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Meet Kara Rapacz

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One year with the Springfield Sliders

Todd Miller reinvests in his team

BY PATRICK YEAGLE

Todd Miller can thank the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team for his journey to becoming owner of the Springfield Sliders one year ago. Miller enjoyed going to Pirates games as a child with his father, despite the team’s often dismal record.

“I went to pretty much every Pirates game I could,” he said. “They were not very good, so I decided I wanted to get a team and make them very good.”

Miller completed his first year as owner and general manager of the Springfield Sliders in March, and he says he’s rededicating his efforts to building the team and improving its facilities.

Springfield’s long history with baseball stretches back to the early days of the sport, shortly after the end of the Civil War. The first baseball game here took place in 1866, and the city has yielded several legendary players since. The Springfield Sliders’ history is a bit shorter: established in 2008 as an amateur summer collegiate team, the Sliders have changed hands at least twice since then.

Miller, whose background is in live event management, says he purchased the team because Springfield is a “great market for a team.” Rarely do teams go up for sale, he says, and many collegiate teams in other cities lack

appropriate facilities or adequate population to support them.

“I knew we had a huge opportunity here for growth,” he said.

The Sliders play in the Prospect League at Robin Roberts Stadium, located next to Lanphier High School. Owned by the Springfield Park District, the stadium has 5,200 seats and additional seating in special areas.

Miller jokes that his goal for this season is only to win every game and the championship. The current league record is 42 wins with 18 losses in a season, and the Sliders came just short of that last season with 39 wins and 20 losses. Miller expects the team to do well again this coming season.

“On paper, this is the best team we’ve ever had in Springfield,” he said.

Miller focuses a significant portion of his energy on recruiting promising college-level players. Three Sliders players from last season were drafted to the majors, and every drafted player raises the team’s chances of recruiting other top players. Miller anticipates at least six players from this year’s team will be drafted.

“We wanted to get everybody that’s on our team drafted into the pros,” he said. “To be able to get them into the next level – that’s what our league is all about. It makes me feel great. That’s what we do this for.”

For last season, Miller’s crew updated the ballpark with new paint, improvements to the field and more. Attendance at games doubled last season over the previous one, Miller says, and he hopes to spur further growth with a winning season, the introduction of live music and by cutting wait times at the concession stand. He also hopes to renovate the concession stand this season, replace the outfield fence, expand the party decks along first and third base, and add an additional party deck at the bullpen.

“That way, when we have three, four or five parties during a game, we can accommodate all of them, as opposed to just picking a different date or putting them in the stands,” he said. “We want to make sure they have that great experience.”

When he purchased the Springfield Sliders, Miller was also part owner of the Carolina Cougars basketball team in South Carolina. He has since sold that team and moved to Springfield to focus on the Sliders. Part of that focus will be getting more involved in the community and getting his players more involved, as well.

“They’re here; they want to be part of Springfield,” he said. “That’s the kind of guys we try to bring on: good on the field, but also certainly good off the field.”

Miller says he is committed to Springfield and has rejected offers to move the Sliders to other cities.

“I plan to keep the team here for the long term,” he said.

The Sliders’ first home game of the 2017 season is May 31 against the Lafayette Aviators. ♦



Todd Miller PHOTO / TERRY FARMER

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Busy as bees

Buzz Bomb Brewing Company prepares to open downtown

BY PATRICK YEAGLE

What started as some friendly sword play is leading to a new brewery in downtown Springfield.

Buzz Bomb Brewing Company plans to open its doors this fall at 406 E. Adams St. — formerly Oasis bar.

Josh Flanders, a co-owner at Buzz Bomb Brewing, says he and partner Bill Larson are part of the Society for Creative Anachronism, a historical reenactment group that teaches skills like sword fighting, calligraphy and mead brewing. About seven years ago, the two men began experimenting with brewing mead.

"It didn't turn out so well," Flanders said. "We thought, 'Maybe we should try brewing beer.'"

Their decision to open a brewery came when they served their beer at Springfield Oyster & Beer Festival last year.

"That was when we were like, 'You know what? I think we could really do this,'" Flanders said.

Kevin Lust, director of Lincoln Land Community College's Small Business Development Center, helped the duo create a business plan, and they're now preparing to open their downtown microbrewery and taproom in September.

Flanders and Larson are renovating the former Oasis bar to have a "rustic industrial" feel with a copper-top bar, light fixtures made with black gas pipe, and custom stained glass and furniture they're

building themselves. They even plan to install outlets at tables with built-in USB ports to charge customers' phones.

"We're trying for the vibe of classy but accessible," he said. "That's the same thing we're going for with our beer. We're aiming to have something for everybody, so if you're not a craft beer drinker, we'll still have something that's accessible to you. And if you're really into the obscure stuff, we'll have that for you, as well."

The upstairs of the building, which previously hosted live music in the Oasis era, will again host small musical acts, as well as a small library and a second brewing system. Flanders says they will offer brewing classes and custom brews for occasions like weddings. He adds that the brewery's logo design is inspired by 1940s World War II aesthetic, so the library will contain books on bomber airplanes and tattoo flash from that period, among other topics.

Brewing capacity will initially be five barrels — equivalent to 155 gallons — split between a large primary system downstairs and the smaller secondary system upstairs. Flanders says the brewery will have a couple of rounds of brews on hand at open, and he expects to outgrow the original system before long if on-site demand and distribution are strong.

"What we're hoping is if things go well, we'll open a second site," he said, adding that a potential second site could see a larger 10-barrel system installed.

Buzz Bomb Brewing won't have a kitchen,



(L-R) Bill Larson, Benji Gines, Josh Flanders

PHOTO / PATRICK YEAGLE

Flanders says, but there are plans to have food from nearby restaurants delivered on demand. He adds that locating downtown was a priority, and the Oasis building was a perfect fit because it's an older building with character, in keeping with their design motif.

"We thought this location was great," Flanders said. "We're right in front of the farmer's market, and we want to participate with that."

The brewery's spent grains could be made into bread and sold at the market, he says, along with kombucha tea, a fermented drink popular in Asia.

"If you want a beer at 10 in the morning, you can

have one of those, too," he said with a laugh.

Flanders says that rather than seeing other local brewers as competition, he and his partners see them as part of a network that strengthens the downtown and the region surrounding Springfield.

"We think there's room at the table for everybody," he said. "In other places like St. Louis, Denver or Portland, you've got a community of different brewers who work together. That's what we'd like to see here. We would like to help create that community." ♦

A large advertisement for Security Bank. It features a prominent red 'S' logo on the left. To the right of the logo, the words 'SECURITY BANK' are written in large, bold, red capital letters. Below this, the tagline 'Banking for Generations' is written in a smaller, red, serif font. The background is a blurred image of a building. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a website address 'www.securitybk.com' on the left, a Facebook icon and 'Member FDIC' logo in the center, and the phone number '217-789-3500' on the right.



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Sun shines on local solar business



Michelle Knox with Chef Michael Higgins atop the roof of the building housing Maldaners.

PHOTO / COURTESY OF WINDSOLARUSA

BY NAOMI VELAZQUEZ GREENE FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR

Michelle Knox didn't set out to be an expert on solar energy. In fact, she worked in insurance, then for private schools, both as an educator and doing funding development. But her interest in renewable energy was piqued when someone asked whether a solar system could not only pay for itself but pay the owner to keep it.

Knox realized the answer was yes after doing her own research and discovering that a solar electric system could eventually pay for itself. The idea clicked, and she decided to become part of the solar power industry, founding WindSolarUSA in 2011.

Knox took courses from one of only two – at the time – renewable energy training centers in the U.S., driving to Custer, Wisconsin, for classes. She became a certified site assessor for both solar photovoltaics and solar thermal systems.

Six years after starting her company, WindSolarUSA has installed more than 60 systems in the region, including at the Kerasotes building housing her company's offices, atop the building housing Maldaner's Restaurant, the Bicycle Doctor and the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Knox uses her training as an educator to serve her customers and increase awareness of renewable energy. Because of her efforts and those of her company, Sustainable Springfield recognized Knox as Best Facilitator in Renewable Energy Installation in 2016.

WindSolarUSA also serves as a distributor for solar systems manufactured in Oregon and Florida. Knox takes a personal interest in the

manufacturing process, vetting each product before entering into a contract.

"We are marketing American-made modules," Knox said. "Not only are the modules made here, 80 to 85 percent of the components are sourced from other American manufacturers."

She also uses local installers – Jon Locke Home Improvement in Kincaid for construction, and Senergy Electric in Williamsville for the electrical work.

WindSolarUSA systems have been installed at homes, commercial sites, schools and agricultural facilities. According to Knox, the payback period to recover the cost of a solar investment depends on the size of the installation. Smaller residential systems may take three to five years, while larger commercial installs could see a payback as early as three years.

Recently, WindSolarUSA launched Go Solar Springfield, a new initiative which aims to bring competitive group pricing to the Springfield area, meaning smaller installations can get the benefit of bulk pricing offered to larger purchases.

Knox is optimistic about the future of solar energy, especially due to a state program to purchase renewable energy credits from solar arrays. The renewable energy climate in Springfield also benefits from Springfield City Water, Light and Power's solar-friendly "net metering" policy.

"It allows customers to 'bank' kilowatt hours at the same rate that they pay for retail electricity," Knox said.

While customers aren't paid for the banked electricity, it is taken into account annually when assessing a business or resident's electrical usage.

Knox says due to the favorable payback window and funding opportunities, "2017 is looking, to date, to be the best time to go solar." ♦

Meet Kara Rapacz

Q and A with SHG’s first lay principal

On March 13, Sacred Heart-Griffin High School named Kara Rapacz as its next principal and its first lay principal.

Katherine O’Connor, president and interim principal of SHG, said the school examined several qualified candidates from around the nation, but Rapacz, who currently serves as assistant principal, was clearly the best fit.

“This is an exciting time for us Dominicans as we entrust our treasured institution to lay leadership,” O’Connor said. “We have partnered with lay teachers for many years, and it is now time to pass the torch of the role of principal on to a lay person. I am confident that Kara’s deep faith and love for the Dominican charism will compel her to deepen the Catholic, Dominican identity of Sacred Heart-Griffin.”

As assistant principal, Rapacz leads the school’s staff in curriculum building, granular analysis of standardized testing data, accreditation review and audits from both the State of Illinois and the Diocese of Springfield. She takes over as principal on July 1.

We asked Rapacz a handful of questions to get to the heart of her leadership. Here’s what she had to say:

What made you become an educator?

I decided to enter the field of education because

of my incredible high school guidance counselor, Mrs. Hoffek. I was a senior in high school with no idea what field I wanted to go into. She helped me evaluate my strengths and find the right career path.

How long have you been at SHG, and what brought you here originally?

I am currently in my ninth year at SHG. As a teenager, I wanted desperately to attend SHG; unfortunately, that was not in God’s plan for me. When I first saw the job posting almost 10 years ago for my first position at SHG, I knew it was finally my chance to get inside the doors of this amazing school. I applied, and the rest is history.

Why did you decide this new role was the right move for you?

When the position of principal opened up, there was not a question in my mind that I wanted to apply. This school has helped me strengthen my faith life, and in turn, has helped me become better both personally and professionally. I wanted the opportunity to pay back some of what has been provided to me. I have a passion for education and spirituality. Being able to bring both of those together to change the lives of young people is an absolute dream!

What are you most looking forward to as principal?

Wow, I’m not really sure. I guess I am most excited to collaborate with the students and help them realize that they have a voice in their future. The student leadership at SHG is amazing, and I can’t wait to see what they want to accomplish next.

Does being the first lay principal at SHG bring any challenges?

Being selected as the first lay principal is an incredible feeling, but it does come with a great deal of responsibility. The Dominican Sisters and Viatorian Priests have led SHG, Sacred Heart Academy, Griffin High School and Cathedral Boys High School for 122 years. Transferring leadership to a lay person is a historical event that I promise not to take lightly. All staff and members of the school community will have to work together to ensure the founding principles of the school remain at the center of all decisions that are made. We will continue to provide academic excellence in a faith-filled environment to as many students in Springfield and surrounding areas as possible.



