



July 2023

Business JOURNAL

Route History: their story and ours

FORTY UNDER 40 2023

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, IL
PERMIT NO 209



E.L. Pruitt Co.

E.L. Pruitt Co. is a leading provider of HVAC systems, plumbing and piping for commercial, industrial, institutional and service/maintenance clients.

Mechanical Contractors

Serving This Area With Pride for 50+ Years



BOS Center (Springfield)



Dana Thomas House (Springfield)



Illinois National Bank (Springfield)



Blessing Hospital (Quincy)



Sangamon County Complex (Springfield)



Johns Hill Magnet School (Decatur)



Springfield Memorial Hospital



YMCA (Springfield)



St. John's Hospital (Springfield)



Broadgauge (Petersburg)



Medics First (Springfield)



The Coliseum (Springfield)



Fairview Elementary (Springfield)



UIS (Springfield)



Jacksonville Memorial Hospital



Millikin University (Decatur)



Springfield Clinic (Springfield)



Memorial Care (Jacksonville)

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • INSTITUTIONAL

Phone: (217) 789-0966 Fax: (217) 789-2694
3090 Colt Road PO Box 3306 Springfield, IL 62708

Phone: (217) 422-9590 Fax: (217) 422-9565
121 South Webster Decatur, IL 62563

www.elpruitt.com

E.L. Pruitt Co. is a design firm specializing in Design-Build and negotiated projects, including sealed drawings.

IL Plumbing License #058-147422

CEFCU® Business Services

At CEFCU, your Business Account is more than that — it's an investment. Enjoy benefits such as:

- **Deposit Services**
- **Convenience Services**
- **Loans**
- **Employee Benefits**
- **Business Credit Mastercard®**
- **And so much more!**

Choose your local Credit Union for all your business financing needs. Call 217.546.2010, or 1.800.633.7077 ext. 37481, or visit cefcu.com/owner today.

CEFCU Not a bank. Better. ®



Mastercard and the circles design are registered trademarks of Mastercard International Incorporated.



Insured by NCUA



2424 W. Iles Avenue, Springfield (near White Oaks Mall)
2449 N. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield (near Lowe's)
1000 E. Lincolnshire Boulevard, Springfield (near Walmart)



**Crowdson
Creative**

VIDEO PRODUCTION SERVICES FOR BUSINESSES & NON-PROFITS
217-299-8801 • imaketv.com

VIDEO

Video Production
Music Videos
TV Commercials
Training Videos
Testimonial Videos

SERVICES

Video Editing
Script Writing
3D Animation
Story Boarding
Motion Graphics

EQUIPMENT

Green Screen
Drone Videography
Teleprompter
On Location or In-Studio
Production

In this issue:

SBJ articles



2023 Forty Under 40



Let your inner artist dabble
By Pamela Savage



Quencie Thomas: From Springfield to Hollywood
By Holly A. Whisler

34 217 BUY BLACK DIRECTORY



Cover

History is their story and ours

By Pamela Woodson
Photos By 1221 Photography

Columns

44 Ask an attorney

By Sarah Delano Pavlik

43 Professional development

By Kelly Gust

48 Medical news

46 Restaurant review

By Thomas C. Pavlik Jr.

42 Philanthropy

By Janet Seitz

Bringing new ideas to Springfield

I first spoke with Ersen Yildirim in April when I interviewed him for our weekly Biz Bites newsletter about the restaurant he and his wife were preparing to open, Ugly Restaurant and Bar. He shared with me how they immigrated to Springfield from Turkey less than a decade ago, bringing little with them other than their two children and their dreams of owning a business. Even from our brief conversation, I could tell there was a lot more to the story, as you'll read about in this month's profile (p. 30).

Another business that recently opened is Dabble, a do-it-yourself arts and crafts venue that was inspired by the travels of one of the owners. Amanda Terry lived in China for three years, and when she returned to the U.S., she and her sister, Ashley Striplin, decided Springfield needed the same type of venue that is popular throughout cities in China (p. 32).

When this month's cover subjects, Dr. Gina Lathan and Dr. Stacy Grundy, teamed up with Kenneth Lockhart to open Route History, they knew they wanted the museum to focus on the Black experience along historic Route 66. To achieve this, they retraced Route 66 from Chicago to southern Illinois, cultivating oral histories, and even consulted with The Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. The result is a unique museum that shares an important – but often overlooked – perspective on American history.(p. 40).

Springfield is sometimes criticized for lacking the food, entertainment or cultural options found in larger cities. However, entrepreneurs are finding ways to bring new ideas here and incorporate them into our business community, which makes this a better place for all of us to live.



Michelle Ownbey, publisher



Editor: Fletcher Farrar
fletcher@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

Publisher: Michelle Ownbey
michelle@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

Associate Publisher: James Bengfort
jbengfort@illinoistimes.com

Copy Editor: Daron Walker
daron@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

Production Design: Brandon Turley
bturley@illinoistimes.com

Advertising:
Yolanda Bell
yolanda@springfieldbusinessjournal.com
217-679-7802

Haley Jackson
haley@springfieldbusinessjournal.com
217-679-7804

Beth Parkes-Irwin
beth@springfieldbusinessjournal.com
217-679-7803

Ron Young
ron@springfieldbusinessjournal.com
217-679-7807

Subscriptions:
springfieldbusinessjournal.com/subscribe
subs@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

July Contributors:

David Blanchette	Thomas C. Pavlik
Jean Campbell	Pamela Savage
Kelly Gust	Janet Seitz
Lee Milner	Holly Whisler
Sarah Delano Pavlik	Pamela Woodson

Address: P.O. Box 398, Springfield, IL 62705

Phone: 217-726-6600

Email: info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

Facebook: facebook.com/SBJIllinois

Twitter: twitter.com/sbjmonthly

SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL is published monthly by Central Illinois Communications, P.O. Box 5256, Springfield, IL 62705. The contents of SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL are copyrighted, and material contained herein may not be copied or reproduced without permission of the publisher. Opinions expressed in SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL are those of their authors, and no information or opinions expressed in SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL represent an endorsement or solicitation for purchase or sale by SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL or its staff.

A professional headshot of Chris Butler, a middle-aged man with short, graying hair and glasses. He is smiling and wearing a dark navy blue suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a red, white, and blue striped tie. An American flag pin is visible on his left lapel, and a red pocket square is in his jacket pocket. The background is a mottled, painterly texture in shades of blue and brown.

Q & A
with

Chris Butler

By David Blanchette

Chris Butler served as the fifth-generation president and CEO of the Butler Family of Organizations for many years. The company recently merged with Service Corporation International, although Butler is staying on for a period of time to assist with the transition.

He and his wife, Val, have two daughters and Butler said the family will continue to reside in Springfield and be active in the community. Their family has created an endowment fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln and Butler has been active with numerous area charitable organizations, including the United Way of Central Illinois, Downtown Springfield Inc., American Business Club, Hope Institute for Children and Families and American Cancer Society.

What was life like for you growing up in Springfield being surrounded by the family business?

Growing up, my dad and my uncles were partners in the family business. There were so many family owned and operated businesses in the community and your identity, to a degree, was linked to that. I was very cognizant of that as a kid, so my friends and I knew not to use our last names if we were maybe not up to our best behavior.

A family business is a way of life. When the business called, your dad went. The relationships that you formed through the business developed into friendships, so you knew many people throughout the community.

Was there ever a point in your life where you did not consider going into the family business?

My parents always said to get an education and when you're in college, leave all of your options open. If you then decide to pursue the family business that's fine, but it's not pre-ordained.

When I was in college, I had some personal experiences that really exposed me to what we do here. Up until that point I honestly don't think I knew what the word grief meant, which is ironic given what our family business was. But once I was aware of it, I decided this was something I'd like to look into further.

I finished college, worked for a year at the family business just to make sure I was comfortable with the decision, then I just couldn't wait for that year to finish so I could go to mortuary school and get back to Springfield.

In your experience, how has the funeral industry changed over the years?

The changes in the profession have probably mirrored the changes that occur in our culture and community. But the purpose of the profession hasn't changed, and that's to help people attend to emotional, relational and spiritual needs when they experience a death of someone they're close to.

Cremation is certainly involved more. Burial or cremation is a practical disposition that needs to be attended to. But bringing grieving people together is the foundation of what we do: to mourn a death and to celebrate and honor a life.

There's been a larger change in the economic culture. It requires more value propositions than in the past, but that's not a bad thing. It provides a lot of options to people.

Why did you feel it was important to have a family pet also be available as a grief comfort dog?

I'm a pet lover and have had dogs come to work with me for a long time. Pearl is a certified therapy dog. Not everybody elects to have Pearl join them, but for those who do, they typically ask for her to be present at their private time of goodbye.



Top: The operations team of Butler Funeral Homes consists of, left to right, Katie Wilson, Sharon Rudin, Cheryl Garvin, Chris Butler and Zach Wilson.
Bottom: Camilla, Val, Chris and Audra Butler.
PHOTOS COURTESY CHRIS BUTLER

I remember one time specifically when I entered a room and it was really heavy with grief. But when I walked in with Pearl, it changed the dynamic. It didn't take away the grief, but the level of comfort that she was able to provide just by showing up was rather amazing.

What considerations were most important to you when discussing the acquisition by Service Corporation International?

The most important considerations were the stakeholders: our clients, our team, my family and the community in general. We have made a significant investment in our staff, our facilities

and the experiences we offer to people who are going through a very difficult time. I wanted all of that to continue, and from my perspective that fits perfectly with SCI's model.

You're involved in numerous community organizations and are very active with the Springfield schools you attended. Why do you feel it's important to be involved in these ways?

When I was growing up, my parents were involved with many different things. Through that I saw the benefit to the community, being connected to something that you could help to improve. That helps you appreciate what you have but also allows you to contribute to something that makes a difference for others. You're connecting with people in the community that you might otherwise not be able to interact with.

Does the funeral business still represent a good career opportunity?

The personality profile of a funeral director is very similar to that of a social worker. They both come to help people. But we also really strive to create an experience where people have time away from work. It's not the marathon of hours that it used to be; people can have a quality of life outside of the organization. It's a beautiful way to serve others and the community while having a rewarding life and career.

What general advice would you give to today's youth?

There's a lot of information and misinformation out there, so make sure you can count on a dependable and accurate source of information.

It's important to develop relationships. Devote time to your faith environment. Learn the importance of balance in your life, create margins in your life so you have downtime. Everybody has a talent they can use to help serve others. Just talent alone won't take you far, but talent and hard work will. Coachability is very important; the people who are successful in any endeavor are the ones that remain open to guidance and advice.

What may people be surprised to know about you?

I love scuba diving. I don't do it as often now, but there was a period where I did it several times a year with a group. It's a very enjoyable thing for me. **SBJ**

FORTY UNDER 40 2023

sponsored by



THE POWER OF A U OF I MBA



The *Springfield Business Journal* proudly features **40 leaders** who are **under the age of 40** in the Springfield and neighboring business communities. These individuals are selected based on their contributions to our local business community and the community in which they reside. They represent, in part, the future of business in our community and in central Illinois.

The selectees' career paths, educational background, and community affiliations are varied. They represent **the best and brightest** from a wide range of occupations. You can expect to hear more from and about these leaders in the years ahead. The program is able to continue due to the commitment of local businesses that realize the importance of acknowledging these up and coming business leaders and supporting community business programs.

Visit springfieldbusinessjournal.com to view selectees from previous years.



**DR. STACY
GRUNDY**
34

Occupation: Director of strategic partnerships and initiatives, LathanHarris Inc, and co-owner and vice president, Route History Museum

Email: stacegrd2@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, University of Texas Health Science Center; and Doctor of Public Health in Advanced Practice Leadership, University of South Florida

Family: Parents, Kenneth and Shirley Grundy, and sibling, Kenneth Grundy Sr.

Affiliations/community activities: 2022 Erikson Institute executive fellow, 2021 Landmarks Illinois influencer, 2020-2021 Institute for Translational Research Education in Adolescent Substance Use scholar, Landmarks Illinois Board member, Route 66: Road Ahead Partnership Negro Motorist Green Book Task Force, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Hometown Connect co-founder/member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Springfield Broadband Equity Committee.

What is your guiding principle in life? I have learned that I lose absolutely nothing by helping others become who they are truly meant to be.

What led you to your current career? During my sophomore year of undergrad, I was a student ambassador for the Illinois Department of Public Health's program Brothers and Sisters United Against HIV/AIDS. I was introduced to public health and trained to be a certified health educator. I was a speaker in the award-winning documentary, *A Mirror to the Heart: Breaking the Stigma of HIV/AIDS*. This experience was life-changing. Before BASUAH, I had never heard of public health and it changed my career trajectory. I changed my college major and started my life as a public health professional.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope for Springfield is to continue to identify opportunities to share the rich cultural experiences of all residents while building new economic opportunities for the community.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? Opening the Route History Museum in 2019 with my co-owners Dr. Gina Lathan and Kenneth Lockhart.

Are there any events of the past year that have affected you and how so? I spent hours driving the state talking to Black seniors and historians from historic Illinois Black Green Book cities. I learned about Black life in those communities during the 1920s-1960s and all of the diverse Black businesses that served as economic engines for Black communities during segregation. For many, they feel that their contributions have been forgotten. To see their eyes light up when they talked about their stories was amazing. It makes all of the hard work worth it to know that we are helping to preserve such important, untold stories.



Occupation: Owner of Hae's Bakery + Coffee Shopp and radiology tech

Email: amybenad@gmail.com

Education: OSF School of Radiology

Family: Husband, Christian, and three daughters, Emma, Hadley and Avery

What is your guiding principle in life? Take all opportunities and sort it out later.

What led you to your current career? Baking during COVID at home with my girls.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? See more local business to open in our community.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? Owning and operating Hae's, seeing how successful our community and employees have made us. We wouldn't be where we are today without them!

AMY BENAD
32



ALEXANDRIA WILSON

32

Occupation: Acting executive director, Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Email: Alexandria.Wilson3@illinois.gov

Education: Bachelor of Science, political science, Tuskegee University, Juris Doctor, University of Missouri School of Law

Family: Spouse, Marcus Johnson; and daughter, Alara Johnson

Community activities: Route History volunteer, Pi Sigma Alpha, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Springfield Urban League Inc. volunteer, Illinois Association of Public Procurement Officials, Mount Zion Baptist Church

What is your guiding principle in life? My guiding principle in life is to embrace authenticity, pursue my passions wholeheartedly, and positively impact the world. I believe in living a purpose-driven life that aligns with my values and brings joy to myself and those around me.

What would you like your life to look like in five years? Ten? In five years, I aspire to have found a fulfilling balance between my professional achievements and personal life. I envision making a meaningful impact as the acting executive director of the Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion while cherishing precious moments with my husband and watching our daughter grow. In 10 years, I hope to have created a legacy of positive change, both in my career and within my family.

What would you like to give back to your community? I want to contribute to initiatives that empower marginalized individuals, particularly young Black women, by providing mentorship, resources and opportunities. I aim to create programs that foster growth, advocate for equity and amplify underrepresented voices.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? I would emphasize the importance of self-belief, embracing failures as learning opportunities and the power of networking and mentorship. I would encourage myself to take risks, be open to new experiences and trust my abilities.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? One of my greatest professional achievements is being appointed acting executive director of the Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion.

What's the song you sing in the shower? My performances of John Legend's latest album, *Legend*, are truly epic, but another song has taken over my life: *Icky Sticky Bubble Gum*. It's a tune from the Ms. Rachel YouTube channel. My 9-month-old daughter is obsessed with it.

BRITTANY DERIGGI

33

Occupation: Regional manager of operations, HSHS St. John's Hospital

Email: Brittany.DeRiggi@hshs.org

Education: Speech pathology and health administration

Family: Significant other, Theron Yates, and three dogs, Rico, Skosh and Bella

Affiliations/community activities: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Rescue Railroad dog transporter, Mission and Steering Committee for Sangamon County, Lean Six Sigma, APL Sangamon County.

What is your guiding principle in life? Optimism and gratitude: Radiate deep gratitude and think powerful thoughts; explore new possibilities and develop intellectual capacities to discover, create and enrich new realities.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield?

My greatest hope is that we can build a community that is focused around resiliency. I would like Springfield to be community where future generations have the potential to thrive either after college or stay and work should college not be their path.

What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path? I started out on the path of speech pathology and after working in the field I did not feel it fostered my passion for helping the community on a broader spectrum. I went back to school for health administration, which I felt would better support this yearning. I am working for a company that I truly admire as it has given and continues to give me opportunities to make positive impacts.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? My older sister, Tiffany, always knew she wanted to be a neonatal nurse practitioner. Tiffany was and still is the person I wanted to be the most like. Seeing her passion for being a clinical provider, I felt that if I wanted to be like her I needed to choose a career that was similar in comparison to a practitioner. I would tell my younger self that looking up to a role model is not about the career they have, but the passion they have for what they are doing and who they are. In switching to health administration, I am still like Tiffany. I have a passion for what I am doing and I strive to be an accountable, compassionate and giving person.

