Before Keenan took charge, Egizii said, "The responses were slow, if any. There was no direction or leadership there."

Keenan has reinvigorated the ranks of volunteers who work with animals at the shelter. And as for the current level of enforcement, Egizii said, "Can they get to every call right away? You're covering a very large area. … I think they're really, really trying hard."

Egizii, a former board member for the Friends of Sangamon County Animal Control, said Animal Control officers are doing "the best job they can possibly do" when so many people are abandoning former pets because of the increasing costs of care and a proliferation of backyard breeders in Springfield that result in many unwanted animals.

Regarding Williams' critiques of the center's operations, Egizii said, "Roy likes to create drama."

Addressing underlying issues

Keenan said the best way to reduce the city's animal control contract cost is to work with the county to reduce the number of animal intakes. That can happen, she said, by promoting spay and neutering of pets, reducing backyard breeding and promoting responsible pet ownership – all challenging tasks.

Ridley said he and Keenan would like to see the city adopt the ordinance proposed by Ward 8 Ald. Erin Conley in 2024 to give the city official information about the number of backyard breeders of animals, mainly dogs.

Conley, who said she dropped her proposal because of lack of interest among her fellow council members at the time, told *IT* more recently that she is interested in reviving the discussion before her term as a council member is up in the spring.

Her original proposal called for a $100-per-year registration fee for breeders of one or more animals, though she said she would be willing to reduce or eliminate the fee. Breeders violating the ordinance could be cited and face potential fines of $100 to $500.

Former County Board member Marc Ayers, Illinois state director for Humane World for Animals, has endorsed the concept to put backyard breeders "on notice" that there is some oversight and pave the way for future regulations and educational efforts to encourage responsible conduct.

The Animal Control center is "crawling out of a hole financially," Ridley said.

It used to operate with a deficit of $1 million, requiring county government to cover 50% of the center's costs not funded by fines and fees such as animal licenses, he said.

Ridley said the deficit has been reduced by half in the past three years, in part through better follow-through by Animal Control, working with Springfield police and the Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office, to

collect fines.

Other cost-control efforts have helped, as well, he said, allowing Animal Control to budget for a potential sixth animal control officer in the county fiscal year that begins Dec. 1.

Ridley said Williams hasn't taken Ridley up on his offer to visit the shelter and discuss the alderman's concerns one by one. Williams said he doesn't like Ridley's attitude and considers Ridley a promoter of his own resume.

Residents speak out

Williams said his own constituents' complaints can't be denied.

* Celinda Hearn, 71, who lives on Williams' block, said she called Animal Control several times this year to complain that a neighbor was letting his pit bull run in the neighborhood and she was concerned for her safety.

Hearn, a retired state worker, said Animal Control officers came to the neighborhood in response to her calls. But each time, she said, they told her that they decided not to fine the dog owner and give him another chance and not seize the dog.

Hearn said she called Animal Control later and was told pit bulls weren't being picked up because the shelter was overcrowded. The dog owner and his dog later moved after a fire damaged their house.

Hearn also said she was frustrated that Animal Control wouldn't help her trap a groundhog on her property. "I don't feel like we're getting the help that we need," she said.

* Ernest Coleman, 65, a Ward 3 resident and retired Sangamon Mass Transit District driver, said he, too, would like Animal Control to trap and remove groundhogs. He said he and his 81-year-old mother, who lives nearby, are having problems with groundhogs digging up their yards and can't afford to hire exterminators.

* James Chappell, 81, a retired state worker who lives on 25th Street, said Animal Control officers used to trap and remove the feral cats, opossums, raccoons and other small animals attracted by a next-door neighbor who leaves out cat food for the cats.

Chappell said he would like Animal Control to resume trapping and removal of these animals. "It's really a nuisance," he said.

* Angelle Phelan, 25, of the 1200 block of West Ash Street, lives in Ward 8. She said she has complained several times to Animal Control about a neighbor who has two roosters, along with numerous chicken and geese. She said Springfield police have cited the neighbor for violating the city's noise ordinance because of the roosters crowing and she wants Animal Control to cite the neighbor for owning roosters within city limits. However, current city ordinance does not address the issue.

When informed of the complaints, Ridley said he will reach out to the residents individually to resolve their concerns.

"Most of the discussion between those four people relate to dealing with wildlife," he said. "We do not trap wildlife for individuals. There are circumstances where we will assist with wildlife calls, for example, a bat in a house. If there is wildlife in a living area of a dwelling, we will assist with that. But we will not go into attics or crawl spaces to trap animals.

"I plan on completely covering the topic of wildlife in the Nov. 30 public presentation."

Williams said he will examine the new contract with Animal Control that Buscher presents in the coming weeks and may propose amendments to improve services in his ward.

"I want them to do better," he said. □

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

APL finds a temporary home

Move to vacant building on Springfield's north side expected in February or March

By late February or early March, the Animal Protective League plans to move all of its operations, including a "no-kill" shelter for cats and dogs, to the site of a vacant building on Springfield's north side.

The Springfield nonprofit, which sustained $1.2 million in tornado-related damages to its former headquarters near the Illinois State Fairgrounds in June, will temporarily rent the 12,500-square-foot building at 925 E. Ridgely Ave., according to APL Executive Director Deana Corbin.

"It is very good news," Corbin told *Illinois Times* on Nov. 17. "It will be big enough for the whole team."

The one-story structure at one time housed an Illinois Department of Public Health vital records office.

Minor renovations are planned for the building before the APL moves in, and Corbin said the organization will purchase two temporary buildings to be put up on the site to operate as a makeshift shelter for dogs. A few dogs and all cats in APL's care will be housed in the main building, she said.

In coming days, the APL plans to temporarily move its spay and neuter clinic from temporary space at the Sangamon County Animal Control Center to rented space at the privately owned Williamsville Veterinary Clinic, 513 W. Main St., Williamsville.

The spay and neuter clinic later will move to the Ridgely Avenue site, Corbin said.



This 12,500-square-foot vacant former office building at 925 E. Ridgely Ave. in Springfield is expected to become the Animal Protective League's temporary home in February or March after a tornado destroyed APL headquarters near the Illinois State Fairgrounds on June 10. CREDIT: MICHELLE OWNBEY

The APL's ability to reopen its limited-admission animal shelter is expected to take some pressure off the Sangamon County Animal Control Center, which has cared for additional animals that otherwise would have been referred to APL for future adoptions.

The cost of renting and renovating the Ridgely Avenue building, and the purchase of the temporary buildings, may be covered by insurance related to the tornado damage, Corbin said.

She said the APL is preparing for a future capital campaign in which it would raise money for a permanent new home for the organization, she said.

APL officials haven't decided yet on that location, but Corbin said it will be somewhere in Sangamon County and not necessarily on the land APL owns that housed its former headquarters on Taintor Road.

Details of that campaign haven't been announced yet but could be released early next year, Corbin said.

The APL had considered acquiring and erecting temporary buildings to house all of its operations at the Taintor Road location. But in the end, Corbin said the APL decided that option would have required 18 temporary buildings and cost more than the organization wanted to spend.

The APL's two main buildings on Taintor Road, one for offices and the cat and dog shelter, and the other building for spay and neuter procedures, were destroyed by the EF1 tornado. Remnants of those buildings were torn down in recent days, with the cost covered by insurance, Corbin said.

No people were present when the tornado moved across the property, and 155 animals that were in cages and free-roaming rooms at the site in unincorporated Sangamon County were evacuated without any serious injuries reported.

The APL had occupied the Taintor Road site since 1997.

Since the tornado hit, the 70-year-old nonprofit's 42 full- and part-time staff members have worked out of other areas at the site, their homes and elsewhere in the community.

Animal adoptions overseen by APL have continued, and animals in APL's care have been housed in foster homes and in space controlled by the Sangamon County Office of Emergency Management.

APL, a $2.5 million-a-year operation, accepted referrals from the county-operated shelter and other animal-welfare agencies within a 90-mile radius.

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



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Springfield Theatre Centre's *Pippin*

THEATER | Mary Young

The musical *Pippin* has been known and loved for its Fosse influence and wonderful score by the multi-award-winning composer Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell, Prince of Egypt, Wicked*) since it burst on the scene in 1972. A dark, comedic, coming-of-age story, it follows the path of Pippin, the naive prince and son of fabled Emperor Charlemagne, who's on a quest to find his own corner of the sky.

A 2013 revival set the action in a circus, complete with high flying acrobats and even had an impressive number featuring a trapeze artist. This production takes a different thematic route, although it does contain a nerve-wracking "tightrope" walk.

Directed by Kim Shafer, Springfield Theatre Centre's *Pippin* is set in a vintage movie palace, complete with art deco proscenium, racing spotlights and old time, pre-show reels that greet the audience upon entering the modern Hoogland venue.

"The story still remains one worth telling, so we have stripped it down and framed it as a film in progress. This is a different take on *Pippin* visually, but the interpretation leaves the script and score intact, meaning that the overall message of the show, the author's intent, is still there," Shafer said. "It's our hope that from the moment you walk into the theater, you feel enveloped in a true Hollywood movie house experience."

The concept of the musical is a story-within-a-story told by a mysterious theatrical troupe fronted by their guileful Leading Player (Liyah Orielle). They perform the events of Pippin's young life, often breaking the fourth wall and stepping into and out of a multitude of characters. The patchwork plot follows Pippin's search for his purpose in life amidst of myriad of distractions, disappointments and temptations along the way. So, he's basically all of us.

