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MAKEOVER

Fairgrounds seek money

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Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation Chairman John Slayton inside the Coliseum.

State fairgrounds seek money for a makeover

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY
DAVID BLANCHETTE

John Slayton wants visitors to take in the sights when they step onto the 366-acre fairgrounds during this year's Illinois State Fair. "You can look in pretty much any direction out here and you're going to see a need for renovation or improvement," Slayton said. "It would be nice to have the Illinois State Fairgrounds back as a place that Illinoisans can be proud of."

Slayton is the chairman of the Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for repair and maintenance projects at both the Illinois and Du Quoin State Fairgrounds. The foundation was formed in 2016, got into high gear in 2017, and has since been trying to raise part of the estimated \$180 million needed to take care of the deferred maintenance issues on the two state-owned fairgrounds. The foundation has raised approximately \$100,000 to date, Slayton said.

The poster child for the need, and the state and foundation's number one priority, is the 1901-vintage Coliseum Building on the Illinois State Fairgrounds. It has been closed since October 2016 when serious structural issues were discovered in the huge arena-type building which hosts horse and livestock events. "The Coliseum is the number one need, and it is probably at a price to fix of about \$8 million," Slayton said. "Hopefully that number can include some heating and ventilation work inside, which would make it a year-round venue for the fairgrounds, and for shows that are begging us to get it done so they can return there for events."

The Coliseum repair is one of the two projects specifically named so far that will

benefit from a \$30 million capital appropriation for fairgrounds work passed this spring by the Illinois General Assembly. The Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation website also identifies the \$2.1 million repair of the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds' 1947-vintage Grandstand as an Illinois Department of Agriculture priority for foundation-raised funds.

Slayton hopes the \$30 million state appropriation will be the kick-start for large donations that the foundation needs.

"We've had some generous gifts in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range, and a very generous donor who contributes \$2,500 per month, but we haven't hit a home run yet," Slayton said. "It's been a slow process. I thought I'd have people calling me wanting to make donations, but that's not been the case."

"It's pretty much the same pitch over and over again, I get down on my knees and I plead with them to make a gift," Slayton said. "We are a very young organization, so to have what has happened in Iowa, Indiana and Minnesota, where they have received substantial estate gifts, those take time to get into your estate plans."

"Hopefully, there are people who came to the State Fair 50 or 60 years ago and met their future spouse and had a family and their memories are vibrant," said Slayton, a Mc-Donough County native who spent much of his youth as a 4-H member exhibiting livestock at the State Fair. "We hope they will consider the Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation in their estate plans."

Illinois Agriculture Director and Fairgrounds Foundation board member Raymond Poe hopes the needed repair money can be raised soon, because it's not just a question of state pride, it's an economic issue.

"While the fair is important to the depart-

commitment to fix and repair the fairgrounds and join our efforts by donating to the Fairgrounds Foundation."

Except for the Coliseum and Multi-Purpose Arena projects that Poe mentioned, no one has publicly identified what other work might be



Roof work is needed on many of the barns on the fairgrounds.

ment's mission to promote our state's number one industry — agriculture — the fairgrounds also serve as a year-round revenue generator," Poe said. "Events that are held on the state fairgrounds not only generate revenue for the department, but create tax revenue for Springfield, Sangamon County and additional business volume for the area."

"That's why we are grateful that the governor introduced, and the General Assembly approved, \$30 million in the capital budget to help fund much needed repairs to the Coliseum, Multi-Purpose Arena and other various buildings in Springfield," Poe said. "It is our hope that others will take note of the state's

done with the \$30 million legislative appropriation. A Freedom of Information Act request for a list of such projects to the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB), which coordinates all state-funded, non-road construction projects, was denied.

"CDB is withholding the Department of Agriculture's FY20 listing of capital project requests, since this listing is currently in a draft format," the denial letter stated. "Final decisions have not been made as to when and in what order the projects will move forward."

The CDB did share a list of past and ongoing repair and maintenance work at the state's two fairgrounds.

COVER PHOTO

Visitors fill a main thoroughfare during a recent State Fair.

PHOTO BY DAVID BLANCHETTE

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At the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, some of the numerous projects listed during the last 10 years include \$1.8 million to replace water service and sewers; \$162,000 and \$309,000 for emergency Grandstand roof repairs on two occasions; \$3.8 million to upgrade the fairgrounds' electrical systems; \$3.4 million to replace the Administration Building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; \$666,000 to repair and replace the Multipurpose Arena canopy; \$518,000 to upgrade roads throughout the fairgrounds; more than \$1 million to replace roofs on various buildings and barns; \$106,000 to repair the parapet wall at the Junior Livestock Building, a project that is still active; and \$515,000 for an emergency roof replacement on Barn 13 directly across from the Coliseum.

The state also spent \$682,000 to enclose the Warm-Up Arena adjacent to the Coliseum so some shows originally scheduled for the Coliseum could have a temporary home.

The CDB listing of projects on the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds during the past several years includes an emergency Grandstand roof replacement, \$303,000; masonry and parapet wall replacement and repair, \$1.1 million; Southern Illinois Center repairs, \$123,000; Exhibition Building emergency roof replacement, \$83,000; and tens of thousands of dollars in emergency storm repairs across the fairgrounds.

The Fairgrounds Foundation says that these state expenditures and foundation donations are investments that will see a return. They estimate that the Illinois State Fair has an annual economic impact of \$86 million in Springfield, while the Du Quoin State Fair boosts the local economy by \$6 million. The foundation says on its website that in 2016, non-fair use of the fairgrounds in Springfield totaled 527 event days with an estimated 175,000 attendance. In Du Quoin, facility use

from across the state or nation," said Paula Briney of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois. "It is just a dismal mess that they have let the Coliseum and the barns get into such a state that we can't use them.

"We're behind, because a lot of the other states have either put state or private money into their fairgrounds and upgraded their facilities and maintained them," Briney said. "The



Bricks are missing from key structural points inside the Coliseum.

Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation is good in theory, and hopefully we will get some movement on that shortly."

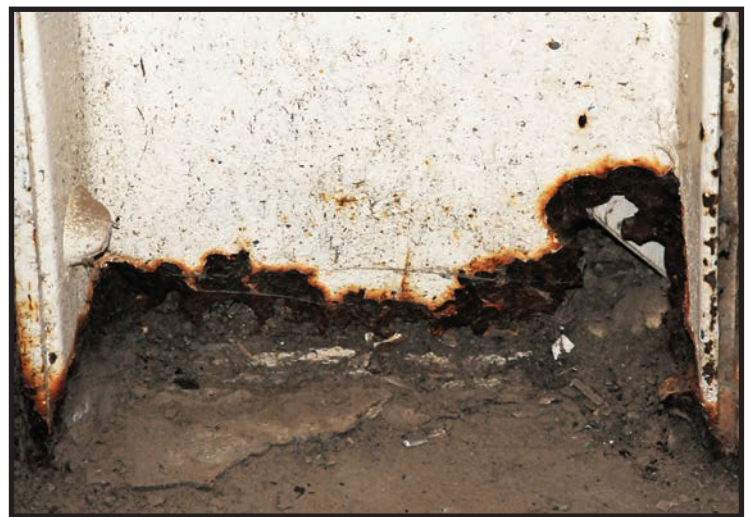
When talking about state fairgrounds, there is cultural value to consider along with the economic value. Landmarks Illinois listed the Illinois and Du Quoin State Fairgrounds in their annual Ten Most Endangered Historic Places announcement earlier this year. Frank Butterfield, Landmarks Illinois' Springfield office director, said these agricultural exposition sites are important for current and future generations.

"The Illinois State Fair is a place where people gather to celebrate and learn about Illinois' industry, history and culture," Butterfield said. "Saving the fairgrounds buildings makes a statement that we value our shared history as well as our legacy for the future."

"This problem is several years in the making and will take several years to fix," Butterfield continued. "As Illinois commemorates its bicentennial year, both a capital bill and private fundraising are needed to save the fairgrounds as places where we gather to

celebrate the history and industry of Illinois. And funding maintenance projects will prevent more buildings from reaching the point where they need emergency repairs, which are more challenging and more expensive."

The Illinois and Du Quoin State Fairgrounds were both listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, recognizing the fair-



An example of the rust on steel beams in the Coliseum that has rendered the building unsafe.

grounds' historic integrity and national historic significance.

A total of 63 separate buildings on the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield were contributing factors in the nomination process for the National Register of Historic Places. Some of these key buildings include: Coliseum, 1901; Exposition Building, 1894; Poultry

on non-fair dates came to 146 days with more than 69,500 attendees.

Those non-fair events and their local economic impact have taken a hit recently, especially since the Coliseum has been closed for nearly two years now.

"Illinois has lost shows or shows have taken a 50 percent hit on competitors who come



Structural issues on the south wall are being repaired on the Junior Livestock Building.

Building (Artisans Building), 1896; Dairy Building, 1903; Cattle Show Pavilion and Indoor Warm-Up Ring (Barn 13) 1909; Sears Bungalow, 1909; Main Gate, 1910; Sheep and Swine Pavilions, 1912; Horse Barns and Show Horse Barns, 1912–1913; Hobbies, Arts and Crafts Building, 1918; Grandstand, 1928; Cattle Barns and Sale Barn, 1928–1929; Emmerson Building, 1931; Illinois Building, 1949; Conservation World Structures, 1953–1959.

Some of the key historic buildings on the

Du Quoin State Fairgrounds in Perry County include: Original Track, 1923; Horse Barns, 1937 – 1942; Other Barns, 1940; Hayes Mansion Residences, 1942; Administration and Main Stable Building, 1945; Concession Stands, 1946; Exhibition Hall, 1946; Grandstand, 1947; Racetrack, 1947; Main Entrance, 1948.