What's the song you sing in the shower? Anything Fleetwood Mac.



TRACEY BENN-COCKAYNE

33

Occupation: Technical director, Adult and Pediatric Echo Lab, Springfield Memorial Hospital

Email: traceybc3@gmail.com

Education: Associate of applied science degree, bachelor's degree, RDCS (Registered diagnostic cardiac sonographer)

Family: Spouse, Dr. Thomas Cockayne, and two children, McKenzie and Kylie Cockayne

Affiliations/community activities: NAACP Springfield Chapter, Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, American Society of Echo, Lincoln Land Community College Cardiovascular planning committee co-chair, Lincoln Land Community College Diagnostic Medical Sonography committee.

What is your guiding principle in life?

"Every no gets you closer to a yes."

What led you to your current career? What truly led me to my career in health care was my grandfather. When I was 19, he had a stroke. The experience was a life-changing event for a 19-year-old, but with the negative there were many positives. I got to see and experience the wonderful care health care workers give to those in need. In those dark hours, health care made such a positive impression on me that I knew it was where I wanted to be. The next step was finding what I wanted to do. I thought I had found what I wanted until I took an anatomy class at LLCC. I remember we were going over the heart and touched on cardiac ultrasounds. I was hooked! I loved the complexity, the rhythm and flow, how sonographers get their images, how they help diagnose cardiac issues, and how you could instantly change someone's life for the better! I found my niche, cardiac ultrasounds.

What would you like to give back to your community? What I would love to give back to my community are new career opportunities in health care and to continually improve patient health care experiences and outcomes.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? That there will be obstacles in your career path ... but no matter those obstacles, with God by your side, you will get through.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? Having the opportunity to work with Lincoln Land Community College to start a new career path for this community.

What's the song you sing in the shower?

Kickstart my Heart by Motley Crue.



AMANDA TIPPIN 35

Occupation: Assistant director of recreation and marketing, Springfield Park District

Email: atippin@springfieldparks.org

Education: Bachelor of Science, marketing, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Family: Spouse, Josh

Affiliations/community activities: Illinois Women in Leadership, Women in Parks and Recreation.

What is your guiding principle in life? My guiding principle in life is to be positive and to help others.

What led you to your current career? I grew up in Springfield, where the Springfield Park District has been a part of my life every step of the way. From learning to play golf at Pasfield Golf Course, attending the Nelson Center summer camp, helping my mother with the Drysdale golf tournament, and attending the International Carillon Festival and Jack-o-Lantern Spectacular each year with family and friends. Once I moved back to Springfield, I knew the Springfield Park District was where I wanted to start my next career path. It has not only brought me joy, but it has also helped shape who I am today. My goal is to continue to promote the Springfield Park District and connect as many people in our community as possible to the resources we offer.

What would you like to give back to your community? Springfield is my home. I want to always be able to give back the love, support, and pride it has given me.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? Enjoy what life has to offer. Have fun and enjoy the journey.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? My greatest professional achievement to date is the growth, support and visibility I have provided by marketing recreational opportunities at the Springfield Park District. I love the opportunity to make new connections between community members and our organization.

What's the song you sing in the shower?
Happy by Pharrell Williams

CRAIG WILLIAMS II 38

Occupation: Accounting lead for the IL ACTS ERP program, Department of Innovation and Technology; Artistic director, Hoogland Performing Arts Education Program

Email: Craigwilliamsii@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor of Science, accountancy, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Family: Ryan Blesse; parents, Ron and Kathy Stuva and Craig and Barb Williams; siblings, KurtBob, Cameron, Bethany, Katie, Charlie

Affiliations/community activities: Springfield Urban League board member, volunteer as a director, artistic designer and performer for The Muni and Springfield Theatre Centre, volunteer with fundraising for Copper Coin Ballet Company.

What is your guiding principle in life? At this moment in time, for me, resilience is key to navigating uncertainty, building stronger relationships and overcoming failures to bounce back stronger.

What led you to your current career? I didn't grow up dreaming of becoming an accountant, but it turned out to be the perfect foundation to explore many opportunities in both public and private sector careers. Starting in public accounting, I quickly realized my yearning to be directly involved in overall management of business operation, so I explored administration with a state agency. Moving forward, I became fascinated by the collaboration of finance and technology to improve and enhance business processes, joining the state's enterprise resource planning team.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? My hope is every member of our community feels empowered and is actively engaged in the vibrant, cultural heritage that is so crucial to Springfield's vitality.

What would you like to give back to your community? The performing arts in Springfield has always been a place for me to grow and express myself in a safe space. Through my position at the Hoogland Center for the Arts and other volunteer opportunities, I hope to help build a platform for our community to be creative, to collaborate and understand one another, and to tell stories that begin difficult conversations that strengthen our community.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? The people surrounding you are what make life good – give them appreciation freely and frequently.

What's the best purchase (under \$100) you've made in the last six months? A pour-over coffee kit – morning coffee is like therapy. Plus, it has ruined Starbucks for me.



ELIZABETH MCCOY 37

Occupation: Director of employee relations and business support, Springfield Clinic

Email: emccoy@springfieldclinic.com

Education: Master's degree, human resources management, Colorado State University-Global Campus

Family: Spouse, Carl

Affiliations/community activities: Cherry Hills Church, Wooden It Be Lovely, CIC SHRM, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Compassion International

What is your guiding principle in life? Always move forward with integrity and love for people.

What led you to your current career? After college I began working for a health care organization in HR handling employees' benefits, onboarding and recruitment. My experience led me to a senior living company where I managed its recruitment function. Upon returning to Springfield, I gained some great experience on the search firm side of recruitment and stepped into the talent acquisition manager position for Springfield Clinic. I enjoyed the relationship component in the recruitment process but wanted to work closely with employees after they were onboard.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? One of the things I enjoy about Springfield is the number of local businesses. With such a great, historic downtown area, I would love to see Springfield revitalize this space to enable more entrepreneurs to open their own businesses.

What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path? While every person and organization navigated COVID-19, the impact to the health care and HR world created challenges I could not have even begun to imagine. The amount of time that was spent with a team of people determining the best way forward for our employees and patients was incredible. There was an enormous effort of collaboration between departments as we navigated almost weekly challenges. As the virus shifted, we had to shift our approach, which involved writing and rewriting policies, processes and then ensuring these were communicated to staff and leaders. It required a continuous effort to remain agile, communicate effectively and manage priorities.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? It has been rewarding to lead my team. They are a group of incredibly kind, intelligent and hardworking professionals that hold to a high level of integrity.

What app on your phone are you ashamed to say you use? One app that I spend more time on than others is Boggle.



**How would you transform
your home with a HELOC?**

Contact us to learn more about our Home Equity Line of Credit options.

Security Bank | securitybk.com | loanofficers@securitybk.com | 217-789-3500 | NMLS #416191



**CONGRATS,
KEVIN!**

the Storyteller Studios
award-winning video production

FORTY
UNDER **40**
2023

DANIEL PITTMAN 39

Occupation: Senior public service administrator, Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology

Email: dpittman0610@gmail.com

Education: Associate of Arts, business, and Associate of Science, applied science, both from Lincoln Land Community College; Bachelor of Arts, business administration, and Master of Arts, public administration, both at University of Illinois Springfield

Family: Spouse, Colleen, and children, Madeline and Andrew.

Affiliations/community activities: Little Flower School PTC and Boosters, Little Flower Mens Club, Little Flower School Boys/Girls basketball coach, Blessed Sacrament track coach, Elks Lodge #158, Central Illinois Predators coach, Land of Lincoln Honor Flight, Central Illinois Food Bank, St. John's Breadline, Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County.

What is your guiding principle in life? I never want work to be the reason I cannot accomplish a goal.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope for Springfield is that it retains the character that made me love it so much.

What would you like to give back to your community? I hope I can give an inspiring story. My biological parents were very young when they had me and I spent most of my formative years with no real parental guidance. Direction was mostly given to me by District 186 teachers and coaches who saw a spark in me. I served my country, graduated from college and graduate school, and have given hundreds of volunteer hours a year. As Marines, we all made a promise to serve our country and that doesn't end when our service ends. Hopefully my time can cultivate the next generation of volunteers.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? I wish that I knew that I should enjoy the "path" more.

Are there any events of the past year that have affected you and how so? Last year I ran for county treasurer and early on I was asked to speak with some church members. I was nervous so I asked my grandmother for advice. Her advice was to speak from the heart because people love the same things I love. I spoke of home, family and faith. After the speech, many there spoke to me about their similar experiences. It was a poignant reminder of how much we all have in common.



MARCUS JOHNSON 33

Occupation: President and CEO, Springfield Urban League Inc.

Email: mjohnson@springfieldul.org

Education: Bachelor of Science, biology, Tuskegee University; Master's degree, public health, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; and currently a doctoral student, Creighton University

Family: Spouse, Alexandria, and daughter, Alara Marie

Affiliations/community activities: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Phi Omega National Service Organization, Central Illinois HIV Care Connect, Child Abuse Prevention Coalition, CHOICES Youth Mentorship Program, Health in All Policies, Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Route History volunteer, Springfield Broadband Equity Committee, Springfield Memorial Hospital board, Springfield Sangamon County Growth Alliance board.

What is your guiding principle in life? My guiding principle in life is my faith in God, which serves as a foundation in every aspect of my life, shaping my decisions and interactions with others.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope for Springfield is to see it become a beacon of equality, opportunity and prosperity. I envision Springfield as a place where everyone, regardless of their background, has access to quality education, fulfilling employment and the chance to shape their own future.

Are there any events of the past year that have affected you and how so? In the past year, becoming a dad has profoundly reshaped my outlook on life, work and time. Now every moment is precious and my work is about more than professional success. It's about creating a world I want my daughter to inherit.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? Never lose sight of the 'why' behind your journey. There will be challenging times when your resolve will be tested. During these moments, remember why you started and who you're doing this for.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? My greatest achievement is serving as the president and CEO of the Springfield Urban League. This role stands as the pinnacle of my career, embodying an honor and challenge that I have humbly embraced.

What's the best purchase (under \$100) you've made in the last six months? The best purchase I've made in the last six months has to be the Roterunner Purpose Planner.

ELIZABETH ROSS WAKE 36

Occupation: Owner of The Wakery

Email: springfieldwakery@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor of Arts, international development, Calvin University, Master of Public Administration, University of Illinois Springfield

Family: Spouse, Jeff Wake, and one child, Teddy

Affiliations/community activities: Old State Capitol Foundation board of directors, former member of the Springfield Ballet Company board of directors, former co-chair of Hope for the Holidays Fine Art and Craft Fair

What is your guiding principle in life? There's a Bible verse that talks about how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. My belief is that if you are bringing good into the world, you're going to have to get your feet dirty – but that's what makes them beautiful.

What led you to your current career? I saw a need for both late night coffee and a late-night gathering spot that didn't have alcohol. I wanted something like that to exist for myself, but no one else was doing it, so I decided to be the one to start it. I had the background and education to make it happen.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? My hope is that Springfield would grow and thrive in the small-business industry, allowing local dollars to circulate and uplift the community. My hope is that Springfield would encourage more entrepreneurs to plant their ideas right here.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? I gave a Ted Talk in 2021 titled, "Are You Paying to Perpetuate Poverty?" in which I explore how certain fundraising techniques make the sad stories of the poor a commodity to be sold, thus creating a cyclical need for poverty in order to fund charitable organizations.

Are there any events of the past year that have affected you and how so? In the past year, I launched a new business concept while caring for a newborn baby.

What's the best purchase (under \$100) you've made in the last six months? A Knight's Action Park season pass. In the crazy of running a business, it's so nice to be able to relax and have fun days with my family.



Allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of the Springfield Business Journal's Forty Under 40 recipients for 2023.

Thank you for the leadership and contributions you have provided for our community.

I look forward to hearing about many more of your future successes.



Mark Cortesi, Agent
State Farm Insurance

Mark D. Cortesi, Agent

Office: 217.787.1727
www.growwithmark.com
924 Clock Tower Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62704





**VICTORIA
GONZALEZ**
39

Occupation: My family and I own Taqueria El Dorado
Email: gonzalezv8@yahoo.com
Education: Associate degree, business administration
Family: Four children, Jazlynn, Julian, Joel and Giselle (twins)
Affiliations/community activities: Hispanic Women of Springfield
What is your guiding principle in life? My guiding principle is to stay consistent and pursue self-improvement.
What led you to your current career? A challenge to myself led me to be where I'm at.
What would you like to give back to your community? I want to give back to the community all the support they have given me, my family and my staff.
What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? My greatest professional achievement has been rescuing a dying business in 2019 and making it through the pandemic by adjusting to changes.
Are there any events of the past year that have affected you and how so? Two major events have happened to us. In August 2022 I gave birth to twins and it's been another self-challenge completed by being a mom of newborn twins and managing a growing business. In November 2022 the opportunity of relocating our business to a larger space came and we made the move. My staff, my family and I have been able to serve more clients while being consistent and adapting to change. This has been good for all of us!



**KAYLA
MAHAFFAY-MUSSON**
39

Occupation: CPA/chief financial officer, United Community Bank
Email: kmahaffay@ucbbank.com
Education: Bachelor of Science, applied mathematics, and Bachelor of Arts, economics, East Stroudsburg University; Master of Arts, accountancy, University of Illinois Springfield
Family: Spouse, Cody, and two daughters, Ainslee and Ada
Affiliations/community activities: Illinois Women in Leadership, Springfield Lakeshore Improvement Association
What led you to your current career? I came to Springfield after completing my undergraduate degrees with the intention of working full time while pursuing my master's degree and CPA license. I applied and was hired as a part-time teller with UCB and rose through the ranks to full-time teller, payroll associate, controller, and, most recently, chief financial officer.
What is your guiding principle in life? Never stop learning.
What would you like your life to look like in five years? Ten? I hope to hold the position of Chief Financial Officer at UCB in addition to having a busy schedule full of PTO meetings, volleyball games, dance recitals and community events.
What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? The day I passed the CPA exam. It was a major achievement and opened the door to many opportunities.



DR. TIMOTHY DAUGHERTY
36

Occupation: Hand surgeon, plastic and reconstructive surgeon
Email: tdaugherty@siumed.edu
Education: Undergraduate and graduate school: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; medical school, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; plastic surgery residency, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; orthopedic hand surgery fellowship, The Curtis National Hand Center and Johns Hopkins University.
Family: Spouse, Amanda, and children, Blaire, Briggs and Baylor
Affiliations/community activities: Springfield Memorial Hospital, HSHS St. John's Hospital.
What is your guiding principle in life? Be yourself and do what's right.
What led you to your current career? I have always had a passion for helping improve the lives of others through medicine. I think that is what was my biggest drive in choosing, specifically, reconstructive surgery and hand surgery – I am able to directly help people through their darkest time by restoring what they have lost.
What would you like to give back to your community? I enjoy treating patients within Springfield and the surrounding communities. I often see my patients around town and enjoy that I get to witness their improved quality of life.
What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? How long it would take me to get here! Even though I wouldn't change anything!
What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? Getting into one of the most prestigious and desired hand fellowships in the country, which afforded me great training by amazing mentors.



HEATHER GLEASON
39

Occupation: Vice president, wealth management, Bank of Springfield
Email: hgleason@bankwithbos.com
Education: Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts, both in communication studies, Eastern Illinois University
Family: Spouse, Eric, and two daughters, Sophie and Maggie
Affiliations/community activities: Girls Scouts, Women in Leadership, Top Notch Volleyball coach
What is your guiding principle in life? Attitude is everything. Anything is possible with the right attitude. I have felt this way my whole life. My parents taught me this guiding principle from a young age and I was able to practice this principle daily as a student, collegiate athlete, manager, teammate and most importantly, as a mother.
What is your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope is that we continue to give back and grow within our community. Springfield provides opportunities for people of all ages to be successful and to get involved. I love seeing people stay or return to Springfield to further their careers and raise families and that we live in a community with ample opportunity for growth and development. This is how we make our community flourish.
What would you like your life to look like in five years? Ten? My professional life would look very similar to what it does now. I see myself at BOS assisting our clients with their banking needs and providing advice. On the personal side, in five years I hope to enjoy the success and achievements of our two amazing young girls.
What would you like to give back to your community? The opportunity to volunteer and stay involved. I have volunteered for St. John's Breadline, United Way, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, Central Illinois Food Bank and the Ronald McDonald House and it is amazing to see how much good can be done when people just stop and devote time to helping others who need it.
What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? I was able to manage our largest branch for 11 years and for me, having a positive impact on my team's professional growth and development has been very rewarding.
What's the song you sing in the shower? *We are the Champions*

Brittany DeRiggi

Regional Manager
Primary Care

Congratulations to Brittany on this well-deserved recognition. Her extraordinary leadership inspires and motivates others to reach their full potential. Brittany's exceptional qualities make her an invaluable asset, and we are incredibly fortunate to have her as part of our team.