Recent college graduate Pippin (Elijah Sadler) returns home to his father, King Charles (J.B. George), and reunites with his scheming and seductive stepmother, Fastrada (Cynthia Higginson), and her daft but favored son, Lewis (Aiden Garland-Sutter). The King and Lewis are off to fight the Visigoths and Pippin, hoping to prove himself in war, begs to come along.



Elijiah Sadler and Liyah Orielle in *Pippin* CREDIT: CE NOEL PHOTOGRAPHY

After a violent and victorious battle, a disillusioned Pippin discusses the futility of war with the head of a deceased enemy soldier. After coming to the conclusion that war is not the answer, he sets off on a quest.

Along the way he encounters his exiled and carefree grandmother, Bertha (Laurie McCoy), now a lounge singer is a swanky night club. In one of the more joyful scenes in the show, she tells Pippin to stop worrying about the future and enjoy the present. He attempts this in various ways, which only leads to further despondency until grieving widow Catherine (Kinsey Peotter) and her young son, Theo (the talented Wyatt Vespa), enter his life.

Ultimately, *Pippin* is an existential allegory about a man caught in a loop of seeking fulfillment in excitement only to find it in what he considered mundane – genuine human connection.

There were several things I enjoyed about this production but there were also frustrations. First and foremost, there are some wonderful vocals all throughout and many of the musical numbers soar, breathing life into Schwartz's vibrant score. The orchestra and sound were in great shape opening night and many songs are still spinning in my head. Fitting costumes and stylized choreography also added nice touches.

As Leading Player, Liyah Orielle is magnificent. The ability to immediately captivate an audience is clearly part of her DNA. There's not a wasted movement or unintentional thought and she excels, even when working through some faltering tech.

Elijah Sadler is a convincingly despondent Pippin, brimming with ennui while seeking to cure his deep sense of purposelessness. Sadler was particularly drawn to the character's "growth over the course of the story. (Pippin) is reluctant to change but it makes it more impactful when he does." he said.

There are many moments when the performers and the show shine – except for when they are left in the dark.

I heard grumbling among audience members about the lighting, and I was confounded as well. Wandering spotlights and near-complete darkness marred parts of several scenes. It was also concerning at times to watch performers either traverse the pit wall or move through the house where visibility was low.

I'm sympathetic to technical glitches, especially when a programmed light board might go awry, and deeply supportive of the volunteers who step up to the huge task of designing and running tech. Regardless of the cause here, I hope these issues are remedied so the cast gets the visibility they deserve. □

Pippin *continues Nov. 20-22 at the Hoogland Center for the Art's LRS Theatre. For tickets, visit https://www.hcfta.org/tickets or call 217-523-ARTS.*









SCIL
EMPOWERING INDEPENDENCE

MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT IS HERE AGAIN!

Thursday, October 15, 2026 through Monday, December 7, 2026

Who does this affect?

Anyone with a Medicare (red, white, and blue) card and who does not already have a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, or who has a Part D prescription drug plan or a Medicare Advantage plan with prescription drug coverage but wants to or needs to change plans.

If I already have a Part D plan or Advantage plan with drug coverage and I am satisfied with my coverage, do I need to do anything?

If you have not had any problems with your current plan, you do not have to do anything.

It is still recommended that you review your current plan to ensure that there are no significant changes in the plan and to be sure that it will continue to cover your prescriptions in the coming year.

What do I do?

If you live in Sangamon, Christian, Logan, Menard, or Montgomery Counties, call the Springfield Center for Independent Living (SCIL) at 217-523-2587, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to schedule an appointment. PLEASE, NO WALK-INS.

Before your appointment, make a list of your prescription drugs you are currently taking and include the dosage/strength and the quantity per month.

If it is easier, gather your prescription bottles/packages and bring them to your appointment.

Be sure to bring your Medicare (red, white, and blue) card and, if you have one, your current Part D or Medicare Advantage plan ID card.

If you require an interpreter or other accommodations, please try to tell us about that two weeks prior to your appointment to ensure availability.

So, get your Medicare card, your prescription drug information, call to schedule your appointment, and GET COVERED!

AgeLinc
Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland

East meets West: Miso butterscotch budino

FOOD | Peter Glatz

After a 40-year career as a dentist on a crusade against sugar, I have to confess I just returned from a long, intense week in Minneapolis learning to be a pastry chef!

A chef once told me that a line cook with pastry skills was highly marketable. I found it amusing – after all, why worry about marketability when you're in your seventies? But I'm even older now and still enjoying restaurant work, so I thought: why not challenge myself, and my total lack of pastry experience, at one of the country's top pastry programs?

Alexandra Motz is the executive pastry chef at Spoon and Stable, a James Beard Award-winning restaurant in Minneapolis. Five years ago, I worked at Spoon and Stable as a bread baker and pasta maker at the station next to Chef Alex's. Working side by side, our friendship grew, so when I asked her about a one-week pastry apprenticeship, she offered to design a schedule that wouldn't be too grueling for someone my age. I jokingly responded, "I can outwork any 20-something stoner!" and she took me at my word, putting together a 45-hour training schedule that had me starting some days as early as 4 a.m., and finishing other days well after 10 p.m. By the week's end, I felt every bit of 73.

One highlight was learning to make budino, the Italian word for pudding. Nancy Silverton's Pizzeria Mozza in Los Angeles first popularized budino in the U.S.; their version features a butterscotch pudding base with caramel sauce, whipped cream and a sprinkling of sea salt. After Silverton guest-chefed at Spoon and Stable in 2023, Chef Alex adapted her recipe into a chocolate budino with caramel sauce, cocoa nib brittle and whipped crème fraîche. It has become one of her most popular desserts.

As a baby boomer raised in the 1950s and '60s – the Golden Age of convenience foods – pudding was a household staple. More often than not, it came from a box of Jell-O Instant Pudding, which magically transformed into dessert after just two minutes of whisking with cold milk. While classic American pudding and Italian budino belong to the same family of spoonable, custardy desserts, they differ significantly in preparation, structure and richness. Traditional American pudding is light and velvety, relying mainly on cornstarch, milk and sugar for its smooth texture. Budino, by contrast, is richer and denser: it uses eggs, heavy cream and butter to create a custard- or ganache-like body. Rather than cooking quickly, budino cooks slowly and gently for a silky texture, and is often layered with caramel, cookie crumbles or whipped cream.



Miso butterscotch budino. "Budino" is the Italian word for pudding. PHOTO BY PETER GLATZ

After Spoon and Stable, I joined Sean Brock's team in Nashville as a fermentation specialist, where I learned to make miso. Ever since, I've been eager to bring miso's unique flavor into my recipes. My version of budino harmonizes the rich caramelization of dark brown sugar and butter with the savory depth of white miso. By balancing the intense sweetness typical of classic butterscotch, the koji-infused umami creates a silky, sophisticated custard with a nice, clean finish.

Miso butterscotch budino

Yield: 8 servings

Ingredients:
For the miso butterscotch budino
1 cup + 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar, packed
1 ½ teaspoons kosher salt
3 cups heavy cream
1 ½ cups whole milk
⅔ cup cornstarch
3 egg yolks
1 whole egg
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
2½ tablespoons white miso (shiro miso)
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 tablespoon Scotch whisky

For the topping:
Caramel sauce
Heavy cream, whipped to soft peaks
Maldon sea salt, for finishing

Preparation:
Whisk cream and milk in a large glass measuring cup or medium bowl. Beat the egg yolks, whole egg, and cornstarch in a heat-proof medium bowl until smooth.

In a large, heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat, add the dark brown sugar, salt and a splash of water, but **do not stir**! Cook, swirling the pan occasionally, until the mixture reaches 280 degrees F. Let it caramelize for 10 to 12 minutes, until it becomes dark, bubbly, and releases a rich, nutty aroma. Reduce the heat to low and slowly whisk in the cream mixture in a thin stream. The caramel will seize initially – keep stirring over medium heat until the sugar completely dissolves back into the warm dairy. Bring the mixture to just below a boil, as you will see along the edges of the pan and when you touch a spatula to the bottom, about five to seven minutes.

Turn off the heat and ladle about ½ cup of the hot brown sugar and dairy mixture into the egg yolk mixture, whisking constantly to raise the temperature without scrambling the eggs. Pour in another ½ cup, whisking continuously.

Pour the tempered egg mixture back into the pot with the hot dairy and whisk until thick. If it's not thick enough, turn the heat back on and stir until thick.

Whisk in the butter, vanilla extract, miso and Scotch whisky. Use an immersion blender to blend until smooth. Strain the mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into a large liquid measuring cup.

Pour into individual ramekins, wide-mouthed jars or glasses. Plastic-wrap the containers and refrigerate for at least three hours (or overnight) until fully chilled and set.

To serve, top each chilled budino with caramel sauce, a dollop of whipped cream and a sprinkling of flaky sea salt. □

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This Holiday Season,
Give Everyone a Happy Ending!
Annie
Celebrating 50 years of the little girl who taught us all to bet on tomorrow.
DON'T MISS IT! GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
November 20 - January 9
18 Performances • see website for dates
The Legacy Theatre
TICKETS: AT THE LEGACY.COM
101 EAST LAWRENCE AVE • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



Cherry & Jerry play ragtime tunes and more at Stella Coffee & Tea this Saturday morning.
CREDIT: ROBBIE EDWARDS PHOTOGRAPHY

Falling into October music

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

As we fly on through October like autumn leaves in a fall breeze, the festivals are finished, but the fun of it all keeps on moving and grooving as we have gigs galore with plenty of upcoming excitement ahead. Let's get to it.