According to news releases distributed in 1990 after the fairgrounds' National Register of Historic Places listings, the Illinois State Fair was founded in 1853 and the first four-day

Springfield was eventually selected as the fair's permanent site.

The Du Quoin State Fair was founded in 1923 by William R. Hayes, a self-made millionaire businessman with a passionate interest in horse racing and racehorse breeding. From the start, Hayes intended the fair to grow into a major entertainment event.

Du Quoin's reputation was clinched in 1957 when the prestigious Hambletonian

fair began Oct. 11, 1853, at a site one mile west of what is now the Old State Capitol in Springfield. For the next 40 years the Illinois State Fair was held in 12 cities, including Springfield, Chicago, Alton, Peoria, St. Traylor, Freeport, Jacksonville, Decatur, Quincy, Du Quoin, Ottawa and Olney.

Cup, the "Kentucky Derby of harness racing," was moved there. The race was held at Du Quoin until 1980 and after that the fairgrounds hosted the World Trotting Derby, another highly regarded racing event.

Many visitors and participants through the years have their own personal histories closely tied to one or both state fairgrounds. Holly Spangler, is a board member and secretary of the Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation, exhibited at the Illinois State Fair as a youth, and now attends the annual event to watch her children exhibit.

"When someone is donating to the foundation, you're not building a building or fixing a roof, you're building the future for youth in Illinois agriculture," Spangler said. "When I look around the State Fairgrounds I see a lot of kids learning huge skills that they are going to carry forward. They are meeting other people in agriculture, they are working in teams together, they are doing all sorts of things where you just see the future of Illinois agriculture being formed there."

"There are certainly opportunities for non-fair, year-round fairgrounds use. We could be using those grounds a lot better than what we do if the facilities would allow for it," Spangler said. "That's why we have a foundation, and why we are urging people, organizations and companies to support the future of youth in Illinois agriculture."

Illinois Fair Foundation board members include Chairman John Slayton, Vice Chair Phil Farrell, Treasurer Chandra Roberts, Secretary Holly Spangler, and board members Grant Hammer, Robert Easter, Sam Madonia, Edward McMillan, Orion Samuelson and Raymond Poe.

Donations may be made through the foundation's website, www.ilfairfoundation.com. ♦

David Blanchette is a freelance writer from Jacksonville and is also the co-owner of Studio 131 Photography in Springfield.



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PHOTOS BY LEE MILNER

On July 18, *Springfield Business Journal* celebrated the 2018 Forty Under 40 selections with a ceremony held in Brookens Auditorium at the University of Illinois Springfield. The program honors young professionals whose efforts enrich our local business community and who give back to the community as a whole. Security Bank and University of Illinois Springfield are long-time sponsors of the event, which makes it possible to recognize these outstanding young people.

To make a nomination for next year's Forty Under 40 class or see a list of previous selectees, visit springfieldbusinessjournal.com.



Val Yazell, Cindy Davis, Chris Davis.



Justin Rose shows off his profile in the July SBJ.



Elly Mackus addresses the guests at the ceremony.



Dr. Clarice Ford gives the keynote address.



The 2018 class of Forty Under 40.

Local developer turns hobby into business

BY NIKO ROBLED

After winning Microsoft's \$100,000 grand prize at the global developer competition Dream.Build.Play 2017 for his game Stellar Conquest, Springfield developer Shaun Tonstad continues his work on software for medical, business and gaming applications.

Tonstad, owner of Clarion Consulting, is currently working on a project for Morton Buildings developing an application that provides full visualizations of buildings for customers. He takes it a step further by integrating Microsoft's Hololens, a mixed reality headset to let potential customers walk through the virtual buildings.

He achieved this using the cross-platform game development engine, Unity. Unity allows the freedom to develop applications for most devices. This is what prompted him to move the continued development of Stellar Conquest onto the Unity engine.

"Stellar Conquest is the idea that you can carve a space in the galaxy at large. You can essentially build and expand an empire. You govern it much like you would in a game of Monopoly or Risk. The key difference is that, it's not just you. It's not just the people at your table. It's thousands of players trying to control their portion of the galaxy," Tonstad said.

After completing his current project, Tonstad plans to finish working on Stellar Conquest. It has been a passion project for multiple years and he is pushing for a release date in the first half of 2019. After switching from a proprietary software he helped build, to Unity, Tonstad will add features such as walking around the bridge



Shaun Tonstad holds the Microsoft Hololens, the device that is used to show customers of Morton Buildings the projections of their purchases.

PHOTO BY NIKO ROBLED

A screen shot of Stellar Conquest, Tonstad's video game that received a \$100,000 prize from Microsoft.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAUN TONSTAD



of your ship and having a cockpit. This is all in an effort to give players an identity and customization aspect in Stellar Conquest.

"It is key to recognize that the gaming industry itself is a multibillion-dollar industry,"

Tonstad said.

While Tonstad originally started developing Stellar Conquest as a hobby in between other projects and over holidays, this has now become an actual business model for him, which is not

as uncommon as it might seem. Each year, more educational institutions begin to recognize the potential in outstanding video game development and playing skills. For the 2018-19 school year, Illinois College in Jacksonville started its first official eSports team. The college is also providing some students four-year scholarships ranging from \$15,000-\$20,000 per year.

Tonstad graduated from Colorado State University in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in computer science. Before he started Clarion Consulting, he worked as a developer at Jardogs, a software development company located at 3161 W. White Oaks Drive in Springfield. Tonstad was a lead developer on a biometric secure patient check-in. The kiosk checks the veins in the patient's hands to confirm their identity.

The project won a \$15,000 project innovation award from the Springfield Chamber of Commerce in 2009.

After the success of Jardogs, Tonstad decided to go out on his own, and in November 2014 he founded Clarion Consulting. Tonstad is currently the only employee, but hires a multitude of independent contractors for art, sound design and writing. His company has mainly focused on applications for medical software. Tonstad plans to keep health care software innovation a focus for Clarion Consulting as he moves forward with his current projects and the development of Stellar Conquest. ♦

Niko Robledo is the editorial intern for Illinois Times and a journalism major at Lincoln Land Community College. He can be reached at intern@illinoistimes.com.

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Local telecom companies have the hookup

BY SCOTT FAINGOLD

These days, businesses with multiple locations have more options than ever for interoffice communication, including cloud collaboration, video conferencing and more. Some Springfield-based companies are stepping up to offer these types of services.

"For communication within businesses, we primarily provide email," said Colin Helton, client communication specialist for Hanson Information Systems, located at 2433 West White Oaks Drive. "Recently, as an AT&T wholesaler, we started doing voice over IP telephone lines. We don't supply the hardware ourselves, it's all through AT&T." Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) simply refers to using the internet for voice communication, rather than public telephone networks. "If you had voice over IP through us, you would call us, not AT&T. That's something we have long found that our clients see as a benefit – there's nothing worse than calling an out of state mega-conglomerate IP company and getting put on hold – who knows who you're going to talk to or when or if they're going to get to your problem?"

Hanson offers a few different levels of VOIP service, depending on the client's needs and capabilities, and can set up services on the same day they are requested. As for their email services, Hanson offers the standard POP (post office protocol) option, which Helton described as basic webmail without much in the way of customizable features ("there is no HTML, you can't send pictures – just text"). They also offer a hosted exchange – again available at varying levels depending on the client's needs – which uses Microsoft Office Exchange.

"It's an extension of that product without the customer having to get Microsoft licenses through Office 365," Helton said. Hanson Cloud Drive is another service the company recently introduced. "It's similar to Dropbox, but is designed for interoffice and extra-office collaboration," said Helton. This service was designed with Hanson's many banking and engineering clients in mind, allowing them a convenient way to send sensitive information and large documents quickly and securely.

Jim Weast, president and CEO of Warren-Boydton State Bank, said he has been working with Hanson for a little over 15 years. "We use them for network administration, primarily, as well as for internet communication," he said. "We probably couldn't ask for a better partner. We have Saturday hours and three locations that are in rural areas in addition to the one in Springfield and Hanson is always available and ready to take care of anything that comes up. It saves us money because we don't have to have a full-time IT guy on staff."

AmeriCALL Communications, located at 447 N. Walnut Street, has been in business for 15 years and serves over 2,500 customers, all within a few hours' drive from Springfield, according to owner and partner Gene Dinardo. "We've tied together branches of banks who are now able to intercom between locations and transfer calls, all done over the internet," he explained. "We've also got what we call a hosted solution to where you can have one location here in Springfield and one in Peoria and the phones would go out to the internet and connect, and they would be able to intercom each other or transfer calls or voicemails between locations."

AmeriCALL also offers a new system

Dinardo straightforwardly referred to as "voicemail to email," where voicemail messages are transferred to the user's email, retrievable via computer or smartphone. He said he has recently noticed an increase in hosted services. "That way, people don't have to have equipment on the site other than the phone," he said, going on to explain that a client can move their phone and it will function identically as long as there is a data jack in the room they want to use it in. "You can also take that phone home, and as long as there's a good internet connection, you can plug it in and it will come right up and work and keep the same extension." Another option offered by AmeriCALL allows for automatic transfer of unanswered ring calls from office phone to cellphone.

"We have one customer that has 15 locations that are all tied together, Dinardo said. "They can call anywhere they want via a four-digit intercom number."

Heart Technologies, located at 1831 S. 11th St., offers a variety of different inter-office communication services, depending on the size of the business. "We use WebEx and Spark video conferencing collaboration," said Sheila Feipel, the company's Springfield branch manager. "We service around 25 businesses, mostly local. In house, we primarily use it for our sales and engineering meetings and project management." Feipel pointed out that smaller businesses can easily access Skype for Business over the internet and recommends that option for clients unable to afford the WebEx service.