HSBS Medical Group

Congratulations

Kayla Mahaffay-Musson

*UCB congratulates
Kayla and all of the
2023 Forty Under
40 recipients.*

*We are proud of
you, Kayla!*



217-787-3000

UCBbank.com



CONGRATULATIONS, ZACH LEWIS!

THE ILLINI COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERS,
STAFF, AND MANAGEMENT CONGRATULATE
ZACH LEWIS, GM/COO, FOR BEING NAMED
TO THE SBJ'S FORTY UNDER 40 LIST.

WE ARE PROUD OF ZACH'S LEADERSHIP
AND COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE.



STEPHANIE WELLS

37

Occupation: Court analyst, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Email: StephWells2486@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor's degrees in law enforcement justice administration and psychology

Family: Parents, Rodney and Shirley Wells, four siblings, five nieces and nephews and one great-nephew.

Affiliations/community activities: Chatham-Auburn Memorial VFW Post 4763 senior vice commander.

What is your guiding principle in life? To live life to the fullest, give back to others when able, and always remember to laugh.

What would you like your life to look like in five years? Ten? There are a thousand different combinations of what my life could look like, but my big bucket list item is to visit all 63 national parks. So far, I have visited 16 since 2020 and hope to visit many more in the next 10 years.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? That some kids know what they want to be when they grow up at the age of 10, while others are still figuring it out at 30. Everyone's path, professionally or personally, is different and that's OK.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? When I joined the VFW in May of 2021 my only goals were to be around other veterans, as I missed the camaraderie, and to give back to my community, but I was humbled when my fellow members voted me into an officer position in 2022. I'm now honored and proud to serve our VFW Post and community as the senior vice commander.

Are there any events of the past year that have affected you and how so? As millions of others did, I too watched Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin go into cardiac arrest during Monday Night Football in January. Watching a healthy 25-year-old collapse on the field after a very normal play was not only shocking but made me realize I needed to relearn my CPR skills. Soon after, I scheduled a CPR and AED class at my VFW for members to attend and learn/relearn their skills. I feel everyone should know basic first aid and CPR because an emergency can happen at any time.

What's the best purchase (under \$100) you've made in the last six months? Darn Tough Socks! I bought my first pair a few years ago for a hiking trip and never looked back. Just purchased a few more pairs for a recent hiking trip and everyday wear. Socks are a rather mundane item, but Darn Tough Socks really are the best!



MATTHEW BREWER

39

Occupation: Attorney, Stephen Kelly Law

Email: mbrewer@stephenkellylaw.com

Education: Bachelor of Science, marketing, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; Juris Doctor, Southern Illinois University School of Law.

Family: Spouse, Abbie; children, Ledger, Harper and Peyton; mother, Nancy Pedrucci; father, Dean Brewer; and brother, Andrew Brewer.

Affiliations/community activities: Sangamon County Bar Association, Peoria County Bar Association, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Christ the King Parish, YMCA volunteer coach

What is your guiding principle in life? Hard work and discipline will solve a lot of problems.

What led you to your current career? The desire to help people is number one.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? My hope for Springfield is that we continue to grow and thrive as a community. We can create that growth by shopping locally and utilizing the incredible resources we have in Springfield for both goods and services. My hope is that growth leads to better schools, safer streets and a cleaner city so that Springfield can become a destination for those coming to Illinois and an example for other cities.

What would you like your life to look like in five years? Ten? In the next five-10 years I would like my life to look like your classic family man's life. Family movie and game nights, pool parties, ballgames and barbecues. I also hope to be more of a leader in the areas of law that I practice.



JOHN ZERKLE

35

Occupation: Brewer/distiller, Anvil & Forge Brewing and Distilling Co.

Email: john@anvilandforge.com

Education: Bachelor's degree, business administration, University of Illinois Springfield

Family: Spouse, Maureen Faller; parents, Jim and Carol Zerkle; and brothers, Adam and Mike Zerkle

Affiliations/community activities: Volunteer and donate to the Big Brother Big Sister Golf Outing fundraisers throughout the central Illinois area, Summer Kitchen Fundraiser at Anvil, and several donations to local charities' silent auction events.

What is your guiding principle in life? You need to continue to learn and ask questions along the way.

What led you to your current career? Home brewing hobby interest grew to commercial brewing as a career.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? For Springfield to continue to thrive and help along that path any way I can.

What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path? As a business that started in late 2018 we had just started to get going by the time shutdowns for the pandemic happened. We pivoted in 2020 to add a canning line and adjusted our business model to figure out how to come out even stronger.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? Being able to start the first brewery/distillery in Springfield.



MEGAN MURRAY

37

Occupation: Staff supervisor/designer, Wooden It Be Lovely

Email: mshomidie@gmail.com

Education: Associate degree, art

Family: Daughter, Journey

Affiliations/community activities: Illinois Women in Leadership Women's Symposium expert, Abraham Lincoln Museum Youth Leadership volunteer, speaker at church and civic groups.

What is your guiding principle in life? You never know the battle someone is fighting, so be kind always.

What led you to your current career? Unlike many professionals, it was my struggles that led me to this career. I am now in a job where I help others who were once where I was.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope for Springfield is that we would live in a community where the stigma of addiction is replaced with hope and understanding for all people. We need a community that embraces the belief that people can change and thrive.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? Last year Wooden It Be Lovely opened a residential program unlike all others. I was a big part of the development of the program and designing of the living space. This home was a yearlong labor-intensive project that I poured my heart and soul into. The home is a beautiful and unique living space for women to heal and live. I am proud of it and how it is changing lives.

What app on your phone do are you ashamed to say you use? Well, I not ashamed of the Pinterest app, but I am ashamed to say how many hours I spend a day on Pinterest looking up interior design, makeup hacks, furniture styles, craft projects for a 7-year-old and dessert recipes.

Congratulations

Matthew Brewer

FORTY
UNDER **40** 2023



STEPHEN P. KELLY
ATTORNEY AT LAW

2509 W. Iles Avenue, Suite 103 | Springfield, IL 62704 | (217) 544-8000 | www.stephenkellylaw.com

DR. SEAN CRAWFORD 32

Occupation: Dentist at Crawford Family Dental

Email: sean@crawfordfamilydental.com

Education: Bachelor of Science, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and Doctorate in Dental Medicine, SIU School of Dental Medicine.

Family: Spouse, Denysa, and children, Kynnedi, Emeri, Rudy and Kaleo.

Affiliations/community activities: Member of Abundant Faith Christian Center, GV Black Dental Society, YMCA Board and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

What is your guiding principle in life? Never burn bridges and people will never forget how you make them feel.

What led you to your current career? I wanted to do something in the medical field and originally wanted to be a pharmacist. Within my first month at SIUE I came in contact with three people that explained that I had too much personality to be a pharmacist and that I should consider dentistry. So I looked into it and here we are today!

What would you like to give back to your community? Being in a service industry I interact with people from the community every day and we always look for ways to give back. Ultimately, I want to help people find their reason to smile all while giving them a beautiful smile to show off when they find that reason.



RYAN FITZSIMMONS 36



Occupation: Center manager, United Parcel Services

Email: upsryan@yahoo.com

Education: Associate degree, Benedictine University at Springfield

Family: Spouse, Ashley, and children, Cait and Emmett

Affiliations/community activities: Government Outreach Program ambassador, Prisoner Fellowship Angel Tree, United Way coordinator, CY Young umpire, youth sports coach, Knights of Columbus, Prisoner Work Release Program, Shop with a Cop.

What would you like your life to look like in five years? Ten? Spending more quality time with my wife and children.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? My greatest professional achievement is meeting Vice President Mike Pence. U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis was running for re-election and had Pence come to Panther Creek. I was a service ambassador for UPS and was able to greet him.

What would you like to give back to your community? I would really like to start a youth baseball and softball organization in Springfield. I played CY Young baseball growing up here and it had a significant impact on who I am today. My coaches became my mentors, and even as a child I recognized what they sacrificed to ensure each child had the opportunity to play.

What is your guiding principle in life? Growth and change are my guiding principles in life. I strive to make this an integral part of my life because without either I could never overcome obstacles life throws my way. Instead of fearing change, I embrace it and learn from it.



JESSICA NARDULLI 36

Occupation: Lawyer/lobbyist

Email: jnardulli1@gmail.com

Education: Illinois Wesleyan University, Southern Illinois University School of Law

Family: Spouse, Brent Colbert; sons, Samuel, Rory and Caleb; parents, Steve and Joyce Nardulli; and siblings, Monica Simpson and Jake Nardulli

Affiliations/community activities: The Parent Place, Hoogland Center for the Arts, Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Lutheran High School, Sangamon County Bar Association, Central Illinois Women's Bar Association

What is your guiding principle in life? Attitude is everything. It influences how you show up in life. I often pause to ensure I have the right mindset to be successful in any situation.

What led you to your current career? My parents. My parents nurtured my interests at every turn with advice, education, mentorship, networking and experience. I know I'm in the right career because I've tried lots of paths. They set me up to believe I was "enough."

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? Stop worrying so much! I worried way too much about things that were completely out of my control.

What's the WORST career advice you've ever received? "Never ever give up." Sometimes it is better, healthier and more productive to cut your losses and move on – and there is value in knowing when that moment has come.



MIKE ZERKLE 33

Occupation: Co-owner at Anvil & Forge Brewing and Distilling

Email: Mike@anvilandforge.com

Education: Studied chemistry, journalism at Lincoln Land Community College; biochemistry at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Family: Partner, Emilie Yeager; parents, Jim and Carol Zerkle; and brothers John and Adam Zerkle

Affiliations/community activities: Volunteer and donate to the Big Brother Big Sister Golf Outing fundraisers throughout central Illinois, Summer Kitchen Fundraiser at Anvil, and donations to local charities' silent auction events.

What is your guiding principle in life? To be nice. It's so simple.

What led you to your current career? A homebrew batch with my brother John and a well-timed phone call from him asking if I wanted to "start a brewery/distillery." I love the sciences and chemistry is a huge part of brewing, distilling and cooking. Taking the knowledge I learned from my time in school and studies and applying it to something delicious is what landed me here.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? To be a place where people of all walks of life and backgrounds can have a supportive community that helps drive and supports their ambitions, like their own business startup and career.



FORTY
UNDER **40** 2023

CONGRATULATIONS KATY!

Sikich is excited to congratulate Katy Long on being selected for the 2023 Springfield Business Journal's Forty under 40. Learn how Katy and Sikich can assist your business today!



SIKICH®

ACCOUNTING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY

217.793.3363

SIKICH.COM



First Call

STAAB

1937®

Honoring LifeSM

It's What We Do Best

Springfield ♦ Sherman

217-528-6461

StaabFamily.com

Congratulations

Paul Staab III

FORTY
UNDER **40** 2023



TYLER SCANLAN 30

Occupation: Agency owner/agent of Tyler Scanlan – State Farm

Email: Tyler@TylerFromSF.com

Education: Bachelor's degree, finance, Benedictine University

Family: Spouse, Kerby, and dogs Tony and Bruce

Affiliations/community activities: Chatham Area Chamber of Commerce ambassador, Toys for Tots location and sponsor, Titan Fuel with Chatham School District, Back to School Supplies Drive for Chatham School District, and sponsor of the Chatham Police & Fire Department, Glenwood Titans Basketball, Strikeouts for Hunger with Glenwood Titans Baseball, Channel1450 Local Sports Weekly News Wrap-Up, Sangamon County Fair, SIU on PAR for Pediatrics, Chatham Friends of the Park, National Juice Week Wild Wellness, Channel1450 Fill the Trailer, Route 66 Mother Road Festival.

What is your guiding principle in life? Be the hardest worker in the room, and treat everyone with respect.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope that small businesses grow in Springfield and surrounding communities.

What would you like to give back to your community? I aim to constantly give back to my community in any way that I can. I want to continue supporting our community's children. Specifically, collaborating with young athletes' organizations from local school districts.



ZACH KERKER 39

Occupation: Vice president, brand, experience and advocacy, Springfield Clinic

Email: zkerker@springfieldclinic.com

Education: Bachelor's degree, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

Family: Spouse, Lori, and daughters, Harper and Dagny

Affiliations/community activities: Walk to End Alzheimer's, Alzheimer's Association State Public Policy Committee, Capitol Area Sports Commission

What is your guiding principle in life? Death to "it's always been done this way."

What led you to your current career? The Springfield and surrounding community breathed life into Channel1450.com when we were trying to get it off the ground in 2011. I've always felt a deep desire to reciprocate what this community gave to me through that. It is why health care was such a draw and why Springfield Clinic was a perfect landing spot for me. Our teams save lives and improve people's quality of life. It's an incredibly rewarding mission to be associated with.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? Growing our Brand, Experience and Advocacy team at Springfield Clinic. I get to work with the most talented, most driven people. We challenge one another and hold each other accountable and I savor every second that I get to be a member of this team.



NICK GENTILE 28

Occupation: vice president, commercial banking, Prairie State Bank

Email: jnickgentile@gmail.com

Education: Lincoln Land Community College, Indiana University Northwest

Family: Spouse, Whitney, and 10-month-old daughter, Layla

Affiliations/community activities: Founder and co-president of RISE Springfield (young professionals networking group), board member and Executive Committee member of United Way of Central Illinois.

What is your guiding principle in life? I have two. Get comfortable with being uncomfortable and treat everyone how you'd like to be treated.

What led you to your current career? Homework. When I was in my first semester of college, I struggled with time management trying to juggle jobs and school so I needed to find somewhere that would let me take my homework to the workplace when I needed to. I became a part-time teller where I could work on my assignments in between tasks, and I never left.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope Springfield will run toward innovative ideas more often in the future. Our community is full of passionate and innovative people and businesses. I think we need to lean on them more going forward, not less.



LEXANNE DARWENT 36

Occupation: Director, Orthopaedic Surgery Center of Illinois

Email: Darwent.Lexanne@mhsil.com

Education: Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science, nursing

Family: Spouse, Justin, and sons, Lyle and Larson.

Affiliations/community activities: Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, Illinois Ambulatory Surgery Center Association, Capital City Crossfit, Special Olympics, volunteer youth coach

What is your guiding principle in life? Work hard, be a kind human, stay true to yourself and surround yourself with positive, supportive people.

What would you like to give back to your community? Working hard as a leader to ensure that patients receive safe, high quality, compassionate care during their orthopedic procedures is a responsibility I take great pride in. I also have a philanthropic vision to develop a nonprofit entity that supports patients and their families during a cancer diagnosis. When my sister was diagnosed with cancer in 2021, an entire community of people stepped up in ways we didn't imagine was possible. I want to continue that vision and help others experiencing the same.

What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path? Health care leadership presents a number of challenges, as it is constantly changing. However, nothing compares to the level of unexpected obstacles that were faced during the pandemic. It was through that experience that I realized I could face adversity head on and come out stronger than before.

sponsored by



Mark Cortesi, Agent
State Farm



THE HOOGLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE

CRAIG WILLIAMS II & JESSICA NARDULLI

ON BEING NAMED
2023 "40 UNDER 40" AWARD WINNERS!



SPRINGFIELD
PARK DISTRICT

FORTY
UNDER **40**
2023

Find your **FUN**, find your **smile** at springfieldparks.org

Congratulations! Amanda Tippin

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND MARKETING

on receiving recognition in the
SBJ Forty under 40!



Congratulations

from all of us at the Springfield Urban League!

We celebrate you and your dedication to 'The Movement'.
Thank you for being the standard of excellence for us and the community!



Springfield
Urban League, Inc.

Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.



MARCUS JOHNSON

Congratulations to this year's 40 Under 40!



(217) 528-3000



expresspros.com/springfieldil

Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS



Helping Businesses Succeed.



SEAN BULL
38

Occupation: Insurance agent, Sean Bull American Family Insurance

Email: sean@seanbull.com

Education: Bachelor's degree, business administration, Benedictine University

Family: Two sons, Chandler and Chesney

Affiliations/community activities: Sherman village trustee, Sherman Athletic Club president, insurance licensed agent in Illinois, Sherman Area Chamber of Commerce past president, Springfield Chamber, Hope School ambassador and certified car seat technician.

What is your guiding principle in life? "Everything is going to be all right"; If you work hard, be kind, show respect, you will foster success no matter what the outcome may be.

What led you to your current career? When I was younger, I had a friend whose parents I was envious of. They worked hard and got to spend time with their kids. They attended all of the events during the day when other parents weren't able to. I thought that was awesome for them. The parents were both insurance agents. After college, I knew I wanted to live the insurance agent lifestyle so I got my insurance license. Not only do I get to help people manage their risks in life with insurance, I'm able to be there for my kids and their events.

What would you like your life to look like in five years? Ten? Within five years, I would like to fulfill my vision of being a next-level politician. I want to continue to serve my community and help create growth and prosperity. There is a need to create a safer environment for our children in schools. I want to work on finding that solution.