First off we offer some very exciting and welcome news as the Curve Inn announced a music lineup starting the first weekend in November happening in what they now call their indoor Music Den with JackAsh on that Friday and Devin C. Williams on Saturday. Local live music continues on through the month and beyond as the very popular venue, restaurant and bar is back better than ever after the devastating fire last spring. Congratulations to owners Ami and Ray Merchant and to all the folks who helped to get it going again. See you there!

We're headed straight for Friday night now with some 25 listed shows happening all over the area including several in the small towns around our bustling metropolis. We go from down south in Benld where Boots & Harmony kick it at Dud's Bar and Grill over to Girard when Hippies of the Heartland get groovy at Oak Hills Country Club & Winery, then on up to Athens as Jameson Freeway drive on at Curveside Bar & Grill and Partners in Rhyme go iambic at The Filling Station in Rochester.

In the capital city proper, the enticing excitement endures when Daniel Cavanagh plays his Martin guitar sweetly at Pease's at BUNN Gourmet and the Salty Bros. (that's Brandon Santini and Joel Gragg together again, FYI) bring the brine to the blues at Harvest Market's Farmhouse Brews, while the rock gets rocking when Satellite orbits The Blue Grouch, Rock Mafia hits at the Library Pizza and Sports Bar and Black Betty: Armed and Dangerous takes on the Tipsy Toad.

In our only twofer this weekend gigging both nights at the same joint, the inimitable Chris Camp plays the perfect plenipotentiary backed by his various, vital and invariably venerable Blues Ambassadors at Lime Street Cafe with special diplomatic music envoys Robert Sampson and Bill McKenzie on Friday and Hank Helton on Saturday.

Here comes a jewel of a Saturday night with over 30 shows in our calendar giving you several chances to catch live music in all its gloriously shining facets. Again, the small towns around surround us with opportunities to be enthralled and engaged as Downstate brings harmony and song to the Buckhart Tavern, while a few miles away as the crow flies, Rod Grant sings his way to Breckenridge's Whiskey Ridge, then heading west of town Kortney Leatherwood parlays to play at the Patriot Pub in Waverly while Jason McKenzie waltzes straight into The Coyote Den over in Salisbury.

Now that we're traveling west (near New Berlin to be approximate), there's a big-deal, for-real concert happening when Danenberger Family Vineyard presents the Real Pretenders tribute band. Described as "four Chicago music scene veterans with a passion for… the music of the Pretenders," we're lucky to know one of the four quite well as Andon (some still call him Ted) Davis plays guitar in the rockin' group. With rave reviews for the show all over Chicagoland and wherever they play, this ticketed event is one you'll really want to catch.

Sunday comes a-knockin' with plenty (almost 20) various ways to enlighten your life and occupy your time, including the 2nd annual Central Illinois Music Fair at the Marian Banquet Hall in Riverton with plenty of music merch plus a live performance by our old pal Joe Frew.

Next week there's no *Now Playing* with the *Best of Springfield* issue out, so I'll see you in November with a Happy Halloween in between. □

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 19

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

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

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 20

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

Daniel Johnson with Bobby Keel
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

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

Devin C. Williams
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

Karaoke Night
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 8-11:30pm

2nd Street Harmony
Curve Inn, 7-10pm

The Conspiracy
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 8pm

Tom Irwin and Amy Battles
Dana-Thomas House, 4-7pm

Tragic Blonde Vacation and The Electric Cars
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8pm

Karaoke
The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 7pm

Steve Harvey
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

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

Karaoke
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Karaoke
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 8pm.

Karaoke
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 7-10pm.

After School Special
Oak Hills Country Club and Winery, Girard, 6-9pm

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

Black Velvet
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 6:30-9:30pm

Ronnie and the Redwoods with Alex Williams
Twisted Tree Music & Event Hall, Jacksonville, 7pm

Saturday
Nov 21

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

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

Toxic Johnny
AMVETS Post 100, Jacksonville, 8pm

The Noir Notes
Bloom Wine Bar & Florals, 2-5pm

The Women & Children
Boone's, 6-9pm

JackAsh
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Jonny Vodka
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7pm

Heavy Delight
Butternut Hut, 8-11pm

Bullets & Boxcars
Camouflage Bar, VFW Post 99, Decatur, 7:30pm

Nikki & Matt Hill-Sister Dynamite Trio
Casey's Pub, 7-10:30pm

Debbie Ross and friends
Curve Inn, 7-10pm

TyJon Charlie
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 2-5pm

T Minus 3
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 7-10pm

All American Throwbacks
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8pm

Trio DeGroove
Don's Place, Jacksonville, 8-11pm

The Down Homies with Jim Ackerman
George Rank's, 7pm

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

Blues Deacons
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Muddy Creek & Co. and BuK
The Kampground, Mechanicsburg, 4:30pm

Hippies of the Heartland
KJB's Pint Haus, Jacksonville, 9pm

The Get Down
Kuhl Tyme Korner, Jacksonville, 8pm-12am

Jason McKenzie
Legends Entertainment, 6:30-9:30pm

Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

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

Karaoke by JCB Entertainment
The Range Bourbon & Brew, Chatham, 8pm-12am

Jake & Mikayla
Rocco's, Decatur, 1-5pm

Hat Trick
Rocco's, Decatur, 7-10pm

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

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

The Skanqs
Twisted Tree Music & Event Hall, Jacksonville, 7pm

Groundhog Jam
Whiskey Ridge Saloon, Breckenridge, 2-5pm

Sunday
Nov 22

Billy Strums
1905 Brewing Co., Assumption, 3-5pm

Afternoon Delight
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Robbie Mitchell
Camouflage Bar, VFW Post 99, Decatur, 2:30-5:30pm

Matt Combs
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 2-5pm

Down State
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 1-4pm

Grant Barnett
It's All About Wine, 3-6pm

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

William Marsala
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

Deep Lunar Blue
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-6pm

Monday
Nov 23

Hurricane Ruth
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 24

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

Karaoke
Burger Bar and Back Door Lounge, 8pm-12am

Karaoke
Fluid Lounge, 7-11pm

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

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

Open Mic Night with Billy Malone
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 6-9pm.

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

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

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

Wednesday
Nov 25

Josh Holland
48 Inn Sports Bar & Grill, Decatur, 7:30-10:30pm

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

Captain Trip and the Space Cadets
The Alamo, 6pm

Not Petty
The Backyard, Taylorville, 7-10pm

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

Branded
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis,

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

Karaoke
Clique, 9pm-1am

Deja Voodoo
Curve Inn, 7-10pm

The Pleiades
DH Brown's, 9:45pm

Joel Honey
The Filling Station, Rochester, 7-11pm

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

Brandy Kristin Band
The Funky Monkey, Taylorville, 8pm-12am

Karaoke
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm

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

Broken Stone
The Hideout, Mason City, 8pm

Robbie Mitchell
JB's Hideout, Blue Mound, 7pm

Karaoke
Lucky's on the Square, Petersburg, 6pm-1am

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

Karaoke
Pickles Package and Pub, Pawnee, 10pm-2am

JCB Entertainment Karaoke
Puerto Vallarta, 12pm

Taylor June
Rocki's, Auburn, 8-11pm

Storm Front
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 7pm

Aubrey Reed and The Undecideds
Rusty Bucket, Greenview, 8-11pm

Rod Grant
The Tap Room, Chatham, 7-10pm

Dave Littrell
The Bird Tavern, 6-9pm

Mississippi Leghound
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 6-10pm

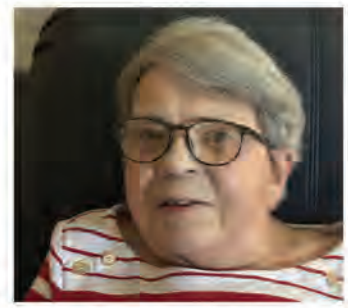
Hippies of the Heartland
Walby's Place, Ashland, 7pm

Menace to Sobriety
Weebles Bar & Grill, 7-11pm

Antics
Y-Zoe's Bar, Taylorville, 8pm



Barbara "Jane" Shaw Cutright



Barbara "Jane" Shaw Cutright, 77, of Petersburg passed away Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026, at Villas East in Sherman.

Jane was born Dec. 29, 1948, in Springfield, the daughter of Harriett C. and William F. Shaw.

Jane graduated from Petersburg Harris High School in 1966. She married Terry L. Cutright on June 29, 1969, at First Christian Church in Petersburg.

After high school, Jane started working part-time for her father and grandfather at the family business, The Petersburg Observer. In 1976, she began working full-time at the newspaper. Following the passing of her father in 1981, Jane became the editor and publisher of The Petersburg Observer and Menard County Review, a position she proudly held until her passing. Jane took considerable pride in continuing her family's legacy of more than 100 years in the newspaper business.

Jane was deeply committed to her community and was involved in numerous organizations throughout her life. She served on the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce Board for many years, was a member of Town & Country Women's Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and several other community organizations. In recognition of her dedication and contributions to her hometown, Jane was named Petersburg First Citizen in 2006. Outside of her work and community involvement, Jane enjoyed sitting in her kitchen with her cats close by reading, doing a crossword puzzle, or just simply watching the birds and wildlife in her backyard.

She was preceded in death by her maternal and paternal grandparents; her parents; a sister, Sally Shaw (Jose Luis) Moreno; and her aunt and uncle, Helen and Fred "Ak" Selcke.