Heart also offers several different VOIP possibilities, including a hosted version, Cisco VOIP collaboration, a Mitel hosted version and

Mitel on Premise. "We even have clients with multiple locations using NEC," Feipel said. "People who are more data-savvy are going to prefer the Cisco. Other clients prefer our hosted solutions because they don't want to be bothered with it, they just send an email in and the change is made for them. If their place catches on fire, it's our equipment and we replace it on our insurance, there is no expense to them beyond operating expense. It really depends on what the business can do and what they want us to do."

Feipel said that many communication technology businesses will offer only one option to customers, "and that's what they are going to sell you. It's much easier to have only one product because inventory is smaller and more controlled. But having many different options, being flexible and being able to respond to the client and give them exactly what they need is beneficial."

Conn's Hospitality Group has five separate locations, and when they were trying to figure out the best way to link them all to a corporate office, Karen Conn reached out to Feipel. "She's got a tremendous amount of experience in the industry," said Conn. "They have done a tremendous job connecting everything together for us through...I think it's NEC. I don't understand any of it, that's why I work with Heart." Conn said that she can now pick up an extension in downtown Springfield, punch in a number and immediately be talking to someone at the Peoria Obed & Isaac's location. "It's been a great improvement for us." ♦

Scott Faingold can be reached at scottfaingold@gmail.com.

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AWC members earn free admission to national webinars, receive reduced prices for luncheons and programs, job updates, member resources and opportunities to serve on the local and/or national board and develop leadership skills. AWC is currently soliciting feedback to help the AWC Springfield Board plan for the coming year. Tell us what you would like to see in terms of potential programs, ideal times for programming and your professional priorities by taking a brief survey at www.awcspringfield.org.

Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL)

The monthly IWIL luncheon, open to all IWIL members and their guests, will be held on Thursday, August 16 at the Sangamo Club from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration is \$18 per person before August 10 and \$23 after August 10 or at the door.

The 7th Annual Women's Symposium will be held on Thursday, Sept. 27. Registration is \$115 per person before July 31 or \$140 after that date. This empowering full-day event will allow attendees to expand their professional and personal competencies and make relevant connections through networking.

Visit www.iwil.biz for more information or to register for either of these events.

Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI)

WE-CI will host a lunch meeting on Wednesday, August 8 at the Sangamo Club from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Elly Mackus, president and CEO of Security Bank, will be discussing "Banking Demystified." Register at www.weicispringfield.org.

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The charitable powers of blockchain technology

BY MICHAEL KOKAL

Because Blockchain solutions are expected to disrupt almost every industry, humanitarian and nonprofit groups may consider novel uses for this innovative technology.

At its core, Blockchain technology provides an unchangeable, decentralized ledger of a cryptographic transaction that records and verifies the transfer of value between peers. Think of it like a more efficient bank that verifies that a transaction occurred between two parties.

As with a bank, the “ledger” insures that one party had sufficient funds and that the correct amount was transferred to the other party. However, once entered, the ledger information can never be erased. Further, and perhaps more important for nonprofits, information concerning the transaction can be publicly shared among the participating parties.

New uses of Blockchain software are popping up all over the country. In New York City, a company called “Blockchain for Change” hopes to distribute 200,000 phones enabled with the Android app “Fummi” in New York City to assist the homeless, manage their digital identity, access shelter and food pantries, and make use of financial service. In Austin, Texas, the city is exploring using a Blockchain decentralized database to keep track of identity and virtual records of more than 7,000 homeless people in the city. The technology could also assist in integrating delivery of service to homeless people among more than 60 charitable organizations.

The following list outlines some of the ways nonprofits are currently utilizing and expanding Blockchain programs for humanitarian purposes:



Identity and personal data

Individuals can store their identity data on their own devices and provide it efficiently to those who need to validate it, without relying on other established government forms of identification. This would assist client populations who have no official government registration records. Blockchain identity programs have been successfully piloted in refugee environments. Further, important information, including medical information, can be stored on or off the Blockchain and linked to an individual through their digital identity. This information moves with the individual and can be shared instantly with permission.



Improving efficiency and resource management

It is estimated that over \$3 billion a year is lost in fraud connected to food stamps and other government programs and another \$1 billion of potential benefits goes unclaimed. Some agencies face huge administrative costs with clients temporarily using programs (e.g. food stamps) for a few months and then going off the programs, only to reapply in the future. Blockchain technology could provide a more streamlined and transparent solution, reducing administrative waste and duplication. Additionally, nonprofit organizations can use the

Blockchain to manage their resources and their supply chain, leading to less wasted resources. For example, IBM successfully tested Blockchain usage in food supply chains reducing the prevalence of food-borne illnesses.



Emergency aid

In responding to catastrophic events, a transfer using Blockchain technology could help organizations deliver much-needed aid. Direct Blockchain transfers could avoid intermediaries mishandling funds and decrease logistical burdens from physical and electronic cash transfers. Blockchains could also verify the identity of recipients and reduce fraud. For example, in May 2017, the United Nations World Food Program sent aid to over 10,000 Syrian refugees using the Ethereum Blockchain.



Facilitating fundraising through increased transparency

The open source, public nature of Blockchain technology helps create transparency and accountability in tracking donations within nonprofits and humanitarian transactions. Developers have created fundraising programs that increase both transparency and speed. The app “Alice” is a platform for charities to transparently collect donations on the Ether-

um Blockchain. Users that donate to charities on “Alice” can track how their donation was used and choose to receive a refund if the charity fails to reach its promised goals.



Stored value

Blockchains could be a storehouse of value in a digital wallet to insure that money is sent and received electronically, either remotely or in person from device to device. Theoretically, it would enable access to online goods and services and provide a secure alternative to traditional banks. For example, Women for Women International, through Hilton Prize Coalition Support, is currently examining how Blockchain can reduce fees and transaction times associated with remittance payments. The digital app “Hypergive” also provides secured digital wallets that homeless and hungry people use to pay for their food. The funds are made available through care cards distributed at partner organizations that pay for food at approved retailers.

The potential humanitarian uses of Blockchain technology are exciting. Developing an awareness of the many uses of this technology, and whether it is appropriate for your organization, may be imperative in the future to better serve the public good. ♦

Mike Kokal is a partner of the Springfield law firm of Heyl Royster and serves as the chair of the firm’s Cybersecurity and Intellectual Property Practice Groups.

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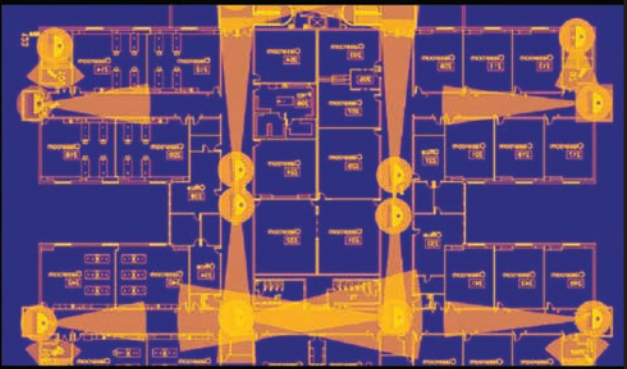

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1	George Alarm 917 South 9 th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-525-1334 217-241=7500 georgealarm.com sales@georgealarm.com	Doug George	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Burglar, fire and video systems, door access control, fire testing and sensitivity testing, patient monitoring systems, and phone apps systems that are smartphone compatible, NICET certified staff, UL certified central station. DMP, Honeywell, HIK Vision and Bosch systems.	1957
2	Senergy Technologies 509 North Elm St. Williamsville, IL 62693	217-566-2826 217-566=2827 senergy-electric.com	Matthew J. Giacomini, President Brandon M. Keafer, PE, Vice President	42	✓		✓	✓	✓		Design, construction and implementation. Managed services of unified security platforms. Access control, CCTV, intrusion, paging/intercom, network infrastructure (Panduit, Systimax/ Commscope), audio/video.	2014
3	Young's Security Systems, Inc. 440 N. 1 st St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-744-9000 217-789=6447 youngs-security.com jhavey@youngs-security.com	Jim Havey Bill Havey	35	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Local UL listed central station, commercial and residential security systems, commercial fire alarms, camera systems, door access systems, entry door security, medical alert systems.	1985
3	A-1 Corporate Hardware 101 N. 4 th St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-744-7575 217-744=7662 a-1lock.com info@a-1lock.com	Joseph White	23	✓			✓	✓	✓	Locksmith services and door hanging hardware solutions for residential, commercial and government agencies. IP surveillance solutions for commercial and government agencies. Radio dispatched technicians available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.	1945
4	Central Illinois Security 2451 West Monroe St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-4970 217-787=5656 centralillinoissecurity.com Sparker@centralillinoissecurity.com	Levi, Ray and Shoup: Scott Parker, Sales Manager; Lisa Snow, Office Manager; Sharon Wilson, Technical Manager	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Provides services in design and installation of security systems, fire alarms, video surveillance and access control systems for both residential and commercial applications. State-of-the-art UL approved Central Monitoring Facility provides alarm monitoring throughout the central Illinois area.	1993
5	SEA Group, Inc. 3901 Pintail Dr., Suite A Springfield, IL 62711	217-523-1717 Seagr.com info@seagr.com	Joe Marchizza Sean Brown	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		IP video security solutions including license plate recognition, fire alarm installation, sound masking systems, nurse call, access control and low voltage infrastructure, information technology consulting and strategic staffing.	1984
6	AmeriCall Communications 477 B North Walnut St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-522-2255 217-522=2257 americallinc.com pfelton@americallinc.com	Gene Dinardo Melanie McDaniel Joe Ushman	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Commercial security services including security cameras for parking lots and building exteriors, interior offices. Customized secure access controls and monitoring for every type of facility including retrofitting security platform into existing environments.	2003
7	Maximum Security Services Corp. 1316 S. MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-8307 maximumcorp.com	Patrick Rotherham, President	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Full service locally owned and operated alarm company. We offer the latest state-of-the-art technology with interaction services. Free quotes and custom design for both residential and commercial.	2002
8	Heart Technologies 1831 S. 11 th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-544-3100 heart.net sfeipel@heart.net	Sheila Feipel	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Fire and intrusion security, access control and cameras.	1987
9	Lloyd IT Services, LLC 505 St. John Dr. Sherman, IL 62684	217-496-6722 www.lloyditsservices.com klloyd@lloyditsservices.com	Kevin Lloyd	1	✓					✓	Installs and maintains security camera systems of any size and scope which clients can access from anywhere in the world, both live view and playback.	2015