Kara Rapacz PHOTO / JASON JOHNSON

How do you hope to affect your students as they go out into the world?

I face each day with one main goal: to help others recognize God’s blessings and use those gifts to positively impact someone else’s life. It is all about paying it forward. Coming together, supporting one another and finding the strength in your community is what SHG is all about. As my students go out into the world, I want them to remember the impact they have on others and stay true to their ideals so they can ultimately pay it forward. ♦



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1	Sacred Heart-Griffin High School 1200 W. Washington Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-1595 217-787=9856	shg.org	637	Sr. Katherine O'Connor, O.P., Pres. and Principal (Kara Rapacz, effective July 1)	9-12	Catholic	1895
2	Blessed Sacrament Elementary 748 W. Laurel Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-522-7534 217-522=7542	bssbruins.org	531	Kathy Wear	Preschool-8	Catholic	1925
3	Springfield Christian School 2850 Cider Mill Lane Springfield, IL 62702	217-698-1933 217-698=1931 217-787-7673 (Preschool)	springfieldchristianschool.org springfieldchristianpreschool.org	450	Sheri Hall, Principal; Adrienne Jacobson, Preschool Director	Preschool-8	Christian	1951
4	Christ the King Elementary 1920 Barberry Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-3527 217-546=2159	ctkcougars.com	375	Pam Fahey	Preschool-8	Catholic	1957
5	St. Agnes Elementary 251 N. Amos Ave. Springfield, IL 62702	217-793-1370 217-793=1238	stagnescatholicsschool.org	336	Sister Joan Sorge, O.P.	Preschool-8	Catholic	1897
6	Calvary Academy 1730 W. Jefferson Springfield, IL 62702	217-546-5987 217-321=1063	caspringfield.org	300	Dr. Jay Hinckley, Principal; Donna Squires, Education Director	Preschool-12	Christian Non-Denominational	1977
7	Our Saviour School 455 East State St. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-8621 217-245=9981	oursaviourshamrocks.com	280	Stephanie VanDeVelde, Principal	K-8	Catholic	1860
8	Our Savior's Lutheran School 2645 Old Jacksonville Road Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-4531	oursaviors-school.org	240	Jill Gerberding	Preschool-8	Lutheran	1962
9	Trinity Lutheran School & Preschool 515 S. MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-2323 217-787=1145	trinity-lutheran.com	210	Pam Sausaman	Preschool-8	Lutheran	1860
10	Little Flower Catholic School 900 Stevenson Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-4511 217-529=0405	little-flower.org	198	Josh Edener	Preschool-8	Catholic	1948
11	Lutheran High School 3500 W. Washington Springfield, IL 62711	217-546-6363 217-546=6489	spiluhi.org	160	Glenn Rollins, Principal	9-12	Lutheran	1979
12	Cathedral School 815 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-2652 217-523=2750	cathedralschoolil.org	150	Interim Principal	Preschool-8	Catholic	1928
12	St. Aloysius Elementary 2125 N. 21st St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-544-4553 217-544=1680	saintalloysius.org	150	Tom Weir	Preschool-8	Catholic	1928
13	Roult Catholic High School 500 East College Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-8563 217-243=3138	roultcatholic.com	135	Nick Roscetti	9-12	Catholic	1902
14	Montessori Children's House 4147 Sand Hill Road Springfield, IL 62702	217-544-7702 217-544=5502	montessorispringfield.org	70	Sue Harris, Director	Preschool-6	NonSectarian	1977
15	St. Patrick Catholic School 1800 South Grand Ave. E. Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-7670 217-523=0760	st-patrick.org	55	Lori Loveless, Principal	Preschool-5	Catholic	1910
16	Concordia Lutheran School 2300 Wilshire Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-3309 217-529=3096	concordiacares.org school@concordiaspflid.org	40	Janet Burmeister	Preschool-8	Lutheran Church Missouri Synod	1931

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Reaching the next generation of givers

Hope Institute celebrates 60 years with new campaign

BY PATRICK YEAGLE

For all the talk about the Millennial generation, one thing is clear: young people's participation in philanthropy is crucial to the wellbeing of nonprofits.

Nowhere in Springfield is that better understood than at The Hope Institute for Children and Families, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year with a new campaign aimed at cultivating the next generation of givers.

Founded in Springfield in 1957 as Hope School, The Hope Institute offers education and job training for people with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities.

Clint Paul, president and CEO of The Hope Institute, says the need for autism services is important because of the condition's prevalence. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that one in every 68 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder nationwide. Paul says families which aren't equipped to raise a child with autism can quickly become overwhelmed.

"Many families dealing with autism are living in chaos, with locks on their doors and windows," he said. "These services give families their lives back."

Sarah Jennings, chief development officer for Hope, says reaching young donors requires a different approach than more mature generations. The advent of social media has simultaneously made it easier to connect with people but harder to stand out.

"We're engaging younger generations who are maybe not used to receiving information in the mail," Jennings said. "They're much more inclined to look at electronic communications – social media in particular. A whole new market of methods to reach younger donors has really taken off in the charity world. I've found that I was typically working closely with a more traditional donor, so this is sort of new."

Data compiled by fundraising platform Classy.org shows differences among generations in terms of volunteerism, giving rates and causes supported. The Millennial generation – defined as those born from 1977 to 1995 – represents about 11 percent of total money donated to nonprofits. They also have a volunteer rate of almost 22 percent and favor giving to organizations supporting human rights, international development, child development and victims of crime or abuse. That information matters to nonprofits because Millennials now make up a quarter of the U.S. population and have surpassed the previously dominant Baby Boomer generation – those born from 1946 to 1964 – in size.

"As baby boomers age, nonprofits and charities are really looking at how that wealth is transferred," Jennings said.

The data show that Millennials and the older Generation X cohort – those born from 1965 to 1976 – stand to collectively inherit \$40 trillion from older generations. In perhaps a signal of what's to come, the data also show that 84 percent of employed Millennials donated to a nonprofit in 2014. That likely means young people are eager to give but currently lack the means of older generations.

As part of its strategy to adapt for younger donors, Hope's Give 60 campaign asks young people for a one-time gift of \$60 – in honor of the organization's 60th anniversary. Jennings says the message to young donors is that it doesn't take much – like foregoing coffee – to have a positive effect.

"The idea is to trade small luxuries for big impact," she said.

One method of getting Hope's message in front of younger eyes has been peer-to-peer fundraising. Hope is using the Internet fundraising platform CrowdRise.com and the social media hashtag #Give60 to reach potential donors online.

Jennings points to research which

shows donors are more likely to give when they are shown examples of an organization's successes. To that end, Hope has developed a series of videos telling the stories of some of its clients. One client, Hannah, has Down Syndrome and was able to go to get a job through Hope's vocational program. Chase, a client with autism, was showing delays in speech development until enrolling at Hope, where his vocabulary and communication skills quickly grew.

Alysse Aiello Hewell, marketing director at Troxell Insurance in Springfield, is a member of The Hope Institute's Junior Circle. It's a group of young women who have committed to supporting the school. The Junior Circle is an offshoot of the Ambassadors of Hope, a group of patrons who have been supporting the school for years. Hewell says she finds it important to give because others have given to her, and because she wants to be a role model for her daughter.

"I have been lucky enough to receive countless acts of generosity, support and guidance throughout my life through family, friends, co-workers and other individuals," she said. "There have been people who have invested their time in me to support my personal and professional growth. These efforts have allowed me to shape my life in a very positive, meaningful way. I feel it is my obligation to return the generosity, with the hope that others may benefit, even in some small way."

Hewell's dedication to The Hope Institute stems from the school's own commitment to clients.

"The efforts undertaken at Hope School are solely implemented to enrich the lives of other people," she said. "I gravitated towards Hope School because they have a broad spectrum of initiatives to address the needs of a much larger group of people. I've seen firsthand how Hope School has the ability to change the lives of families and children."

While Hewell recognizes that young people may not have the financial means to donate, they do have time and energy, which she says can be just as valuable.

"If younger generations do not continue to show interest in these causes," she said, "there could be a point later in our lives where they cease to exist, which would be a detriment to the community as a whole."

Clint Paul, Hope's president and CEO, notes that state funding for autism services has been gutted by the ongoing state budget crisis.

"The need is so great, but there aren't enough resources to handle it," Paul said. "A lot of individuals who are uninsured or underinsured are not getting the services they need."

That makes it crucial to cultivate a new generation of philanthropists, he says.

"It's very import because as we see across our state government, there is not enough money to go around to fund everything completely," he said. "I don't see that changing any time soon." ♦

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April 8, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Wyndham Springfield City Centre

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Facilities of the future

Springfield Public Schools seeks community vision for buildings

BY PATRICK YEAGLE

Students at Vachel Lindsay School in Springfield have been learning in closets and other small spaces meant for different purposes almost since the school opened in 2000.

"Pretty much the day we moved into that school, we were overcrowded because of growth on the west side of Springfield," said Jennifer Gill, superintendent of Springfield Public Schools.

Unlike Vachel Lindsay, more than 80 percent of the schools within Springfield Public Schools are 50 years old or older. Even the district's mobile classrooms — essentially trailers meant to be temporary extra space — are decades old, dating from the 1960s through the 1980s.

Faced with an expensive outlook for both maintaining the current buildings and building some new ones, the school district is asking the community to help create a vision for its schools.

"What do we want to see for our future in Springfield?" Gill said.

Gill described traveling to her daughter's soccer games to a wealthy school district with more modern facilities.

"We walk in, and it looks like a junior college, and it's a high school," she said, noting the school's wrestling gym, swimming pool building, lacrosse field and combination football field and soccer field. "These are the things where I just go sit by myself because I can't answer the question of why don't we have this. These are the kinds of questions that make me want to bring this conversation to our community."

A survey of Springfield business members last year by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce found that perceptions of Springfield Public Schools were partly mixed, with respondents questioning how the district spends money, how it evaluates teachers, the condition of its facilities and whether graduating students are prepared for work or college.

In response, the chamber commissioned a task force to study the district on those points, concluding that Springfield Public Schools has rigorous standards for teachers and student achievement, while also managing its funds and facilities well. However, the task force urged the district to undertake a comprehensive facilities study, which led to the current long-term planning effort.

"There were a lot of perceptions out there about our schools that just weren't true, and some that were," Gill said. "So we wanted to uncover those."

Starting in February, Gill and her team at Springfield Public Schools began hosting "community engagement sessions" which gave an overview of the district's current facilities, their limitations and the likely challenges on the horizon. In March, the sessions began to explore what modern facilities provide and what factors should be considered when creating a long-term facilities plan. In April and May, the sessions will discuss educational standards and next steps in drafting a plan.

Working alongside Gill's team is BLDD Architects, a consulting architecture firm with offices in Bloomington, Champaign, Decatur, Chicago and Davenport, Iowa. BLDD specializes in designing facilities for education, senior care, health care, fitness and other applications, with an eye toward planning for long-term needs.

"We wanted it to be not just an architectural firm or an engineering firm that would just come in and do schematics or plans," Gill said, "but one that would really help us . . . engage people across our community and help us prioritize and plan for our future."

Sam Johnson, principal at BLDD and director of the firm's PK-12 Design Group, says engaging the community in planning is a "best practice." He said "You can develop the best facilities plan in the world, but if it doesn't align with community aspirations for your facilities, it's of little value to you." School districts are always seeking permission from the public, Johnson says, and working with the community — rather than simply dictating plans — helps a district understand what the community wants and will support.

Springfield Public Schools has 33 school buildings, and of those, only five are newer than 25 years. Another 14 are older than 50 years and 13 are more than 75 years old. Gill notes that in 1957, it cost about \$19 per square foot to build a school. Today, that cost is around \$250 per square foot.

"Is old bad? Old is definitely not bad," she said. ". . . We still teach and learn and grow and have fun and take next steps in our children's lives in our older facilities, but it is time to think about it."