She is survived by her husband Terry; her daughter, Melanie (Scott) Durham; son Jason Cutright; granddaughters Teagan (Garrett) Robinson, Cassidy Cutright, Lillie Durham and Dakota Durham; and great-granddaughters Natalie, Hazel and Mallory.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A private family funeral will be held at a later date.

The family will host a celebration of life for Jane on Sunday, Nov. 29, from 1-4 p.m. at Wankel's in Petersburg.

Memorials contributions may be made to the Menard County Food Pantry or Menard County Animal Protection (MAP).

Hurley Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Hurley
FUNERAL HOME





Citizens Club Policy Forum: What Just Happened?
Fri., Nov. 20, 8-9 a.m.
Hoogland Center for the Arts Club Room

POLITICS | Panel to discuss local, state and federal elections

It Want to learn more about what happened in the recent local, state and federal elections? Then don't miss this. Hosted by the Citizens Club of Springfield, this forum is sure to feature an informative discussion of the results of local, state and national elections. Retired *State Journal-Register* writer Bernie Schoenburg will moderate the discussion with Brenden Moore of Capital News Illinois and Patrick Pfingsten of The Illinoize political newsletter. Questions from the audience will follow. Includes free coffee and networking at 7:30 a.m. Program from 8 to 9 a.m. Free.

■ Special Music Events

Pictures in Motion
Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30-9:30pm. The U.S. premiere of Deutsch's "Con Moto" ("With motion") sets the stage for an evening of energy, imagination and transformation. Pianist Jeremy Denk takes center stage in Bartók's electrifying "Piano Concerto No. 2," a dazzling display of virtuosity, rhythm and orchestral color. The journey concludes with Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," brilliantly orchestrated by Ravel. $35-$65. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Songs for All Ages - A Sensory Friendly Event
Thu., Nov. 19, 6:30pm. This performance is designed for individuals with sensory needs. One of Springfield's most-loved singer-songwriters, Tom Irwin has been taking experiences, turning them into songs, and giving those songs life through performances and recordings for more than 40 years. $10. UIS Studio Theatre, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

UIS Orchestra Festival Concert
Sun., Nov. 22, 4pm. This family-friendly concert will feature performance by the UIS Orchestra and the Illinois Symphony Youth Ensembles. Conducted by Jacobsen Woollen. Adults $15, students $5, UIS students free with I.D. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

UIS Jazz Band at The Art of Jazz
Thu., Nov. 19, 6-8pm. A second November evening listening to a favorite -- The UIS Jazz Band. This performance will be on a Thursday evening (a switch from the norm of Tuesday for Art of Jazz). After the UIS Jazz Band concludes their performance, a jazz jam session will follow. See the new opening exhibit "Ignited Spirit" on display in the gallery. thepharmacygallery.com. $10 donation at door. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 217-494-2231 or 217-622-7903.

■ Books & Authors

BOOK CHAT: *Last Seen – The Enduring Search by Formerly Enslaved People for their Lost Family*
Thu., Nov. 19, 6:30-7:30pm. In this presentation, Judith Giesberg Giesberg will talk about how the "new birth of freedom" was lived by Americans forced to leave loved ones behind in slavery. The program will offer a deeply human and personal portrait of America's freed people as they searched for their families. presidentlincoln.illinois.gov. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Book signing
Mon., Nov. 23, 6:30pm. Author Jori Lewis will talk about her book, *A Natural History of the Spirits: On Ecology, Belonging, and the Sublime*. Event includes a Q&A and book signing. Copies will be available for purchase. RSVPs encouraged. Elderberry & Plumb Bookstore, 926 S. Seventh St.

I Am Not a Costume Reading and Reception
Sat., Nov. 21, 1-3pm. This is a special reading of *I Am Not a Costume* by author Maria DesJarlait. The book tells the story of Ayasha, a 5-year-old Native America child who attends a costume event at school only to find that her classmates are dressed in fake indigenous regalia. tFree. Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring St., 217-782-5955.

■ Theater & Comedy

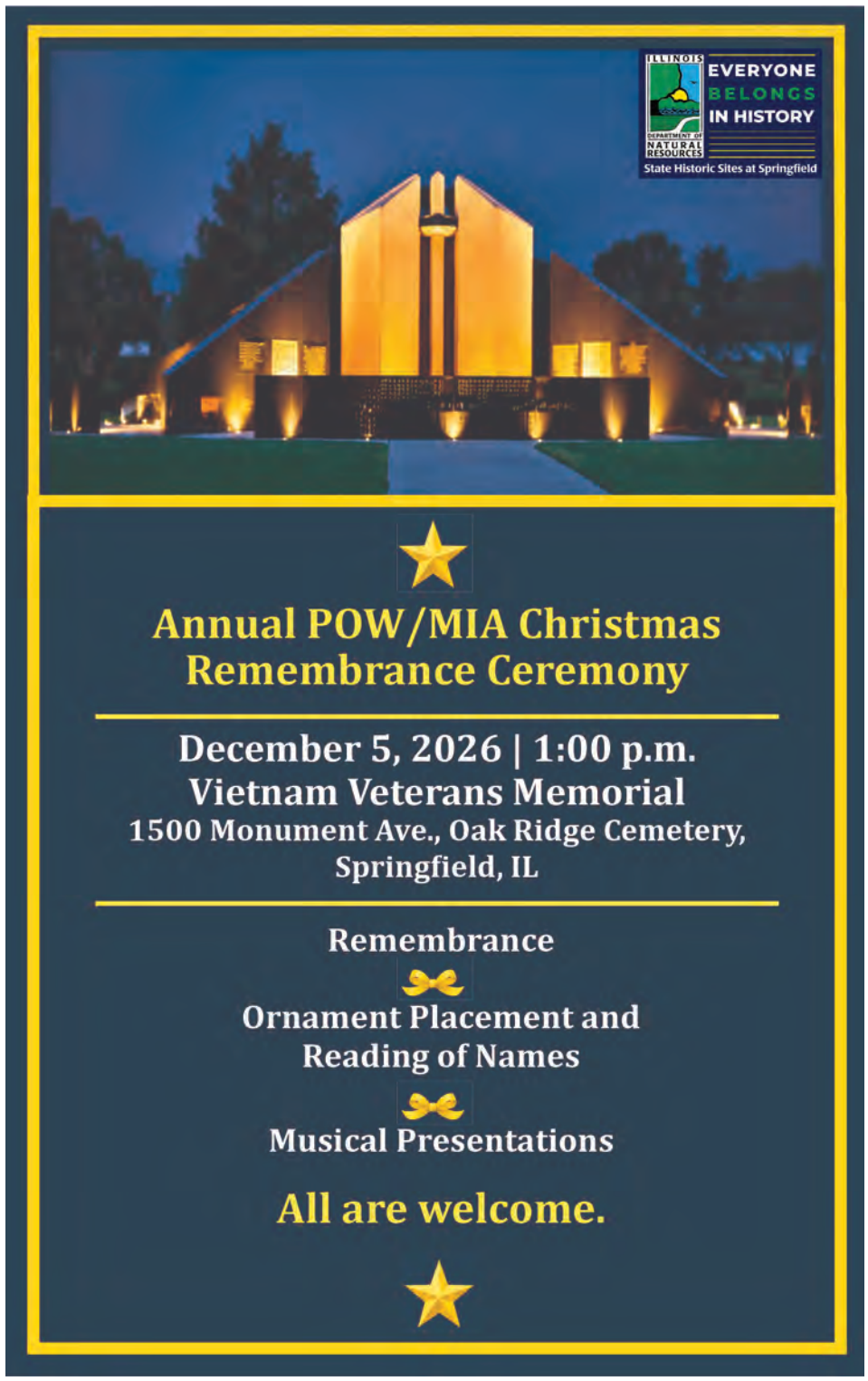
Annie
Fri., Nov. 20. Opens Nov. 20. Believe it or not, *Annie* is 50! Join The Legacy Theatre for its 50th anniversary celebration of this beloved musical. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence, 217-528-9760.

Pippin
Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30pm, Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30pm and Sun., Nov. 22, 2pm. There's magic to do when a prince learns the true meaning of glory, love and war in Stephen Schwartz's iconic and unforgettable musical masterpiece. springfieldtheatrecentre.com. $23.









THE CALENDAR

Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

■ Dance

Boots on the Line
Thu., Nov. 19, 7pm. Line dancing classes. Must be 21 or older to enter. Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-679-7323.

Line Dancing
Wed., Nov. 25, 7pm. Lessons and dancing. Free. The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 210 W. Route 125, 217-626-2508.

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

■ Art & Architecture

Art History Happy Hour: Dorothea Lange
Thu., Nov. 19, 6pm. Listen to a lecture about photographer Dorothea Lange by art expert John Muchow. Lange, famous for her images of Depression-era hardship, began her career in the studio shooting refined portraits. Learn what drove her out into the real world to capture an era one image at time. Event includes wine and snacks. springfieldart.org. Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 2175232631.

