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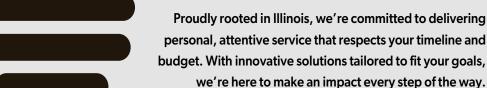
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Beyond Abe Lincoln

The Springfield area rightly capitalizes on its many connections to Abraham Lincoln and his contemporaries – tourism is one of the largest economic drivers in Sangamon County, along with state government and health care. The research firm Tourism Economics estimated that tourism had a local economic impact of more than \$600 million in 2023, an increase for the third consecutive year. In addition to the dollars spent directly by tourists, their spending contributed \$18.8 million in local tax revenue while supporting 5,000 jobs here in the hospitality industry.

There is always room for growth, of course, and area tourism officials hope to draw additional visitors who have other interests beyond our beloved Abe. Next year is the 100th anniversary of Route 66, a portion of which passes through Springfield and Sangamon County. It is anticipated that the centennial will significantly increase the already large number of tourists – particularly international ones – who travel part or all of Route 66 each year. Tour groups often fly into Chicago, then travel south via rented motorcycles or motorcoaches, and the more time they linger in Springfield, the more dollars they will spend.

Another significant development is the opening of the Scheels Sports Park at Legacy Pointe, with sports activities expected to start in October and a grand opening in March of next year. During her remarks at the recent State of Greater Springfield lunch, Mayor Misty Buscher noted that beginning in November 2025 every weekend but two at the sports complex are already booked a year in advance. The development is expected to draw 2 million out-of-town visitors a year, most of them families spending two or three nights (p. 20).

The unexpected closure of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre is definitely not good timing in light of the anticipated increase in tourism traffic over the coming year (p. 18). Even prior to the Wyndham's closure, there were calls for another hotel to be built downtown in conjunction with a proposed expansion of the BOS Center, but no specific plans have materialized.

The next couple of years will be a critical time to further increase Springfield's tourism traffic, and to ensure that those who come to visit want to return. It's time to collectively show the world what we have to offer – beyond Abraham Lincoln.



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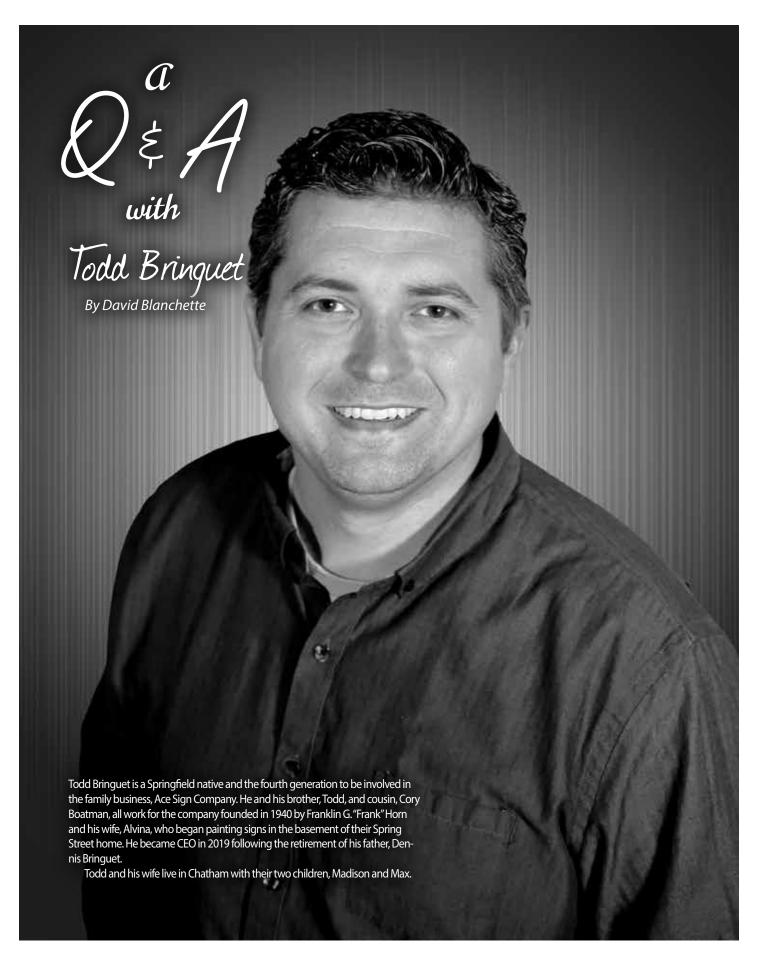
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Todd Bringuet is a Springfield native and the fourth generation to be involved in the family business, Ace Sign Company. He and his brother, Todd, and cousin, Cory Boatman, all work for the company founded in 1940 by Franklin G. "Frank" Horn and his wife, Alvina, who began painting signs in the basement of their Spring Street home. He became CEO in 2019 following the retirement of his father. Dennis Bringuet. Todd and his wife live in Chatham with their two children, Madison and Max.