What would you like to give back to your community? I will continue to support local businesses, volunteer my time for our events throughout the year and help create a great place for my children to grow up.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? To embrace more opportunities and take more risks. And when doing so, always bet on yourself.



TALIA HUBBARD
37

Occupation: Executive assistant to Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul

Email: hubbard_talia@yahoo.com

Education: Bachelor of Social Work, University of Illinois Springfield

Family: Spouse, Tim Collier, and children, Teegan and Taylor

Affiliations: Bag 217 board member, SWAG member at Grace United Methodist Church and Springfield School District 186 Face Team

What is your guiding principal in life? My guiding principle is always give your best and never think you have aged out of your goals or passion.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope is for the community of Springfield to come together as one to support all residents of Springfield.

What would you like your life to look like in the next 5-10 years? I would like to go back to school to get my masters in school social work and also become a clinical therapist in the Springfield Community, my passion is helping.

What led you to your current career? I started working second semester of my senior year as a state Senate page at the Capitol building. After graduating high school, I became a permanent page and worked my way through college. After graduating from college, I became a legislative assistant to state senator for the Democratic Caucus. Working for the state Senate for 11 years I was asked to join the attorney general and I proceeded to my current position as the executive assistant to the attorney general.

What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path? Being young and naïve tested me in professional settings but challenges taught me to be my authentic self. My positivity and being down to earth creates safe spaces for individuals.



JUSTIN MCMURPHY
35

Occupation: Senior accountant, Prairie Power Inc.

Email: jmcumrphy@ppi.coop

Education: Master of Arts, accountancy, University of Central Missouri

Family: Parents, Larry and Jeanie McMurphy; sister, Tina (Matt) Venable; girlfriend, Liz Standley

Affiliations/community activities: Jacksonville Elks Lodge, Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club of Jacksonville.

What is your guiding principle in life?

I was raised by a working-class family and always taught to treat others as you want to be treated and to leave things better than you found them. I strive to practice these principles by becoming involved in service and professional organizations focused on the betterment of life in Jacksonville and by helping with service projects.

What led you to your current career?

After working in the retail sector for 12 years, I was looking for a career that would allow me to put my education to use. A friend who I met through the Kiwanis Club of Jacksonville informed me of an opening for an accountant at Prairie Power, an electric cooperative serving members across central Illinois.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield?

I hope Springfield and the surrounding communities will work to attract businesses and work with existing businesses to retain jobs. Everybody wins when we have great businesses of all sizes.

What would you like your life to look like in five years? Ten?

I'm looking toward marriage and starting a family in the next five years. Ten years is a long way out, but I hope to still be working at Prairie Power and helping our members receive affordable, reliable and safe energy for many years.

What would you like to give back to your community?

I spend a lot of time helping with fundraising activities for the Kiwanis Club of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition, being treasurer for the Jacksonville Elks Lodge is a time-intensive position. The best thing anyone can give back to their community is the donation of time to help with projects.



HENRY HURWITZ
37

Occupation: System administrator, Population Health

Email: Hurwitz.Henry@mhsil.com

Education: Bachelor of Science focus of Exercise Science, Illinois State University; Master of Health Administration, Saint Louis University

Family: Spouse, Kelly; children, Willow, Lola and Charlie; and Max the dog.

Affiliations/community activities: American College of Healthcare Executives member

What is your guiding principle in life?

Really simple. Be humble and treat others how you want to be treated.

What led you to your current career?

Health has always been something I have been very focused on. My parents always made sure I made it a priority growing up and I knew I wanted a career where I could make an impact on the health of others. Out of undergrad I was a personal trainer and several of my clients were doctors and health care administrators that steered me toward the health care industry. My current role is focused on how to improve health of individuals through engagement and wellness, which is a perfect fit for my interests.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield?

Springfield is a great place to raise a family and is filled with wonderful people. Revitalization of the downtown area needs to continue to be a point of emphasis so we can attract and retain younger generations.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?

Be present in the moment. There have been too many times where I've been in a "if only" phase - example being - if only this project was done then I can relax, etc. By doing that you can miss the unbelievable experiences that are going on around you.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?

The last 36 months have been very volatile for the health care industry. The biggest thing I have taken away is being able to watch my teams grow and respond to daunting challenges since March of 2020. Just the fact I have been able to be a small part of the things they have accomplished is something I am very proud of.



Lexanne Darwent
Director, Orthopaedic
Surgery Center of Illinois

**Congratulations to
Lexanne Darwent**
on being named to the
SBJ Forty under 40.



**ORTHOPAEDIC
SURGERY CENTER**
OF ILLINOIS



*Hope would like to congratulate Kristi
Davison and all of the Forty Under
40 recipients for 2023.*

*Kristi is the perfect example of what it
means to be a leader at Hope. She is
passionate, empathetic, and always
focused on supporting our mission, the
individuals we serve, and our employees.*

Hope. Non-profit. Mission focused.

www.hope.us • 833.585.KIDS
5250 S. 6th Street Frontage Road
Springfield, IL 62703

FORTY
UNDER **40**
2023





**KATY
LONG**
38

Occupation: Director, employee benefit plan audits, Sikich LLP

Email: katy.long@sikich.com

Education: Undergraduate degree, Illinois College; Master's degree, Illinois State University

Family: Spouse, Kurt, and children, Jacob and Cora

Affiliations/community activities: AICPA Employee Benefit Plan Expert Panel, Illinois CPA Society, Christ the King Spring Fling Auction Celebration Chair, former Crimestoppers Board member.

What led you to your current career? My dad's career was also in public accounting. Growing up, it didn't seem like the most glamorous career so becoming a CPA wasn't very high on the list of dream careers. Fast forward to college and I took an accounting class as part of a general business major. Debits and credits clicked so I kept taking more classes and eventually switched my major to accounting and joined Sikich full time right after college.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope Springfield continues to be a great place to raise a family and the type of town people want to return to after leaving for college. I'm excited about the revitalization projects happening downtown.

What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path? When my son was born, he spent a significant amount of time in the hospital and his first few years of life were filled with doctor appointments, which made working full time difficult. I continued to work part time, but had to work really hard to maintain and sharpen my skills and get back on the career progression path when I was able to return to a more normal schedule.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? Balance is important. Giving your time and talents to your family and community is personally rewarding and important, but having a more diverse, rounded experience is beneficial for professional development as well.



**MICHAEL
KIRCHGESNER**
39

Occupation: Licensed massage therapist, owner of MK Sports Massage

Email: mkirchgerner1231@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor's degree, business administration

Family: Spouse, Allison; Murphy the dog

Affiliations/community activities: Denim & Diamonds committee and logistics vice chair, Salvation Army Angel tree supporter, Boys Scouts associate adviser, merit badge counselor.

What is your guiding principle in life? My guiding principle in life is that my current situation does not have to be my final destination. I was challenged to write an essay in college about a mentor. And while I've had many mentors, I realize there's only one that will always be on my mind: myself in 10 years. And every day, I chase after being that version of myself. I know I'll never get there, but know I'll always have growth and development chasing myself.

What led you to your current career? Friends challenging me saying I can become a doctor was that spark that led me to my current career. I finally listened and set myself on a goal to become a doctor of physical therapy. Along that journey I found something I was passionate about, massage therapy.

What would you like to give back to your community? I would like to give back as much as I can to my community. One of my top goals right now is self-development in areas in my life that will allow me to assist in helping reduce areas of trauma at various age levels.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? I wish my younger self stopped listening to that voice of fear in the back of my mind that I wasn't good enough or that I didn't deserve to be great.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? My greatest professional goal to date has been winning the Illinois Massage Championships this year. I hope I get to change my greatest professional goal July 15-16 when I compete at the American Massage championship.



**KRISTI
DAVISON**
38

Occupation: Chief human resources officer, Hope

Email: kdavison@hope.us

Education: Bachelor of Arts, sociology, Illinois State University

Family: Spouse, Jared, and two sons, Leon and Oscar

Affiliations/community activities: I've been involved in the past in SHRM CIC chapters, training and development groups, Illinois Women in Leadership, and volunteering for special presentations and collaborative sessions at technical and local schools.

What is your guiding principle in life? I've learned that while we cannot choose the challenges we will face, how you handle those challenges is what others will remember you for.

What led you to your current career? I started as an intern in Human Resources at Hope in 2005 and was offered the opportunity to serve employees full time upon graduation in 2007. While I took a brief sabbatical in 2015, it was the mission, strong vision and passion of Hope's employees that brought me back. I have supported Hope and its employees for over 18 years.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope that we can create a culture and community of inclusion in Springfield, where individuals feel safe and have access to the supports and services necessary to lead fulfilling lives.

What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path? I have had the opportunity at Hope to work for and with some of the strongest human resources and labor relations staff in the state. Experience and perspective might have helped me appreciate the unfettered access and overall impact these individuals had on my personal and professional journey.



**SAMANTHA
REED**
37

Occupation: System administrator of orthopedics and neurosciences, Memorial Health

Email: reed.samantha@mhsil.com

Education: Bachelor of Arts, psychology, and Master of Healthcare Administration, both from the University of Iowa

Family: Spouse, Michael Papso

Affiliations/Community Activities: Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Springfield Life Goes On Committee, Springfield Young Philanthropists, Illinois Women in Leadership, Mid-America Healthcare Executives Forum

What is your guiding principle in life? Don't treat a gift like a burden.

What led you to your current career? I have always wanted to work in health care and realized early that I could provide a benefit to many people, potentially entire communities, by having input into how health care organizations function. Partnering with and supporting my colleagues that are on the front lines with the business and operations side of health care maximizes their ability to help patients.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? That more people will see Springfield for the special community it is. Springfield offers more of a tight-knit feel than larger cities yet we still benefit from being a hub for government, education, health care and other major industries. We are rich with diversity, economic growth and community members that are committed to improving our city.

What would you like to give back to your community? I love to give back by mentoring young careerists, especially women. I have been fortunate to have strong mentors throughout my career and know the positive impact they have had on my professional and personal lives.

CONGRATULATIONS, Heather Gleason!

.....
We appreciate your hard work and dedication. Thank you for your leadership at BOS and in our community.



Member
FDIC

BOS

bankwithBOS.com

Networking Services. Sized for you.

THREAT PREVENTION • SECURE VPN ACCESS • PERFORMANCE BOOST

Contact Sheila Feipel at 217.544.3100 today to schedule your complimentary network analysis.



SWITCHES
ROUTERS
FIREWALLS
CLOUD

IT Networking | Communications | Security | Life Safety | Infrastructure

www.heart.net

1.217.544.3100



Congratulations
on receiving recognition in the
SBJ Forty under 40.

Springfield
clinic

A COMMUNITY OF CARING



Zach Kerker

Vice President, Brand, Experience & Advocacy



Elizabeth McCoy

Director, Human Resources



ZACH LEWIS

35

Occupation: General manager, chief operating officer, Illini Country Club

Email: zlewis@illinicc.net

Education: Lakeland College, University of Illinois Springfield

Family: Spouse, Jordin, and daughters, Madelyn and Macy Belle

Affiliations/community activities: Central Illinois Customer Service, Club Management Association of America, Illini Chapter of the Club Management Association of America; Chatham Baseball and Softball Inc.

What is your guiding principle in life? Hard work and integrity. Good things come to those who work hard.

What led you to your current career? Sports. I came to Springfield to play college basketball at UIS. As I was finishing school, I took a position as a server at Illini Country Club. The club culture took hold of me, and I have never looked back. After each year at Illini, I found myself more and more intrigued by what a country club can offer. Illini Country Club is the most unique business I have worked for. Everyday interaction with the members and community is foundational to everything I do. I am constantly meeting new community members and developing relationships.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? In July of 2020 I was named the next general manager/COO of Illini Country Club. It was something I had worked 10 years to achieve and I could not have been happier.

What's the WORST career advice you've ever received? "Just wing it." With so many decisions to be made on a daily basis, each decision needs its own thought process behind it. Thinking each decision through as well as being educated on the facts results in a much better outcome than just "winging it."

PAUL STAAB III

33

Occupation: Funeral director and embalmer, Staab Funeral Homes

Email: Paul@StaabFamily.com

Education: Bachelor's degree, mortuary science, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Family: Spouse, Dustin Harmony, and dogs Dunkel and Winston.

Affiliations/community activities: Catholic faith; LGBTQ+ community; board member of the Phoenix Center and PrideFest Parade; Springfield Memorial Foundation board.

What led you to your current career? My dad, PJ, introduced myself and each of my siblings to the business to see if we enjoyed working in it. Seeing how my dad and other family members interacted with the community we serve and how we wear multiple hats and roles at our business is what attracted me to it.

What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path? I would say my biggest obstacle was creating relationships with area clergy and families that we serve. I was worried and frankly scared to be open about my sexual orientation, thinking we would lose a friendship or business. I'm thankful to say most if not all of that was an internal issue of mine. Just being who I was born to be, and revealing that it is not a choice, is what I believe creates the relationship I have with the clergy and families in our community.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? I think my greatest hope for Springfield is the revitalization of our downtown and to be involved with that revitalization.

What would you like to give back to your community? I want to continue to show support for our LGBTQ+ community and let them know it's OK to love who you were born to love and let them know that Springfield is safe and supportive for them by becoming a pillar to rely on.



KEVIN CHRISTENSEN

39

Occupation: Video producer, The Storyteller Studios

Email: kevinc@thestorytellerstudios.com

Education: Bachelor of Science, computer science, Biola University

Family: Spouse, Kristin, and cats, Mina and Juno.

Affiliations/community activities: I've produced philanthropy work for organizations and non-profits including New Berlin High School, Children's Cancer Connection and First Step Women's Center. I also volunteer at my church.

What is your guiding principle in life? Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

What led you to your current career? In high school I picked up computer animation as a hobby, and by college I had fallen in love with filmmaking. In 2007 I got a job making marketing videos and documentaries for the national parks. My foundation in animation instilled in me a strong visual storytelling sense and my documentary work leads me to seek out compelling human stories.

What is your greatest hope for Springfield? I moved to Springfield a few years ago from Southern California. I hope to see Springfield grow and flourish.

What has been your greatest professional achievement to date? Last year I produced an educational series called "Warning Signs: Lincoln's Response to Rising Tensions in the 1850s." It features interviews with four world-class Lincoln scholars along with cinematic re-enactment scenes with Lincoln presenter Fritz Klein. "Warning Signs" was awarded a Gold Telly award, a Communicator Award for Distinction, and was nominated for a Mid-America regional Emmy.



MAUREEN FALLER

36

Occupation: Corporate attorney and trust officer, Prairie State Bank & Trust

Email: MaureenFaller@psbank.net

Education: Bachelor's degree, political science, Indiana University; Juris Doctor, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Family: Spouse, John Zerkle, and two dogs, Crash and Barley.

Affiliations/community activities: Central Illinois Women's Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Sojourn Shelter Services Inc. Board, pro-bono attorney for both Land of Lincoln Legal Aid and Sojourn Shelter Services.

What is your guiding principle in life? "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." - Eleanor Roosevelt

What led you to your current career? Ever since I was 7, I wanted to be a lawyer. The love for problem solving and helping people drove me to law school.

What would you like to give back to your community? I strive to give back to my community through providing affordable legal advice through Sojourn Shelters Inc. and Land of Lincoln Legal Aid.

Are there any events of the past year that have affected you and how so? The pandemic was hard on everyone. I have been challenged with finding the balance between working, seeing my friends and traveling while finding time to prioritize my mental health and fight off burn out. I have learned to live in the moment and allow myself to say no to things.



NICK GENTILE
VICE PRESIDENT & COMMERCIAL LENDER



MAUREEN FALLER
CORPORATE ATTORNEY & TRUST OFFICER

Congratulations!
FORTY UNDER 40 2023



Prairie State Bank & Trust
MEMBER FDIC

All of us at Memorial Health are proud to contribute to the health of our community.

We're delighted **Tracey Benn-Cockayne, Lexanne Darwent, Henry Hurwitz** and **Samantha Reed** are Forty Under 40 recipients.

This achievement is a symbol of their dedication and commitment to our mission to improve lives and build stronger communities through better health.