Johnson notes that the schools are safe and well-maintained, but some are "bulging" due

to overcrowding. At most of the district's middle schools, for example, the cafeterias were built during an era when students were allowed to walk home for lunch, so there's only enough seating for about 200 students. Gill says Franklin Middle School has to run three or four lunch shifts to accommodate its 600 to 800 students.

Some schools also lack adequate spaces. Lanphier High School has no auditorium, and the auditorium at Southeast High School needs new seats. The 100-year-old Springfield High School auditorium was only renovated thanks to a gift from an alumnus. The district's "newest" mobile classroom trailer, purchased in 1987, was recently refurbished and moved to Butler Elementary School because the school's art teacher had to move from room to room with supplies on a cart due to lack of space.

Johnson points to research indicating school environments can influence learning. One 2002 study showed that poor indoor air quality, ventilation and thermal comfort affect outcomes. Poor indoor air quality leads to more sickness among students and lower performance levels, the study found. Likewise, the study said poor ventilation leads to buildup of carbon dioxide, which can decrease student performance on tests. Johnson says schools with less congested walkways tend to see fewer disciplinary referrals and less truancy.

Just to maintain the current District 186 schools will cost an estimated \$98 million over the next 10 years. That includes costs like boilers, heating and cooling, roofs, masonry tuckpointing and more. Within the next three years alone, the district will have to spend \$600,000 on its facilities to meet health and life safety requirements.

"Spending money like this, just to keep our buildings where they currently are, you have to ask, 'Are you spending every dollar in the best way you possibly can to really fulfill what you want your preferred future to be for the schools in District 186,'" Gill said. "These are the questions we wrestle with."

School districts in Illinois receive revenue from several sources, including federal and state money, local property and sales taxes, and grants from various levels of government. Many districts, including Springfield, also have investments that provide some revenue. The state pays schools a per-student "foundation level," along with supplemental state aid to help districts with large proportions of

low-income students.

Despite the variety of funding sources, local property taxes account for the lion's share of most school districts' revenue. For Springfield Public Schools, property taxes provided \$81.4 million last year — about 50 percent of total revenue, not counting pass-through pension payments from the state.

Although state funding for schools has been preserved amid the ongoing state budget impasse, that pool of money was already cut in 2008 because of the Great Recession, and schools have been prorated at a percentage of their foundation level funding. For Springfield, that means tens of millions of dollars in state revenue lost. The district has weathered years of cuts necessitated by the state cuts and a decline in the district's interest income, resulting in fewer administrative and support staff, deferred maintenance, reduced teaching hours and even some closed schools.

State law allows a school district to increase its property tax levy annually by five percent — not five percentage points — or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. Raising the property tax levy more than five percent requires voter approval through a ballot referendum. The last time Springfield voters approved a property tax increase for education was 1984, and the most recent attempt in 2010 failed 56 percent to 44 percent.

In certain circumstances, schools can also issue bonds to fund the construction of new schools. Typically, issuing bonds is a backdoor referendum that doesn't require voter approval, but such a procedure can be stopped if enough residents sign a petition against it.

Johnson isn't discouraged by the past reluctance of voters to approve more money for schools. He points to Decatur, where voters approved a referendum in 2010 after more than four decades.

"Authentically engaging the community, building a plan on community input, is the single most important step that a school district can take to develop a plan that can stand up to public scrutiny and receive public approval," Johnson said.

Gill says it's too early to know what a new facilities plan would cost or how it would be funded because that vision is still being formed with input from the community.

"We have to have a preferred vision," she said. "We have to know where we're going." ♦



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Charter schools could see expansion

Data shows public schools outperform on average

BY MONICA STABILE

A comparison of standardized testing results by the *Springfield Business Journal* shows traditional public schools outperformed charter schools on average in the 2014-2015 school year.

Meanwhile, charter schools and school choice programs nationwide may see a boost in funding if President Donald Trump’s budget is approved by Congress.

The push to expand school choice for students is more prominent since Trump and U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, both school choice supporters, stepped into office. Trump has proposed an increase of \$1.4 billion for the expansion of school choice in his Fiscal Year 2018 budget, totaling \$20 billion. The proposal includes \$168 million for charter schools, \$250 million for a private school choice program and a \$1-billion raise to the Title I grant program that pays school districts to allow students to attend a public school of their choice.

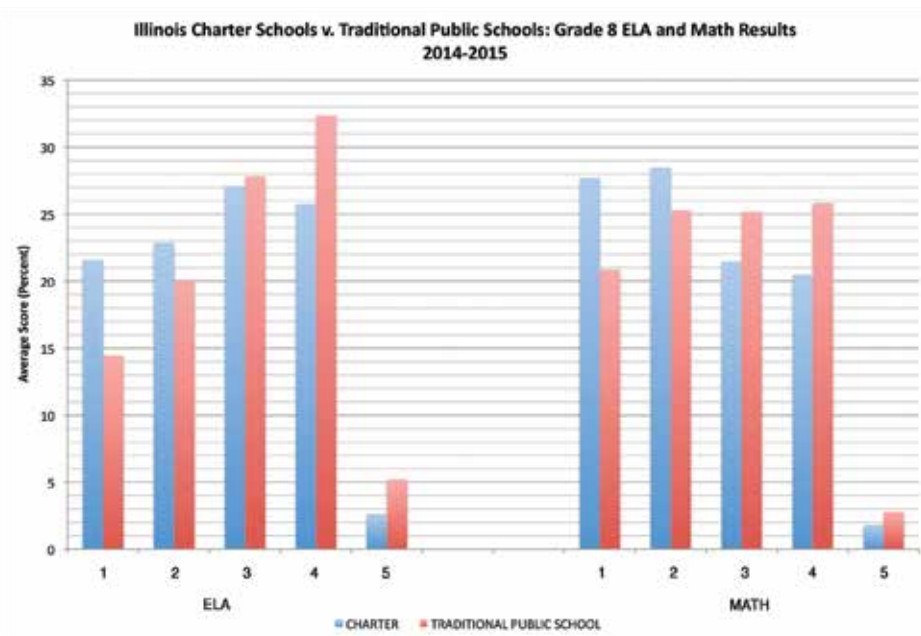
Simultaneously, the budget proposal would eliminate 13 percent of funding for the U.S. Department of Education, from

\$68 billion to \$59 billion. In response to Trump’s budget proposal, Nina Rees, president and CEO of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools said, “This funding will allow more high-quality charter schools to open, expand, and replicate – and will help finance facilities for charter schools – so that more students have access to the great education they deserve.”

DeVos, a billionaire and former lobbyist for school choice, has yet to specify her plans for the school choice program.

Charter schools are publicly funded, but they are privately operated by nonprofit organizations and don’t have as many regulations as traditional public schools. Charters may enroll students who live outside district boundaries and are tuition-free. Charters in Illinois are typically issued a five-year contract with a local school district or by the State Charter School Commission, and renewal is based on how well the charter performs academically.

In Illinois, there are 143 charter school campuses with the majority



Traditional public schools showed higher percentages of students in the highest achievement brackets compared with charter schools on average for the 2014-2015 school year. See online for more grade comparisons.

authorized by Chicago Public Schools. There are an additional 11 charters operated by school districts in greater

Illinois and eight charters that are operated by the state commission, a team appointed by the Illinois State Board of

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According to a 2016 ISBE report, the statewide 2015 graduation rate among charter school students was 64.7 percent, lagging behind the 86.4 percent of traditional public school students who

“All of the charter schools that

Klickna said that it's important to understand the problems in education, which include inadequate state funding, support and understanding of what services students need to succeed. She said Springfield Ball Charter School is considered a good example of a charter school.

"I think she has a lot to learn," Klickna said of DeVos. "If she came to Illinois, we would show her a lot of schools that are doing great things that she doesn't have a clue about. ... I think she has a huge learning curve." ♦

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE / FAX (=)	WEBSITE / EMAIL	TYPE OF INSTITUTION	ENROLLMENT		TUITION	PRESIDENT / CHANCELLOR	YEAR EST'D
					2016 FALL	2017 SPRING			
1	Lincoln Land Community College 5250 Shepherd Road, P.O. Box 19256 Springfield, IL 62794-9256	217-786-2200 217-786=2829	llcc.edu info@llcc.edu	Community college	6,504	6,528	\$115/credit hr. (in-district residents)	Charlotte J. Warren, Ph.D., President	1967
2	University of Illinois Springfield One University Plaza Springfield, IL 62703	217-206-6600 217-206=6511	uis.edu admissions@uis.edu	Bachelor's and Master's degrees, one Doctoral degree	5,428	5,080	\$9,405 per year/full-time - undergraduate, \$329 per credit hour - graduate	Susan J. Koch, Ed.D., Chancellor	1970
3	Lincoln College 300 Keokuk St. Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-3155 217-732=8859	lincolncollege.edu	Private, Liberal Arts college, Associate's and Bachelor's degrees (Lincoln campus) as well as accelerated Bachelor's degree program for working adults (Normal, Oglesby, Peoria campus)	1,194	1,058	\$17,100 per year \$25,500 with room and board	David Gerlach, Ph.D.	1865
4	Illinois College 1101 W. College Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-3030 217-245=3034	ic.edu admissions@ic.edu	Four-year private, Liberal Arts	958	901	Tuition is \$31,110 and includes books. Total is \$40,850 with room, board and fees.	Barbara A. Farley, Ph.D.	1829
5	Lincoln Christian University 100 Campus View Drive Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-3168 217-732=5718	lincolnchristian.edu info@lincolnchristian.edu	Four-year and post- graduate, private, offers Associate, Bachelor's, Master's degrees and Doctor of Ministry	877	732	\$12,900 per year/full-time, \$20,334 with room and board - Undergraduate; \$434 per credit hour - graduate and seminary	Don Green, D.Min.	1944
6	Blackburn College 700 College Ave. Carlinville, IL 62626	217-854-3231 217-854=5522	blackburn.edu admissions@blackburn.edu	Four-year, private, Liberal Arts work college, Presbyterian affiliated	596	520	\$16,492 per year (less work credit), including fees, \$24,152 per year with room and board	President/Chancellor: John L. Comerford, Ph.D., President; John McClusky, Ph.D., Provost	1837
7	MacMurray College 447 E. College Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-479-7056 217-291=0702	mac.edu admissions@mac.edu	Four-year, private, baccalaureate college, United Methodist	552	499	\$25,110 per year	Mark Tierro, Ph.D., president	1846
8	Benedictine University at Springfield 1500 N. Fifth St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-718-5000 217-528=9871	springfield.ben.edu	School of Graduate, Adult and Professional Educa- tion offers accelerated bachelor's and graduate programs	309	345	DND	Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D., M.F.A., president, Susie Doddek, campus administrator	1929
9	SIU School of Medicine 801 N. Rutledge (main bldg.) Springfield, IL 62702	217-545-8000 217-545=5538	siumed.edu admissions@siumed.edu	Public education for medical students, graduate students, medical residents	282	285	\$15,316 per semester tuition (no out of state)	Jerry Kruse M.D., MSPH Dean/Provost	1970
10	St. John's College 729 E. Carpenter St. Springfield, IL 62702	217 525-5628 217 757=6870	stjohnscollegespringfield.edu information@stjohnscol- legespringfield.edu	Private, not-for-profit, Upper Division, 2 year program of Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Graduate MSN Program	136	115	\$9,312 (2016-2017) / semes- ter - BS Nursing - 2 yr. program / Second Degree Accelerated Prelicensure; \$417 / hour - Online RN to BSN program. \$916 cr hr- MSN	Dr. Charlene Aaron, Ph.D., R.N.	1886
11	Robert Morris University¹ 3101 Montvale Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-793-2500 217-793=4210	robertmorris.edu	Private, not-for-profit, offers Bachelor's, Associate's and Master's degrees	143	100	\$8,900 per quarter/undergrad, \$2,850 per course/grad	Mablene Krueger, President Michael P. Violitt, Chancellor	1913

UIS students use spring break to help others



UIS students on Alternative Spring Break

PHOTO / COURTESY OF HAILEY HAWKINS

BY PATRICK YEAGLE

A group of students from the University of Illinois Springfield used their spring break last month to help others in the Florida panhandle. This marks the ninth year of volunteering for the student-led UIS Alternative Spring Break group.