Mitzi, Max, Madison and Todd Bringuet. PHOTOS COURTESY TODD BRINGUET

Where were you

born and raised, and what was your first job?

I was born at St. John's Hospital and raised here in Springfield, where I have lived all of my life. My first official job was mowing grass for the neighbors, and I also helped people with odds-andends-type of jobs.

How did you work your way up the ladder at Ace Sign Company?

I've done a lot of odd jobs here at Ace Sign Company. I started out with routine tasks like assembling bolts, and learning through observation with some patient mentors in different areas of the business who were kind enough to show me the tricks of the trade. We've got a great team.

I spent a great deal of time working in graphic production and shadowed people in the other departments where I learned to weld, do sheet metal, fabrication, installation and electronics.

We had a piece of glass in the basement of our house, and I practiced the trade of hand-painting on it. I mention this because while we are innovative, at the same time we preserve history by using the earlier skills of the industry, which is why hand-painting and neon-bending are still a part of what we do.

What are the rewards of operating a multigenerational family business?

Stewardship of our heritage is a priority. It's an honor to serve our clients across the generations who we help to be successful by building inspirational signs for them. Also, being there for the community – we recently had the opportunity to help out with the Chatham Strong campaign.

It's rewarding to take our resources and use them for our clients, the community and to keep the company and our employees strong and moving forward.

What are some of the more memorable or unusual jobs you've been involved with at the company?

We produced the Roman numerals for Super Bowl XLVIII; that was pretty prime-time. We use a lot of Google technology like Google AI and Gemini, and we were one of 50 stories, one from each of the 50 states, that Google featured in a recent Super Bowl commercial.

We've had the opportunity to do a lot of theater marquee restorations which is a tribute to our embrace of history and innovation. We are working right now on some signage for the new Scheels Sports Park in Springfield, and that's an exciting thing for the community.

How is Ace meeting today's industry challenges?

The constant evolution of technology is something we have to be intentional about, and we also maintain a team that is continually improving. We also keep focused on delivering at a higher level and improving every day.

How do you feel when you drive around the area and recognize a lot of the work that Ace has produced?

That's super rewarding. We are very, very honored to have the opportunity to create signs for so many local businesses. That is one of the greatest marketing opportunities for us, to have those impressive pieces out there captivating the audience

and inspiring folks. When people see a sign that, hopefully, they can recognize as being produced by Ace, they see that inspirational quality and its impact.

What does the future look like for Ace Sign Company?

We are always looking to innovate and produce a product that provides a value to our clients. We've grown and now do a lot of work outside of the region. We want to grow more opportunities locally, regionally and on a global scale. That helps our employees

and the local economy.

It hasn't always been a growth path for manufacturing in Springfield and Illinois. But there are a number of amazing manufacturers that are maintaining a strong path forward. Our goal is to continue to be part of the growing manufacturing community in this city and the state.

Why is community engagement important for the company?

We exist to serve the community, so to be an active part of it and to give back is natural. We are here to serve and are honored to do so.

What career advice can you give to young people?

Character is one of the greatest attributes a person can have. Also, a drive to develop new skills, to be present, to be curious, to be engaged and to be safe. We look for all of these qualities in people who will help to drive our business toward the future.

I recently had the opportunity to be involved with Capital Area Career Center as one of the interviewers for their student of the year program. What was obvious to me was that the award finalists had such high character. They were selfless-servant leaders and that drove all of them to learn more. Seeing the quality of those students coming up is promising for the future.

What may people be surprised to learn about you?

I try to wear my heart on my sleeve, and that catches many people by surprise.













Each year, Springfield Business Journal partners with Security Bank to recognize women from the public and private sectors who have made outstanding contributions to the local community. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by community members throughout the year.