Congratulations



Tracey Benn-Cockayne, BS, RDCS
Technical Director,
Adult & Pediatric Echocardiographics
Memorial Health



Lexanne Darwent, MBA, BSN
Director,
Orthopaedic Surgery
Center of Illinois



Henry Hurwitz, MHA
Vice President,
Population Health
Memorial Health



Samantha Reed, MHA
System Administrator,
Orthopedics & Neurosciences
Memorial Health

TOP LAWYERS

SPRINGFIELD AREA

BASED UPON A SURVEY OF THEIR PEERS



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

Matthew J. Cate	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	217.953.4979	Commercial Lit; Creditor Rights/Commercial Collection; RE: Commercial; RE: Residential
Randy S. Paswater	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	217.953.4979	Creditor Rights/Commercial Collections; Elder; Family
Bernard G. Segatto III	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	217.953.4979	Close/Private Held; Commercial Litigation; Land Use/Zoning/Condemn; RE: Commercial
Randall W. Segatto	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	217.953.4979	Close/Private Held Business; Elder; Real Estate: Commercial
R. Kurt Wilke	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	217.953.4979	Civil Appellate; Close/Private Held Business; Real Estate: Commercial
Barry Hines	Barry Hines — Attorney at Law	217.953.4051	Agriculture; Real Estate: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate
Michael Glenn Barton	Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC	217.793.9300	Agriculture; Close/Private Held Bus; RE: Commercial; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Mark S. Cochran	Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC	217.793.9300	Agriculture; Environmental; Public Utilities; Real Estate: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate
Andrew G. White	Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC	217.793.9300	Agriculture; Energy; Real Estate: Commercial; Real Estate: Residential; Trust/Will/Estate
Amy K. Schmidt	Brown Hay & Stephens LLP	217.544.8491	Family
Robert A. Stuart Jr.	Brown Hay & Stephens LLP	217.544.8491	Association/Non-Profit; Trust/Will/Estate
Joseph N. Rupcich	Cassiday Schade LLP	217.993.5644	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Medical Malpractice Defense; Personal Injury Def: General
Sarah Delano Pavlik	Delano Law Offices LLC	217.544.2703	Trust/Will/Estate
Thomas Chester Pavlik Jr.	Delano Law Offices LLC	217.544.2703	Close/Private Held; Commercial Lit; Credit Rights/Commercial Collect; RE: Commercial
Christian D. Biswell	Drake Narup & Mead PC	217.528.9776	Medical Malpractice Defense; Professional Malpractice Defense
Carl R. Draper	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee; False Claims Act/Whistle Blower
Howard W. Feldman	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Construction; Family; ADR: Family
Kelli Ellen Gordon	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Family
Roger L. Rutherford	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Governmental/Municipal/Lobbying/Administrative; Trust/Will/Estate
Stuart H. Shiffman	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Civil Appellate; Criminal Appellate; Criminal Defense: Felonies/Misdemeanors
Stanley N. Wasser	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Construction
James R. Enlow	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Bankruptcy: Individual; Bankruptcy/Workout: Commercial; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning
Gordon W. Gates	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Bankrupt/Workout: Comm; Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning; RE: Comm
Todd M. Goebel	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felonies/Misdemeanor; Crim Def: White Collar
Frederick J. Schlosser	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felonies/Misdemeanors
Bradley B. Wilson	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee
D. Peter Wise	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Def: Felonies/Misdemeanors; Criminal Def: White Collar
Herman G. Bodewes	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	217.525.1571	Association/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Trust/Will/Estate
Creighton R. Castle	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	217.525.1571	Close/Private Held; Mergers/Acquisitions; RE: Comm; Tax: Business; Trust/Will/Estate
David A. Herman	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	217.525.1571	Commercial Lit; Election/Political/Campaign; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Trust/Will/Estate
R. Mark Mifflin	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	217.525.1571	Commercial Litigation; Governmental/Municipal/Lobbying/Administrative
Christopher E. Sherer	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	217.525.1571	Civ Appell; Elect/Political/Campaign; Family; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Trust/Will/Estate
Matthew R. Trapp	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	217.525.1571	Civil Appellate; Commercial Litigation; Governmental/Municipal/Lobbying/Admin
Jason R. Vincent	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	217.525.1571	Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felonies/Misdemeanors; Family
James W. Chipman	Golan Christie Taglia LLP	217.280.5518	Real Estate: Tax
Thomas G. Hamill	Harrison & Held LLP	217.546.6940	Trust/Will/Estate
Michael T. Kokal	Heyl Royster	217.522.8822	Commercial Litigation; Copyright/Trademark; Patent
John O. Langfelder	Heyl Royster	217.522.8822	Personal Injury Defense: General; Toxic Torts Defense; Workers' Compensation Defense
Theresa M. Powell	Heyl Royster	217.522.8822	Employment: Management; Medical Malpractice Defense; Prof'l Malpractice Defense
Daniel R. Simmons	Heyl Royster	217.522.8822	Personal Injury Defense: General; Workers' Compensation Defense
Larry A. Apfelbaum	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Workers' Compensation
Todd A. Bresney	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Personal Injury: General
William J. Harrington	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Personal Injury: General
Kathy A. Olivero	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Workers' Compensation
John J. Waldman	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Workers' Compensation

D. Scott Murphy	Knell O'Connor Danielewicz	217.801.9733	Workers' Compensation Defense
Jonathan T. Nessler	Law Offices of Frederick W. Nessler & Assoc	217.698.0202	Nursing Home Negligence; Personal Injury: General
Stephen Scott Morrill	Morrill & Fiedler LLC	217.789.5411	Governmental/Municipal/Lobbying/Administrative
James E. Neville	Neville Richards & Wuller LLC	618.277.0900	Med Mal Def; PI Def: General; Products Liability Def; Transportation Def; Toxic Torts Def
Timothy S. Richards	Neville Richards & Wuller LLC	618.277.0900	Medical Malpractice Defense; PI Defense: General; Products Liability Def; Toxic Torts Def
Cheryl S. Neal	PNC Private Bank/Estate Settlement	217.753.7130	Trust/Will/Estate
James A. Borland	Quinn Johnston	217.753.1133	Personal Injury Defense: General; Products Liability Defense
Pamela E. Hart	Scott & Scott PC	217.753.8200	Elder; Family; Real Estate: Residential; Trust/Will/Estate
Gregory A. Scott	Scott & Scott PC	217.753.8200	Adoption/Reproductive Technology; Family Appellate; Family; Trust/Will/Estate
Jared M. Scott	Scott & Scott PC	217.753.8200	Family
R. Stephen Scott	Scott & Scott PC	217.753.8200	Bankrupt/Workout: Comm; Close/Private Held; Tax: Bus; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Michael M. Durr	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold LLP	217.789.1200	Real Estate: Associations/Condominiums; Real Estate: Commercial; RE: Residential
Jeana Kim Reinbold	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold LLP	217.789.1200	Bankruptcy: Individual; Bankrupt/Workout: Commercial; Cred Rights/Commercial Collect
Gregory P. Sgro	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold LLP	217.789.1200	Land Use/Zoning/Condemnation; Real Estate: Commercial; Workers' Compensation
Timothy M. Shay	Shay and Associates	217.523.5900	Personal Injury: General; Personal Injury; Prof'l Malpractice; Workers' Compensation
Michelle L. Blackburn	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Family; Trust/Will/Estate
James G. Fahey	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Civil Appellate; Employment: Management; Personal Injury Defense: General
C. Clark Germann	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Close/Private Held Business; Mineral/Natural Resource; Real Estate: Commercial
Stephen F. Hedingar	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Animal; Environmental; Mineral/Natural Resource
Michael G. Horstman Jr.	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Association/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; RE: Comm; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Brian D. Jones	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Banking/Financial Institutions; Close/Private Held; Employee Benefits; RE: Commercial
John A. Kauerauf	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Close/Private Held Business; Employment: Management
Kirk W. Laudeman	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Medical Malpractice Defense; PI Def: General; Prof'l Malpractice Def; Transportation Def
James M. Morphew	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Election/Political/Campaign; Governmental/Municipal/Lobbying/Administrative
Lisa A. Petrilli	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Commercial Litigation; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin; Land Use/Zoning; RE: Commercial
David A. Rolf	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Agriculture; Commercial Litigation; Land Use/Zoning; PI Def: General; RE: Commercial
Peggy J. Ryan	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Family
John R. Simpson	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Stephen A. Tagge	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Bank/Financial Institution; Close/Private Held; ADR: Comm Lit; RE: Comm; Tax: Business
Joshua J. Watson	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Family; Trust/Will/Estate

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

Brittany Kink Toigo	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP	217.953.4979	Family
Ashley D. Davis	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Family
Samantha A. Bobor	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	217.525.1571	Employment: Management; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Labor: Management; School
Jason E. Brokaw	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	217.525.1571	Civil Appellate; Employment: Management; Governmental/Municipal/Lobbying/Admin
Jackson B. Fredman	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	217.525.1571	Civil Appellate; Family Appellate; Family; Governmental/Municipal/Lobbying/Admin
J. Tyler Robinson	Heyl Royster	217.522.8822	Health; Medical Malpractice Defense
Gina Couri-Cyphers	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Personal Injury: General
Benjamin M. Sgro	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold LLP	217.789.1200	Personal Injury: General; RE: Commercial; RE: Residential; Workers' Compensation
Aaron D. Evans	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Close/Private Held Bus; RE: Commercial; RE: Residential; RE: Finance; Trust/Will/Estate
Brian D. Lee	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Civil Appellate; Commercial Litigation; Personal Injury Defense: General
Matthew A. Brewer	Stephen P. Kelly, Attorney at Law	217.544.8000	Workers' Compensation

Leading LawyersSM
Find a better lawyer, fasterSM

emerging lawyersSM
on a fast track to the topSM

A lawyer CANNOT buy the distinction of Leading or Emerging Lawyer. The distinction was earned by being among those lawyers most often recommended by their peers. For a full description of our research process, a complete list of all Leading or Emerging Lawyers, and to view profiles of the lawyers listed on this page, go to

www.LeadngLawyers.com

A Division of Law Bulletin Media—est. 1854

Turkish immigrants achieve the American dream in Springfield

Couple has launched three Ugly businesses

By Jean Campbell

Ersen and Tuba Yildirim and their two children immigrated from Turkey to Springfield about nine years ago, joining Tuba's mother, who had moved to Springfield in 2000. The family brought little with them. They learned English on their own by trial and error and the couple found employment working in a nail salon.

After several years, the Yildirims decided to take advantage of the business ownership opportunities offered in the United States. First, in 2020, they opened a nail salon at 1305 Wabash Ave., calling it Ugly Nail and Spa. Yildirim says his wife, who manages that business, came up with the name because it is "different, memorable and fun." He added, "Life is too short to be too serious."

While the couple already had one business venture, Yildirim had his heart set on owning his own restaurant. Yildirim previously owned a restaurant in Turkey, so he had experience in management and cooking. When the building formerly occupied by Dew Chili Parlor, 2312 Wabash Ave., became available, he knew the time was right. He needed to make some changes to the kitchen equipment, but he had friends and relatives ready and waiting to become employees of the restaurant.

In April, the couple opened a Turkish grill under the name Ugly Restaurant and Bar. According to Yildirim, it's the only Springfield establishment that serves authentic Turkish food. He says he developed all the recipes himself, and he oversees the cooking. The beef, chicken and lamb are fresh, ground in-house and grilled over an open flame.

Yildirim is proud of the restaurant's early success. He says they already have regular customers and are getting good reviews on Facebook, Google and Yelp. Yildirim is at the restaurant every day to greet customers and ask them about their meal. He says he is open to tweaking the recipes based on what customers liked or didn't like as much.

The restaurant has a full menu of appetizers, salads with house dressing, main courses (including three shish kabobs) and desserts, plus vegetarian meals and a kid's menu. Vegan meal options such as eggplant



Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce ambassadors join Tuba and Yildirim, center, and Ugly Restaurant & Bar staff for a ribbon cutting. PHOTO COURTESY GREATER SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

salad, falafel and hummus are also on the menu.

The restaurant received its liquor license in June and now offers a full bar, including wine, beer, mixed drinks and Raki, Turkey's national drink, often served at celebrations. It's made with aniseed (licorice flavor), which gives it a strong taste that can be tempered by adding ice or water.

Yildirim says among the restaurant's most popular dishes are lamb chops and Adana kabob, named for his hometown in Turkey. Favorite appetizers include Sigara Borek, which is deep-fried phyllo filled with a savory white Turkish cheese and Turkish fries, which are sliced potatoes that are fried and tossed in the restaurant's signature marinade.

Desserts include Baklava made with pistachios and Ugly cake, which is alternating layers of homemade chocolate pudding and crumbled Turkish crackers.

The one item on the menu that is not truly Turkish is the kid's Ugly burger served with French fries. Yildirim is working on a

breakfast menu, and is awaiting a gaming license, with a side room already set up for the gaming crowd.

Although the restaurant and nail salon keep the couple plenty busy, they also launched a residential cleaning company in May called, as one would expect, Ugly Cleaning Service.

"My brain never stops," says Yildirim. "I am always thinking what is next for us. I have a couple of projects in mind. I promise there will be more Ugly businesses."

The Yildirims note that they miss some things about their homeland, but they have no regrets about moving to Springfield. "It is hard to earn a good salary in Turkey, even with a good education and experience," explains Yildirim. "We have a much better life here."

Yildirim says the family has two mottos they live by: "If you work hard, dreams come true," and "Whatever you do, do it well." Those mottos have served them well. **SBJ**

Jean Campbell is a Springfield writer who recently enjoyed Turkish food for the first time.



Join **UIS**, the No. 1 public regional university in Illinois:

- Flexible scheduling
- Collaborative opportunities with Innovate Springfield

New one-year, online master's programs:

- MBA
- Finance
- Human Resource Management
- Healthcare Informatics
- Cyber Security Management

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

UIS College of Business and Management
Learn more: cbm@uis.edu

uis.edu/cbm



Congratulations
Honorees

MjKellner
Exceeding All Your Food Service Needs
www.mjkellner.com

Let your inner artist dabble

By Pamela Savage

Dabble is Springfield's newest, one-of-a-kind, do-it-yourself arts and crafts venue. It is a business forged by family and created for the community.

Sisters Ashley Striplin and Amanda Terry came up with the concept of a community-based arts-and-crafts venue following Terry's travels through China. While living in China for three years, she noticed DIY shops that

were accessible, fun and conveniently located amongst Chinese communities. When Terry shared her experiences with Striplin, the sisters knew that they wanted this type of shop in Springfield. Terry's artistic and creative background combined with Striplin's business and real estate work made them the perfect teammates in opening Dabble.

A true family business, Dabble's location at 614 North Grand Ave. East was opened with the help of the sisters' parents and grandfather. The family pitched in to get the space cleaned, renovated and ready for business before it opened in March 2023.

The concept of family doesn't limit itself to biology for Striplin and Terry. Both sisters care about helping and engaging with the community they serve. Recently, six boys made their way into Dabble, asking if there were any projects that they could complete for free. Rather than turn them away, Striplin offered the boys the chance to work for an hour sweeping floors and sorting beads, in exchange for time creating in the studio. Once their projects were complete, the boys opted to display their work for sale at Dabble, and the proceeds from those pieces went toward supporting future trips to Dabble.

This experience led Striplin to develop a Dabbler-supported fund for youth who would



Sisters Amanda Terry, left, and Ashley Striplin opened Dabble in March.

like to come in and craft, regardless of the expense. Dabble also offers varied projects at price points that are accessible for anyone interested.

Not confident in your artistic abilities? No problem. Striplin explained that Dabble is very much about creative freedom. Unlike some other arts-and-crafts experiences, there is no set outcome for a Dabble-led craft experience. Customers are encouraged to create works that look the way they want them to look; it is really more about the process than the end result.

Dabble's always-available artistic offerings include acrylic painting, resin crafts, beading and mini-gardens and terrariums. Dabble also offers unique classes and events such as glow nights, lava lamp workshops, an upcoming six-week sketch series and a monthly Dungeons and Dragons night. Coming this fall, Dabble will provide two classes for horror costume makeup in preparation for Halloween.

Dabble is available to host crafting birthday parties for kids ages five and up, and a summer camp is offered every Tuesday in June and July for students ages 10-17. But while there are many offerings for kids, Dabble is an adults-only space after 7 p.m., and customers are invited to bring their own beverages to enjoy while they work.

Dabble is open for walk-in crafting Wednesday through Sunday and available for reservations on Monday and Tuesday. **SBJ**



The do-it-yourself arts and crafts venue has a variety of supplies on hand for both children and adults to complete projects of their choosing.

PHOTOS COURTESY ASHLEY STRIPLIN



SELVAGGIO STEEL INC.
Structural & Miscellaneous Steel Fabricators

**OUR EMPLOYEES ARE WELL QUALIFIED AND
COMMITTED TO PRODUCING THE BEST RESULTS IN THE INDUSTRY.
THEY ARE THE REASON FOR OUR SUCCESS.
LET US ADD TO YOUR SUCCESS WITH YOUR NEXT PROJECT.**



**65 YEARS OF TRUSTED SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY!
FROM BEAUTIFUL RAILINGS & GATES TO SKYSCRAPERS...
AND WE HAVE JUST BEGUN.**

SELVAGGIOSTEEL.COM | 1119 W. DORLAN AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702 | 217-528-4078

217 BUY BLACK DIRECTORY

1221 Photography

Zach Adams
Photography
217-303-2264

The Academic

Consulting Agency
Online
Kazim Abbot
Education services
318-809-6029

Ace of Fadez Barbershop

210 W. Laurel St.
David Lott
Personal care
618-780-9373

Adams Heating & Cooling

1017 S. 25th St.
Roy L. Adams
HVAC
217-503-6800

All In One Laundry Center & Services

801 South Grand Ave. E.
Pamela Frazier
Coin and commercial laundry
217-544-5058

All In One On-Site Wash & Detail

Mobile
Pamela Frazier
Power washing and fleet cleaning
866-567-0491

All Star Kutz

2504 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Audrey Austin
Personal care
217-679-1254

All Things Shanell

CoTinna Harris
Retail
217-718-1000

Antoine's Autos Ltd.