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1	Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. 2401 West Monroe St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-793-3800 217-787=3286 www.lrs.com Email through website contact page	Dick Levi	324	✓	✓	☐	Global information technology solutions including mobile-friendly business websites with custom designs, application development, content management systems, mobile apps, search engine optimization, and creative services. Expert technical support for business networks, servers and computers including network design and installation, work station configuration, and server setup and support. Managed IT services include remote monitoring, patch management, disaster recovery and data backup. A wide range of onsite service offerings include computer repairs, server crash recovery and assistance with Microsoft Exchange issues.	1979
2	CDS Office Technologies 612 s. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-8936 www.cdsot.com	Mark Watson	120	✓	☐	✓	Offers technology solutions designed to assist clients in buildings, expanding and optimizing their office environment. Utilizes all major brands of IT products to help maintain the office environment. Provides all levels of IT support and services to clients with affordable pricing.	1971
3	MSF&W Consulting, Inc. 3445 Liberty Dr. Springfield, IL 62704	217-698-3535 www.msfw.com info@msfw.com	John Marucco Darrell “Duke” Stoddard	55	☐	✓	☐	Maintains a full-time staff of approximately 60 IT professionals with expertise in custom application development, primarily in Microsoft technologies. This includes all facets of software development: IT project management, system analysis & design, database administration, information architecture, usability and accessibility testing, training, and end-user support.	1991
4	SynapSiS, Inc. 3161 W. White Oaks Dr., Suite 302 Springfield, IL 62704	217-503-4990 www.synapsisinc.com info@synapsisinc.comq	Mastan Reddy Paidela	35	✓	✓	☐	Some of the services include software application development, integration, networking, security, database programming.	2012
5	Prairie Telecom Services 148 Forrest Ave. Springfield, IL 62702	217-306-1503 www.prairiretelecom.com jblackburn@prairiretelecom. com	Jason Blackburn	24	✓	☐	☐	Network cabling and fiber infrastructure—directional drilling for fiber/conduit placement as well as network cabling and fiber splicing.	1996
6	SEA Group, Inc. 3901 Pintail Dr., Suite A Springfield, IL 62711	217-523-1717 www.Seagrp.com info@seagrp.com	Joe Marchizza	16	☐	☐	✓	Conference room video/audio solutions, voice/video telecommunications, video collaboration, hardware/software sales, design and support, IT consulting and strategic staffing.	1984
7	AmeriCall Communications 447 B North Walnut St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-522-2255 217-522-2257 http://americallinc.com pfelton@americallinc.com	Gene Dinardo Melanie McDaniel Joe Ushman	15	✓	☐	✓	Phone Systems / VOIP Specializing in VOIP, Digital, and Analog solutions—Discovery and design support, facilities to mobile integration. Structured cabling and fiber optic solutions—customized structured cable plants, block hour programs, leasing options, discover and design, project management support, wireless points. Tele-Connect /Carrier Services—DSL, PRI, SIP trunking, fiber trunks, VPN, DS3, POTS, long distance.	2003
8	Hanson Information Systems, Inc. 2433 W. White Oaks Dr. Springfield, IL 62704	217-726-2400 217-726=3239 www.hansoninfosys.com info@hansoninfosys.com	Karen Hanson Pletsch President Raj Mohanty Director of Operations	12	✓	✓	☐	Equipment purchase, server co-location, on and off site backup, Hosted Exchange email server, DNS hosting, web hosting, website design and development, dedicated internet circuits, AT&T Partner Exchange wholesaler – Platinum Level partner, Comcast wholesaler, computer networking; network security; financial industry and medical industry system security, penetration testing, Windows, Linux, and Cisco systems, firewalls, virtual machines, antivirus and antimalware software, managed software, disaster recovery, cloud computing, Hanson Cloud Drive collaboration tool, general tech support.	1945
9	DBS Services P. O. Box 23 Chatham, IL 62629	217-697-8590 www.dbshosting.com jim@dbshosting.com	Troy Rodriguez	11	✓	✓	✓	Managed IT, hardware/software, web design and hosting, network and web security, VoIP phones, cloud services and disaster recovery.	1999
10	HIP Advertising 2809 Mansion Rd., Suite 1 Springfield, IL 62711	217-789-4447 217-789=4441 www.hipadvertising.com info@hipadvertisng.com	Myra L. Hoffman	8	☐	✓	☐	Responsive web design and development, web hosting and monthly maintenance.	1993
10	Thirdwave Data/Comm, Inc. 550 North St., Suite 3 Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-4720 217-544=4758 www.thirdwavedata.com sales@thirdwavedata.com	Brian McLean Chris Oury Jeff Reazer	8	✓	☐	✓	Network cabling and troubleshooting, Avaya, Nortel, cloud- and hybrid-based telephone systems solutions, Speco and Salient surveillance systems solutions, low voltage cabling for voice, network and audio/video.	2002
11	MAM/COMM1 Services, Inc. 1427 S. 8th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-522-8942 217-522=8948 www.mamcomm1.com mamcomm@mamcomm1. com	Michael Millburn	6	☐	☐	✓	Design, installation and maintenance of LAN systems, including data, voice and fiber optic cabling, CATV, security systems and telephone systems. Telecommunications equipment—Allworx, Avaya, Partner.	1993
11	Novanis IT Solutions 3161 W. White Oaks Dr., Suite 100 Springfield, IL 62704	217-698-0999 217-698=1087 www.novanis.com walter.meek@novanis.com	Walter Meek	6	✓	☐	✓	Network infrastructure, wired and wireless networks, servicers, desktops, cybersecurity software, software implementation, implementation services, technology.	1982



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12	Aggieland Software, Inc. 15 S. Old State Capitol Plaza, Fl. 2 Springfield, IL 62701	224-601-5241 www.aggielandsoftware.com info@aggielandsoftware.com	Persis Dhankher	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specialize in mobile and web application development. Blockchain-based technology, artificial intelligence and data analytics. Software project management(agile).	2015
12	Heart Technologies 1831 S. 11th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-544-3100 www.heart.net sfeipel@heart.net	Sheila Feipel	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Managed services, hosted services, cloud storage, wireless networks, cyber security, infrastructure, virtualization, nurse call, fire alarm, video surveillance, access control, phone systems and hosted voice.	1987
12	KB Computer Consulting, Inc. 510 E. Apple Orchard Rd. Suite 103 Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-0108 www.kb-consulting.net karl@kb-consulting.net	Karl L. Backs	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A full service computer consulting and IT company specializing in managed services, offsite backup, cloud services, network security, web services, networking, hardware/software sales, MS Office 365 and consulting, among other services.	2000
13	GoWeb1 400 South Grand Ave. West Springfield, IL 62704	217-241-8554 goweb1.com theteam@goweb1.com	Mark Roberts, III	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Website development, domain names, hosting, SMS text marketing - TextClubs.com, mass alerts - AlertsMadeEasy.com, copywriting, search engine optimization, SSL certificates, ongoing creative services, graphic design, consulting, DIY solutions.	2008
13	Hupp Information Technologies, Inc. 6401 Stonehaven Ridge Springfield, IL 62701	217-816-4877 dhupp@huppinfotech.com www.huppinfotech.com	Dean Hupp	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A full service technology company offering custom programming for stand alone and web application along with their support.	2001
14	Clearfire, Inc. 956 Clocktower Dr., Suite 1 Springfield, IL 62704	217-953-0321 www.clearfirestudios.com hello@clearfirestudios.com	Casey Reid	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Custom website design, web applications development, content management systems, mobile-friendly websites, technical consulting, digital marketing, search engine optimization and creative services.	2007
14	e-websmart 130 John Street Rochester, IL 62563	217-553-1073 www.e-websmart.com info@e-websmart.com	Michelle Tjelmeland, Owner Crista Gebhardt, Manager	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Website design and development, social media marketing and management services graphic design franchise marketing collateral.	1999
14	Khamma Group, LLC 226 W. State St. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-487-6888 www.khamma.com sroberts@khamma.com	Scott Roberts	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Managed IT services, managed security, security assessments.	2007
14	Springtel, LLC 6900 Preston Dr. Springfield, IL 62711	217-241-000 800-995=7769 springtel.net support@springtel.net	Dan Lindsey	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Springtel hosted phone system and voice services, business on prem/cloud phone systems, IT consulting, commercial email and exchange, website hosting/design, full service domain provider e-online storage, online backup for critical data.	2009
15	Cave Interactive Media 509 N. Elm St. Williamsville, IL 62693	217-496-6755 www.caveim.com hi@caveim.com	Denny Cave	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Website design, development, online marketing/advertising. Specialize in fully-managed digital marketing solutions for independent and small group healthcare providers (physicians, dentists, specialists, etc). Custom design and development, plug-in development, ecommerce, multisite networks and performance optimized hosting.	2003
15	Digital Designs Virtual office	217-544-8633 866-701=3631 www.digitaldesigns.com info@digitaldesigns.com	Troy Freeman	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internet marketing and consultation, graphic design, marketing, web development and web and email hosting.	2002
16	Lloyd IT Services, LLC 505 St. John Dr. Sherman, IL 62684	217-496-6722 www.lloyditservices.com klloyd@lloyditservices.com	Kevin Lloyd	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A multifaceted provider of the following services and more: website hosting, Managed services, network security, worldwide remote tech support, emergency after hours tech support, structured cabling, computer equipment sales, computer repair, Office 365, antivirus software, cloud backup, data recovery, security camera systems, emergency after hours support.	2015
16	03 Internet Consulting, Inc. 2016 S. 4th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-9803 www.03internet.com carol@03internet.com	Carol Kneedler	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provides internet marketing to small businesses and nonprofit organizations, including website design and development, search engine optimization, social media and email marketing.	2007



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There's an app for that in Springfield

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS
BY RACHEL JOHNSON

With more than 2 millions apps available and the number increasing every day, it's great to find some apps for both your Android and iPhone that are unique to Springfield. Native Shawn Mayernick, founder and CEO of Bee Chosen Marketing Group, launches an Ask Abe app on Aug. 1.