On March 12, 25 students and two UIS staff members left Springfield for Florida's Gulf coast, where they volunteered at a zoo that accepts illegally-kept animals, helped prevent beach erosion by building seawalls from old oyster shells, helped teach children at an ecology museum and mentored children at two Boys and Girls clubs.

Hailey Hawkins, a junior psychology major who serves as the group's president, says the trip was her third such experience. She says the diverse group of students camped each night and enjoyed doing manual labor.

"We were really happy to help and happy to serve," Hawkins said. "The need for help was really great."

She says the trip helped her see the big effect of even small efforts. The students helped their host organizations complete work that would have otherwise taken several months, she says, and the UIS group was just one of several around the country doing such projects over spring break.

"Even if the work you're doing in that moment doesn't feel like it's going to have the greatest impact, in the overall scale of things, it has a huge impact," she said.

Mark Dochterman, director of the UIS Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center, says the trip was one of the best he's been on since the program started in 2009. Dochterman says he was particularly intrigued by the ecology museum, which helps children understand Florida's wildlife and wetland environments as part of a statewide curriculum; he believes Illinois should create similar centers addressing topics like soil degradation and pesticide use.

Dochterman says when the students volunteered at the Boys and Girls clubs, half of the students went to an affluent area and the other half went to a lower-income area. It was interesting to observe the different experiences of the two halves and the differing needs they witnessed, he said.

As the students reflected each night on

their activities, Dochterman says, the students came to appreciate leaving their comfort zones.

"When you leave where you're from and go serve somewhere you don't know, you're really giving freely," he said. "They say when you travel, you learn more about the place you're from than the place you go. ... This was an opportunity to see a place where things are done differently, for the students to become more aware of what's going on around them." ♦

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COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Sources: The individual Service Organizations. + - Junior League of Springfield's meeting location varies month to month, address listed is for their office. * - Location of Altrusa's first Tuesday dinner/ speaker meetings vary. Ranked by numbers of members.

	NAME / MEETING ADDRESS	PHONE / FAX (=) / WEBSITE / EMAIL	MEETING TIME(S)	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	CONTACT	DUES	MISSION STATEMENT	YEAR EST'D
1	King's Daughters Organization 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 930 Springfield, IL 62701	217-789-4431 kdospringfield.org	Once a month	320	Cindy Denby	Varies by circle	To aid the elderly in our community through both direct volunteering and financial support b way of our grant program.	1893
2	American Business Club of Springfield Sangamo Club 227 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-414-7467 abcspringfield.com admin@abcmembers.org	First & Third Thursdays, Noon	200	Chris Oury	\$180/annually	Creating opportunities for independence for people with disabilities. Help disabled individuals and children achieve greatness.	1925
3	Junior League of Springfield Varies + 420 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62701 (Main office)	217-544-5557 jlsil.org admin@jlsil.org	Second Tuesday of the Month, Sept. - May	141	Caitlin Simhauser	\$115/annually for Active, \$100/annually for Sustainers	An organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.	1939
4	Rotary Club of Springfield Maldaner's Restaurant (2nd Floor) 222 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-502-9969 springfieldrotary.org kschainker@ssoci.org	Mondays, 5:30 pm	67	Karen Schainker	\$360/annually	Service Above Self - Projects that promote literacy and combat hunger in our community; working with Rutledge Youth and sponsoring student participation in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program; and providing grants to numerous nonprofits; and international projects	1913
5	Springfield Jaycees P. O. Box 662 Springfield, IL 62705	217-971-8546 springfieldJaycees.net spfldjaycees@gmail.com	Third Wed., 6:30 pm at Hy Vee	60	Jessica Morrison	\$63/annually	A young leadership organization ideally for individuals between the ages of 18 and 41, that empower young active citizens to create positive change focusing on five different areas of opportunity including: individual development, community development, business development, international development and management development.	1939
6	Springfield Noon Lions Club Golden Corral 1038 Le June Drive Springfield, IL 62703	lionsclubs.org springfieldnoonlionsclub@gmail.com	Tuesdays, Noon	58	Larry Bunting	\$100/annually, plus meals	Mary Bryant Home, Vision Clinic, Club Lions, Heartland Lions Eye Bank	1920
7	Rotary Club of Springfield - South Engrained Brewing Co. 1120 W. Lincolnshire Springfield, IL 62711	217-370-4677 rotarysouth-spi.org dop.ehrhardt@gmail.com	Thursdays, Noon	36	Brian Schutz	\$140/annually, plus meals	Service above self. Youth Literacy and Health	1966
8	Sertoma Club of Springfield Hibachi Grill Town & Country Shopping Center Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-2782 www.sertoma.org album1@aol.com	First and Third Mondays, Noon	33	Cheryl Pence	\$160/annually plus meals	SERTOMA = SERvice TO Mankind. Areas of service: annual "Celebrate Sound" walk for hearing health; Boys & Girls Club; national heritage projects, Golden Laurel Awards, and a close relationship with Sister Cities Assn.	1954
9	Rotary Club of Springfield - Sunrise Hoogland Center for the Arts 420 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-652-0708 springfieldrotarysunrise.org kawitter@sbcglobal.net	Wednesdays, 7 am	30	Karen Witler	\$160/annually plus meals	Service above self. Grants to local non-profits that serve youth. Literacy projects at Graham School. This I Believe essay contest for high school youth in col-laboration with WUIS - NPR IL. Rotary Youth Exchange. Support for Rotary Foundation efforts to eradicate polio and fund other international projects that change lives.	1987
9	Springfield Frontiers International Chesapeake Seafood House 3045 E. Clearlake Ave Springfield, IL 62702	217-899-0800 springfieldfrontiers.com asrandolphjr@att.net	Fridays, Noon	30	Austin Randolph Jr.	\$165/annually, plus meals	"Advancement through Service" by harnessing the cooperative influence and energy of the members and directing that influence and energy towards solutions to major issues which are civic, social, educational and racial in nature.	1953
10	Rotary Club of Springfield - Midtown Inn at 835 835 S. Second St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-312-1244 midtownspringfield.rotary-clubs.org karel.homrig@prevention.org	Tuesdays, Noon	29	Karel Homrig	\$140/annually plus meals	Service Above Self – Youth, literacy and diversity focused club, partner with Washington Middle School.	2003
11	Kiwanis Club of Springfield - Downtown State House Inn 101 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701	217- 553-4710 kiwanis.org provest@aol.com	Wednesdays, Noon	25	Ron Provart	\$140/annually, plus meals	Playground for All Kids at Southwind Park, Key Clubs in High Schools, Builders Clubs in Middle Schools, Kiwanis Kids in Elementary Schools	1922
11	Altrusa International Club of Springfield Laurel United Methodist Church 631 South Grand Ave. W. Springfield, IL 62704	217-622-5597 altrusa.org nancydogs3@yahoo.com	First and third Tuesday, 6pm*	25	Nancy Easum	\$90/annually	Provides community service, develops leadership, fosters international understanding and encourages fellowship by an international network of executives and professionals in diverse career classifications	1948
11	The Zonta Club of Springfield Illini Country Club 1601 S. Illini Road Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-8680 zonta.org borecky@earthlink.net facebook.com/zontaclub-springfield	Second Wednesday, 5:30 pm, August-June	25	Carol Borecky	\$125/annually, plus meals	Works to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide through service and advocacy: local projects reflect that mission.	1939
12	Rotary Club of Springfield - Westside Brickhouse Grill & Pub 3136 lles Ave., Springfield, IL 62704	217-321-3162 springfield-rotary.org facebook.com/Springfield-WestsideRotary bselinger@troxellins.com	Wednesdays, Noon	22	Bridget Selinger	\$100/annually, plus meals	Service above self - focusing on children and literacy.	2008
13	Springfield Breakfast Optimist Club Peace Lutheran Church 2800 W. Jefferson, Springfield, IL 62702	217-546-5021 hrm1935@aol.com	Fridays, 7 am	16	Dick McLane	\$30/semi-annually	Friend of Youth. By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.	1960

Results that matter

United Way of Central Illinois aiming for long-term change

BY PATRICK YEAGLE

Before he became executive director at United Way of Central Illinois, John Kelker held the same position at Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois.

"I sort of felt I went from being a classroom teacher, where I cared about those kids deeply, to being a principal," he said. "Now I've got all the classes, and I've got to worry about all the kids."

Part of that responsibility, Kelker says, is constant reassessment of the best use for the funds United Way provides to other charitable causes. With that in mind, United Way of Central Illinois is changing its framework for giving, moving toward more accountability and long-term results. The changes amount to a reinvestment in generational change which should lead to a happier, healthier and more stable population.

Kelker likens it to the difference between a "shotgun approach" and a more targeted, intentional approach.

"If we can fund a better widget within the social services community, we should," he said. "We talk about donors making an investment. When I think of an investment, I want a return on that. So United Way needs to bring value to that gift by saying 'We're going to work with the community to determine those priorities.'"

One role for United Way arms around the globe is to collect and raise funds for other charitable causes focused on basic needs, education, financial stability and health. United Way of Central Illinois managed a pool of about \$1.7 million last year, providing grants to other nonprofits in Sangamon and Menard counties.

Cinda Klickna, president of the Illinois Education Association, served on the board of United Way of Central Illinois about a decade ago, before Kelker started as executive director. Klickna remembers the group's approach to giving at the time as "top-down."

"I'm not sure some of the groups that

got funded were necessarily the ones helping the most needy kids," she said. "Now, I think that's not the case anymore."

The changes at United Way of Central Illinois involve opening up funding opportunities to nonprofits that haven't partnered with United Way in the past, rather than only funding "member agencies." With that broadened horizon, however, comes a requirement to collect data and track outcomes. Because there are so many needs and not enough money to go around, Kelker says, it's important to do the most good with what's available. That means agencies with the strongest proven track records stand the best chances of receiving funds.

Klickna is now part of the group's Education Vision Council, one of four such councils tasked with helping United Way of Central Illinois reprioritize funding for its four areas of focus – basic needs, education, financial stability and health. Klickna says the Education Vision Council held public meetings, reviewed dozens of funding applications and interviewed nonprofit leaders to determine how best to use the limited money available. Some duplication of service was identified, Klickna notes, and some needs weren't previously being met. The council's work involved long hours and difficult decisions, she says, but it will ultimately mean positive change.

"No matter what, there just wasn't enough money," she said. "It's so important for people to donate, because it's hard to say, 'This program is so good, but so is this one.' We all wanted to see everything funded, but that's just not possible. Every one of us felt that they're all great programs, but we have to find a way to be more efficient and effective to reach more kids."

The State of Illinois' ongoing budget crisis has shredded the social service safety net, causing agencies around the state to shut down or drastically reduce services. To help agencies survive,

United Way of Central Illinois fronted the full year's worth of funding to some of its partners instead of meting out the payments one month at a time as usual. Most other United Ways in Illinois weren't able to do that.

"I think the average person underestimates the value of what social services mean to the community – the economic impact to the community," Kelker said.

Helping Hands of Springfield is one agency which received its full allotment of funds in advance. The state budget crisis has gutted programs aimed at preventing and alleviating homelessness. Amy Voils, executive director of Helping Hands, says United Way funding "really fills in the gaps for us." United Way provides funding for two programs at Helping Hands: the emergency homeless shelter operated with Contact Ministries, and the Stable S.M.I.L.E. program, which provides clients with case management, legal support, financial stewardship and more.

Voils recalls an example of a client who wanted to buy a car to travel to medical appointments but couldn't get traditional financing. Because Helping Hands manages the client's finances, the agency was able to work with the car dealership and ensure payment. It's that kind of assistance which yields long-term change by stabilizing people who otherwise would end up needing more intensive help.

"It's absolutely an investment," Voils said. "The 125 clients we're providing money management services for would otherwise be homeless."

While Kelker says United Way doesn't necessarily look for outcomes in its basic needs focus because those needs will always exist to some extent, Voils says Helping Hands still tracks data like the number of clients served in the emergency shelter each night. Helping Hands also tracks the results of its more long-term efforts, like the number of case management hours spent with clients.