On Tuesday, May 20, Security Bank hosted a reception at Island Bay Yacht Club for the recipients and their family and friends. Previous recipients were also invited to attend. Stephan Paul Antonacci, president and CEO of Security Bank, presented awards to this year's recipients.

- 1. This year's Women of Influence recipients: June Agamah, Monica Walls-Butler and Dr. Vidya Sundareshan.
- 2. Monica Walls-Butler addresses the audience during her acceptance speech.
- 3. Dr. Vidya Sundareshan accepts her award from Paul Antonacci, CEO of Security Bank.
- 4. June Agamah, center, takes photos with her family following the ceremony.

PHOTOS BY BETHANY PAYNE



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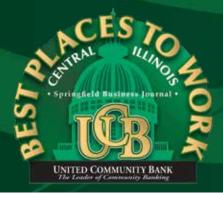
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BEST PLACES TO WORK CEREMONY 2025









 Jill Steiner, Don Adams, Angie Sowle and J.T. Britton.
 Nearly 150 people attended the reception and awards ceremony held at United Community Bank's Montvale branch.
 Mayor Misty Buscher gave the keynote address.
 A team representing Knob Hill Landscape Co. accepts their award.

The 2025 Best Places to Work were recognized at a reception and awards ceremony held on May 14 at United Community Bank, 1900 W. Iles Ave.

- Green Nissan
- Knob Hill Landscape Co.
- Isringhausen Imports
- Springfield Plastics
- Springfield YMCA
- HSHS St. John's Hospital (alumni)

Each year, employees have the opportunity to nominate their company to be recognized. In order to be considered, a company must have been in business at least two years, be based in Sangamon or Morgan County and have 16 or more employees (those with 15 or fewer are eligible for our small business awards program, 15 Under Fifteen). Visit springfieldbusiness journal.com and click on the "awards" tab to see a list of previous selectees or make a nomination.



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MAJOR EMPLOYERS

	EMPLOYER NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	PRINCIPAL	PRODUCT/SERVICE	YEAR EST'D	WEBSITE
1	State of Illinois	17,800*	JB Pritzker Governor	Government	1818	illinois.gov
2	Memorial Health	5,182	Mandy Eaton President and CEO	Health care	1897	memorial.health
3	Springfield Clinic	3,700	Jen Boyer CEO	Health care	1939	springfieldclinic.com
4	Hospital Sisters Health System	3,289	Damond W. Boatwright President and CEO	Health care	1875	st-johns.org
5	Springfield Public Schools #186	2,619	Jennifer Gill Superintendent	Education	1854	sps186.org
6	SIU School of Medicine	2,420	Jerry Kruse Dean/Provost	Higher education/ Health care	1970	siumed.edu
7	University of Illinois Springfield	1,432	Janet L.Gooch Chancellor	Higher education	1969	uis.edu
8	City of Springfield	1,335	Misty Buscher Mayor	Government	1832	springfield.il.us
9	Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois	1,261	Stephen Harris President	Insurance	1936	bcbsil.com
10	Horace Mann	652	Marita Zuraitis President and CEO	Insurance	1945	horacemann.com

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Jacksonville biomedical company has worldwide reach

Turner Scientific awarded patent for Sensory Sentinel to monitor lab animals

By Lynn Whalen

Tucked away on the north edge of Jacksonville, surrounded by farm fields, sits a large facility where a small team assembles the Sensory Sentinel, a game changer in the field of biomedical research.

"It's the only instrument like it in the world," said Dr. Jeremy Turner, founder and CEO of Turner Scientific and former faculty member at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and Illinois College.

The Sensory Sentinel, just approved for

a U.S. patent, monitors and improves the comfort and welfare of lab animals and the reliability of research projects.

"In biomedical research, every major university, pharmaceutical or biotech company will have live animals on hand for their work," Turner said. "Whether they're testing, for instance, a new Alzheimer's medicine or memory loss drug, it's going to involve animals. Our expertise is understanding what those animals sense and how that affects their welfare and the experiments they're involved in."

Over the course of his company's research on hearing loss over the last 15 years, Turner saw the need for better monitoring of lab animals. While regulations call for monitoring of temperature, humidity and lighting in rooms where lab animals are kept, he knew that sounds and vibrations also affect the animals and experiments.