Art Night at the Dana-Thomas House: Sunset Painting
Thu., Nov. 19, 5:30-7:30pm. Monica Zanetti will lead participants in creating their own painting of a sunset. All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by parent/guardian. Reservations required. eventbrite.com. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Festive Fridays
Fridays, 4-7pm. Through Dec. 18. Enjoy the ambiance of the Dana-Thomas House holiday decorations on this special evening tour and more festive fun in the courtyard. On "Festive Friday" evenings, participants are invited to take a 20-30 minute guided experience, enjoying the music of either Ben Bedford or Tom Irwin and Amy Battles during the tour. Reservations recommended. bit.ly/48scVUh. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Paint-a-Pot with Rosie
Sun., Nov. 22, 2-4pm. Get an early start on holiday gifts by joining Ceramics Made by Rosie for a paint-a-pot class. The Nov. 22 and Dec. 6 classes will feature "Little Makers" classes designed for young makers to create holiday gifts. Dec. 9 will be general pottery painting. Reservations required. ceramicsmadebyrosie.com. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 2177826776.

■ Film & Television

Baristas vs Billionaires
Thu., Nov. 19, 6-8pm. This documentary film follows Starbucks workers in their effort to organize a union. A panel discussion will precede the film. An audience Q&A will follow the film. Free. Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring St., 217-782-7386.

Route 66 International Film Festival
Fri., Nov. 20, 7-10:30pm, Sat., Nov. 21, 11am-10:15pm and Sun., Nov. 22, 10am-12pm. This event, in its 25th year, will feature more than 25 short and feature-length films in various categories. An awards ceremony will be held Saturday night. Trophies will be awarded for judges' choices in various categories including Best of Fest. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Suggested donation $10 for each session. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

■ History

Four Score and More: The Gettysburg Address
Through Nov. 20, 11am-2pm. ALPLM historians will be in the Gettysburg Gallery inside Journey 2 at 11am and 1:30pm. to share their knowledge and insight and answer questions about one of Abraham Lincoln's most famous speeches. "Four Score and More" is free and is included with regular museum admission. Museum admission will be free on Nov. 19. Regular admission rates apply on Nov. 18 and Nov. 20. Variable. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

History Night at the Old State Capitol: The dedication of Gettysburg National Cemetery
Sat., Nov. 21, 5-7pm. Abraham Lincoln was not the main speaker at the dedication of Gettysburg National Cemetery. Learn about Edward Everett and his two-hour long speech delivered before Lincoln stood to give his "few appropriate remarks." Reservations optional. Free. Old State Capitol State Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-785-9363.

Lincoln Tomb New Volunteer Orientation
Thu., Nov. 19, 10am-12pm. Learn more about becoming a volunteer at the Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site. Register on eventbrite.com. Contact Lauren.Gleason@illinois.gov for info. Free. Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site, 1500 Monument Ave., 782-2717.

This Land is Their Land: Stories of Indigenous Survivance
Fri., Nov. 20, 12-1pm. Logan Pappenfort will present the family stories that inspired the recent exhibition, "This Land is Their Land: Stories of Indigenous Survivance." Follow one family's 250-year journey from Illinois to Oklahoma and back again and learn how one tribal nation's quest for justice led it to become the first federally recognized tribe in Illinois. Free. Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring St., 217-782-7386.

■ Faith & Philosophy

Greater Springfield Interfaith Association Thanksgiving Service
Sun., Nov. 22, 7-8:30pm. "Moving Toward Unity and Peace" is the theme of this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving service. Gather together to enjoy an evening service of music, movement, prayer, inspiration and gratitude. Free. Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church, 501 S. Douglas Ave., 217-546-4631.

■ Holiday Happenings

18th Annual Sherman Holiday Wonderland
Sun., Nov. 22, 10am-4pm. Get into the holiday spirit at this festive day of shopping, creativity and fun. See the Facebook site for more info. Free admission. Sherman Athletic Club, Sherman, 300 S. First St., 217-652-7957.

CORAL's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
Sat., Nov. 21, 5-9pm. All invited to this event by CORAL, which will provide mainstays. Attendees

bring a side dish or dessert. Canned goods will be collected for local pantries. First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., 217-528-4311.

Festival of Wreaths and Trees
Fri., Nov. 20, 6-8pm, Sat., Nov. 21, 12-4pm and Sun., Nov. 22, 12-4pm. Stroll through beautifully decorated trees and wreaths created by local groups and businesses Bid on stunning wreaths, trees and silent auction items — perfect for gifts or adding to holiday décor. Presented by Pleasant Plains Community Club. Free admission. Pleasant Plains Community Building, Pleasant Plains, 206 W. 4th St., 217-414-8719.

Holiday Extravaganza
Sun., Nov. 22, 9am-4pm. This family-friendly event features more than 100 vendors, live entertainment, cake walk, visits with Santa, concessions and more. Adults $5, seniors $3, children younger than 13 free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-816-3835.

Holiday Market & Sweet Shoppe
Sat., Nov. 21, 9am-3pm. Shop for handcrafted items, décor and practical gift items created by talented Springfield Ceramics and Crafts Club artisans. The shoppe is loaded with homemade treats and the Cocoa Bar provides a range of beverages. The event supports art education in the community. springfieldceramicsandcrafters.org. Free. Springfield Ceramics and Crafts Club, 2626 S. Pasfield St., 217-638-4847.

Lincoln Land ABATE's 39th Annual 217 Thanksgiving Dinner
Sun., Nov. 22, 11:30am-2pm. Those who need a hot meal can enjoy this full Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings and dessert. Dine in starting at 11am. To-go meals start at 1pm. Clothing and toiletries also will be distributed. Free. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sixth Street and Lawrence Ave., 217-522-3342.

■ Community Organizing

Sangamon Food Justice Potluck and Discussion
Fri., Nov. 20, 5:30pm. Bring a dish, enjoy some food and discuss how to reduce food insecurity this winter. Presented by Land of Lincoln Democratic Socialists of America. Wild Rose/ Abe's Old Hat, 115 N. Sixth St., 217-572-1884.

■ Children's Corner

Citizen City Learning Series: Community Helpers
Sat., Nov. 21, 10am-2:30pm. Community Helpers are highlighted in this educational session. Children will explore different jobs through hands-on games such as guessing mystery items, matching, creating future career portraits and playing lively guessing games. presidentlincoln.illinois.gov. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Santa at White Oaks Mall
Through Dec. 24. Make magical memories with Santa Claus. Santa will be in Center Court under the giant Christmas tree. Walk-ins and visitors welcome. Photo packages available. Reservations available at WhereIsSanta.com. Visits are free. White Oaks Mall, 2501 Wabash Ave., 217-787-0110.

Toddler Skate with Characters
Third Saturday of every month, 10-11:30am. Through May 15. Toddler time, for children ages 6 and younger only, is back. October's guests are Woody and Buzz Lightyear. Enjoy a meet and greet, photo opportunities, a skating lesson and dancing with the characters. skatelandsouth.com. $15. Skateland South, 1500 Recreation Dr., 217-546-4543.

■ Lectures & Meetings

Weapons of Mass Distraction: How Our Adversaries Manipulate Information to Disrupt Our Security
Thu., Nov. 19, 5:30pm. Former diplomat Karl Stoltz is the guest speaker. Reception at 5:30pm, dinner at 6:15pm and program at 7pm. Reservations due by Nov. 10. Event presented by the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois (WACCI). Dinner $45-$55, program only free. Illini Country Club, 1601 S. Illini Road, 546-4614.

■ Bulletin Board

AAUW and Junior League of Springfield Food Drive
Sat., Nov. 21, 10am-12pm. No need to get out of the car – food donations will be unloaded for arrivals. Suggested donation items include peanut butter, canned meats, chili and soups, cereal bars, mac and cheese kits and personal hygiene products. Donated items will go to micropantries. Monetary donations will help Central Illinois Food Bank. Prevention First, Inc., 2800 Montvale Dr., 309-740-4087.

Parkway Christian Church Cookie Walk
Sat., Nov. 21, 8-11am. Doors will open at 8am for this annual event and stay open until 11am or until the cookies are gone. Customers are given gloves and boxes at the door. They select their treats and their boxes are weighed after the selections. Customers are charged by weight of the cookies. Parkway Christian Church, 2700 Lindbergh Blvd., 217-787-3445.

Resource Event
Thu., Nov. 19, 8:30-10:30am. Winter is coming. What are your plans? Connect with local resources for winter shelter and transportation, housing assistance, SNAP and food assistance, healthcare and street medicine and more. Includes warm meal. Washington Street Mission, 408 N. Fourth St., 217-544-9011.

Transfer Open House
Fri., Nov. 20, 11am-1pm. This event offers prospective students and their families multiple opportunities to learn more about UIS with options such as an academic fair and demonstrations, campus and housing tours, opportunities to chat with staff and current students during one of our informational panels, how to transfer credits, how to pay for college and much more. uis.edu. UIS Student Union, One William Maxwell Lane, 217-206-4782.

■ Health & Fitness

d-up!
Third Thursday of every month, 6-7pm. Through Feb. 18. A free, confidential group for gay, bi and same-gender-loving men of color to talk real, share what works and learn simple, practical ways to look out for themselves and the people in their lives. Phoenix Center, 109 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-848-2856, 217-899-0106.







PET BOARDING?

Luxury pet boarding at the **Howliday Inn & Suites**, providing upscale lodging, individualized care, and a safe, welcoming environment for your pets.