Mayernick calls it a Springfield experiences app. "Whatever you can do in Springfield will be on there," he said. Similar to an app he developed for the city of Decatur called City Scout Decatur, there will icons offering information about restaurants, lodging, local shops, featured attractions, historic sites and most importantly, an event calendar.

There are plenty of print and online sources for both locals and tourists to discover what is happening in Springfield on a given day, but none are complete. "We've just combined all these different calendars into one source," Mayernick said. "It's a simple scroll function and it notifies you if it's live or not."

"The app itself is live functioning," Mayernick said, explaining that means events can be added at the last minute. No more regrets for missing a deadline to get your event in a calendar.

Springfield has 250,000 tourists annually and so, of course, the app will also feature historic sites. "It will have all the historic sites that we have in Springfield, and you'll be able to do a self-guided tour of them," Mayernick said. "It drops your location and tells you where is the closest site."

Links to business and restaurant websites will be available as well as links to Yelp and Open Table. "We're not here to compete with Yelp. We're not going to be as big as Yelp. That's not the goal," Mayernick said.

One ongoing issue that Mayernick hopes to be able to address through his app is a perceived lack of parking, which is what keeps many potential customers away from downtown Springfield and other sites. While popular parking app SpotHero hasn't come to Springfield yet, Mayernick would like to provide parking information on his Ask Abe app. "People think downtown doesn't have any parking," he said.

Mayernick was working for the Illinois State Fair when it launched its app, now three years old. One unique feature it offers is a scavenger hunt. It not only gets people into places they might otherwise ignore, it gives the vendors and businesses data on where people are spending their time.

"The state fair app is also for year-round events, so you don't have to just download it during the state fair. There are activities on here year-round," said Illinois State Fair public information officer Megan Booth. "It's actually surprising what happens out here all year."

Booth feels the app is very handy for fairgoers to not only find a special event they're looking for, but also to find their favorite corn dog vendor or booth. "You can also flag or star special events and set reminders," she said.

Aggieland Software, which is housed in the Innovate Springfield offices at 15 S. Old State Capitol Plaza, is another local company working on new applications. The group started in Texas in 2015 before coming to Springfield, thus the name.

"Springfield is a great community. It's a small big town," CEO Deepak Dhankher said. "It has all the facilities of a big town, but at the same time, it's a small community, so you can reach out to the businesses easily."

Their app, Union Buddy, is currently being used in California and they are also promoting it in Springfield. The app allows users to keep track of their union hours, benefits and more. "Any unions would work with this," Dhankher



The Aggieland Software team: Pavithra Shetty, director of quality assurance, holding her daughter, Tanvi; Cameron Dees, technical writer; Persis Dhankher, president and project coordinator; and Deepak Dhankher, CEO and software developer.

said.

What the Aggieland team seems most excited about is an app idea they came up with just three months ago and received patent approval for, called Fund-a-Cause. "This is a fee-for-service app," Dhankher said.

The app was originally conceived for unions. After the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on Janus v. AFSCME, which ruled that union employees don't have to pay fair share fees if they choose not to join, the team conceived the app where union employees can go to choose where they want their fees to be applied. "People can choose what they want to pay for, like what cause they care about, whether it's collective bargaining, grievance and appeals, health and safety, etc.," Dhankher said.

The software engineers, who do their own code writing, realized something during the process. "We created this for unions," Dhankher said. "But we realized that it could solve problems for local shops, too."

So, using the same basic codes, they also registered the name My Local App. For a small local business without a strong internet presence, they could plug their information into the app for their own use. For example, Dhankher mentions a mom and pop pizza place down the road from their offices and says they could use the app to make not only their menu available to customers, but allow them to order food and have it delivered as well. "There's a kind of movement going on, buy local," Dhankher said. "That's why it's named My Local."

Current users of Mr. Delivery or Order2EatSpringfield would hopefully be able to tie into the app, according to Dhankher.

With no slowdown in sight for app development, it's great for consumers to have choices. Millennials may gravitate toward apps like Tinder, Venmo, and YouTube while older people prefer WebMD, Good Reads, or NPR, but apps like Ask Abe will benefit everyone who wants to explore Springfield, regardless of age. ♦

Rachel Johnson is a freelance writer and new to Springfield. A former newspaper editor and resident of Wisconsin, Johnson is enjoying her new city and all that it has to offer.



Shawn Mayernick, Bee Chosen Marketing Group

Businesses consider their security needs

BY DIANNE CROWN

Effective security depends on physical deterrence and high-quality, reliable, timely information. A number of area firms work to help clients stay current and connected.

Kevin Lloyd, owner/operator of Lloyd IT Services, specializes in camera surveillance and network security. In recent years, he has seen both increased demand and significant improvements to both.

“These days, it’s almost imperative to have cameras for liability and loss protection. I’m aware of insurance premium discounts of up to 15 percent for customers who have camera systems. And today’s full color, crystal clear video images have become an important tool for law enforcement. It can be difficult to get a conviction without video proof,” Lloyd explained.

In addition to the vast improvement in image quality, cameras are now capable of one- and two-way audio and they can automatically zoom in on and track a subject when they detect motion. You can be notified automatically by text or email if there’s loss of video or network connectivity, or hard drive abnormality, in order to remotely monitor the health of the system itself, Lloyd says.

curity needs is Senergy Electric, based in Williamsburg. It provides a wide range of security services and technology applications including intrusion detection, closed circuit television and video surveillance, life safety protection, fire alarm systems, page and sound systems, and more. Owner Matt Giacomini has a goal of unifying security networks not only across communities and counties, but statewide.



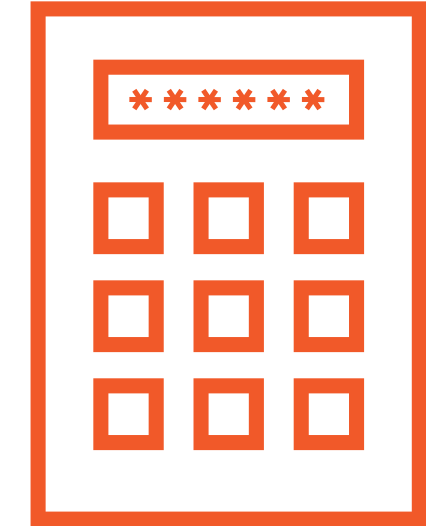
“Our mission is to make unified security platforms connected and collaborative with each other, including real-time alerts and monitoring,” he said.

For example, Giacomini describes the importance of a monitored, connected system in schools. “If police officers are responding to a threat alert in a school, our system can provide an active map of the facility and eyes in the building before they even show up.”

This provides access to information that would otherwise require a physical presence, saves time needed to evaluate and find solutions, and allows other schools to keep an eye out as well, he continues. In this way, organizations can “deploy proactive measures, send an alert or lock down a building, before a physical security presence is possible.”

With technology constantly improving and changing, leasing a system and paying a flat rate for service rather than purchasing equipment has become the preferred choice for many businesses. As security needs and features continue to change, says Giacomini, “the traditional model of owning and maintaining a security platform yourself isn’t always the best practice these days.”

A number of recent high-profile shootings at workplaces, schools and even churches around the country have forced many organizations to take a fresh look at their security systems and protocols for dealing with the public. Local security companies can offer a wide variety of options for companies that want to take a proactive approach. ♦

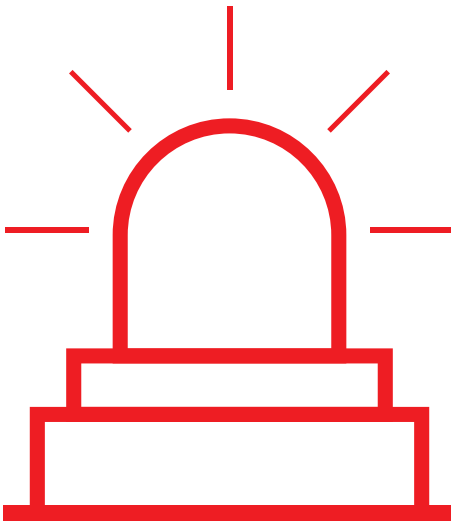


Ryne Komnick, facilities director of the nonprofit agency Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois, uses security cameras in all the CAP facilities, including Head Start locations in six counties and the corporate offices in Lincoln. “We use them for insurance and liability protection for our sake, and to know who’s coming into our buildings, and not coming in, all day long.”

In the corporate offices, cameras have provided an important security convenience and cost savings. CAP didn’t receive funding for a full-time secretary, Komnick explains, so they installed a camera at a public door where staff can see visitors from their offices and go to the door as needed.

Komnick continued, “The cameras have been great for our agency. The picture quality is full color and high definition. I can look at any camera across the six counties from my desk and see what’s going on and exactly who it is if we get a frustrated or aggressive parent. We keep a hard drive on site and Lloyd IT backs up our system on a server.”