Voils says Helping Hands' partnership with United Way goes beyond mere money.

"Any time we have a question or need assistance, we can reach out to them, and someone with knowledge in any area can give us advice or help," she said. "They're more to us than just a source of funding."

Heather Burton, president and CEO of Central Counties Health Centers, says United Way funding allows her group to address clients' whole health. CCHC offers a variety of medical services to low-income populations as a federally qualified health center, but United Way provides money for case management that reinforces the value of direct medical care. Burton says examples include a diabetes patient who now needs less medicine because of help managing daily care and a patient with a chronic breathing problem who stopped skipping appointments because of a relationship with an assigned health worker.

"Literally, without United Way, we wouldn't have this program," Burton said. "It really is a collaborative effort."

In the long term, seemingly small changes have a big effect, she says.

"As people get healthier, it costs less for the community as a whole," she said. "They're not using the emergency room inappropriately as much. If you reduce the cost of health care as a whole, people are healthier, so they're more able to work more and send their kids to school more consistently."

Although many social services are aimed at the most vulnerable populations, Kelker cautions that anyone can find themselves in need.

"In many cases, services are there for those who are less fortunate, but any family can have a fire," he said. "Any family can have a child born with a disability. Any family can deal with some of the issues of domestic violence or children who are growing up with questions and need after-school services. I don't want people to think it's only for those who are different than us." ♦

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Sources: IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. Forms provided by Guidestar.org. N/A - not available. Ranked by net assets.									
	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE / FAX (=) / WEBSITE / EMAIL	REPORTED NET ASSETS	ANNUAL TOTAL REVENUE	CALENDAR/ TAX YEAR	PRINCIPAL	BASE COMPENSATION OF PRINCIPAL	MISSION	YEAR EST'D
1	The Hope Institute for Children and Families 15 East Hazel Dell Lane Springfield, IL 62712	217-585-5437 217-786=3356 thehopeinstitute.us	\$23,462,739	\$33,825,821	7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	Clint W. Paul, President / CEO	\$172,048	Serves children with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses and their families by providing homes in which to grow, schools in which to learn, clinics in which to become healthier, research into emerging practices, and training for providers and parents.	1957
2	Girl Scouts of Central Illinois 3020 Baker Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-8159 217-523=8321 getyourgirlpower.org	\$19,765,029	\$6,699,546	10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015	Pam Kovacevich, Chief Executive Officer	\$156,827	Builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.	1956
3	St. Joseph's Home of Springfield 3306 S. Sixth St. Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-5596 217-529=8590 saintjosephshome.org lhighland@saintjosephshome.org	\$16,581,490	\$7,321,934	7/1/2015- 6/30/2016	Sister M. Lenore Highland, Administrator	\$0	To provide the aging and their families with compassionate and individualized care in a respectful environment that welcomes and supports each resident's religious beliefs and reflects the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.	1903
4	Central Counties Health Centers, Inc. 2239 E. Cook St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-788-2300 217-788=2340 centralcounties.org info@centralcounties.org	\$14,529,620	\$7,544,813	7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016	Heather Burton, President and CEO	\$130,705	To provide access to quality, cost-effective medical, dental and behavioral health care to the community, especially where there is a shortage, through the development and implementation of programs without regard to age, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs or ability to pay.	1999
5	YMCA of Springfield PO Box 155 Springfield, IL 62705	217-544-9846 217-544=0004 springfielddymca.org	\$12,061,710	\$5,909,512	1/1/2015- 12/31/2015	Angie Sowle, CEO	\$102,900	To serve the community by reaching out to everyone in a spirit of inclusion and fellowship. YMCA programs focus on four core values-caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. We serve men, women and children of all ages, races, abilities, incomes.	1874
6	Central Illinois Foodbank 1937 E. Cook Springfield, IL 62703	217-522-4022 217-522=6418 centralilfoodbank.org foodlist@centralilfoodbank.org	\$6,063,551	\$20,653,514	6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	Pam Molitoris, Executive Director	\$96,803	Collects donated food and grocery items from growers, manufacturers, processors, wholesalers and retailers for distribution to charitable agencies serving people in need.	1982
7	Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois 610 N. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-528-3314 217-528=6084 rmhc-centralillinois.org kthompson@rmhc-centralillinois.org	\$5,554,557	\$993,599	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015	Kelly Thompson, Executive Director	\$88,725	Provides programs to support the well-being of children and provides a home away from home for families with children receiving medical care.	1986
8	Brother James Court 2508 Saint James Road Springfield, IL 62707	217-747-5901 217-747=5971 brotherjamescourt.com administrator@brotherjamescourt.com	\$3,761,233	\$3,756,231	7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016	Sonia Bartels, Administrator	\$54,640	To serve, regardless of race, ethnic origin, creed, or ability, developmentally disabled men in need of intermediate care.	1975
9	Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries, Inc. 1220 Outer Park Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-789-0400 llgi.org info@llgi.org	\$3,583,970	\$25,410,825	7/1/2015- 6/30/2016	Sharon Durbin, Chief Executive Officer	\$150,000	Providing people the skills and resources to become self-sufficient through the power of work.	1938
10	Abraham Lincoln Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America 5231 Sixth St. Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-2727 217-529=5786 alincolnbsa.org askabe@scouting.org	\$3,583,058	\$1,101,281	1/1/2014- 12/31/2014	Daniel A. O'Brien, Scout Executive and CEO	\$118,644	To prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.	1920
11	Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County 2744 S. Sixth Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-2710 217-523=2790 habitatsangamon.com executivedirector@habitatsangamon.com	\$2,940,362	\$2,063,442	7/1/2015- 6/30/2016	Colleen Stone, Executive Director	\$78,000	A nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action.	1987
12	United Cerebral Palsy of the Land of Lincoln 130 N. 16th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-525-6522 217-525=9017 ucpll.org ucp@ucpll.org	\$2,550,798	\$6,283,568	7/1/2014- 6/30/2015	Brenda L. Yarnell, Ph.D., President	\$109,840	Provide innovative strategies to connect people with disabilities to their communities.	1968
13	Midwest Mission Distribution Center 1022 New City Road Chatham, IL 62629	217-483-7911 217-483=7981 midwestmissiondc.org office@midwestmissiondc.org	\$2,503,114	\$521,979	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015	Pat Wright, Executive Director	\$42,500	To compassionately help God's people in need locally, nationally, and around the world, and to offer a center to fulfill the call for service to our neighbors in Christ's name.	1999
14	Animal Protective League of Springfield and Sangamon County 1001 E. Taintor Road Springfield, IL 62702	217-544-7387 217-525=5896 apl-shelter.org admin@apl-shelter.org	\$2,355,957	\$1,747,629	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015	Deana Corbin, Executive Director	\$41,952	To care for ill, injured and abused homeless animals and coordinate the adoption of those animals by responsible pet owners and to end pet overpopulation by offering affordable, high-quality spay/neuter services.	1954
15	Senior Services of Central Illinois Inc. 701 W. Mason St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-528-4035 217-528=4537 ssoci.org	\$2,231,859	\$3,052,649	10/1/2015 - 9/30/2016	Karen Schainker, Executive Director	\$52,500	Non-medical servies to the elderly; assisting them in remaining independent and in their own homes for as long as possible	1976
16	Jewish Federation of Springfield, Illinois 1045 Outer Park Drive, Suite 320 Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-7223 217-787=7470 shalomspringfield.org sjf@shalomspringfield.org	\$1,584,753	\$367,914	1/1/2014 - 12/31/14	Nancy Sage, Executive Director	\$55,000	To serve the Jewish people locally, in Israel, and throughout the world through coordinated fundraising, community-wide programming, services and educational activities.	1941
17	Sojourn Shelter & Services, Inc. 1800 Westchester Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704	217-726-5100 217-726=8664 sojournshelter.org sojdirector@gmail.com	\$1,518,960	\$980,548	7/1/15- 6/30/16	Angela Bertoni, Chief Executive Officer	\$82,070	Services to adults and children who are victims of domestic violence.	1975
18	Fifth Street Renaissance PO Box 5181 Springfield, IL 62705	217-544-5040 217-544=5045 fsr-sara.org	\$1,439,555	\$1,658,003	7/1/2014- 6/30/2015	Penny Harris, Executive Director	\$71,802	Assists individuals and families in difficult situations by providing transitional housing and opportunities to acquire education, employment, and housing.	1979
19	Contact Ministries 1100 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62703	217-753-3939 217-753=8643 contactministries.com	\$1,070,730	\$945,203	7/1/14- 6/30/15	Cindy Drum, Executive Director	\$58,394	To provide service and assistance to the poor and disadvantaged of the community, making a difference for those among us who are less fortunate, to serve people in crisis by providing assistance and/or referral to other community resources.	1979

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Sources: IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. Forms provided by Guidestar.org.
N/A - not available. Ranked by net assets.