240 N. Dirksen Parkway
Antoine William
Auto sales
217-670-1128

Armstrong Maintenance

1100 South Grand Ave. E.
Tawahn Armstrong
Commercial and residential maintenance
217-553-5609

A'Shay Kreationz

Online
Shayla Whitfield
Retail
217-553-4721

Beverly Christian Real Estate

1701 S. College St.
Beverly Christian
Real estate
217-523-5555

Bless'It Beauty Salon

510 Apple Orchard Road
Suite 104
Veris Van
Personal care
217-553-1438

Blueprint Bar & Grill

816 S. 11th St.
William Bishop
Bar and grill
217-900-0217

Boyd's New Generation Restaurant and Catering

1831 South Grand Ave. E.
Tammy Calloway
Restaurant and catering
217-544-9866

Burris Auto Advertising

Mobile
DeMarco Burris
Advertising
217-341-0640

Butterfly's Beautiful Bling

Online
Sonya Williams
Retail
217-553-1971

CakeWorld Boutique

1426 Taylor Ave.
Retail

The Capital City Deal Lawyer

4420 Foxhall Lane
Jennifer Schoats Flack
Corporate legal services
217-679-2141

Capital City Teamwork

2112 North Grand Ave.
Renaldo (Bo) Clemons
Sports and recreation
217-503-3428

Capital Elite Athletics

2877 N. Dirksen Parkway
Boadu Adomako
Tumbling and cheer gym
217-744-2500

Ciara's Kitchen

Online
Ciara Brooks
Catering
217-498-3656

Clay's Popeye's BBQ

1121 South Grand Ave. E.
Dee Clay and Mary Clay
Restaurant and catering
217-522-0386

Cleaning General Janitorial Services

Dushun Hogan
Commercial cleaning
217-502-4108

Cool J's Apparel

1895A Sangamon Ave.
Toni Hopkins
Retail
217-679-1493

Corrine's Closet

223 S. Sixth St.
Corrine Campbell
Retail
217-210-2060

Crawford Family Dental

1900 Sangamon Ave.
Sean Crawford
Dental Office
217-753-3059

Creme De La Clem Fitness

4345 Camp Butler Road
Clemence Ahiable
Fitness
314-502-9151

Curvy Closet

2501 Wabash Ave.
Tia Mahr
Retail
217-638-8989

Davis Mechanical Supplies, Inc.

1800 Taylor Ave.
Joe Davis
Fire protection
217-753-3140

Deo Gratias Food Market

2920 Constitution Drive
Emetonai Sewavi
Retail
217-725-2075

Drake Commercial Cleaning, Inc.

600 S. Sixth St.
Ernestus Drake
Commercial cleaning
217-836-2245

Duct Dusters

Mobile
Monique Wantland
Air duct cleaning
217-553-0272

Elegance Natural

Beauty Supply Store
212 W. Laurel St.
Denika Johnson
Personal care
217-670-1937

Environ Pest Elimination

1720 E. Spruce St.
Pest control
217-523-9280

Essentials By Benny Ray

Inside Hodge Podge Heaven
2501 Wabash Ave.
Online
Benny Williamson
Organizational comfort
217-220-5993

Essential Clinical Counseling Services

2141 W. White Oaks Drive, Suite B
Essence Lee
Counseling
217-670-2754

Everything Intricate

1107 South Grand Ave. E.
Tiara Standage
Performance and event venue
217-761-9209

Extreme Air Gymnastics Academy

2930 Constitution Drive
Tammy Lackland
Sports and recreation
217-816-5343

217 BUY BLACK DIRECTORY

Exotic Edible Pineapple Drinks

2164 E. Adams St.
Angela Taylor
Cimmeria Taylor

The Fadeologists Barber & Beauty Shop

1431 South Grand Ave. East
Lawrence Bolden
Personal care

Faine's Auto Sales

1601 S. Dirksen Parkway
Reco Faine
Auto sales
217-679-8714

First Impressions Daycare Center

1145 S. College St.
Colleen Ikerionwu
Child care
217-525-6075

Fredia Hawthorne

State Farm Insurance
2901 Stanton St.
Fredia Hawthorne
Insurance
217-529-4935

GeBeautique

917 Clocktower Drive
Genesis Bennett
Personal care
217-206-0928

Genesis Barbershop

1327 E. Cook St.
Don Pettford
Personal care
217-638-5511

Girtz Dezin by Nancy

Online
Nancy D. Collins
Retail
217-836-0853

Glaze Nail Salon

917 Clocktower Drive, Suite 250
Jaleesa Davis
Personal care
217-741-7312

The Global Grooming Lounge

2815 West White Oaks Drive
Don (Donnie Ray) Criss
Chianti (Lucky) Rogers
Personal care
217-670-1248

Goodenuf2

Online
Herman Senior II
Marketing
813-444-2419

Grand Barber and Beauty Salon

217 North Grand Ave. W.
Deidre Perez
Personal care
217-503-3275

HairStylynn Hair Co.

400 Outer Park Drive
Lynnette Clemons
Personal care
217-816-4622

Hanger Management

2501 Wabash Ave.
Keah Garner
Restaurant
314-227-1792

Harold's Chicken #25

1126 South Grand Ave. E.
Linda Adams
Restaurant
217-670-1269

HISO Music

1401 S. Fifth St.
Ayo Abitogun
Entertainment
217-816-7957

Holly Rose Skincare

2309 W. White Oaks Drive
Holly Walls
Personal care
217-220-8144

Honei Chayil Salon

305 S. Fourth St.
Heidi Dillon
Personal care
217-801-5277

HR Collective Consulting

1900 Sangamon Ave.
Denysa Crawford
Consulting
217-679-3748

Hushaba

Online
Shawn Brooks, Florine Brooks
Retail
217-220-4095

Illini Construction and Waterproofing

2712 Holmes Ave.
Lorenzo Loudon
Maintenance
217-241-9913

Imperial Credit Union

1130 S. 16th St.
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Financial services
217-481-6381

Intertwine Loc Design

901 Clocktower Drive, Suite 16
Jenaya Gant
Angel Macon
217-269-5836

iVision

2800 S. Walnut St.
Mobile
De'Aris Logan
Photography
217-816-1887

Jazz'd Up

Online
Precious Cannon
Retail
217-553-7731

Jerk Shop Go

219 S. Fifth St.
Kadejia Berkley
Restaurant
217-717-0299

JQ Quality Detail and Hand Car Wash

115 W. Ash St.
Jacob Whitfield
Auto detailing
217-553-7893

Just As You Are Ministries

3613 Carnoustie Drive
Patricia Dulin and Shawn Dulin
Coaching and counseling
217-971-7389

King's Deluxe Mobile

Car Wash
3900 Wood Duck Drive
Mobile
Anthony Carson
217-670-5169

Krush-All Kuts & Styles

905 S. Ninth St.
Fontaine Krushall
Personal care
217-679-5063

L & M Gymnastics & Kids, Inc.

2717 S. 11th St.
Leroy and Merrill McDaniels
Sports and recreation
217-753-2613

Lathan Harris

Dr. Gina Lathan
Evaluation, Training and
Project management
217-553-3148

Legal Shield Independent

Associate
P.O. Box 6596, 62708
Larry Hemingway Sr.
Legal insurance
217-553-9582

Lotts of Style Barbershop

810 S. 11th St.
Corey Lott

Luminary Kitchen & Provisions

Jordan and Aurora Coffey
3121 Hedley Road
Restaurant
217-679-1819

Luxe Floral

424 S. 11th St.
Lisa Gaines
Florist
217-341-4955

Made by Monea

2501 Wabash Ave.
Tia Mahr
Business consulting
217-751-8120

Marscia Anderson

Keller Williams Capital
3171 Robbins Road
Marscia Anderson
Real estate
217-820-8235

Mi-T-Clean Cars

322 W. Mason St.
Jermain Jefferson Sr.
Auto detailing
217-691-7335

MJ's Fish and Chicken Express

716 E. Enos Ave.
Jerome Taylor
Catering
217-816-5683

217 BUY BLACK DIRECTORY

Monique Heard

Keller Williams Capital
3171 Robbins Road
Real estate
217-361-6083

MOR Jewelry

Online
Jewelry
217-986-0988

Ms. D's Kitchen, Bar & Grill

1031 S. 11th St.
Magalene Daniels
Restaurant
217-528-2903

Ms. Tara Talks

1011 W. Edwards St.
Tara Allbritton
Motivational speaker
217-299-3629

New Expressions

Demitrius and CoTinna Harris
Photography, videography, web
design, audiovisual and
information technology
217-220-4594

Next Level Mastery Center

510 Apple Orchard Road
Suite 105
Veris Van
Cosmetology school
217-572-1306

NYNE

2501 Wabash Ave.
Tia Mahr
Personal care
217-229-1069

Ollie Home Care Services

1100 South Grand Ave. E.
Monte Jones
Home care
217-212-2120

PT's BBQ

1301 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Perry Hines
Restaurant
217-620-1013

Quantum Advantage Bookkeeping Solutions, LLC

Online
Dawn Smith
Bookkeeping
773-687-5080

Replay Lounge

217 S. Fifth St.
Demetrius Hudson
Bar
217-670-2761

Revive Wellness and Massage Spa

1039 Wabash Ave., Suite 206
Chiffonia White
Therapeutic massage, detox services
217-572-1631

Robert Moore & Associates

3709 Kingsley Drive
Robert Moore
Police and community relations/
diversity consultant; publishing
217-891-7806

Route History Museum

737 E. Cook St.
Gina Lathan, Stacy Grundy and
Kenneth Lockhart
Museum
217-503-4129

Ruby Funeral Services & Crematories

1520 E. Washington St.
Ruby Davis
Funeral home
217-679-6658

She Got The Nerve

1011 W. Edwards St
Tara Allbritton
Consulting and coaching
217-299-3629

Solid Ground Solutions

806 S. 11th St.
William Bishop IV
General contractor
217-553-1081

Soul Shack

Ashley Ward
Catering
217-691-1795

Springfield's Finest Mobile Detailing

Billy Clark
Auto detailing
217-494-4640

Sweetbodycrush

Online
Nessa Miller
Personal care
217-816-4810

Sylvan Learning - Springfield

2735 S. Sixth St.
Phil Ross
Education services
217-546-0009

Synergetic Solutions

dba Your Corner Office
427 E. Monroe St., Suite 302
Melissa Hamilton
Business consulting
217-679-4653

Timeless Beauty MedSpa

1039 Wabash Ave.
Tanya Rolfe
Personal care
217-652-2747

Terry's Men's World

3049 S. Dirksen Parkway
Terry Lawrence
Retail
217-529-2230

Tokyo Mini Mart-N-Wheels

Mobile
Tamika Seymore
Delivery service
309-989-2738

Total Essence Salon

120 W. Ash St.
Kila Alexander
Personal care
217-544-2483

Trells Eye Photography

Mobile
Vertrell Yates
Photography

Twinkies Rainbow Palace

4109 Marie Drive
Margaret Watson
Child care
217-721-3869

Upgrade Repair and Remodeling

2721 Catherine Lane
Jaunice Walker and Charles Walker
Remodeling
217-741-6220

Unique's Bar & Grill

1231 E. Cook St.
April Joiner
Bar and grill
217-679-1740

Walker Funeral Home Service & Chapel, Inc.

2300 E. Cook St.
Thomas Walker
Funeral home
217-753-3783

Wighty's Apparel Printing

15 S. Old Capitol Plaza,
Innovate Springfield
Dwight Bolden II
Apparel printing
217-718-0725

The Zodiac Customs

15 S. Old Capitol Plaza, Innovate
Springfield
Dwight Bolden II
Retail
217-718-0725



Green Toyota Audi Volkswagen

Mylas Copeland

217-698-3100

www.greentoyota.com

www.greenaudi.com

www.greenvw.com

GREEN



At Heartland Bank, our strength lies in the

RELATIONSHIPS

that give meaning to our work.



Scan code
to learn more.



888-897-2276



Quencie Thomas: From Springfield to Hollywood

By Holly A. Whisler

Quencie Thomas, a celebrity interviewer and founder of Studio Q media services, is a Springfield native who is making her dreams come true. Thomas describes herself as the loud kid in school who sang Whitney Houston songs, was self-driven and marched to the beat of her own drum. She later made her way to Los Angeles, interviewing celebrities at red carpet events and loving it. Thomas didn't have connections, but she had dreams, and she was willing to do the work to make them come true.

Thomas attended Lanphier High School where she played basketball, sang in show choir and was crowned homecoming queen. Thomas noted she only remembers one other Black queen at Lanphier prior to her. In fact, wanting to be around more people who looked like her is what led Thomas to Clark Atlanta University in Georgia after graduation.

Although she was raised by a single mother who didn't have the money to send her to Clark, Thomas didn't let that hold her back. She said, "I could visualize myself going to Atlanta, and I put the work in to make it become a reality. If you can't visualize your dream then you're lost, but if you can see it and believe it, you can make it happen."

"I wanted to experience a Black world," said Thomas. "Throughout my K-12 years, I had only a few teachers who were Black; I think they were music teachers, and that is what led me to Clark." Thomas said wanting to have an experience "where I looked around and I wasn't the minority" was a motivating factor. Thomas said once she arrived at Clark, "This was the first time I had seen so many Black people in one place that weren't my relatives. It was a great experience."

And it was on the campus of Clark Atlanta University where Thomas' career began, although ever so serendipitously. Her friend Christopher Lewis, the brother of Emanuel Lewis (yes, television's Webster), had a TV show on campus, and he asked her to host an interview for his show. She was reluctant because as an intern at Sony, music was what she knew, but after a few hours of convincing, Thomas agreed to do the interview.

Lewis took care of the details and all Thomas had to do was "show up and be me," she said. She then learned she would be interviewing Da Brat, a successful Black,



Quencie Thomas with Arsenio Hall (left), Whitney Houston (right). PHOTOS COURTESY QUENCIE THOMAS

female rap artist. Thomas was amazed at how easily she connected with Da Brat and how exhilarating the interview was. She was hooked on the experience, and Lewis liked what he saw. Thomas knew she was onto something.

Thomas has loved Whitney Houston since she was 8 or 9 years old. She recalls writing letters to Houston when she was at Washington Middle School and a very kind music teacher would mail the envelopes addressed to Arista Records, Houston's label. Thomas said of that teacher, "She never made me feel silly." While finishing her master's degree at University of Illinois Springfield, Thomas' dream of interviewing Houston came true. The interview aired on MTV's FANatic show, and Thomas noted there were not many Black artists on MTV in the 80s and 90s.

Once graduate school was complete, Thomas made her way to L.A. and worked behind the scenes for a variety of networks and top shows, including "The Tyra Banks Show" and "Divorce Court." After logging many 12-hour days and six-day weeks, Thomas

decided that if she was going to continue this schedule producing someone else's dream she was never going to get to hers. So she decided to make a change and direct all of those hours to her dream of interviewing Black excellence via her own media company – Studio Q.

Since becoming an entrepreneur, Thomas has interviewed many celebrities including Oprah Winfrey and Gayle King, Bishop T.D. Jakes, John Singleton, Taraji Henson and Arsenio Hall, plus a variety of Black singers such as Jason Derulo, Chaka Khan, Salt n Pepa, Naughty by Nature, MC Lyte and more.

All of her interviews and other productions are posted on her website, quencie.com, which even includes a free e-course with tips for others who are interested in becoming celebrity interviewers.

Since living in L.A., Thomas said she's learned that no matter the size of the town you live in or circumstances you might find yourself in, once you visualize your goals it is possible to make them come true. She said, "You just have to be willing to work for your dreams because it all depends on you." **SBJ**



www.thecapitalcitydeallawyer.com
jennifer@tccd.com • 248.977.7921

THE CAPITAL CITY DEAL LAWYER

is a boutique corporate and transactional law firm with its principal office in Springfield, Illinois.

Our principal, Jennifer Schoats Flack, has nearly 30 years of experience in structuring and negotiating transactions and drafting a wide variety of documents and agreements, with specific expertise in team building and in managing multiple legal, accounting and financing professionals in complex transactions.

Let us help you with your business and transactional needs.

Show your clients you support local business

SUBSCRIBE TO SBJ TODAY!

12 MONTHS FOR ONLY \$35

Print Copy • Digital Edition • Book of Lists



SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT: springfieldbusinessjournal.com

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

LET US HELP YOU WITH ALL YOUR COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE NEEDS.
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT-LEASING-SUBLEASING-SALES OR PURCHASE.
CALL TERRI BLAKE MYERS OR STEVE MYERS TODAY TO BEGIN THE PROCESS.