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 **REPUBLIC SERVICES**



New EU internet privacy laws have ripple effects

BY SARAH DELANO PAVLIK

This past June, I was lucky enough to go on a much-needed vacation to Spain. Naturally, I took in the culture, enjoyed the local cuisine and, well, pretty much behaved like any other tourist would. Spain certainly left an impression on me, yet one of the oddest aspects of my trip came from a relatively unexpected source: my smartphone's internet browsing capabilities. Now, before you start judging me as a bad sightseer, please let me explain.

Like most people these days, I basically take my smartphone everywhere I go. Among its many uses, my smartphone puts the internet right at my fingertips, which enables me to keep up with the news. Since I am Springfield-born and bred, I have a lot of hometown pride and I try to be fairly involved in the community. I enjoy visiting local news websites to stay current on Springfield's happenings — even when I am on vacation in another country. Since I am a U.S. citizen, I am not used to being blocked from some of my favorite websites. However, this is exactly what happened in Spain.

As we saw in the recent Facebook scandal, our personal information is a highly sought-after commodity. Even though protection laws in the U.S. offer up some restrictions on the use of our private data by websites, we might as well be the Wild West when compared to the European Union. European laws regulate the internet more heavily than our own laws here in the U.S. This is partially because internet data privacy in the European Union is taken very seriously, even being classified as a "fundamental right" under the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights. In keeping with this concept, the EU recently passed a new law in March that is known as the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, of which I will get into more detail shortly.

Recent innovations in the fields of data mining and analytics have resulted in incredible technological advances that have enabled an alarming amount of personal data collection over the past several years. There is so much personal data on the internet that can be quickly analyzed that people often find themselves the victims of unwanted personal disclosures that they never would have dreamed would have made it to the World Wide Web. In this regard, the most common technology used by companies to collect user data comes from internet cookies.

An "internet cookie" is basically a very small and unseen text file that a website stores on a user's hardware when he or she visits. And once the cookie has been stored, each time a user returns to the cookie's source site, the cookie automatically lets the site know who

the user is and any other relevant information necessary to personalize their browsing experience. Cookies provide ease of internet use and convenience, but they are also used for targeted advertising, which can feel like an unwanted privacy violation. In this regard, the EU takes a much harder legal stance on regulating cookies than does its U.S. counterpart. The newly implemented GDPR gives testament to this.

The GDPR expands what counts as personal data and individual rights over that data — but only protects residents living inside of the EU. The new law ostensibly grants users the majority of control when it comes to the use and distribution of their personal data by websites. The EU claims that European internet users must actively agree (or "opt-in") to allow cookies to track their data.

as implied legal consent to personal data collection by the website. Moreover, under GDPR, citizens of the EU have a right to have their data deleted if they don't want an internet company to use it. And if any such request for deletion is made by a user, their personal data must be deleted without undue delay if the company does not want to suffer a monetary penalty.

I say "ostensibly" because, in my opinion, the EU rules don't change anything except adding a new banner to websites. For example, a British clothing site has a banner on it that states: "We use cookies. We're an honest bunch, so if you continue without changing your settings, we'll assume that you are happy to receive all cookies. Click here to read the nitty-gritty of our cookie policy."

latest Springfield happenings on some of our local websites while I was over in Spain.

More recently, EU lawmakers have focused their attention on implementing drastic changes to the use of copyrighted materials on the European internet. Current pending legislation in the EU, known as the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market (or European Copyright Directive), seeks to regulate the use of copyrighted material over the EU internet. While March's new GDPR is purportedly a consumer-friendly measure, the European Copyright Directive appears to be much more favorable to internet businesses — particularly very large ones.

The two most controversial aspects of the European Copyright Directive come from Article 11 and Article 13 of the drafted legislation. Commonly referred to as "the link tax," Article 11 states that if a website desires to use snippets of online journalistic content or provide links to outside content, the website must first pay for a license from the content publisher. Among the chief concerns here is the possibility that only the largest internet companies (e.g. Microsoft, Google and Facebook) will be able to afford to pay publishers for showing snippets of news articles on their sites. Many are fearful that less financially successful internet companies would fade into oblivion in the EU due to their lack of resources to pay the proposed licensing fees. That being said, Article 11 is the less controversial of the two proposed laws.

The second EU proposal, Article 13, provides that certain internet companies such as YouTube, Reddit and Tumblr that host large amounts of user-uploaded content must actively monitor that content in order to identify and stop possible copyright infringement. In the event of copyright infringement, the supporting website would be legally liable to the original copyright holder. This would disincentivize the continued operation of various user-generated platforms, resulting in what many believe to be a masked form of internet censorship. To put this into perspective for those of us living in the U.S., the inventor of the internet, Tim Berners-Lee, as well as Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, have each come out against Article 13, opining it to be an "imminent threat" to the future of the internet.

As it now stands, the European Copyright Directive remains pending and undecided by EU lawmakers, who are next scheduled to vote on the law in September. Since this proposed EU law may very well change the face of the internet as we know it (especially over in Europe), this is something worth keeping an eye on. ♦

Sarah Delano Pavlik is an attorney with Delano law Offices, LLC.

U.S. law takes an "opt-out" approach to cookies, in which a user needs to actively disable them in order prevent the tracking of their personal data. Since the EU has been somewhat unclear as to what constitutes legal consent by users to use their personal data, many companies have implemented a practice known as "notice and opt-out," wherein banners are openly displayed on their website that give users the "option" to opt-in. These banners, if ignored or closed by a user, are treated

If you read the "nitty-gritty" on their cookie policy, it tells you that if you don't want cookies, you need to change your browser settings. So, although the EU says you have to "opt-in," if you don't change your browser settings and continue visiting the same websites, they will continue to use cookies on your computer.

Because of the cookie rules, certain U.S. sites have chosen not to comply with EU laws, rendering them unpublishable by EU standards, thus explaining my inability to catch up on the

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MEDICAL NEWS



Father Fredrick Mbiere, chaplain at HSHS St. John's Hospital, leads the blessing ceremony for the new cardiovascular unit.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HSHS ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

Prairie Heart Institute opens new unit

The Prairie Heart Institute at HSHS St. John's Hospital opened its new cardiovascular intensive care unit (CVICU) on Monday, July 16. At a blessing ceremony on July 9, colleagues and visitors were given tours of the new space that will be dedicated to helping cardiac patients recover after open heart, cardiovascular, vascular and thoracic surgeries.

The project adds 14 CVICU beds and dedicates more space for patients, support areas,

family waiting areas and nurses' stations. It replaces two separate cardiac ICUs previously in use that separated surgical and non-surgical heart patients within the hospital.

"The new CVICU will help facilitate collaboration between heart surgeons, cardiologists, ICU physicians, specialists and support staff," said Dr. Gregory Mishkel, executive medical director of Prairie Heart Institute at HSHS St. John's Hospital. "It also incorporates technolo-

gy that will help us better engage patients and their families."

The \$7.9 million project adds larger rooms that include showers, reclining chairs, televisions, storage space for personal belongings and large windows for access to natural light to help with the healing process.

"The additional space and amenities are important to make our unit the best place to receive care, work and practice medicine.

Families could be spending a lot of time in our hospital as their loved ones recover from a cardiac illness. We want them to be as comfortable as possible," said Dr. Charles L. Lucore, president and CEO of HSHS St. John's Hospital. "Opening this cardiovascular intensive care unit is the most recent step in our continued commitment to providing the best heart care in the central and southern Illinois regions." ♦

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Selected businesses will be profiled in the October issue of *Springfield Business Journal* and honored at a reception sponsored by *United Community Bank*.



Dr. Tana K. Frisina, D.C., CACCP is proud to announce that she has been granted Certification by the Academy Council of Chiropractic Pediatrics (CACCP) in the International Chiropractic Pediatric Association's (ICPA) renowned Certification Program. Dr. Frisina has been granted her Board Certification from The Council of Chiropractic Pediatrics of the Academy of Chiropractic Family Practice (ACFP). She has been designated with the CACCP credentials and proudly remains a member of the ICPA.

This certification enables Dr. Frisina to expand her range of care to individuals throughout pregnancy and childhood with excellence and in accordance with evidence-informed practice. "With this extensive training, I am honored and excited to provide better care and have a greater impact on health and wellness of families in my community," shares Dr. Frisina.

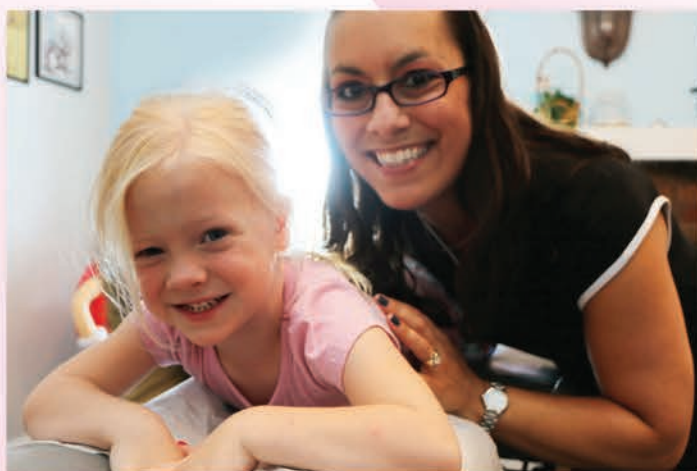
Tana K. Frisina, D.C., CACCP is a Springfield native and has been

serving our community since 2001. Dr. Frisina is driven and highly committed to the patients of her practice. Her purpose is genuine when it comes to the importance of Chiropractic care and a Wellness lifestyle. She is extremely thorough in asking the questions that are specific and important to you and your family's well-being, because she is vested in helping you. Her

patients say it is refreshing to have a doctor who listens and notices the unspoken details of her time with you. She is caring, compassionate and gives her patients 110%. Her easygoing and happy personality is one that flows well with all ages and generations of your family.