"We developed this tool that's easy to use to monitor all of those conditions. They don't have to be an expert to measure whether the mice, rats, guinea pigs or whatever they're using, are in an environment that's safe and non-stressful for them.

"It's all about making sure lab environments are tuned to that species, because animals hear, see, smell and feel things that humans don't. A typical facility could have thousands of cages of lab animals. We affix sensors in the cages and monitor what these animals experience in their home environment," he said.



J.R. Manker, left, and Dr. Jeremy Turner at the Sensory Sentinel monitoring hub at Turner Scientific's Jacksonville headquarters, where data is tracked from animal lab research facilities around the globe. PHOTO BY LYNN WHALEN

Turner explained that a construction project near a research facility, or even a lab technician turning on a light at the wrong time, can stress a lab animal and skew research results. "If you're testing a drug's effect on blood pressure, for example, but a lab animal is stressed by a sound or vibration in its cage, that could cause a spike in the animal's blood pressure and ruin the day's research. We're there on behalf of the animals and to make sure the science stays stable,"Turner said.

Customers for the Sensory Sentinel system include veterinarians, research universities, pharmaceutical companies and private research firms around the world. Each unit costs \$15,000 plus a \$1,000 annual software fee, and between 200 to 300 complete systems are sold per year.

Turner and director of monitoring J.R. Manker travel across the country and abroad to set up the systems and consult on their use. Data from the systems is sent back to a monitoring hub where Turner Scientific employees watch for changes and send out alerts if conditions are causing stress in the lab animals.

Manker also travels to construction sites near research facilities to act as a bridge between construction companies and researchers and ensure that noise and vibrations won't affect medical research. "It's all about communication when researchers are worried that years of work can be ruined if the lab animals are stressed by construction noise and vibrations," Manker said. "We work to find solutions that work for both parties."

Sensory Sentinel now generates half of the

revenue at Turner Scientific. The other half is its original mission of hearing loss research. The company's scientists test drugs for their impact on hearing.

"Thirty-four percent of current prescription drugs carry potential side effects involving loss of hearing, balance or ringing in the ear," said Turner. "We use rats, mice, guinea pigs and mini-pigs to test drugs for safety and hearing equipment including the next generation of cochlear implants."

And of course, the company uses the Sensory Sentinel system to make sure the lab animals are kept comfortable and stress-free.

Turner said his company is the only one in the U.S. heavily investing in developing the miniature pig as a model for hearing. Turner Scientific was awarded a \$1.7 million National Institutes of Health small business grant last fall to use minipigs in hearing research.

"We're actually teaching the pigs to swipe a tablet when they hear a sound so we can eventually use this as a hearing test," said Turner. "We've found the pigs like to swipe left and right but not up and down."

Turner Scientific recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark its move from a 12,000-square-foot headquarters to a 60,000-square-foot-facility at 1275 Sandusky Road which formerly housed several insurance processing companies. Turner has 26 employees in Jacksonville and six working remotely in Houston, Philadelphia, Boston, Atlanta and Florida.

According to Turner, the company has grown 20%-50% each year for the past eight years. He said the company is currently on track to match last year's revenue, but uncertainty over federal cuts in research grants and tariffs is causing some potential customers to hold off on spending.

"Everyone we talk to wants our product," said Manker. "But right now, it's usually a budget issue. We hope it's a temporary blip in spending." (5B)