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE / FAX (=) / WEBSITE / EMAIL	REPORTED NET ASSETS	ANNUAL TOTAL REVENUE	CALENDAR/ TAX YEAR	PRINCIPAL	BASE COMPENSATION OF PRINCIPAL	MISSION	YEAR EST'D
20	Springfield Urban League, Inc. 100 N. 11th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-789-0830 217-789=9838 springfieldul.org	\$863,806	\$13,374,100	7/1/2014- 6/30/2015	Nina Harris, Chief Executive Officer	\$181,499	To help African Americans and others secure economic reliance.	1959
21	Sparc 232 Bruns Lane Springfield, IL 62702	217-793-2100 217-793=2127 spfildsparc.org	\$784,922	\$8,211,526	7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016	Greg O'Connor, CEO	DND	To help individuals with developmental disabilities improve the quality of their lives.	1951
22	Springfield Center for Independent Living Inc. 330 South Grand Ave. West Springfield, IL 62704	217-523-2587	\$765,408	\$558,951	7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016	Pete Roberts, Executive Director	\$51,595	Provides independent living services and support to individuals with disabilities, trains and refers personal assistants.	1985
23	Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland Inc. 3100 Montvale Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-9234 aginglinc.org	\$645,226	\$4,502,263	10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015	Dona Bileto, Executive Director	\$69,500	Funding for services for the elderly.	1974
24	Helping Hands of Springfield Inc. 1023 E Washington Springfield, IL 62703	217-522-0048 helpinghandsofspringfield.org	\$637,040	\$816,532	7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016	Amy Voils, Executive Director	\$56,000	To identify problems facing the poor and homeless in Springfield, IL and to implement and coordinate services to help address those problems.	1989
25	Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery 1011 N. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-6800 miniobeirne.org	\$582,431	\$460,381	7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016	Karen Cox, Executive Director	\$70,851	Prevention of child abuse and neglect by providing emergency respite care free of charge to children and their families involved in a crisis situation.	1988
26	M.E.R.C.Y. Communities, Inc. 1344 N. Fifth St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-753-1358 217-753=1360 mercycommunities.org info@mercycommunities.org	\$556,768	\$582,139	7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016	Joan Hysler, Executive Director	\$64,822	M.E.R.C.Y. (Mentors, Empowerment and Resources for Change in Young families) Communities provides housing and support- ive services to foster the independence of homeless and at-risk families.	1999
27	Phoenix Center 109 East Lawrence Avenue Springfield IL 62704	217-528-5253 217-528=5260 springfieldpride.org	\$525,294	\$419,888	1/1/2015 - 12/31/15	Jonna J. Cooley PhD, Executive Director	\$73,598	To serve as Springfield's LGBTQ Communi- ty Center and provide the highest quality of HIV/AIDS prevention and education to the community as a whole.	2001
28	Community Connection Point 901 South Spring Street, Suite B Springfield, IL 62704	217-525-2805 ccpoint.org	\$513,872	\$1,780,410	7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	Tiffany Simmons, Executive Director	\$75,384	Assisting families in obtaining the community resources and quality, affordable child care to help children reach their greatest potential.	1994
29	The Parent Place 314 South Grand Ave. West Springfield, IL 62704	217-753-8730	\$471,160	\$278,970	7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016	Bridgett Burke, Executive Director	\$53,560	To prevent child abuse and neglect by teaching positive parenting skills and techniques to nurture families in our community.	1979
30	Youth Service Bureau 2901 Normandy Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-8300 ysbi.com	\$415,687	\$1,201,212	7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	Kathleen M. Wright, Executive Director	\$85,000	Provides services to at risk youth who are, or are at risk of becoming, runaway, abused, neglected and/or homeless services are also available to their family members.	1977
31	Family Service Center of Sangamon County 730 E. Vine St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-8406 service2families.com fsc@service2families.com	\$413,763	\$1,781,682	7/1/14- 6/30/15	Christine Lindsey, Executive Director	\$66,000	To provide counseling, guidance, foster care and adoption to low-income families.	1863
32	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Illinois Capital Region, Inc. 928 S. Spring Springfield, IL 62704	217-753-1216 bbbscapitalregion.org	\$394,604	\$513,393	1/1/15 - 12/31/15	Mia D. Woods, Executive Director	\$82,001	To help children reach their full potential through life-changing, professionally support- ed one-to-one mentoring relationships.	1972
33	Rutledge Youth Foundation Inc. 151 N. Bruns Lane Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-7757 rutledgeyouthfoundation.com	\$328,112	\$2,268,295	7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	Martin Michelson, Executive Director	\$82,456	To assist abused and neglected youth in becoming productive, independent members of society.	1953
34	NAMI Illinois, Inc. 218 W. Lawrence Springfield, IL 62704	217-522-1403 namiillinois.org namii@sbcglobal.net	\$231,209	\$339,170	7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	Mary Colleran, Executive Director	DND	Dedicated to the eradication of mental illness and improving the lives of persons with mental illness and their families.	1984
35	Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault 3 West Old State Capitol Plaza, Ste. 206 Springfield, IL 62701	217-744-2560 prairiecasa.org	\$193,444	\$538,123	7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	Shelley Vaughn, Executive Director	\$67,170	To alleviate the suffering of sexual assault victims and to prevent sexual violence against men, women, children and families by providing emergency room response, medical advocacy and trauma counseling.	1978
36	Inner City Mission Inc. 714 N. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-3940 innercitymission.net	\$169,405	\$776,920	1/1/2015- 12/31/2015	Scott Payne, Executive Director	\$60,000	Provides assistance to the homeless.	1984
37	Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois 3 W. Old State Capitol Plaza. Ste. 1 Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-7016 ccdionline.org	\$128,525	\$206,771	7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	Melody Norton, Executive Director	\$65,208	Education regarding citizens with disabilities	1998
38	Computer Banc 1617 Groth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-9506 computerbanc.org	\$81,795	\$295,603	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015	David Fowler, Executive Director	\$67,500	Provides computers to children who do not have computer access at home and are most at-risk academically.	1999
39	Elizabeth Ann Seton Program 700 N. 7th St Suite C Springfield, Il. 62702	217-757-6025 elizabethannsetonprogram.org info@elizabethannsetonprogram.org	\$5,000	\$77,998	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015	Dawn Morris, Executive Director	\$30,000	To embrace the sanctity and dignity of life by nurturing pregnant and parenting women. EAS partners with multi-faith con- gregations and community organizations to provide support, education, and practical assistance to women and their children.	1996

Illinois to lay off 124 prison nurses

Union warns of danger to inmates if positions privatized

BY PATRICK YEAGLE

The Illinois Department of Corrections plans to lay off 124 nurses who work in Illinois prisons and hire a private company in their place.

IDOC says the move will save \$8 million annually, but a statewide union representing nurses claims it's retaliation by Gov. Bruce Rauner for rejecting a contract offer.

On March 18, IDOC sent a letter to the Illinois Nurses Association notifying the group of layoffs at 12 prisons taking effect June 15. Of the 124 nurses slated for layoff, four are at Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln, seven are at Decatur Correctional Center and eight are at Jacksonville Correctional Center.

The state's prison nurses have been working without a contract since July 2015 because state law automatically terminates any collective bargaining agreements that include raises on June 30 of the year executive branch constitutional officers – Rauner, in this case – begin their terms. Since then, the Rauner administration hasn't reached contract agreements with some state employee unions, including the Illinois Nurses Association. Because of the contract termination, IDOC asserts it has no obligation to follow the layoff procedures the contract outlines.

The IDOC letter sent on March 18 says the department met with the nurses association in June 2016 to discuss subcontracting the nurses' jobs to private companies. The department claims that it offered to meet with the union "on multiple dates," but that INA declined.

Shortly before IDOC sent the letter, INA filed an unfair labor practice claim against the department with the Illinois Labor Relations Board, claiming it has refused to bargain in good faith. Alice Johnson, executive director of INA, says the group's complaint follows "a long series of violations of labor law and poor management by the Illinois Department of Corrections."

The Illinois Nurses Association has since filed a second complaint alleging unfair labor practices, alleging the Department of Corrections has illegally failed to bargain in good faith by unilaterally implemented subcontracting.

"It's appalling that this administration, which cannot find enough nurses to fill existing vacancies in our prison system, is laying off 124 nurses, putting the prison system at risk for lawsuits and multi-million dollar judgments," Johnson said.

INA claims the department has failed to fill open positions in the prison system, forcing nurses to work as much as 80 hours per week

to cover shifts. The union says nurses sometimes work double shifts – 16 hours at a time – because of shortages.

"It was difficult being mandated to cover 16 positions every day because management refused to hire more nurses and placed a freeze on hiring," said Jennifer Owens, a registered nurse who worked at Logan Correctional Center from 2014 to 2016. "It became dangerous as a nurse to work 80-hour work weeks."

Owens said mandatory overtime increased in frequency during her time at the prison, to the point where she was forced to work an additional four or five shifts per week.

"People don't understand what it's like to be a fatigued nurse working in the prison system," she said.

Private contractor Wexford Health Sources Inc. provides health care for the roughly 50,000 inmates in Illinois prisons and employs its own nurses alongside the state employee nurses. The company would subcontract with the state to replace the nurses who are slated for layoff.

INA notes that Wexford has been sued several times for allegedly substandard care that resulted in harm to inmates or even death. In one case, the company agreed to pay \$800,000 to the family of an inmate at Taylorville Correctional Center who died of cancer after the

company's doctors failed to diagnose and treat his colon cancer. In a separate case, the state paid \$50,000 to the family of a man who died of bacterial infection after at Dixon Correctional Center after staff observed him for days naked in his cell with oozing sores, smearing feces, drinking out of the toilet and trying to eat his jumpsuit. A doctor working for Wexford claimed that the man appeared to be in no distress. Wexford also settled in that case, although the settlement amount was not made public.

Wendelyn Pekich, director of marketing and communications for Wexford, says the company looks for good, qualified candidates.

"Our site-level nurses are monitored not only by Wexford Health's site managers," she said, "but also by the state-employed Health Care Unit Administrators at the Illinois correctional centers."

Pekich says Wexford's nurses are covered under a collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME, the largest union of state employees, and some of the nurses targeted for lay off have contacted Wexford seeking employment.

"We are confident that the overwhelming majority of the INA nurses who are in good standing and do not have performance or conduct issues will have positions available with Wexford Health," she said. ♦

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1	Illinois Education Association 100 E. Edwards Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-0706 217-544=7383 ieanea.org	133,000	Cinda Klickna	Committed to advancing the cause of public education	1853
2	Illinois Federation of Teachers 700 S. College Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-8562 217-544=1729 ift-aft.org	103,000	Daniel J. Montgomery	Improve public education and public services for Illinois students and citizens	1936
3	Illinois REALTORS® 522 S. Fifth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-529-2600 217-529=3904 illinoisrealtor.org	44,000	Doug Carpenter	As "The Voice for Real Estate in Illinois," we are the leading private property advocate in the state, promoting legislation that safeguards and advances the interests of real property ownership; and advocate for a healthy business environment and a professional resource for our member REALTORS®	1916
4	Illinois State Bar Association 424 S. Second St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-525-1760 217-525=0712 isba.org	32,000	Vincent Cornelius	Promote the interests of the legal profession and improve the administration of justice, the quality of members' professional lives, and their relations with the public	1877
5	Illinois CPA Society 524 S. Second St., Suite 504 Springfield, IL 62701	217-789-7914 217-789=7924 icpas.org	24,000	Todd Shapiro	To enhance the value of the CPA profession	1903
6	Illinois State Medical Society 600 S. Second St., Suite 200 Springfield, IL 62704	217-528-5609 217-525=3923 isms.org	12,000	Thomas M. Anderson, MD Nestor Ramirez, MD (effective April 23, 2017)	Represents and unifies its physician members; represents the interests of member physicians; advocates for patients; promotes the doctor/patient relationship; the ethical practice of medicine; the betterment of the public health	1840
7	Illinois State Dental Society 1010 S. Second St., P.O. Box 376 Springfield, IL 62704/62705	217-525-1406 217-525=8872 ids.org	6,600	Terry Barnfield, DMD	To represent the members of the Society and the public we serve through communication, education and legislation.	1865
8	Illinois Principals Association 2940 Baker Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-525-1383 217-525=7264 ilprincipals.org	5,200	Paula Crane	"The mission of the Illinois Principals Association is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders."	1971
9	AIA Illinois 201 East Adams Street, Suite 1A Springfield, IL 62701-1323	217-522-2309 aiaill.org	4,200	Mark Schwamel, AIA	To advocate a livable built environment by advancing the profession of architecture in Illinois	1946
10	Illinois Manufacturers' Association 220 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-1240 217-522=2367 ima-net.org	4,000	Gregory W. Baise	Strengthen the economic, social, environmental and governmental conditions for manufacturing and allied enterprises in Illinois	1893
11	Mid-West Truckers Association 2727 N. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-0310 217-525=0342 www.midwesttruckers.com	3,670	Don Schaefer, Exec. VP	Provides a wide range of services to trucking companies and businesses that use trucks in their operation. Represent truck operators before federal, state and local governments and regulatory agencies. MTA seeks to promote the economic and safe operation of trucks and provides safety training, drug & alcohol testing, insurance, licensing and permit services.	1961
12	Illinois Nurses Association 911 S. Second St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-523-0783 217-523=0838 illinoisnurses.com	3,600	Terence Yee, RN	The mission of the INA is to work for the improvement of health standards and availability of health care services for all people in Illinois, foster high standards for nurses, stimulate and promote professional development of nurses, and advance their economic and general welfare.	1901
13	Illinois Chamber of Commerce 215 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-5512 217-522=5518 ilchamber.org	3,200	Todd Maisch	To aggressively advocate the interest of business to promote prosperity and opportunity for the citizens of Illinois	1919
14	Illinois Society of Professional Engineers 100 E. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-544-7424 217-528=6545 illinoisengineer.com	2,000	Adam Hardy, PE	Advance and promote the public welfare in connection with construction, environment, licensing, public health and transportation	1886
14	Illinois Trial Lawyers Association 401 W. Edwards St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-789-0755 217-789=0810 itla.com	2,000	Christopher T. Hurley	Achieve high standards of professional ethics; uphold laws; secure and protect the rights of those injured in their persons or civil rights	1952
15	Home Builders Association of Illinois 112 W. Edwards St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-753-3963 217-670=1719 hbai.org	1,700	Dean Graven	The voice for home building in Illinois.	1956

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- 8 – The Rail Masters Tournament, The Rail Golf Club, 9 a.m. Shotgun Start, Jesse Noelke, 217-525-0365.
- 21 – Athens Community Football Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, 8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 632-7242, Four person scramble.
- 22 – Piper Glen Two Person Scramble, Piper Glen Golf Club, (217) 483-6537.

May

- 6-7 – The Rail Shoot Out, The Rail Golf Club, Jesse Noelke, 217-525-0365.
- 11 – Big Brothers Big Sisters Golf Outing, The Rail Golf Course, Kayla Graven, (217) 753-1216.
- 12 – Laborers 477 Scholarship Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217)786-4111.
- 13 – Menard County Masonic Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, 8 a.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 632-7242, Four person scramble.
- 13 – Bergners 8th Annual St. Jude Golf Outing, Edgewood Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Crystal (217) 494-1529 or Mel (217) 725-6100.
- 19 – Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Golf

Outing, The Links, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 245-2174, Scramble.