Dr. Frisina specializes in chiropractic pregnancy care and utilizes Webster Technique to aid in a safer, easier delivery. Preliminary research indicates that chiropractic adjustments using the Webster

Technique may have a positive effect on birth outcomes by addressing the three causes of difficult labor. Parents report back that her treatments help their kids get relief from colic, reflux, latching issue, even constipation. She enjoys sharing her knowledge to educate you so that you are able to achieve your family's goals towards wellness.



About Dr. Frisina

Pediatric Certified

Webster Certified

Advanced Rated in Activator Methods

Whole Food Nutrition Specialist

Supporter of several charities in our community

Sponsor of at least 8 community events each year

Author

Health and Wellness Educator providing at least 24 free lectures per year for our community members



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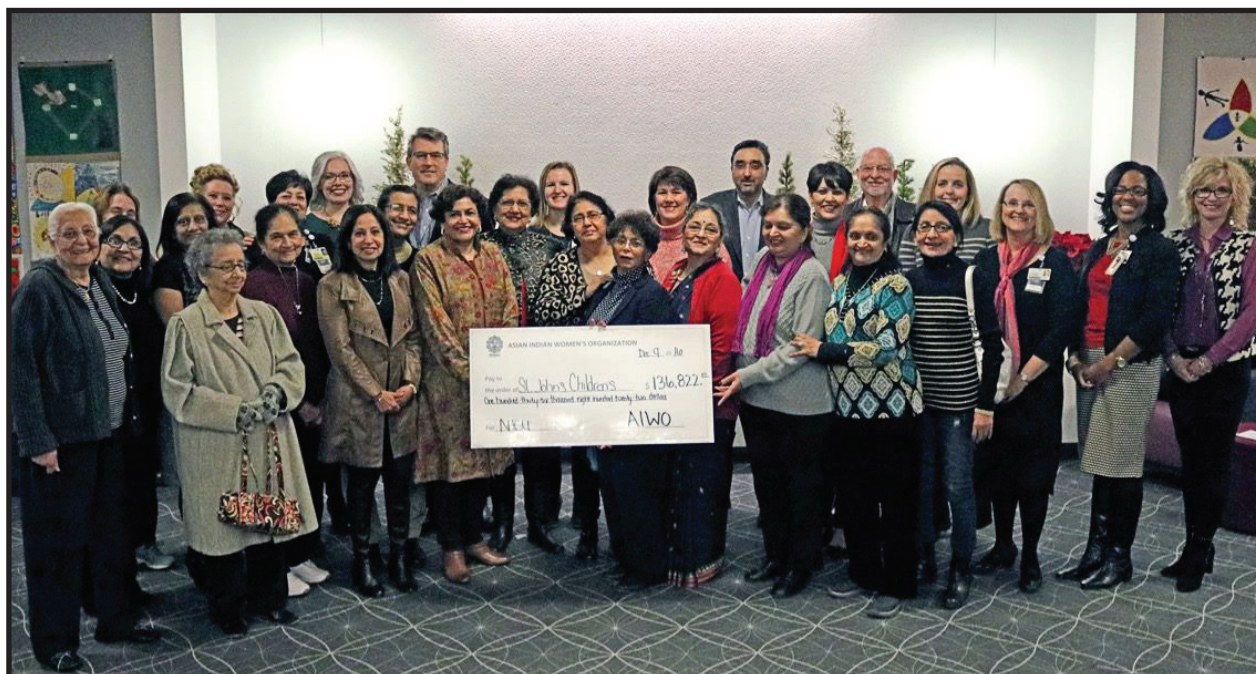
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AIWO presents a check to representatives of HSHS St. John's Hospital after a fundraising event.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AIWO

A lasting impact

Asian Indian Women's Organization supports a variety of local charities

BY JANET SEITZ

Winston Churchill's words: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give," reinforces that simple gifts of generosity have the power to greatly impact other lives.

The nonprofit, all-volunteer Asian Indian Women's Organization (AIWO), an association of women of Indian origin and affiliation, gives time, talent and resources to assist area charities to improve lives. Its goal is to be active in civic engagement and increase the social networking and cultural exchange among communities.

The group's founder and past president, Aruna Mathur, who arrived in Springfield in 1969, explained the origins of the organization. "In 1991, I talked to my friends who also came from India and landed in Springfield that we all received so much from this community, it's time to give back to our community. Everyone agreed, and our new group Asian Indian Women's Organization started."

Its signature fundraising event, India Night, is the organization's major fundraiser for partnering charities. This year's biennial event, its 11th, will benefit MERCY Communities (Mentors, Empowerment and Resources for Change in Young Families). It will be held Friday, Sept. 28, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield and feature a snapshot of Indian culture with music, dance, fashion, Indian cuisine, bazaar and auction.

AIWO has helped raise generous amounts for several area charities and nonprofit organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House, HSHS St. John's Hospital and the India Association of Greater Springfield. The charitable proceeds raised from India Night have grown from \$6,000 in 1996 to \$136,800 in 2016. The group has also supported the Alzheimer's Association, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois, Simmons Cancer Institute, Family Service Center, Central Illinois Food Bank, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, Helping Hands and more.

"This group is absolutely dynamite!" said MERCY's executive director, Amy Voils, about AIWO. "They are not only incredible fundraisers, but wonderful ladies with huge hearts. Their involvement with so many organizations in Springfield has definitely had a major impact on our community, through their civic engagement and philanthropy.

"Without support from groups like AIWO," Voils continued, "many local social service agencies would not exist. MERCY, and many other agencies like ours, are vital to the community, providing much-needed resources and services that clients can't find elsewhere. We receive many calls a day requesting housing for homeless families. While the need far outweighs the resources, we do our absolute best to provide assistance to as many families as possible. If we can't help someone during their crisis, we try our best to direct them to an agency that might be able to assist them. The goal is to help provide housing and supportive services for

homeless and at-risk mothers with children and promote independence."

Since its inception in 1999, MERCY has supported over 1,100 moms and children in Springfield by providing the security of a



The next AIWO event will benefit MERCY Communities.

home, the benefits of life skills and financial management training.

Voils said a majority of the proceeds received from India Night funding will go toward supporting MERCY's transitional housing program, which has a funding deficit due to federal funding cuts. MERCY's transitional program provides housing for up to two years to homeless mothers and their children, who are working toward independence and self-sufficiency. "The mothers living in this program are committed to improving their families' lives and are able to do this with the help of our case management and support programs," Voils explained.

The event proceeds may support more specific projects as well, including a cargo van, as MERCY's current van has more than 410,000 miles on it, Voils indicated. "The cargo van is necessary to support our mission, as we use it to transport donated furnishings to the houses and apartments our clients are moving into. Most of our clients come to us with next to nothing, maybe one trash bag of clothing, so we furnish everything they need - from beds and bedding, dining room tables to dishes and pots and pans - to start fresh."

Voils is looking forward to the event. "It will be an evening to remember, so I feel that absolutely anyone interested in Indian culture, or who wishes to support MERCY Communities, and those who just like to have a great time and support a great cause, would benefit from attending."

For more information on the event, contact AIWO President Manjula Mehta at presidentaiwo@gmail.com. Tickets can be purchased on line at mercycommunities.org. ♦

Janet Seitz is a local communications professional, writer and artist. To share your story, contact her at janetseitz1@gmail.com.

Dew Chilli Parlor expands location and menu

BY TOM PAVLIK

Good things seem to last forever and even have a way of improving with time. And that's certainly true of the Dew Chilli Parlor Pub & Grill on North Grand, the newest location for a longtime local business.

First a bit of history – the Dew Chili Parlor opened in 1909 and operated until 1995. In 2014, the Roberts family bought the secret recipe from the original owners and reopened the Dew at its original location. Recently, the Roberts sold the Dew to local restaurateurs Mike Monseur and John Leskovisek of, among other things, Godfather's Pizza. They've taken the Dew Chilli that Springfield loves to the next level with the very recent opening of a new location with an expanded menu.

Dew Chilli Parlor Pub & Grill is located on North Grand in the former Red Coach/Casa Real building. Although the observant visitor may notice a few hints of its former identity as a Mexican restaurant, the Dew owners did a great conversion. We loved the visual timeline of the Dew's history on the wall near the entry as well as the bright and funky chairs. There's ample table and booth seating, as well as a distinctive bar area with additional high top seating. It being Springfield, there's the requisite video gaming – but it's cordoned off by an attractive wall and is not at all obtrusive.

The day we visited, the Dew had a steady stream of customers covering all segments of Springfield's population. My guests and I appreciated that we weren't crammed in among the other diners – thus affording us a measure of privacy.

The Dew's menu marks a significant expansion of its former self and is worthy of the identifier "Pub & Grill." Sure, there are traditional pub items like burgers (\$6.99 to \$8.59, served with fries), fish and chips (\$8.99) and horse-shoes (\$8.99). But it's the creative use of the Dew chilli itself that impressed us most. There's the "De-ways" – spaghetti, mac and cheese, green beans or baked taters that are then customizable with the inclusion of chilli meat, beans, cheese, etc. Although we didn't try it, a neighboring table ordered up the dish with spaghetti and copious amounts of chilli meat that was then smothered with shredded cheddar, beans and onions. It was a lot of food for \$7.89. The Dew even found a way to work chilli meat into a salad with the Burita Dew Chilli salad (\$7.99, lettuce, chilli beans, onions, tomatoes, chilli meat, taco sauce, cheese, sour cream and crushed corn chips.) Don't worry, the Dew still serves up traditional chilli, dogs, and tamales.

One significant departure from the most recent iteration of the Dew is that beans are now optional. I've not seen the original secret recipe, but the Dew claims beans aren't part of the original recipe. Diners can still customize their chilli by adding beans and by asking for light or heavy suet (fat).