Terri Blake Myers
Licensed Managing
Broker/LLC Member

Myers Commercial Real Estate, Inc.

1 West Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
217-747-0019



Steve Myers
Designated Managing
Broker/LLC Member

History is their story and ours

Getting more than kicks on Route 66

By Pamela Woodson

Route History, a Springfield museum that opened in 2019 to share stories about the tragedy, resilience and excellence of Black people along historic Route 66, is the brainchild of Dr. Gina Lathan.

"I'm a researcher by trade, and when I became a grandma, I wanted to make sure my grandson, Blake, knew he came from greatness. I wanted him to know the richness of his foundation and make it an integral part of his life," she said.

Lathan and co-owners Stacy Grundy and Kenneth Lockhart purchased the building at 737 E. Cook St. and made needed repairs and upgrades with an \$80,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The museum had to close due to COVID restrictions just prior to the 2020 tourist season, and much of the renovation work was able to be completed before the reopening in July 2021.

Born and raised in Springfield, Lathan stumbled upon a historic gas station one day. "I saw this building, an old gas station at 737 E. Cook Street. I knew it was near the east side but was also close to a lot of historical sites. I initially just rented it out and started to cultivate my thoughts in it, as I believed it could be a great tourist shop," she said.

"I didn't know its true and rich history until my research brought me into contact with The Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. They impressed upon me the relevance and importance of Route 66 and the Black experience," said Lathan.

That former Esso gas station was much more historic than any of the three co-owners could have imagined. It is an interesting and important fixture for both Route 66 and Black people.

Currently known as ExxonMobil, Esso was originally Standard Oil and was an unusual company for its time. It not only welcomed Black travelers to the stations, it also provided opportunities for Black people to become entrepreneurs by allowing them ownership of franchises.

Esso also promoted the *Green Book*, a publication that allowed Black travelers to drive to their desired destinations safely by advising where it was safe to purchase gas and food and even find lodging. A major exhibit at Route



Dr. Stacy Grundy and Dr. Gina Lathan are two of the co-owners of Route History, a museum that shares stories about the experience of Black people along historic Route 66. PHOTO BY 1221 PHOTOGRAPHY

History is devoted to stories related to the *Green Book*.

After the 2021 reopening, Lathan, Grundy and Lockhart kept their eyes on the prize. They retraced Route 66 from Chicago to the southern parts of Illinois to cultivate oral, and even some visual, histories from those who have been a part of it. They have hosted events and collaborated with other sites and will be a part of the new Route 66 Experience at the Illinois State Fairgrounds that will be open year-round.

Grundy noted that not only have they completed the exterior mural and outside expansion of the museum, "We've been working on something huge and exciting!" Route History is launching a new, interactive virtual experience in July. It tells of the Black experience driving along Route 66 in the state of Illinois. It gives a bird's-eye view of Route 66 through Chicago, Joliet, Bloomington, Springfield, Brooklyn and East Saint Louis, which were deemed safe and welcoming to Black travelers.

Lathan expressed the importance of the new exhibit: "We wanted to build upon the Black experience and what would've been next – that

was STEM. So, we've integrated technology into the tourism experience through the creation of a virtual reality, dubbed the Route History Virtual Experience."

Visitors will experience a WWII veteran on his motorcycle, a female Blues singer with her band, a Black baseball team on their bus and a family traveling from Mississippi to Chicago.

This was made possible through partnerships with the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

The three curators are also extremely excited about the \$500,000 state funding recently received from the Tourism Attractions and Festivals Grant Program. This grant will fund the future buildout of the museum and its new complex. Lathan confirmed, "Yes, there is a new building and land involved, and the complex will be completed in 2024."

Though they were not at liberty to divulge specifics yet, "We're in the final stages of completing the deal, and we'll announce before the end of this year," Lathan said. **SBJ**

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

Phone Systems
Security Systems
Structured Cabling
Managed Services
Hosted Solutions
Commercial WiFi
SIP Trunks




NEC
VIVOTEK
ADURAN



AmeriCALL
COMMUNICATIONS

217-522-2255 • www.AmeriCALLinc.com
447 North Walnut Street • Springfield, IL 62702

Becoming one,
to better serve **you**



**MARINE
BANK**



**Clock Tower
Community Bank**
A Division of **Morton Community Bank**



www.hometownbanks.com



★ ONE OF AMERICA'S LEADING PROVIDERS ★
★ RECYCLING AND WASTE SERVICES ★

As one of America's leading providers
of recycling and waste services,

Republic Services® delivers simple and reliable solutions
for your **construction project**. With our nationwide
presence, a wide range of resources and
single point of contact, we offer:

- A 99.9% pick-up reliability rate
- Solutions to help you achieve your sustainability goals
- Online account management through the MY Resource™ app

Please call Jeff Holt today at
217-377-0173



**REPUBLIC
SERVICES**

Sustainability In Action.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority works for a greater world

By Janet Seitz

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., founded by seven educators at Butler University in Indianapolis in 1922, has welcomed more than 100,000 collegiate and professional women from every field of endeavor since it began. The organization with the theme of "Greater Women, Greater World" has dedicated itself to service and leadership across the country and throughout the world building a well-known and highly respected reputation for leading positive change. It currently has more than 500 chapters. Sigma Gamma Rho is the only sorority of the four historically African American National Pan-Hellenic Council sororities established at a predominantly white institution instead of at Howard University, a private, historically Black research institution.

The Epsilon Sigma Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho was established in Springfield in 1981. Since then, according to member Santita Nunn, the organization has assisted women, children and underserved families directly and through its national programs and partnerships with local organizations demonstrating its motto of "Greater Service, Greater Progress."

Nunn became a member of Sigma Gamma Rho in 1987 as an undergraduate student at the University of Illinois-Urbana. "I had several friends who had joined sororities," she said, "but Sigma Gamma Rho stood out to me. The organization was smaller than the other chapters. They didn't need large numbers to look impressive. However, the community service projects the ladies were working on stood out above the rest. I have been a member for 36 years and am a life member. Our chapter has several life members who have committed themselves to the purpose and mission of our beloved sisterhood."

The area chapter is focused on improving the Springfield community and posterity through its

signature programs:

Operation Big Book Bag is designed to address the needs, challenges and issues that face educationally at-risk school-age children in local homeless shelters and extended-care hospitals and facilities. Chapters and members collect and donate educational materials, equipment and school supplies. The local chapter has provided bookbags and school supplies to hundreds of children at Springfield and Decatur Public Schools.

Swim 1922 partners USA Swimming and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority to decrease drowning rates within the African American community by engaging local communities with swimming programming through an ongoing partnership with the local YMCA.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority's Project CRADLE Care raises awareness of disparate maternal and infant health outcomes Black women endure and aims to mitigate outcomes. For the past several years, the local chapter has collected infant and preemie garments to be donated to HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital NICU.

The Women's Wellness Initiative is a consolidated effort that allows chapters to focus on health issues that impact women, specifically women of color. The Women's Wellness Initiative was developed after the sorority's participation in the United Nations/March of Dimes Prematurity Awareness panel in New York. Educational and programmatic efforts under this initiative include breast cancer awareness, intimate and domestic violence, heart health, diabetes health, mental health and other issues that impact women. For the past three years the local chapter has donated wigs and cancer care bags to assist women receiving treatment at Simmons Cancer Institute.

Sigma Gamma Rho members have worked to assist local Springfield residents through partnerships with St. John's NICU, Simmons Cancer Institute, 5th Street Renaissance Veterans Center, Kumler Outreach Ministries, Fresh Visions Community Church, and Springfield and Decatur Public Schools Read Aloud. Members also help with school supply and book donations and have provided more than \$10,000 in local scholarships.

Nunn said through these efforts, she has had a number of memorable experiences. The most memorable for her was celebrating the sorority's centennial in November 2022.

"We got to honor the legacy and intentionality of our seven founders, and we debuted our documentary chronicling the early years of Sigma Gamma Rho," said Nunn. "We dug up an old time capsule on the campus of Butler University. The City of Indianapolis named a street after us (Sigma Gamma Rho Way)."

The celebrations included several workshops and panels, plus celebrity concerts. "Not only did we have a good time, but we celebrated with greater impact by serving others during a day of service," she said. Some 1,600 members participated in service that day and helped make no-sew blankets for children in local hospitals, assisted with local food pantries and worked with the Indianapolis Boys and Girls Club.

"The thing that I love the most about Sigma Gamma Rho," said Nunn, "is the direct impact of our service in our local community. It is also the most challenging. There is always work to do and never enough people. However, I stand firm on the words of Margaret Mead: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.'" **SBJ**

Need to place a legal? Illinois Times can help.

Call Daron Walker at 217-679-7808
or email legals@illinoistimes.com

Legals Deadline, Thursdays at 4pm



A place to thrive: Building diversity and inclusion in your people programs

By Kelly Gust

A few years ago, I was asked to speak on the topic of diversity and inclusion. As a small-town Wisconsin girl, my first thought was, "What the heck do I know about that?"

Then I did some self-reflection. My first big-city experience was a high school road trip to Minneapolis with my best friend. I was instantly hooked on the different people, unique neighborhoods and eclectic culture of the Twin Cities. I liked it so much that I went to college there.

After college I worked for a large utility company in Southern California that was under a consent decree to improve equal opportunity after being found guilty for discriminatory hiring practices. I learned how something as simple as requiring a manager's approval for promotion or transfer can limit career growth for women and minorities, both of whom were less likely to obtain the required approvals needed for advancement.

From there I moved to a global company where we had to consider international perspectives in every human resource program. We built human resource tools in 29 or more languages. It takes immense amounts of patience to learn how another culture interprets performance behaviors such as eye contact or a strong handshake in the workplace; both are considered offensive in many Asian countries. What we might consider cheating on a pre-employment test, some countries consider a family obligation to provide answers that might help your brother pass. These perspectives aren't wrong, they're just different realities.

When I taught management training courses at Hot Topic, it was not uncommon for a store manager to have a pink mohawk or neck tattoos, yet still be a successful and admired leader. This was a different mindset than the traditional blue suit jacket and executive-mahogany desks of the East Coast. Again, not wrong, just different.

These experiences taught me that the world is full of amazing and unique people, and yet we are very much alike. All humans want to belong, feel understood and reach our potential. But if your business culture isn't a place where these basic needs are met, it will struggle to reach its potential. To ensure your culture is a place where all humans can thrive, consider the following:

- Is your culture inclusive? Diversity means having more than one type of person in the room, but inclusion is a place where everyone feels like they belong. This means being respectful, open-minded and welcoming.
- Do employees include each other in conversations and decisions? Do leaders build relationships with employees or isolate themselves in their offices? If you're not sure, ask the employees. Work on inclusion first. Diversity without inclusion can be a breeding ground for conflict. But making people feel like they belong and that they can reach their potential makes for a strong, resilient and positive culture where great things are achieved.

An inclusive culture is ready for diversity. Diversity is about differences: ethnicity, personality, gender, hair color, physical ability and age, for example. Diversity can be achieved by building relationships, partnerships and allying

with groups in the community. Go beyond just sharing job postings for open positions – get to know new people and advocacy groups. Help them be successful.

Examine your hiring process. Is it subtly screening out people who aren't a cultural fit? I've seen a diverse candidate pool get filtered down to another status-quo hire because of unconscious bias. All humans naturally feel connected to people like themselves – someone who looks and talks like us, who went to the same school, has a name similar to ours and enjoys similar hobbies. Such people feel like cultural fits, but they are actually exposing subtle biases in hiring decisions. Hire based on the competencies needed for success in the job, and you'll be less likely to lean on unconscious biases in your decision-making.

Examine your benefits and retention programs. I worked at an organization that prided itself on a fantastic benefits package that included critical illness coverage, supplemental life insurance and nursing home insurance. As I rapidly approach an age where AARP is recruiting me, these benefits sound great. But to attract and retain recent grads, females and minorities, this organization had to consider new options such as remote work, child-care reimbursement, transportation credits, parental leave and time off to volunteer.

In addition, be intentional about fostering relationships among new hires. Think of yourself as a good party host – you wouldn't invite someone to a party without making every effort to ensure they had a good time. **SBJ**



COLDWELL BANKER COMMERCIAL
ANYWHERE REALTY

\$3,000,000 & \$13 / SF / NNN

FOR SALE OR LEASE

28,250 SF **RETAIL**

75 W. Plummer Blvd.
Chatham, IL 62629

Blake Pryor
217.725.9518
bpryor@cbcdr.com

See this listing & more at **CBCDR.COM**

• HIGH TRAFFIC COUNT • GREAT VISIBILITY
• HIGH INCOME AREA • TIA AVAILABLE • SPACE IS DIVISIBLE

To be or not to be a joint tenant

By Sarah Delano Pavlik

I have written about joint tenancy before, but it comes up so often in my practice, it is worth discussing again.

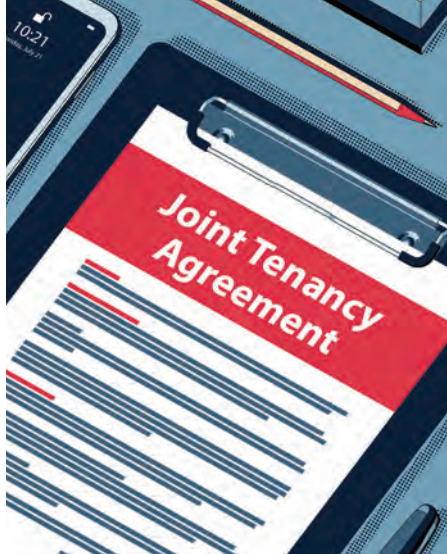
For most personal transactions, people do not consult their lawyers. Instead, they rely on advice and information from other professionals such as real estate brokers, financial planners and bankers. When I ask most clients how they hold title to their property, they do not know, although title has many legal consequences.

Regarding the purchase of a home by a husband and wife, there is a simple option that is used infrequently that can provide significant benefits – owning the residence as tenants by the entirety. Most deeds from title companies have a husband and wife taking title as “joint tenants with rights of survivorship” (joint tenants). This form of ownership results in the husband and wife owning the property equally (unless otherwise specified) and provides that the home will automatically pass to the surviving spouse upon the death of the first spouse.

In my opinion, a husband and wife should almost never hold title to their residence as joint tenants. Why? Because owning the home as tenants by the entirety is almost exactly the same as joint tenancy, but with one significant advantage. Under Illinois law, if a home is held as tenants by the entirety, a creditor cannot force the sale of the home to pay a debt of just one spouse.

For example, assume that a husband and wife own their home as tenants by the entirety and the husband has a gambling problem, or is in a car accident or is a doctor who is sued for malpractice, and that a creditor obtains a judgment against husband. That creditor cannot force the home to be sold to pay the husband's debt. A creditor can only force the home to be sold to pay a debt if both husband and wife are liable on the debt. For example, if husband and wife jointly borrow money, then the home can be used to satisfy that debt. The one major exception for creditors is the Internal Revenue Service, which can seize a home held as tenants by the entirety for the tax debt of only one spouse.

Not all states have tenancy by the entireties, and there are differences between the laws of various states. In Illinois, to validly hold title as tenants by the entireties, (1) two people must be married (or in a civil union), (2) the deed must identify them as married and that they are taking title as tenants by the entireties, (3) the property must be their homestead residence (not a second



home or rental property) and (4) both parties must live in the residence. If one or both spouses move out of the residence, the spouses divorce or one spouse dies, the home is no longer held as tenants by the entirety even though the deed still says that it is.

If a husband and wife currently own their homestead residence as joint tenants, they can reconvey it to themselves as tenants by the entirety and obtain the creditor protection benefits. However, they will not obtain the benefits “if the property was transferred into tenancy by the entirety with the sole intent to avoid the payment of debts existing at the time of the transfer beyond the transferor's ability to pay those debts as they become due.” That means you cannot wait until one party already has a debt he or she cannot pay to make the transfer.

Another difference between joint tenancy and tenancy by the entireties is that in joint tenancy, one spouse can transfer his or her interest in the property. With tenancy by the entireties, any interest in the home cannot be sold or given away without the signature of both spouses.

In general, joint tenancy is the default designation for real property, bank accounts and brokerage accounts, and often it may be the appropriate choice. However, no two people (whether husband and wife, parent and child or anyone else) should take title to property as joint tenants with rights of survivorship without completely understanding what that means.

Any property held as joint tenants with rights

of survivorship has two significant legal consequences. The first is that both parties have full rights and access to the entire property. For a bank account, this means that either party can legally withdraw the entire account. It also means that the creditors of either party can use the property to satisfy a debt. For a husband and wife, this may be the desired result. For a parent and child, it may not.

The second significant consequence is that at the death of the first party, the property automatically passes by law to the surviving party, separate and apart from any will or trust agreement, which may or may not be acceptable. For example, if husband and wife have trusts under their will for tax purposes, the joint tenancy property cannot be used to fund those trusts. Or, if husband and wife do not leave their property to the same people under their wills, joint tenancy may not be the right choice.