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	NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE / Website/email	FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	FACILITY SIZE (SQ. FT.)	PRINCIPAL(S)	PRODUCT/SERVICE	YEAR EST'D
1	BUNN Corporate Headquarters and International Corporate Office 5020 Ash Grove Dr. Springfield, Illinois 62711	800-637-8606 217-529-6601 bunn.com	850	100,000+	Arthur Bunn president and CEO	Manufacturer of a complete line of dispensed beverage solutions for coffee, tea, cappuccino, granita, juice, espresso, water filtration and more	1957
2	BRANDT 2935 S. Koke Mill Road Springfield, IL 62711	217-547-5800 brandt.co	500+	125,000+	Rick Brandt, CEO	Fertilizers, crop protection, micronu- trients, spray adjuvants, seed	1953
3	Simplex, Inc. 5300 Rising Moon Road Springfield, IL 62711	217-483-1600 simplexdirect.com	220	140,000+	Amanda Hupp, president Don Skowronski, VP operations Steve Cappellin, VP Finance, COO	Load banks, day tanks, fuel supply systems	1934
4	Solomon Colors, Inc. 4050 Color Plant Road Springfield, IL 62702	217-522-3112 solomoncolors.com	200	250,000	Adam Solomon, president, Richard Solomon, chairman Emily Fuchs CFO	Manufacturer of iron oxide pigments sup- plied to ready mix, mortar and concrete product producers. A full line of decora- tive products and dispensing equipment for metering iron oxide pigments	1927
4	Standard Aero 1200 N. Airport Dr. Springfield, IL 62707	800-731-7371 standardaero.com	200	250,000+	David Pearman	Aircraft service, modification	1911
5	Nudo Products, Inc. 1500 Taylor Ave. Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-5636 nudo.com	159	400,000	Stephen Adkins, president Andrew Wylie, vice pres. general manager	Manufacturer of wall, ceiling, floor, exterior, sign and transportation panels with a variety of finishes and substrates.	1954
6	DICKEY-john, a Division of TSI 5200 Dickey John Road Auburn, IL 62615	217-438-3371 dickey-john.com	135	225,000	Jeff Schertz, vice pres. of operations	Electronic design and manufacture of systems controls for agriculture and public works	1966
7	Mel-O-Cream Donuts Intl., Inc. 5456 International Parkway Springfield, IL 62711	217-483-7272 mel-o-cream.com	80	70,000	Eric Larson CEO	Frozen dough products and frozen pre-fried doughnuts	1932
8	Ace Sign Co. 2540 S. First St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-522-8417 acesignco.com	75	50,000	Todd Bringuet, CEO	Manufacturer of custom signage and graphics	1940
9	Henry Technologies, Inc. 701 S. Main St. Chatham, IL 62629	217-483-2406 henry-group.net	50	110,000	Julian Parker, CEO	Components for HVAC/industrial and commercial refrigeration	1914
9	Cast Industries, Inc. 580 North St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-522-8292 CastInd.com	50	DND	Ron Stevens, James Stevens	Manufacturer of lead fishing tackle	1987
10	Certified Tank & Mfg., LLC 2500 Richards Lane Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-1433 certifiedtank.com dan@certifiedtank. com	37	DND	Dan Rohr president	Manufacturer of above-ground tanks of carbon or stainless steel. Various sizes and capacities.	1944

MAJOR MANUFACTURERS MORGAN COUNTY

Sources: Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation; the manufacturers DND - Did Not Disclose. Ranked by number of full-time employees.

	NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE/ WEBSITE/EMAIL	FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	FACILITY SIZE (SQ. FT.)	PRINCIPAL(S)	PRODUCT/SERVICE	YEAR EST'D
1	Reynolds Consumer Products 500 E. Superior Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-3311 reynoldsconsumerproducts.com	1,000	360,000 (west plant), 508,000 (east plant)	Colleen McClinton plant manager	Polyethylene bags and films	1962
2	Perma-Bound Books, a division of Hertzberg-New Method, Inc. 617 E. Vandalia Road Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-5451 perma-bound.com	300	320,000	James Orr owner/president Bill Hull plant manager	Prebound books for schools and libraries	1953
3	CCK Automations, LLC 500 Capitol Way Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-6040 cckautomations.com	175	100,000	Mark Stephenson CEO	Printed circuit board assemblies and injection molded parts	1999
4	Nestlé USA 1111 Carnation Drive Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-9511 nestleusa.com	176	30 acres	Martin Craig plant manager	Non-dairy creamer	1970
5	Bound to Stay Bound Books 1880 W. Morton Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-5191 btsb.com	125	110,000	Bob Sibert, president Lori Smith vice pres./general manager	Prebound children's library books	1920
6	ILMO Products Company 7 Eastgate Drive Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-2183 ilmoproducts.com	110	40,000 (8 acres)	Brad Floreth CEO/president Elizabeth Standley executive vice president	Wholesale/retail distributor of industrial, medical, laboratory EPA protocol, propane and specialty gases and welding equipment sales and service	1913
7	Jacksonville Machine Inc. 2265 W. Morton Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-1119 jmimachine.com	55	2 buildings 42,000, 12,000	Jeff Rodems president	CNC job shop	1919
8	Pallet Repair Systems (PRS) 2 Eastgate Drive Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-291-0009 prsgroupinc.com	30	50,000	Jeff Williams	Manufacturer of machinery	1989
8	Rutland Products 7 Crabtree Road Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-7810 rutland.com	30	60,000	Mike Linn vice pres. of operations	Manufacturer of stove and fireplace repair products	1961
8	UGL 550 Capitol Way Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-7878 ugl.com	30	43,000	Scott Knott	Home maintenance and repair items	1985
8	BPC, LLC 1933 Old Naples Road Meredosia, IL 62665	217-584-1110 bpctoll.com	30	75,000	Gunakar Golagana	Conducts comprehensive analytical testing of resin compounds and conducts trials and DOE to produce specially compounded materials and engineered resins	2012
9	Eli Bridge Company 800 Case Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-7145 elibridge.com	17	66,000	Patty Sullivan president, CEO Tim Noland, GM/Treasurer	Amusement ride manufacturing and metal fabrication	1900
10	Tarps Manufacturing 1000 State Highway 104 Meredosia, IL 62665	217-584-1900 tarpsmfg.com rich.ott@tarpsmfg.com	8	28,000	Rich Ott	Construction containment tarps and roll tarps for trucking and agriculture	2004
11	Gaither Tool Co. 2255 W. Morton Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	800-452-5010 gaithertool.com.	7	30,000	Richard Brahler II	Manufactures tools and systems to service and maintain tire and wheel assemblies	1988