We decided to start with a plate of the cheese curds (\$7.59). They were lightly battered, piping hot and came with a side of ranch dressing. My one guest tends to judge a restaurant by its cheese curds and

announced she was pleased.

For entrees, we went with the Smothered Sancho (\$10.79), the Chilli Cheese Burger (\$8.59) and the Big Deal (\$6.99, all beef hot dog topped with chilli, onions, crushed corn chips, mustard, sour cream and shredded cheddar).




The Smothered Sancho is a soft flour tortilla filled with chilli meat, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, taco sauce, cheddar cheese and sour cream that is then smothered in cheese sauce and yet more chilli meat. This was an enormous offering, yet I found a way to eat almost all of it. I'm a big fan of Dew chilli, and found this to be an inventive and fun way to have at it. According to our server it's one of the Dew's most popular dishes – and with good reason.

The burger comes with a warning about picking up at your own risk. Thanks to the more than generous helping of chilli meat, this is a dish best tackled with fork and knife. My guest commented that the onion straws added some nice texture but that the chilli meat overpowered the burger itself – but I think that's part of the very nature of a chilli burger, anyway. He was most impressed with the Dew's french fries (as was I). These "flat" fries have a way of almost puffing up when deep fried. The wide



Dew Chilli Parlor Pub & Grill is located at 301 N. Grand Ave. PHOTO BY STACIE LEWIS



-  A dog and a smothered sancho.
-  Bartender Christine McNeal
-  An amaretto sundae

PHOTOS BY NIKO ROBLEDO

planks are perfect for scooping up some ketchup or chilli meat. Hats off to whoever decided to add these to the menu.

The hot dog was, likewise, a bit of a mess to eat. It also came with the flat fries. My other guest declared it a success, commenting that the addition of crushed corn chips was a nice touch.

Service was friendly, efficient and attentive and our food came out very quickly. We dawdled a bit (never feeling like we were being rushed out the door) but could have easily gotten in and out and back to our offices within an hour. ♦

Thomas Pavlik is an attorney at Delano Law Offices, LLC. Contact him at tpavlik@delanolaw.com.

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OVERALL: ★★★★★



Travis Atchison

PHOTO BY NIKO ROBLED0

Backyard Produce is fresh-picked

BY NIKO ROBLED0

Backroad Produce Farm, formerly known as PK Produce, has recently changed its name. Owner Travis Atchison sells produce from his stand located at 316 Old Jack Road in Berlin. All of the produce is grown by Atchison, some of which is harvested and sold the same day. The offerings include carrots, sweet corn and sweet banana peppers. Twice a week, Atchison travels to Beardstown to pick up melons and watermelons to sell at his stand. The Backroad Produce Farm is open Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. ♦

Niko Robledo is the editorial intern for Illinois Times and a journalism major at Lincoln Land Community College. He can be reached at intern@illinoistimes.com.

Sangamon County new business registrations

A+ Automotive Services, 1158 N. 11th Street. 816-4943. Charles F. Lane.
Millennial Voice PAC, 1600 S. 4th Street. 415-7866. Anthony Wilcox.
The Detail Dude, 3916 Buckeye Drive. 816-8770. James T. Novar.
Wells Landscaping, 4001 Sandhill Road, #143. 720-8603. Mitchell L. Wells.
Five Star Lawn & Landscaping, 501 S. Charles Street, Ashland. 670-4125. Matthew Smith.
GUDgut.life, 770 Apple Orchard Road. 872-216-6122. Dennis L. Bringuet.
Nanny's Cleaning and Organizing Services, 2245 Dunwich Drive. 502-4447. Bridget Boggs.
Backroad Produce Farm, 41 S. Spring Creek Road, Pleasant Plains. 891-4054. Travis L. Atchison Sr.
First Class Barbershop, 100 N. Wesley Street. 220-7299. Dwy M Rice.
Affordable Pet Grooming LLC, 2641 S. 6th Street. 210-2002. Anastasia (Stacey) McNear.
Blankenship Motorsports, 11910 Bubbling Well Road, Glenarm. 691-8737. Michael E. Blankenship.
Glassworks, 1943 Stonehenge Road. 502-1186. Jesse Gallaher.
Stitchworks Alterations, 420 E. Monroe Street. 718-0350. Tuyen Thanh Nguyen.
Z & G Renovations and Remodeling, 6513 Cherylwood Drive, Apt. 4. 553-8967. Zaid Kazali, Greg Greeley.
Lotus Bloom Spa & Aromatherapy, 7034 Kingsmill Court. 309-642-2397. Hua Liu.
Pond Enterprise, 2288 E. Glenarm Road, Pawnee. 625-7034. Jane Pond.
True Companions, 307 E. Mulberry Street, Chatham. 630-808-0624. George D. Watson.
Illumanati Studios, 401 South Grand Avenue West. 679-8600. William Baker.
K Greer's Flawless Painting Interior/Exterior, 1505 S. 1st Street. 816-7045. Katrell Greer.
Biker Trash, 114 S. Sangamon Street, Auburn. 899-3581. Braden J. Kindernay.
Hunter Flooring, 5046 Old Chatham Road. 717-6007. Thomas Hunter.
TLT Construction, 3548 Stagecoach Road. 341-4618. Lee Wayne Benanti.
FB Transport, 3053 E. Carpenter Street. 361-8123. Natalie N. Farley-Browder, Rocky J. Browder.
FitBodies Bootcamp, 2504 S. MacArthur Boulevard. 899-4127. Kendra Schmulbach.
Get Right Global LLC, 1506 E. Capitol Avenue. 717-0549. Zackery LaDrew, Jr.
Lucky Lindy's, 3351 S. 6th St. Road, Suite 5. 816-5788. Lucky Lindy's LLC Series 3351-5.
Midwest Speed Expo, 3886 E. State Route 54. 522-1955. Hoosier Tire Midwest, Inc.
Daisy Bus Boutique, 2208 Blackhawk Road. 494-1265. Ashley Kennedy, Nick Kennedy.
Embellishments by Amy, 1621 N. 10th Street. 720-7208. Amy J. Nilhas.
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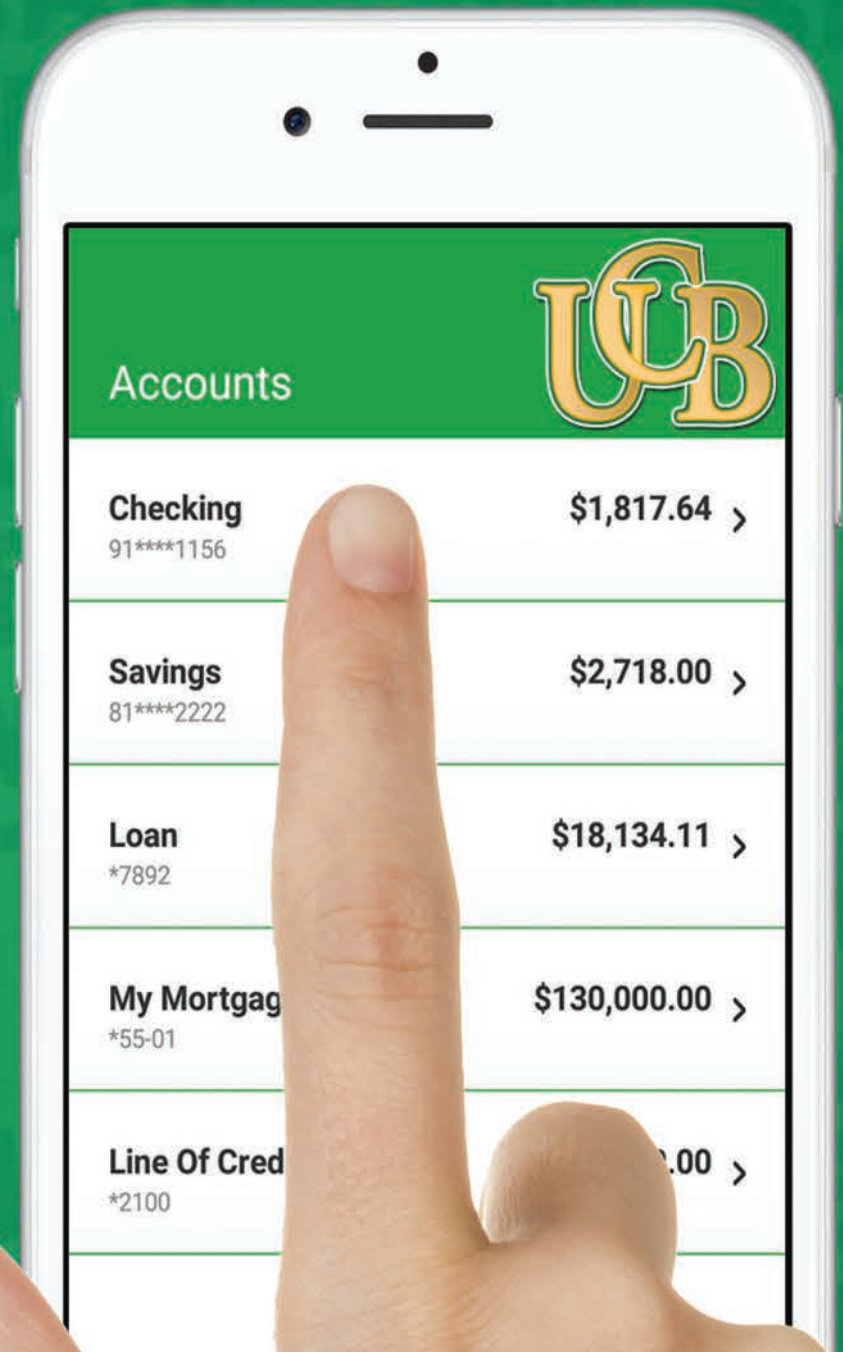


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