- 19 – Lincoln Land Community College Annual Soccer Team Golf Outing, Piper Glen Golf Club, (217) 786-2426.
- 20 – Greenview Athletics Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, 9 a.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 632-7242, Scramble.
- 22 – 2nd Annual Allie Mathon Golf Benefit and Sponsorship for Kayla Brooker, Panther Creek Country Club, Shotgun start at 12 p.m. with dinner included. Brian McNeil at Advance PT 217-483-5858 or 217-316-2258
- 25 – Mini O’Beirne Crisis Nursery Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217)786-4111.
- 27 – Patrick Sheehan Memorial Golf Outing, Edgewood Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Christine Hergenrother 217-341-5069

June

- 2 – Rochester High School Football Team Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 12:30 p.m. Double Shotgun Start, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 8 – Sherman Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, The Rail Golf Club, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, Ed Legner (217) 496-2621.
- 9 – Lions Club Charity Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 9 – Camp COCO Children’s Cancer Fund at SIU School of Medicine Golf Outing, The Rail Golf Club, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, Lauren Murphy (217) 545-2819.
- 10 – Susan G. Komen Play for the Cure, Brookhills



- Golf Course, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Shotgun Starts, (217) 787-8576.
- 11 – 22nd Annual Crusader Aiders Golf Outing (benefitting Lutheran High School), The Rail Golf Club, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 546-6363.
- 11 – Father Franzen Memorial Golf Outing, Piper Glen Golf Club, (217) 483-6537.
- 12 – HIP Jr. Golf Tournament, Brookhills Golf Course, 9 a.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 787-8576.
- 12 – 23rd Annual Ronald McDonald House Golf Classic, Panther Creek Country Club, 8 a.m. morning flight, 1:15 p.m. afternoon flight, Johanna Moll (217) 528-3314 ext 4.
- 18 – Father’s Day Three Generation Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, (217) 632-7242, Scramble.
- 19 - American Lung Association’s Springfield Golf Classic, Illini Country Club, Corporate Cup- 7 a.m. Shotgun Start or the Golf Classic Scramble – 7a.m. or 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, Maggie (217) 718-6678.
- 22-25 - Lincoln Land Charity Championship, Panther Creek Country Club. For tickets and information www.lincolnlandcharitychampionship.com, Kate Peters (217) 670-2910.

- 22 – Springfield Home Builders Association Golf Outing, Edgewood Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Lee-Ann Burgener, (217) 698-4941.
- 23 – Pleasant Plains Sports Boosters Golf Outing, Piper Glen Golf Club, (217) 483-6537.
- 23 – Josh Langfelder County Recorder Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 26 – Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, Jacksonville Country Club, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 245-2174, Scramble.
- 30 – Elks Drum & Bugle Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.

July

- 1 – Over 50/Under 50 two-person scramble, Country Hills Golf Course, a.m. or p.m. tee times, (217) 632-7242.
- 4 – Flag Golf Tournament, Brookhills Golf Course, Shotgun Starts all day, (217) 787-8576.
- 7 – Williamsville High School Sports Boosters, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, The Rail Golf Club, Matt Seman, 217-525-0365.
- 7 – Little Flower Men’s Club, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 13 – 22nd Annual Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Corporate Cup Challenge Golf Outing, Piper Glen Golf Club, 7:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Shotgun Starts, Ashley Earnest, (217)525-1173, four- person team, Scramble.
- 14 – Tom Madonia Memorial Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 15 – Cubs vs. Cardinals Golf Tournament, Brookhills Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 787-8576.
- 15 – Daisy’s Angels in the Fairway Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 632-7242.

- *20 - 10th Annual Central Counties Health Centers Run/Walk, Edgewood Golf Course, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, Melinda (217) 788-2310.
- 21 – Esper Figueras Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 28 – 9th Annual Carter’s Drive Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, Scott Selinger, (217) 494-8040.
- *29 – Sangamon County Annual Golf Outing, The Rail Golf Course, four person team, Republican Headquarters, 217-528-6267.

August

- 4 – Springfield High School Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 5 –Greenview Firemen Santa’s Helper Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, 8 a.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 632-7242.
- 11 – Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, Northridge Hills Golf Course, (18 Holes), 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 245-2174.
- 25 – March of Dimes Golf Outing, Piper Glen Golf Club, (217) 483-6537.
- 26 – Piper Glen Four Person Scramble, Piper Glen Golf Club, (217) 483-6537.

September

- 7 – Chatham Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, Piper Glen Golf Club, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 483-6537.
- 8 – Friend In Deed Golf Outing, Piper Glen Golf Club, (217) 483-6537.
- 8 – The Calvary Academy MC Johnson Memorial Golf Classic, The Rail Golf Club, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, Tina Casper, (217) 546-9700 X210.
- 9 – Frontiers International, The Rail Golf Club, 12 p.m. lunch and registration, Bob Wesley(217) 899-6826 or Brad Mills (217) 306-5385.
- 16-17 – Piper Glen Championship, Piper Glen Golf Club, (217) 483-6537.
- 18 – 14th Annual Orthopedic Center of Illinois Foundation (OCIF) Chip in Fore Charity!, Illini Country Club, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, Kelsey (217) 547-9100.
- 21 – 19th Annual Springfield YMCA Golf for Kids Charity Tournament, Piper Glen Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Lynn Eck, (217) 544-9846 X116.
- 22 – Lincoln Land Community College 25th Annual Baseball Team Golf Outing, Piper Glen Golf Club, 8 a.m. Shotgun, Ron Riggle, (217) 786-2426.
- 23 – 9th Annual Mark Timm Memorial Golf Outing, Brookhills Golf Club, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Shotgun Starts (217) 787-8576.

October

- 6 – Matt Helm Memorial Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Courses, (217) 786-4111.
- 9 – Capt. Kim Rhodes Memorial Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 14 – Piper Glen Hard Course Day, Piper Glen Golf Club, (217) 483-6537.

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Check fraud still happens. Protect yourself.

BY THOMAS C. PAVLIK JR.
FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR

Until they are victimized by bank account fraud, few people realize the disruption that can result from someone else’s illegal use of their account information. One might think with mobile and online banking that the problem has gone away. But people love their paper checks. And fraudsters haven’t gone away, either – one report I recently read stated that 90 percent of all banks still deal with check fraud losses. Indeed, another report found more than \$13 billion in actual and attempted check fraud losses as recently as 2015.

The most common types of fraud involve stolen checks, “blank” checks that have your account information at the bottom just like your real checks, or altered checks that differ in a variety of ways from the check you originally wrote.

In each instance, the thief generally obtains one of your checks, sometimes by stealing it from the mail. An unscrupulous vendor may take account information from a payment check and use it to defraud you. Or your cancelled checks may be taken from your garbage and used to create checks that contain your bank account information (the numbers at the bottom) but with a different name as the account holder. The possibilities are only limited by the creativity of the thief. Businesses aren’t immune either – I’ve seen both 80-year-old widowers and larger businesses defrauded by the same scheme.

Your first goal should be to minimize the chances of being victimized by this type of fraud. Your second goal should be to minimize the disruption and angst that will result from a failure to protect against check fraud.

How, then, can you help to prevent check fraud? First, use common sense:

- Don’t leave checks in your mailbox for pickup by the postal carrier since they might easily be stolen.
- Don’t give your account information to people you don’t know or don’t trust.
- Unless needed for tax purposes, destroy old cancelled checks and bank statements –preferably by shredding.
- Regularly reconcile your bank statements with your check register and otherwise review your statements for suspicious activity.

Second, spend a few minutes and check out the following websites which contain more detailed information on how to avoid some of the common, as well as the more esoteric, types of fraud: The National Check Fraud Center (www.ckfraud.org) and The National Fraud Information Center (www.fraud.org) are great starting points.

Despite your best efforts, or perhaps due to a lack of any effort whatsoever, you may end up a victim of check fraud. What now? The law, in general, puts the obligation on you as the account holder to discover fraud. The easiest way to do so is by religiously scrutinizing your monthly bank statements for anything that looks suspicious. Obviously, reconciling that statement to a check register is the easiest way to uncover fraud. Don’t delay, however, as you generally have 30

days to report any suspicious activity. Fraud reported more than 30 days after receipt of a bank statement will be very difficult to reverse under current law.

Now that you have reported the fraud in a timely manner, what does the law say about who bears the responsibility for the fraudulent payment? The details of this legal issue have taken up page after page of statutes and cases, and are beyond the scope of this article. Still, there are some general principles that will help guide you through the aftermath of check fraud.

First, the law imposes a duty of ordinary care on the business (as compared to the individual) account holder. That is, if your business did something or failed to do something that resulted in the fraud, it may have to bear some of the loss. A company that fails to properly screen its bookkeeper or that fails to safeguard its corporate checks may well end up suffering the loss. Again, common sense rules. Likewise, if an employee forges an endorsement on a check payable to the employer, or a company check payable to a supplier, and cashes the check, the employer will likely be held liable for the loss. Note, though, that this principle doesn’t apply to the typical consumer account.

Second, the policy behind the relevant laws is that the burden should be borne by the party in the best position to prevent the loss. This is particularly true for the non-business customer. In other words, so long as the customer reports the fraud in a timely fashion, the bank will typically take the hit. Generally speaking, it is in the best position to detect the fraud. Keep in mind, however, that in most instances you are under an obligation to cooperate with the bank. The bank will likely refuse to credit your account for the stolen funds if you refuse to assist the bank in pursuing the thief. For example, if a family member perpetrates the fraud, your refusal to provide testimony against that family member may cost you dearly.

Beyond this generic type of check fraud, there’s another, increasingly common form of check fraud. Businesses are particularly being targeted in this scheme, and it involves fraudulent cashier’s checks. Basically, an unsuspecting mark deposits what looks like an official cashier’s check. Typically, the checks look good enough for the bank to provisionally advance money based on the deposit. But some weeks later, when the fraud is discovered, the provisional advance is reversed. During that time, the victim used those provisionally advanced funds – typically for the benefit of the scammer. The point? Be aware that even a cashier’s check can take several weeks to clear before being indubitably placed in your account. Don’t be afraid to call the issuing bank to confirm details, using a phone number you’ve looked up rather than one that was provided to you. If in doubt, take a pass on the transaction or insist on a wire transfer, in which funds are cleared almost instantly.

Exercise common sense, protect your financial information, and hopefully you will avoid check fraud. ♦

Thomas C. Pavlik Jr. is an attorney with Delano Law Offices, LLC.

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The business of art: A new look for The Roost

BY ROBERTA CODEMO
FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR

The Roost is getting a new look. When Springfield native Rachel Bonney opened the shop two years ago at 216 S. Sixth St., she envisioned the space as an artist's co-op. At one point, she had up to 30 artists renting space from her and displaying their wares. Bonney said the name came about as a happy accident. When she was trying to come up with a name, she was looking for words synonymous with co-op. Her computer thought she meant a chicken coop, and up popped the word roost. "It was such a cute name," she said, adding that she and the artists started referring to the shop as their little roost. "I decided to change things up," Bonney said. She recently made the decision to take the business in a different direction and is moving into the retail business. When she reopens on April 5, downtown shoppers will have a place to shop for clothes. "This is a fun shop," she said. "I'm just putting a different take on it." The shop, which will no longer be a co-op, will carry affordable, fashion-forward clothing from New York and Los Angeles. "I'm starting small," she said. Initially, she plans to carry a few racks of tops, tunics and dresses in sizes small to 3X.. She'll also offer pottery, art

work, jewelry, purses, home goods, bath products, accessories, lighting and more. "I don't know what to expect," she said, adding that she's both excited and nervous. "I won't know unless I try." Bonney plans to continue selling handmade goods from local artists, though she says she's "downsizing" from 30 to 10 artists. The artists who remain will now have space to expand and to try new things. "It's good for the artists," she said. "It allows them to grow." The shop will also have a new feel to it. Bonney is opening the space up and taking out the tree in the center of the floor to improve the flow. There will be new display units, and the shop will even carry a line of handmade furniture. She envisions the space as always changing. Bonney remembers when people used to come downtown to shop and wants to capitalize on that. Ultimately, she wants to see a downtown shopping district develop. "I want to give people a reason to come back downtown," she said. She hopes that developments like hers spark an interest and drive people downtown to see what everyone is talking about. "I love downtown," she said. ♦

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MEDICAL NEWS

SIU opens clinic in Lincoln

Lincoln is getting a new family medicine clinic, thanks to a partnership between SIU Medicine, Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital and the Logan County Department of Public Health.