Call to book today.
(217) 789-0011

2525 E Sangamon Ave, Springfield, IL 62702 • cobleanimalhospital.com



MARKETPLACE

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Garden tilling and grass seeding, gutter cleaning, shrub and tree trimming, lawn mowing, brush removal and landscaping.
Black dirt delivered.
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BOOKS ON THE SQUARE
BOOK SALE!
Now through December
(Virden Store Only)
1 Building Full Of Books
50% OFF
3 Additional Buildings Full of Books
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153 East Jackson St. * Virden
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217-965-5443

ELKHART CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSES
Saturday, Nov. 21 | 9 AM - 4 PM
Horsefeathers
Country Bumpkin
Birdsong Books and Vintage
Wild Hare Cafe
(Open 11 AM - 3 PM)
Located off exit 115 from 155 on Route 66

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legal DBA

Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of October, 2026 a Certificate of Ownership of Business was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Sangamon County, stating that:
Anna Sohm
intend to transact, or are transacting business in Sangamon County, State of Illinois, under the fictitious name to wit:
Building Financial Foundations LLC
and that they are the sole owner(s) and proprietor(s) of said business, and the principal place of said business is located at:
201 S. Walnut St., Suite 305D; Rochester, IL 62563

Death Claim

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF
GARY W. CLARK, DECEASED.
NO. 2026-PR-390
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS
Notice is given of the death of GARY W. CLARK, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 12, 2026, to JOHN CATHCART of 1516 West Vernon, Springfield, IL 62704 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 62701 or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from November 19, 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.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to the unknown heirs of the decedent, if any, as the names or addresses of one or more heirs may be unknown or cannot be ascertained after diligent inquiry; and that, unless you file an appearance in this proceeding or otherwise make your interest known to the Court within six months from the date of the order appointing the administrator of the estate, you may be defaulted and bound by any orders of court entered in this estate, including any order declaring heirship and orders approving accountings and distributions, as provided by the Illinois Probate Act of 1975.
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 12th day of November 2026
JOHN CATHCART, Executor of the Estate of GARY W. CLARK, Deceased
BY: DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
By: /s/ Anthony J. DelGiorno
Anthony J. DelGiorno
Attorneys for Estate:
Anthony J. DelGiorno, Attorney
IARDC No. 6277358
DelGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
P.O. Box 52
Springfield, IL 62705
Tel. 217-773-5337
Fax. 855-461-3250
Email: tony@delgiornolawoffice.com
Service: service@delgiornolawoffice.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
NORMA M. BRANDON,
Deceased.
Case No. 2026-PR-407
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of NORMA M. BRANDON, of the City of Springfield, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, on August 27, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on the 5th day of November, A.D., 2026, to ELIZABETH JANE OLSON, of 19 Pickering Lane, Springfield, Illinois, 62712, as Executor, whose attorney of record is R. Stephen Scott, Scott & Scott, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the Executor, 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 Executor and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 11th day of November, A.D., 2026.
Estate of NORMA M. BRANDON, Deceased,
By: ELIZABETH JANE OLSON, Executor
PREPARED BY:
R. Stephen Scott (02533391)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
By: /s/ R. Stephen Scott
R. STEPHEN SCOTT
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., Her Attorneys
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-8200
Facsimile: (217) 753-8206
rss@scottnscottlaw.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF RICHARD HAYNES Deceased
Case No. 26PR338
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Richard Haynes of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on September 10, 2026, to his Independent Administrator, Sharrell Johnson, whose attorney is Maria Kanney at The Law Offices of Frederick W. Nessler & Associates, Ltd., 536 N. Bruns Lane, Suite 1, Springfield, Illinois 62702.
On September 10, 2026, Honorable Judge Robin Schmidt ordered that Sharrell Johnson be appointed Independent Administrator of the Estate of Richard Haynes, Deceased and ordered that Letters of Independent Administrator be issued.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, 200 S 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701 or with the representative, or both on or before May 19, 2027 which date is not less than six 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 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 19th day of November, 2026
Maria Kanney
The Law Offices of Frederick W. Nessler & Associates, Ltd.
536 N. Bruns Lane, Suite One
Springfield, IL 62702
217 698-0202
217 698-0203 (fax)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF KATHRYN FELDMAN, Deceased
Case No. 26PR232

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Kathryn Feldman of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on June 18, 2026, to her Independent Administrator, John Estill, whose attorney is Maria Kanney at The Law Offices of Frederick W. Nessler & Associates, Ltd., 536 N. Bruns Lane, Suite 1, Springfield, Illinois 62702.
On June 18, 2026, Honorable Judge Robin Schmidt ordered that John Estill be appointed Independent Administrator of the Estate of Kathryn Feldman, Deceased and ordered that Letters of Independent Administrator be issued.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, 200 S 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701 or with the representative, or both on or before May 19, 2027 which date is not less than six 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 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 19th day of November, 2026
Maria Kanney
The Law Offices of Frederick W. Nessler & Associates, Ltd.
536 N. Bruns Lane, Suite One
Springfield, IL 62702
217 698-0202
217 698-0203 (fax)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN RE THE ESTATE OF
CAROL ANN DOVE
DECEASED
Case No. 2026-PR-401
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is hereby given of the death of CAROL ANN DOVE. Letters Testamentary were issued on November 4, 2026, appointing STEVEN T. DOVE, 3617 Bounty Circle, Springfield, IL 62711, as Executor, whose attorney is Creighton R. Castle of Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C., 900 Community Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703, Phone: (217) 525-1571.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Circuit Court, 200 South Ninth Street, 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.
Dated: November 5, 2026
Clerk of the Circuit Court
200 South Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
8051-970997

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARTHA A. GOODWIN, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-403
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of MARTHA A. GOODWIN. Letters of Office have been issued to MELISSA SUSAN COADY, 143 Circle Drive, Springfield, IL 62703, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before May 18, 2027, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 4th day of November, 2026.
William P. Sheehan
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of:
James E. Hughes., Deceased
Case No. 2026-PR-000312
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of James E. Hughes. Letters of Office were issued on Oct. 14, 2026 to Brian B. Biggs as Executor 421 E. Market St., Taylorville IL 62568. 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, May 12, 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 OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MORTON BARRY FAYE, Deceased.
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NO. 2026PR000399
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Morton Barry Faye, Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on November 2, 2026 to Norman Faye, 477 Crescent Road, Wyncote, PA 19095, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 12th day of May, 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 2nd day of November, 2026.
Gregory P. Sgro
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP
1119 S. 6th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 789-1200

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

Divorce

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Brittany Thomas, Petitioner
And
Joseph Thomas Jr., Respondent
Case No. 2026-DN-000131
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Joseph Thomas Jr., 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 12th day of December, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.
Joseph B. Roesch
Circuit Clerk

Name Change

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of
Autumn Ann-Marie Cole
For change of name to
Autumn Ann-Marie Loman
Case No. 2026-MR-000155
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Jan. 5, 2027 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Autumn Ann-Marie Cole to Autumn Ann-Marie Loman pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Nov. 19, 2026

Foreclosure

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

Notice by Publication

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition.
A petition for variation of the provisions of Section 4 (Boathouses) of Appendix A of the Land Use Plan for Lake Springfield and its Marginal Properties. Petitioner desires to construct a new boathouse on the Subject Property. Because of the close proximity to the shoreline and the requirement to install a stable foundation for the structure it is necessary to move the proposed structure 8 feet further back from the shoreline than the allowed 20 feet per the Land Use Plan.
To be in compliance with the Lake Land Use Plan, Petitioner respectfully petitions to vary Section 4 (Boathouses) of Appendix A of the Land Use Plan for Lake Springfield and its Marginal Properties to allow a 28 foot setback from the shoreline instead of the within 20 feet of the shoreline required per the Lake Land Use Plan.
Improvements (or Structures) located on said property are an existing single family residence and boat slip. The subject real estate is currently classified in the R-1, Single-Family Residence District, Section 155.016.
Legally described as: Lot 140 Sec 35 Island Lane, Springfield, Illinois. Except all coal, minerals and mining rights hereto conveyed of record. Situated in the City of Springfield, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois. Tax Identification Number:22-35.0-226-004.
The subject property is commonly known as 18 Island Bay Lane, Springfield, Illinois.
The petitioner is Amy Pennell Ware Trust, by Amy Pennell Ware, Trustee.
Docket No. 2026-041
Ben Ferris
Assistant Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition.
A petition for variation of Section 155.068 (b) (2), Garages or Accessory Buildings or Structures, of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Petitioner desires to construct a Pagoda on the Real Estate. The Pagoda as proposed would be 35 feet tall. To be in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance, petitioner respectfully requests a variance of 155.068 (b) (2) to allow said Pagoda to be 35 feet in height, instead of the 18 feet maximum height, per code.
Improvements (or Structures) located on said property are an Assembly Hall, Monk Residence, and Dining Hall/Kitchen. The subject real estate is currently classified in the R-2, Single-Family & Duplex Residence District, Section 155.017.
Legally described as: Part of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 & Part of the South 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 (277477 SQ FT) 29-16-5, Parcel #14-29.0-303-046, situated in the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois; commonly known as 2104 Jefferson Street (AKA 525 North Bruns Lane), Springfield, Illinois.
The subject property is commonly known as 2104 Jefferson Street (AKA 525 North Bruns Lane), Springfield, Illinois.
The petitioner is Satipatthana Vipassana Association, by Elizabeth Myint, its Vice President, By Attorney Kevin N. McDermott.
Docket No. 2026-040
Ben Ferris
Assistant Zoning Administrator

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
ALVIN N. HYSLER, JR.
Plaintiff,
v.
BRYAN COPP A/K/A BRIAN COPP, JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2026FC000119
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavits for Service by