Assume the husband and wife each have children from a previous marriage. The wife's will says that her property goes to her children. Any assets she owns as joint tenants with her husband will pass to him, and not her children, as specified in her will. Or, assume her will provides that all of her property goes into a trust. Husband receives the income for his lifetime, but what is left when he dies passes to wife's children. Again, property held as joint tenants with husband will not pass under the will but will instead go outright to the husband. He may or may not then leave that property to wife's children at his death.

The same analysis applies with children. It is common for a parent to add a child's name to a bank account, and if that child is added as a joint tenant, that account will pass to the child at the parent's death regardless of any will. That child may or may not share that account with his siblings. Or, he may or may not use it to pay funeral expenses, even if that was the parent's intention. The solution? Add the child to the account as a convenience signer and not as a joint tenant. That means the child can sign checks, but the account will not pass to him at the parent's death.

Bottom line: Don't automatically title your property as joint tenants. Explore your options and talk to your lawyer or accountant if you have questions. **SBJ**

This article is for informational and educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

Food and Drink | For advertising information call 217-726-6600



217 FOOD WEEK

www.217foodweek.com



**PICK UP & DELIVERY
AVAILABLE AT ANY OF
OUR 5 LOCATIONS**

1013 Wabash Ave - 217-787-5544
2114 N. Grand E. - 217-523-5544
3219 Lake Plaza Dr. - 217-529-3600
1233 Toronto Road - 217-585-0323
2701 W. Lawrence - 217-787-3355

antonios-pizza.com



Locally Owned

Pick up • Delivery
Indoor Dining

217-492-8800
661 W. Stanford • Spfld

**Voted
Best
Horseshoe!**

Sunday & Monday Closed • Tuesday-Saturday: Kitchen is open 11am-9pm



217-698-9256 | 2406 West Jefferson St., Spfld | www.westwoodslodge.com

**Real People
Real Solutions
Real Banking**

We Bank On You



**Scan.
Tap.
Bank.
Call Us Today!**

Andrew Olson
Business Banker
(855)211-0842
BankPBT.com



Peoples Bank & Trust

We Put People First.™



Hot Pot & BBQ Buffet

By Thomas C. Pavlik, Jr.

Chinese hot pot is more than just a meal, it's an experience – and one that's done nicely by Hot Pot & BBQ Buffet.

Hot pot originated in the Mongolian Empire and started out as a simple broth bought to boil in a helmet into which a soldier added horsemeat or mutton. Thankfully, hot pot has evolved. Today, hot pot involves your choice of broth (you may have more than one or even combine), which is brought to a boil at table and kept simmering, into which you and your group of friends add noodles, thinly sliced meats, vegetables, seafood and more. Once cooked, diners generally add a sauce of their own making from available ingredients. In many restaurants, one selects their desired items from a menu. Others, like Hot Pot & BBQ Buffet, offer everything buffet-style.

Hot Pot has a laminated instruction card that clearly outlines the steps and makes the process almost foolproof.

Hot Pot's space, in the building formerly occupied by Kiku Japanese Steak & Seafood House, is simple and very clean. Each table or booth has two induction burners that can be controlled by diners. Asian barbecue is also available, which is cooked at the table. Diners opting for that genre will be seated under large industrial fans that suck up the smoke generated by barbecue. We decided to go with hot pot alone and leave the barbecue to another day.

We arrived a little before 6 p.m. (Hot Pot is not open for lunch other than Saturday) to find the restaurant filled with patrons whose native language appeared to be Mandarin. We took that as an excellent sign. As the night progressed (my guest and I lingered for multiple trips to the buffet for ingredients) the crowd seemed about evenly split between English and Mandarin speakers.

After we were seated, our server quickly checked in just to make sure that we knew the program and how everything worked. He had a nice way about him.

For our broths, we went with the spicy and the original broth. The original broth is quite tame and is basically a cloudy chicken broth with ginger and Asian aromatics. The spicy broth is a bold cauldron of Sichuan pepper corns, chilies and anything else that you might typically expect to season a Sichuanese dish. Although quite spicy, the Sichuan pepper corns tend to slightly numb the tongue and tastebuds such that it makes the heat more



tolerable. To me, it's the flavor of Southern China that I so often crave.

Perhaps the most fun was creating our own dipping sauces. I've been doing hot pot for years, and I went with my usual combination of soy, sesame oil, oyster sauce, chili paste, chili oil, cilantro and some fresh peppers. My guest, who was enjoying his first hot pot experience, followed his tastebuds and made an exceptional sauce that surpassed mine. It might have been first time luck or the addition of fresh garlic.

Other than a section of the buffet that is reserved for barbecue, all other items are available for hot pot. There is a section of very thinly sliced lamb and beef that is kept frozen, a variety of seafood (mussels, shrimp, squid, fish balls, clams), and a large selection of vegetables ranging from leafy greens to onions and mushrooms. And don't forget the tofu. Simply said, there are too many ingredients to choose from.

My guest and I gravitated toward the meats, shrimp, clams, noodles and a smattering of vegetables. The baby squid was a particular hit. The one thing we wish Hot Pot had more of were

noodles – only ramen noodles were available.

Hot pot is not a fast meal, which is why when Hot Pot is crowded, diners are limited to two hours, which seems just the right amount of time.

The hot pot alone is \$29.95 per person. At this price it might not be a place where you dine weekly, but my guest and I both felt we received fair value for the offerings. Diners can add barbecue for an additional \$6.

Service was uniformly excellent, and our used plates were quickly whisked away and replaced with new ones.

Hot pot is likely a new experience for many in Springfield. But it's a fun experience that is very user-friendly and can be continually customized as the meal progresses. We both hope that Springfield embraces Hot Pot & BBQ Buffet, as it would be a shame to lose this gem. **SBJ**

Address: 3050 Lindbergh Blvd., Springfield
Phone: 217-698-7008
Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092408719708
Hours: Monday-Friday, 3 p.m.-midnight, Saturday 2 p.m.-1 a.m., Sunday 1 p.m.-midnight



ICC No. MC-2934 ILL CC 2934-MC

**Let Our
Expertise And
Experience
Help Plan The
BEST Move
For You**

Show your clients you support local business

SUBSCRIBE TO SBJ TODAY!

12 MONTHS FOR ONLY \$35

Print Copy • Digital Edition • Book of Lists



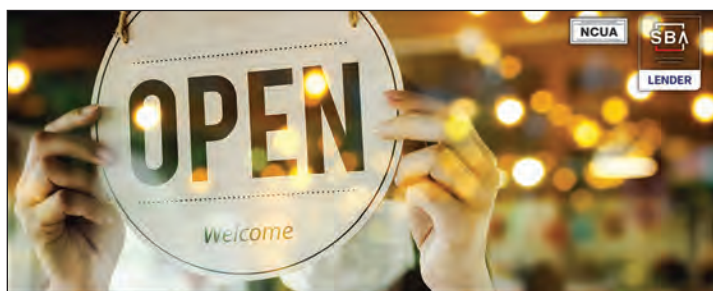
SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT:
springfieldbusinessjournal.com

WOMEN'S EVENT CALENDAR

Women Entrepreneurs – Central Illinois will host an August luncheon on "Creating Your Social Media Plan." Join local experts Amy Beadle, marketing manager for the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Julie Craig, marketing and communications digital manager at Springfield Clinic, to learn how to create and design your social media plan for Facebook postings, video production and placement on Reels, plus best practices for managing your business Facebook page.

The luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 9, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Illinois Educators Credit Union, 3101 Montvale Dr. Lunch will be provided by Bloom Hospitality and Catering. The cost is \$20 for members or \$28 for non-members. Visit wecispringfield.org to register.

Sponsored by



**We provide Business Loans to be
used for any Professional Services
you might be needing.**

Reach out to learn more!



Howard Martin
Chief Lending Officer
(217) 615-3945
hmartin@llcu.org

Jonan Tiarks
AVP Commercial
Loan Officer
(217) 853-0004
jtiarks@llcu.org



LLCU.ORG
844.222.7788

**Bloomington/Normal • Centralia • Decatur
Effingham • Mattoon • Pana • Springfield • Vandalia**



Hillier Records Management

The Hillier Advantage Includes:

Secure Off-Site Records Storage | Computerized Tracking System
Daily Magnetic Media Exchange | Retrieval & Re-file
Climate Controlled Facility | Regular - Rush Emergency Services
24 Hour Service | Pick-up & Delivery

2728 S. 11th Street • Springfield, IL 62703
A Division of Hillier Storage & Moving Co.
ILL. C.C. 4285 MCCB

217-525-8550

Climate Controlled Facility | Regular - Rush Emergency Services
24 Hour Service | Pick-up & Delivery

2728 S. 11th Street • Springfield, IL 62703
A Division of Hillier Storage & Moving Co.
ILL. C.C. 4285 MCCB

217-525-8550

New director for HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital

HSHS St. John's Hospital has announced Simone Parlier as the new executive director of women's services and the children's hospital. Her first day with the hospital was May 1.

"This is my dream job," said Parlier. "I am passionate about women's health, especially as it relates to motherhood. I have dedicated my education and career to mothers and children. This is the perfect fit."

Simone comes to Springfield from Jacksonville, where she served in various nursing roles, from bedside to manager, at both Jacksonville Memorial Hospital and Passavant Area Hospital. The focus of her work was in labor and delivery, obstetrics, postpartum, nursery and special care nursery. Simone also taught

at the university level as a visiting and adjunct clinical nursing instructor for the University of Illinois Chicago.

She is currently working toward her doctorate in nursing from Loyola University in Chicago. Parlier received her master's degree from Benedictine University in Lisle in 2018 and graduated from MacMurray College in Jacksonville in 2006.

"We are so grateful to have Simone as our new executive director of women's services and children's hospital," said Allison Paul, chief nursing officer of St. John's Hospital. "Our hospital and community welcome her with open arms. We know her passion and expertise will benefit the patients we serve."



Simone Parlier has been named the new executive director of HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital.
PHOTO COURTESY HSHS ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

Memorial Health, Illinois College announce nursing education partnership

Memorial Health and Illinois College have announced a partnership aimed at relieving the long-term regional nursing shortage by expanding capacity in the college's nursing program.

Memorial Health has pledged \$4 million to help Illinois College educate more students in its bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program, as well as students enrolled in pre-nursing studies. Memorial has similar partnerships with other colleges and universities across the region, including University of Illinois at Chicago–Springfield, Lincoln Land Community College, Illinois State University's Mennonite College of Nursing and Richland Community College.

"Nationwide research shows that more than 80,000 students interested in nursing were turned away from nursing programs in 2019 alone due to lack of capacity," said Marsha Prater, senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Memorial Health. "The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased those pressures. Our goal in partnering with Illinois College and other local schools of nursing is to provide the resources they need to educate more nurses and ensure we have a thriving health care workforce in central Illinois."

The BSN program at Illinois College currently graduates approximately 20 nurses each



Leaders at Memorial Health and Illinois College held a news conference announcing a new partnership intended to expand access to nursing education in the region. PHOTO BY BOBBI WISEMAN/MEMORIAL HEALTH

year. The partnership with Memorial Health is expected to increase that number to 100 within the next five years by expanding facilities and adding new nursing faculty. Half of the funds Memorial has pledged to IC will go toward student scholarships aimed at making nursing education more affordable.

"We are excited to partner with Memorial Health to increase our enrollment and provide high-quality learning experiences for the nurses of tomorrow," said Illinois College President Barbara Farley. "Many of our graduates have gone on to careers at Memorial Health and Jacksonville Memorial Hospital, and we are pleased Memorial has committed to help more

future nurses get the education they need to be successful."

Memorial Health President and CEO Ed Curtis said that educational partnerships are an essential component of Memorial's long-term strategy to strengthen the local health care workforce.

"Partnerships like this one benefit not only Memorial Health and Illinois College, but the entire region," he said. "The steps we are taking now will ensure Memorial and other health care organizations can continue caring for local residents in the decades to come. We're pleased to have Illinois College as a partner in that work."



LINCOLN PRAIRIE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER

No Charge
24 Hour
Risk Safety
Assessments

*Promoting healing of children and their families
through compassionate and supportive care.*

If something just doesn't feel right Or if you have questions
about your child's mental health? **CALL US FIRST!**

options also include :

- Telehealth Assessments & Therapy
- Virtual Assessments and Consultations Available
- Medication Management
- Individual, Group & Family Counseling
- Partial Hospitalization Program
- Outpatient Therapy



Safe Space



5230 S. Sixth Street Road, Springfield, IL 62703 ● Phone: (217) 585-1180 ● www.lincolnpairiebhc.com

\$22 MILLION PAID TO PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU IN THE PAST FEW YEARS!

We Buy Many Vintage Collectibles

- ✓ Rare Coins ✓ Paper Money ✓ Diamonds ✓ Watches ✓ Sterling
- ✓ Gold & Silver Jewelry ✓ Costume Jewelry ✓ Turquoise ✓ Vintage Sports, Vintage Toys
- ✓ Native American Items ✓ Civil War, Military & Political Items

We can come to you or you can come to US!

**DECATUR COIN
AND JEWELRY**

**50 Years in the Same Location
Family Owned**

Open Mon-Fri
Weekends by appointment

217-899-4346 • 217-423-0041

ETHICS • KNOWLEDGE • COLLECTORS • NUMISMATISTS

DecaturCoinandJewelry.com | 104 N. Main St • Decatur, IL

**WE OFFER COMPETITIVE BUY/SELL PRICES ON American Eagle Gold & Silver
Bullion Coins, 999 Silver Rounds and Bars and other Gold/Silver products.**

Marketplace | For advertising information call 217-726-6600



DESIGNER LANDSCAPES®
Putting the great in the great outdoors

4110 Morrisonville Avenue
Farmersville, IL
217.227.3256
designer-landscapes.com

Complete Landscape & Lawn Care Provider

- Landscape Design & Installation
- Patios & Walkways
- Retaining Walls
- Water Features
- Concrete Edging
- And More!

Morgan Stanley



Michael Witsman CFP®, ChFC®
Portfolio Manager
Financial Advisor
3201 White Oaks Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
217 547-2911
Michael.Witsman@morganstanley.com
NMLS# 1828659

© 2022 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC.
Member SIPC. CRC 3938502 01/22.



Ron Furman & Sons
PAVING
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

Parking Lots • Driveways • Seal Coating
Oil & Chip • Concrete • Recycled Asphalt

217-528-9407

3600 North Dirksen Pkwy • Springfield, IL • ronfurmanspaving@hotmail.com



Sutton's
Roofing - Siding
Windows - Doors
Decks - Sunrooms

suttonsinc.com | 217-528-3911

217.529.9700
SolutionPrint.com
3135 South 14th St.
Springfield, IL

Solution PRINTING

We are the Solution to All Your Printing Needs



BENJAMIN F. EDWARDS & CO.
INVESTMENTS for GENERATIONS

David L. Brumme
Financial Advisor
Vice President - Investments
Member SIPC

3038 Spring Mill
Springfield, IL 62704
Phone 217-441-8490
Toll Free 833-441-8490
Fax 217-441-8491
david.brumme@benjaminfedwards.com



It's a Wrap
GIFTS & PROMOTIONS

Create connections,
show appreciation and
send thanks with
corporate gifts and
branded promotions!

Lisa GoldbergBelle
wrapthis.com • 217.698.9727




WCS
Wyzard Cleaning Service Inc.
We clean what you don't want to touch!

COMPLETE JANITORIAL SERVICE
POST CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

Now Accepting New Clients

wyzardcleaning.com | (217) 566-2447

\$5 OFF

Low rates. On time. References.


SPRINGFIELD JUNK AWAY

SPRINGFIELDJUNKAWAY.COM

Joe


"Follow me, I know the way out!"
Call Joe Today 217-523-9858

Free On-Site Estimate • Serving Sangamon, Menard & Logan Counties

BEDROCK
MATERIALS
YOUR LANDSCAPING HEADQUARTERS!

217 . 525. 3466(DINO)
3600 N. DIRKSEN PARKWAY
BEDROCKMATERIALSINC.COM



Home of the Mammoth Scoop
Equals one cubic yard!

Solution PRINTING

would like to congratulate
this years class of the
Springfield Business Journal's

FORTY
UNDER **40** 2023

*I'm under 40
in dog years!*

217.529.9700

www.SolutionPrint.com

3135 S. 14th Street
Springfield, IL



50 Years of Community Banking Excellence



Greenfield, IL 1973



Chatham, IL 2023



UNITED COMMUNITY BANK
The Leader of Community Banking

UCB's story began in Greenfield, Illinois in June, 1973 when Robert Narmont led a group of local investors in the purchase of Farmers State Bank of Greenfield. With roots dating back to its founding in 1907, Farmers State Bank of Greenfield would be just the first of many more community banks to become part of the UCB Family of Banks.

Today, with 46 locations in 34 communities, we are truly honored to have been a part of your stories our first fifty years, and we look forward with you to the next fifty years and beyond!

UCBbank.com | 217-787-3000