Slated to open April 3, the new SIU Center for Family Medicine-Lincoln will be located inside the existing Logan County Department of Public Health and serve as a training site for SIU students and resident physicians.

"Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital and our Foundation are thrilled to partner with the SIU Center for Family Medicine and our local health department to improve access to health care services in our community," said Dolan Dalpoas, president and CEO of Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital. "We're confident the new clinic will improve the health of the people and communities we serve."

The 1,500-square-foot clinic will be the first SIU site to integrate medical, behavioral and dental services in one building.

"We hope patients will find the integrated

services improve their ability to access comprehensive care," said Iris Wesley, CEO of SIU Center for Family Medicine.

About one third of the 33,000 residents in Logan County have an annual income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and the clinic is meant to address both a medically underserved area and a medically underserved population. It will be a federally qualified health center, which provide access to care regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

The clinic is funded in part with a \$288,800 grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. SIU, which will oversee the clinic's administration, is one of two health providers in Illinois to receive the grant and one of 75 nationwide. The ALMH Foundation funded renovation work on the site with a \$100,000 grant.

The clinic began taking appointments on March 20. ♦

Springfield Clinic opens cancer center

The Cancer Center at Springfield Clinic is now offering chemotherapy, infusion services and cancer care to patients in Litchfield.

Dr. Preet Singh of Springfield, a board certified hematology and oncology specialist, is establishing an outpatient and infusion services clinic at the Litchfield Oncology Institute. Singh and a team of oncology nurses will offer the services in Litchfield each week on Wednesdays.

Springfield Clinic also recently established an infusion clinic in Carlinville. Dr. Leonard Giannone, a cancer treatment specialist with Springfield Clinic, began offering chemotherapy and infusion services at Carlinville Area Hospital earlier this year. Springfield Clinic, which also offers cancer treatment in Jacksonville, Lincoln and Taylorville, was the first oncology practice in downstate Illinois to receive certification from the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative, created by the American Society of Clinical Oncologists. ♦



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DIY appeal at Alexander's Steakhouse

BY THOMAS C. PAVLIK JR.
FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR

This month takes us to Alexander's Steakhouse, which isn't open for lunch, but offers a unique environment for business meals nonetheless. Alexander's tag line is "Pick it. Grill it. Enjoy it." It will make sense in a moment.

Alexander's is located at the intersection of Bruns Lane and Jefferson Avenue. It also has locations in Normal, Peoria and Champaign. It differentiates itself from its peers by offering "Eatertainment."

What does that mean? Diners at Alexander's get to participate in their meal preparation as much, or as little, as they like. Walking in the front door, visitors are met by a glass door meat locker containing the whole panoply of 12 separate steak cuts. You can select the exact cut and size you want – sort of like picking your own lobster out of the tank.

Moving past the meat locker, diners are presented with two large charcoal-fired grills. Yep, guests are encouraged to cook their own steaks. Afraid that you'll botch the cooking and end up with a piece of shoe leather? No worries, as Alexander's grill staff will handle it for you for an additional \$2.

Even if you decide to leave the meat grilling to professionals, make sure to take

a stab at cooking up some Texas Toast. The day we visited, we even saw one gentleman making a stack of at least ten pieces of beautifully buttered and browned goodies for his table. Beware, though, as the grill gets pretty hot and it's easy to incinerate the thick pieces of bread.

Alexander's is one of the few places in Springfield that still offers a salad bar – and a well-stocked one at that. You really can be involved with almost every step of your meal.

My guests and I arrived just after 6 p.m. on a weeknight. Alexander's was about a third filled and only one grill was in operation. Had we arrived prior to 6 p.m., we could have taken advantage of the early dining specials. The deals looked good enough that we decided next time we'd ditch our pride and dine with the retirement crowd.

There's lots of dark wood inside – pretty much what you would expect of a steakhouse. There's a separate bar area, and adjacent to that is a sunken dining area that offers some privacy. We saw a rather large group there that was apparently having a dinner board meeting – perfect for a bit of secluded business.

All dinners come with the salad bar, the Texas toast (brought to your table if you decide not to venture to the grill yourself) and a choice of baked potato with fixings

or fries. Broccoli or sweet potato fries cost an extra \$1.

Starters include staples like onion rings (\$8.59), shrimp cocktail (\$9.99) and potato skins (\$7.79). Cognizant that we'd hit the salad bar several times, we opted to skip the appetizers.

When it comes to the main point of a trip to a steakhouse, Alexander's won't disappoint. The price points seem reasonable compared to its peers, and Alexander's claims all steaks are hand cut by its own in-house butchers. There are all the traditional cuts of steak in a variety of sizes. But there are also a few twists – like the top sirloin Santa Maria-style (18 oz., hand rubbed with house-made spice blend for \$24.99) and the Beefeater (3 lb. top sirloin for \$54.99). In the mood for something else? Alexander's has a variety of kabobs, a chicken option, pork chops and the obligatory surf-and-turf (\$32.49 to \$47.99, depending on your selection). For the non-meat crowd, there are some other seafood choices.

We opted for the filet (9 oz, \$30.89), the bone-in Kansas City strip (\$25.99), and the rib-eye (16 oz, \$32.99). Most importantly, we decided to delegate the cooking to Alexander's staff.

After ordering, my guests and I adjourned to the salad bar. We appreciated the whole scallions and variety of greens

and vegetables. It's not as comprehensive as you might find at Hy-Vee, but you can make yourself a substantial and interesting salad at Alexander's, especially when paired with a few pieces of Texas toast. Our only complaint was that we had to ask the staff to replenish some of the items.

Our steaks came out pretty much right after we finished our salads. Perhaps the grill chef was watching us and timed accordingly.

Thankfully, each steak came out exactly as ordered: one Pittsburgh (very, very rare), one rare and one medium rare. Nicely done, Alexander's. Each steak was well seasoned, flavorful and juicy. Clearly, the grill master had let our choices rest for a few minutes before sending them tableside.

Two of my guests opted for baked potatoes – one with every option available and one with just butter and sour cream. Each commented that they were fluffy and cooked just right. I decided on the fries, and while I could have used a slightly more generous offering, they were also well-cooked, fluffy and with just the right amount of salt.

Table service could have been a bit faster, but we chalked that up to an influx of several particularly large groups after we sat down. We did appreciate that the staff was not intrusive and allowed my

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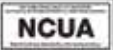
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client guests and I to attend to what was clearly the business portion of the evening without interruption.

A variety of desserts are available, and although we were tempted, we declined.

Alexander's should be on your list for a business dinner. It's solid food and the participation aspect can make for a bit of fun if warranted. ♦

Thomas C. Pavlik is an attorney with Delano Law Offices, LLC in Springfield.

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(top) A chef at Alexander's prepares meat and Texas toast. (lower left) A selection of New York strip steaks. (lower right) Meat on the grill being cooked to perfection at Alexander's.

PHOTOS / PATRICK YEAGLE





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REPUBLIC
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Scarcity of diversity: a capital problem

BY DOMINIC E. WATSON
FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR

Throughout our community today, you can look around and see opportunity. Driving through downtown, we have seen a resurgence in the historic culture that once thrived in our urban core. We've seen progress and community support rivaling some of our regional neighbors. But even with that effort, diversity is unconceptualized and often unembraced. Our community can do better.

The diversity issues facing our city are the end result of deep, systemic problems. In a recent article that featured a thorough analysis of the City of Springfield employee salaries, *The State Journal-Register* concluded that minorities were still less likely to have higher-paying jobs. It was just the most recent reminder that we need to keep asking ourselves: Are we really doing enough?

It is hard not to think that our city, rich in the history and narrative of Abraham Lincoln – of freedom – has forgotten. We've forgotten that it was less than a decade ago that we commemorated the race riots of 1908. Although many things have changed since then, the inequality that comes from a lack of diversity has remained the same. It is all too common for people in our city to dismiss diversity as a goal. We've seen over the course of the last decade that all is not lost; but we've also seen there is much work to do.

Let's start with our young professionals and entrepreneurs. Various studies tell us that exposure to a diverse work culture has a direct relationship to an individual's ability to be successful. We know that, like hard work, success also begets success. As of now, we are failing to provide the diverse culture needed for workers to become conscientious and productive community stakeholders – and one day, mentors to the next generation. Part of the problem is that we often rely on and allocate limited resources to groups with scarce reach when it comes to diversity.

An economic perspective helps illustrate the point. A common textbook definition of economics is "the study of how we choose to use limited resources to obtain the maximum satisfaction of unlimited human wants." If diversity is "the good," when resources for the good are limited, there is scarcity of that good. As we allocate the resources to the wrong groups, the supply of the good will start to fall and this causes the need for the good to rise. In addition, the higher need for the good provides incentives for those same groups to find substitutes or alternative solutions, some of which may not address the lack of diversity. Oftentimes, this can result in failure of the



efforts altogether, resulting in the good becoming so scarce that practical solutions are no longer available.

Cities across the country have succeeded in establishing aggressive diversity plans for business and overall feasibility within existing budgets. Several have introduced diversity advisory boards, implemented diversity statements and established diversity compliance offices. The City of Indianapolis, for example, has outlined in the yearly city strategic plan their commitment to diversity. Not only are their diversity resources exceptionally high among minority communities, but they have also been well-received by the population as a whole.

Most agree that a long-term, inclusive approach is needed to address the challenges of diversity. We cannot take a piecemeal approach to the problem and expect the results we need to see in our city. With the Illinois Bicentennial Celebration around the corner, it would be amazing to celebrate in a capital with businesses as rich in diversity as our population.

Our urban core is a melting pot, so our business community should not be an echo chamber. Let us challenge ourselves to look within and find ways to reach some new voices. We need to ask not just "Who?" but "How?" How we will come together to ensure our business community is presenting opportunity and prosperity to all segments our community? Divisiveness, regardless of where it is coming from, isn't working. A city with a legacy like Springfield's deserves better. And besides, it would be good for business. ♦

Dominic E. Watson is the executive director, Springfield Black Chamber of



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Professional Women's Calendar of Events

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Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL)

IWIL will hold a luncheon on Thursday, April 20 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Sangamo Club. Sarah Delano Pavlik will be speaking on "Words That Help You Rise Strong." To register or for more information visit www.iwil.biz.

Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI)

WE-CI will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at American Harvest Eatery. Join us as Katie Davison from Innovate Springfield presents "Collaborative Communities" and speaks about how business incubators positively impact communities and the entrepreneurs they serve. The cost for this meeting will be \$20 or \$25 for walk ins. Admission is waived for first time guests. Additional information about this event is available by contacting Stephanie McDannald at emersonpress@comcast.net. We ask that you RSVP by April 7 to reservations@we-ci.org, or reserve a spot online at www.we-ci.org.

Association for Women in Communications (AWC)

AWC will hold a luncheon on Wednesday, April 12 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Sangamo Club. Marlene Dietz, a communications pro, entrepreneur, and much more, will speak on "Communication Leadership: Lessons from the Field." Marlene is the owner and president of Dynamic Leadership Development, a company with clients across the country. For more information or to make a reservation, visit www.awcspringfield.org.



To have your event added to the Women's Calendar of Events, please email your information to info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com



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306-3561
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5438 Forrest Lane, Sherman
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Rainbow Massage Spa

348 Williams Lane, Chatham
481-6769
Owner: Miaomiao Liu

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407-592-5949
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381-6866
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