Publication having been filed in the above-captioned cause NOTICE is hereby given to JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned foreclosure action is now pending in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County, against you and other defendants praying for the foreclosure of the mortgage (Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate) hereinafter described conveying the real estate legally described as follows:
West 87 feet and 11 in. of lot 23 of Harvard Park subdivision in Southwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 15 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Permanent Index #22-03.0-334-001 together with the improvements thereon including the following personal property: Shades, rods, blinds, Venetian blinds, permanently attached floor covering, storm sash, screens, TV antenna, heating unit, domestic hot water heater, light fixtures, and other fixtures and equipment attached to and property belonging to said premises.
Commonly known as 2200 S. 11th, Springfield, IL 62703.
The name of the title holder of record and an identification of the mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:
(A) Name or names of present owner or owners of the premises: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate), Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(B) Date of Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate: September 25, 2018;
(C) Names of Mortgagor: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(D) Name of Mortgagee: Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(E) Date and place of recording: May 7, 2024, Sangamon County, Illinois, Office of Recorder of Deeds;
(F) Identification of recording: Document No. 2024R07083.
And you are further notified that unless on or before December 14, 2026, you shall answer and defend in said suit, default judgment may be entered against you on said date or thereafter.
Dated: November 4, 2026.
/s/ Lucas G. Guard
Attorney of Record for Alvin N. Hysler Jr.
ARDC No. 6317243
Guard Law
910 S. Kirkwood Rd Suite 100
Saint Louis, MO 63122
Email: Lucas@Guard.Law
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court Sangamon County
11-12-2026, 11-19-2026, 11-26-2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
ALVIN N. HYSLER, JR.
Plaintiff,
v.
BRYAN COPP A/K/A BRIAN COPP, JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2026FC000119
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavits for Service by Publication having been filed in the above-captioned cause NOTICE is hereby given to JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned foreclosure action is now pending in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County, against you and other defendants praying for the foreclosure of the mortgage (Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate) hereinafter described conveying the real estate legally described as follows:
Lot 120 in Wanless' Springfield Heights Addition to the City of Springfield [Grandview], Except the West 80 feet thereof. Situated in Sangamon Co., Illinois. Permanent Index #14-23.0-453-032 together with the improvements thereon including the following personal property: Shades, rods, blinds, Venetian blinds, permanently attached floor covering, storm sash, screens, TV antenna, heating unit, domestic hot water heater, light fixtures, and other fixtures and equipment attached to and property belonging to said premises.
Commonly known as 2136 E. Converse, Springfield [Grandview], IL 62702.
The name of the title holder of record and an identification of the mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:
(A) Name or names of present owner or owners of the premises: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate), Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(B) Date of Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate: September 23, 2020;
(C) Names of Mortgagor: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(D) Name of Mortgagee: Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(E) Date and place of recording: May 7, 2024, Sangamon County, Illinois, Office of Recorder of Deeds;
(F) Identification of recording: Document No. 2024R07084.
And you are further notified that unless on or before December 14, 2026, you shall answer and defend in said suit, default judgment may be entered against you on said date or thereafter.
Dated: November 4, 2026
/s/ Lucas G. Guard
Attorney of Record for Alvin N. Hysler Jr.
ARDC No. 6317243
Guard Law
910 S. Kirkwood Rd Suite 100
Saint Louis, MO 63122
Email: Lucas@Guard.Law
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court Sangamon County
11-12-2026, 11-19-2026, 11-26-2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
ALVIN N. HYSLER, JR.
Plaintiff,
v.
BRYAN COPP A/K/A BRIAN COPP, JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2026FC000119
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavits for Service by Publication having been filed in the above-captioned cause NOTICE is hereby given to JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned foreclosure action is now pending in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County, against you and other defendants praying for the foreclosure of the mortgage (Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate) hereinafter described conveying the real estate legally described as follows:
Lot Fourteen (14) in Block Two (2) of E.S. Dodson's Subdivision of the North West Quarter of section 28, Township 16 North, Range 5 of the Third Principal Meridian, in the City of Springfield. Except the coal and other minerals underling the surface of said land and all rights and casements in favor of the estate of said coal and minerals. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois. Permanent Index #14-28-101-041 together with the improvements thereon including the following personal property: Shades, rods, blinds, Venetian blinds, permanently attached floor covering, storm sash, screens, TV antenna, heating unit, domestic hot water heater, light fixtures, and other fixtures and equipment attached to and property belonging to said premises.
Commonly known as 1122 N. Lincoln, Springfield, IL 62702.
The name of the title holder of record and an identification of the mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:
(A) Name or names of present owner or owners of the premises: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate), Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(B) Date of Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate: March 25, 2025;
(C) Names of Mortgagor: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(D) Name of Mortgagee: Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(E) Date and place of recording: NONE, Sangamon County, Illinois, Office of Recorder of Deeds;
(F) Identification of recording: Document No. NONE.
And you are further notified that unless on or before December 14, 2026, you shall answer and defend in said suit, default judgment may be entered against you on said date or thereafter.
Dated: November 4, 2026.
/s/ Lucas G. Guard
Attorney of Record for Alvin N. Hysler Jr.
ARDC No. 6317243
Guard Law
910 S. Kirkwood Rd Suite 100
Saint Louis, MO 63122
Email: Lucas@Guard.Law
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court Sangamon County
11-12-2026, 11-19-2026, 11-26-2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
ALVIN N. HYSLER, JR.
Plaintiff,
v.
BRYAN COPP A/K/A BRIAN COPP, JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2026FC000119
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavits for Service by Publication having been filed in the above-captioned cause NOTICE is hereby given to JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned foreclosure action is now pending in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County, against you and other defendants praying for the foreclosure of the mortgage (Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate) hereinafter described conveying the real estate legally described as follows:
Lot 20 in Block 1 of E.S. Hodgson's Subdivision of the Northwest Quarter of the of Section 28, Township 16 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meriden. Situated in Sangamon Co., Illinois. Permanent Index #14-28-102-029 together with the improvements thereon including the following personal property: Shades, rods, blinds, Venetian blinds, permanently attached floor covering, storm sash, screens, TV antenna, heating unit, domestic hot water heater, light fixtures, and other fixtures and equipment attached to and property belonging to said premises.
Commonly known as 1101 Kingshighway, Springfield, Illinois 62702.
The name of the title holder of record and an identification of the mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:
(A) Name or names of present owner or owners of the premises: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate), Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(B) Date of Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate: September 24, 2018;
(C) Names of Mortgagor: Brian Copp (buyer named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(D) Name of Mortgagee: Alvin N. Hysler, Jr. (seller named in Installment Contract for Sale of Real Estate);
(E) Date and place of recording: May 7, 2024, Sangamon County, Illinois, Office of Recorder of Deeds;
(F) Identification of recording: Document No. 2024R07082.
And you are further notified that unless on or before December 14, 2026, you shall answer and defend in said suit, default judgment may be entered against you on said date or thereafter.
Dated: November 4, 2026.
/s/ Lucas G. Guard
Attorney of Record for Alvin N. Hysler Jr.
ARDC No. 6317243
Guard Law
910 S. Kirkwood Rd Suite 100
Saint Louis, MO 63122
Email: Lucas@Guard.Law
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court Sangamon County
11-12-2026, 11-19-2026, 11-26-2026

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
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Estate of:
DAWN ARMSTRONG,
Deceased.
NO. 2026-PR-410
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Dawn Armstrong of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 12, 2026, to John Armstrong, 17 Winston Road, Chatham, Illinois 62629, 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 May 19, 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 12th day of November, 2026.
Matthew J. Cate - 06272040
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-4868
matthewcate@barberlaw.com
373290

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Estate of:
RICHARD C. MARTINEAU, JR.,
Deceased.
NO. 2026-PR-408
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Richard C. Martineau, Jr. of Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 12, 2026, to Dawn Marie Dawkins, 134 Front Porch Drive, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Bernard G. Segatto, III, Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative or both, on or before May 20, 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 13th day of November, 2026.
Bernard G. Segatto, III - 06190753
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP
P.O. Box 79
Springfield, IL 62705-0079
(217) 544-4868
bsegatto@barberlaw.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GREGORY B. BALDER, DECEASED.
NO. 2026-PR-406
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
Notice is given of the death of GREGORY B. BALDER, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 12, 2026, to RACHAEL DONELSON, 12900 Edgewater Way, New Berlin, IL 62670. The attorney for the Independent Administrator is DelGiorno Law Office, LLC, P.O. Box 52, Springfield, IL 62705.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of the Court.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Building Complex, 200 S 9th St., Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the of November 19, 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.
Dated this 13th day of November 2026
RACHAEL DONELSON, Independent Administrator of the Estate of GREGORY B. BALDER, Deceased
BY: DELGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
By: /s/Anthony J. DelGiorno
Anthony J. DelGiorno, of Counsel
Attorneys for Estate of GREGORY B. BALDER:
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