Future of Wyndham is uncertain

Reopening further delayed, no word on potential sale or renovations

By Dean Olsen

It may be many months before the Wyndham Springfield City Centre Hotel can reopen.

The 370-room, 30-story hotel at 700 E. Adams St. in downtown Springfield was damaged by internal flooding on March 27 and has been closed since then.

An initial estimate from the Wyndham's owner that the hotel would be closed for up to 90 days increased in the past month. A reopening now could be delayed for up to 120 days, according to Scott Dahl, director of the Springfield Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

And Gosia Wray, the Wyndham's general manager, informed a Springfield Business Journal staff member who was compiling a list of Springfield hotels for an upcoming publication that a reopening could be delayed even longer.

Wray wrote in a May 6 email that it "doesn't look like we will be able to reopen sooner than in 6 months," though she also said, "I do not have any decision-making voice."

No one answers the phone at the hotel, and Wray didn't respond to an email. Wyndham owner Al Rajabi of Tower Capital Group in San Antonio, Texas, didn't respond to a phone message or an email. An Illinois Times reporter who walked up to the Wyndham's front doors to take photographs on May 23 was greeted by a woman who told the reporter to get off the property.

Details of what caused the damage that closed the hotel have been elusive.

The Wyndham first opened as Forum 30 in 1973 and is the second-tallest building in Springfield, behind the Capitol. The hotel began to be known as the Springfield Hilton in 1980, and its brand switched to Wyndham in 2015.

A March 28 news release from the city of Springfield said the Springfield Fire Department responded to an alarm call at the Wyndham the day before and found flooding and elevator damage but no fire.

"After further SFD inspection and investigation by the State Fire Marshal, the Springfield Fire Department Fire Safety Division placarded the hotel property for not meeting life safety code



The Wyndham Springfield City Centre closed on March 27 after being damaged by internal flooding. Initial estimates of 90 days to reopen have now been extended to six months. PHOTO BY DEAN OLSEN

standards due to nonworking elevators and outof-service fire alarm and sprinkler systems," the statement read in part.

The release said the Springfield Police Department is investigating the damage to the hotel as potentially "intentional and vandalism." Dahl said the investigation continues.

Wray wrote in a March 28 news release, "We are working hard to resolve the situation as quickly as possible and look forward to welcoming our guests back very soon. As soon as we have more information to share, we will provide an update. In the meantime, we truly appreciate your patience and understanding."

It's unknown how much damage was done and how insurance coverage may play a role in restoration efforts.

Adding to the Wyndham's financial challenges is a lien filed against the property by Springfield-based E.L. Pruitt Co. Pruitt says in its claim, filed with the Sangamon County Recorder's Office on Jan. 6, that the Wyndham owes Pruitt \$386,855 for a temporary chiller and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning services provided in October 2024.