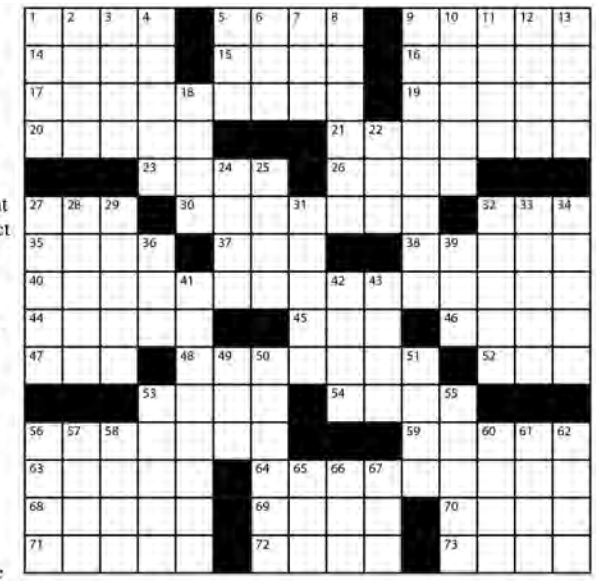
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS - CHANCERY DIVISION
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
SCOTT ROBERTS; KAREN ROBERTS; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; HABITAT FOR HUMANITY-SANGAMON COUNTY; CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants
Case No.: 2026FC000204
Property Address:
1803 N 8TH ST, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING,
KAREN ROBERTS
defendant, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendant, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:
LOT 2 IN BLOCK 2 IN SAMUEL CARPENTER'S SUBDIVISION. ESCEPT ALL COAL, MINERALS AND MINING RIGHTS HERETOFORE CONVEYED OR RESERVED OF RECORD. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as: 1803 N 8TH ST, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
Names of the titleholders of record: SCOTT ROBERTS and KAREN ROBERTS.
Date of the Mortgage: July 24, 2008.
Name or names of the mortgagors: SCOTT ROBERTS and KAREN ROBERTS.
Name of the mortgagee: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A..
Date and place of recording: August 1, 2008; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Sangamon County, Illinois.
Identification of recording: Document No. 2008R29618.
NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before December 19, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.
E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org. For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegalaid.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Lender Legal PLLC
1800 Pembrook Drive, Suite 360
Orlando, Florida 32810

Tel: (407) 730-4644
Service Emails:
mjdiaz@lenderlegal.com
EService@LenderLegal.com
LLS17787-IL- ROBERTS
s/ Meaghan J. Diaz de Villegas, Esq.
Meaghan J. Diaz de Villegas, Esq.
Counsel of Record for Plaintiff
ARDC # 38990

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS - CHANCERY DIVISION
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
TERRION L. TABORN; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No.: 2026FC000231
Property Address:
240 STEPHENSON LN, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62707
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING,
UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:
Tract 1:
Tract 8 and part of Tract 9 as shown on the Plat of Survey in April, 1959 by William G. Walschleger, Jr., Surveyor, said survey being the South part of the East Fractional Quarter of Section 27, Township 16 North, Range 4 West of the Third Principal Meridian in Sangamon County, Illinois, described as follows: From a point 29.2 feet East of the stone in the Southwest corner of said tract and 464.64 feet North of the Southwest corner of the East Half of the Southeast Fractional Quarter of said Section 27, North 48 degrees 40 minutes East for a distance of 286.60 feet, thence North 13 degrees 19 minutes West for a distance of 484.07 feet, thence North 65 degrees 21 minutes East for a distance of 109.92 feet, thence South 22 degrees 00 minutes East for a distance of 25 feet to the point of beginning, thence South 22 degrees 00 minutes East for a distance of 100 feet, thence North 68 degrees 00 minutes East for a distance of 70 feet, thence North 22 degrees 00 minutes West for a distance of 103.24 feet, thence South 65 degrees 21 minutes West for a distance of 70.07 feet to the point of beginning.
Tract 2:
Easements for road purposes described as follows:
Commencing at the Southwest corner of the East Half of the Southeast Fractional Quarter of Section 27 aforesaid, thence North along the West line of said East Half of said Quarter Section 7.04 chains or 464.64 feet, thence East 20 feet, thence South parallel to the West line of said Half Quarter Section 7.04 chains or 464.64 feet to the South Section line of Section 27, thence West to the place of beginning, as described in deed from Edward Baker and Delcena Baker, husband and wife, to Bertha Ruch, dated September 13, 1905, recorded December 23, 1905 and recorded in Volume 126, at Page 298.
Tract 3:
Easements for road purposes described as follows:
A 50 feet easement being 25 feet on each side of the following line: Commencing 29.2 feet East of a point on the West line of the East Half of the Southeast Fractional Quarter of Section 27 aforesaid, 7.04 chains North of the South Section line of said Section, thence North 48 degrees 40 minutes East 286.60 feet, thence North 13 degrees 19 minutes West, 484.07 feet, thence North 65 degrees 21 minutes East 213.15 feet, thence South 54 degrees 45 minutes East, 230.95 feet, thence North 89 degrees 15 minutes East 230 feet, thence North 89 degrees 25 minutes East, 126.90 feet to a point which is South 16 degrees 40 minutes West 25 feet from a round concrete block which is the Southeast corner of Tract 2 in said Southeast Fractional Quarter by survey of Morgan P. O'Brien, Surveyor, in October, 1958, of the said Southeast Fractional Quarter. The said easement for road purposes is for the benefit of all property in the said Southeast Fractional Quarter of Section 27 aforesaid, which is 7.04 chains North of the South line of said Section and South of the North Fork of the Sangamon River.
Except all coal and minerals underlying said land with the right to mine and remove the same.
Commonly known as: 240 STEPHENSON LN, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62707
Names of the titleholders of record: Terrion L. Taborn.
Date of the Mortgage: October 3, 2024.
Name or names of the mortgagors: Terrion L. Taborn.
Name of the mortgagee: Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans.
Date and place of recording: October 9, 2024; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of SANGAMON County, Illinois.
Identification of recording: Document No. 2024R17220.
NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before December 19, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.
E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org. For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegalaid.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Lender Legal PLLC
1800 Pembrook Drive, Suite 360
Orlando, Florida 32810
Tel: (407) 730-4644
Service Emails:
mjdiaz@lenderlegal.com
EService@LenderLegal.com
LL50320-IL
s/ Meaghan Diaz de Villegas, Esq.
Meaghan Diaz de Villegas, Esq.
Counsel of Record for Plaintiff
ARDC # 6340688

Like candy

Edited by J. Reynolds - **No. 972**



Across
1. Rain cats and dogs
5. Surrounded by
9. Actress Witherspoon
14. "Do ___ others as..."
15. Hoopster Bryant
16. Novartis product
17. ***Numskulls
19. Teacher's note on a test
20. "...who lived in ___"
21. Goes through
23. ___ Bell
26. One ___ (kids' game)
27. Superlative suffix
30. Cookie ___
32. Biblical beast
35. Prefix with byte
37. Violist's need
38. ___ de Mayo
40. ***1956 Elvis song
44. "___ a stinker?" -Bugs Bunny
45. Chapter in history
46. Supreme Court count
47. Some Windows systems
48. Lists
52. French pronoun
53. Fringe benefit
54. High-five, e.g.
56. Frozen dessert brand
59. Heroic tales
63. Graff of "Mr. Belvedere"
64. ***Hors d'oeuvre holder
68. Sites for studs
69. Apple throwaway
70. High: Prefix
71. Tips
72. Grasp
73. Be rude to

Down
1. Insect stage
2. Change for a five
3. Area code 801 area
4. C-3PO or R2-D2
5. Alias
6. "Who, me?"
7. Son of, in Arabic names
8. Dictator
9. Bookwork, e.g.
10. Put forth
11. Monthly util. bill
12. "___ here"
13. Alimony receivers
18. Stationery store buy
22. Rocks, to a bartender
24. Ty with batting titles
25. "___ off?"
27. Actor Hawke
28. "Now you __ ..."
29. ___ fats
31. Word the precedes the start of the starred clues
32. They cast no votes
33. Part of an act
34. Cobbler's supply
36. Dance, e.g.
39. It's charged
41. Indefatigable
42. War god
43. First name in Communism
49. Kind of deposit
50. Drawing
51. Beauty pageant wear
53. Like windows
55. Dads
56. Window ledge
57. Burn balm
58. Country's McEntire
60. ___ monster
61. Follower of John
62. Runners on slopes
65. New pedometer reading
66. Magic on a scoreboard?
67. A Kennedy

Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #971

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

Sudoku answers from #971

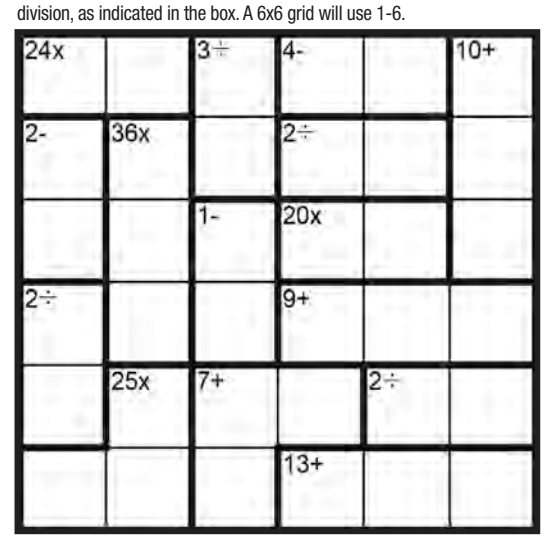
4	3	5	2	1	6
3	6	4	1	2	5
1	2	6	5	3	4
6	5	2	3	4	1
5	1	3	4	6	2
2	4	1	6	5	3

JoshJosh answers from #971

JoshJosh

by J. Reynolds - **No. 972**

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



Difficulty medium

Sudoku

No. 972

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

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

Difficulty hard



CARE
made for kids.

Heal. Play. Be a kid.

Possibilities start here.

Space to heal, room to play, plus little details that make a big difference for those with wild imaginations and wiggly bodies. Play is part of healing, and being a kid comes first.

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Children's Hospital
HSHS St. John's

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