A spokesperson for Pruitt didn't return a phone call seeking comment.

The Wyndham is a key player in the city's tourism and convention industry. Dahl and the staff of his city-operated department had to scramble to help find accommodations and arrange shuttle services for convention-related visitors, but the loss of the Wyndham hasn't resulted in the city losing any conventions in 2025, he said.

Many displaced guests have been able to be

rerouted to the Abraham Lincoln Springfield Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel across the street from the Wyndham, and the Crowne Plaza Springfield Hotel at 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway.

The impact of the Wyndham closure on convention business for 2026 and beyond is less certain, Dahl said.

Springfield has almost 4,000 hotel rooms, with an average annual occupancy rate of 53%, he said. However, Dahl said one of the benefits his agency can pitch for conventions down-

town is the close proximity of the Wyndham, the BOS Center and the Abraham Lincoln hotel, which offers 310 rooms.

The Wyndham's future will play a role in how a potential expansion of the BOS Center is finalized.

Officials from the city, Sangamon County and the publicly controlled convention center received results of a feasibility study in 2024 that recommended doubling the BOS Center's size to capture more convention business that is being lost to venues in other communities.

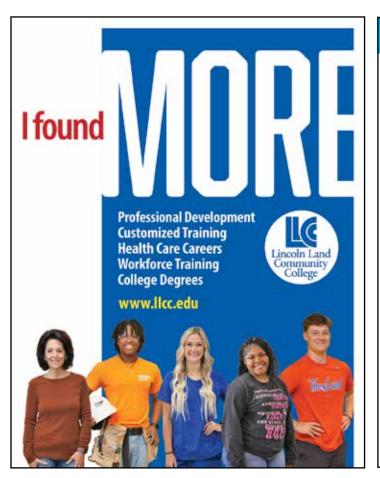
The study also recommended constructing a new 300-bed hotel adjacent to the convention center to maximize the potential of a larger BOS Center. One option floated in the study was tearing down the Wyndham and building the new hotel there.

Rajabi hasn't responded to the city's 2023 offer of potential financial incentives to renovate the hotel. Even before the March incident, it was unclear whether any renovations, or a sale of the property, were being planned, because Rajabi wasn't communicating with city officials.

However, city officials finalized an agreement in January with Rajabi in which he will resume paying rent for use of the city-owned parking lot at 700 E. Monroe St.

Tower Capital bought the hotel from the previous owner for \$7.4 million in 2019 as part of a bankruptcy proceeding. SBJ

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



WOMEN'S EVENT CALENDAR

Illinois Women in Leadership will hold a summer social and annual meeting from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, June. 5. Join us for a "beach party" in the new Trish & Mary's event space in Vinegar Hill Mall.

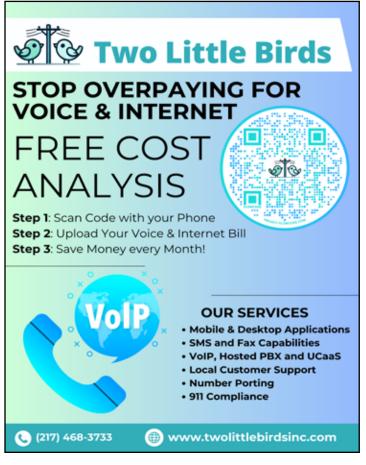
Celebrate our outgoing board president, Nakesha Rice, and incoming board president, Debbie Thompson, as well as all of the outgoing and incoming board members.

Members and guests are welcome. Visit iwil.biz to RSVP or for more information.

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Field of dreams

Indiana business owner wants to put Illinois Sports Hall of Fame in Legacy Pointe

By Adrian Dater

Things are progressing quite nicely with Scheels Sports Park at Legacy Pointe, according to all the principals involved. After years of uncertainty over its viability, a 180,000-square-foot dome is slated to be inflated in the latter part of June, with sports activities expected to start in October. The grand opening of the park's primary money-making business – travel tournaments for multiple youth from multiple states in multiple sports – is on target by March of next year.

Once complete, the development is projected to attract 2 million visitors per year, most of them outof-town traveling teams with kids

and their parents spending two or three nights over the weekend with disposable income at the ready. The view expressed by Steve Luker, a managing member of Legacy Pointe Development, which owns the land at Scheels Sports Park, is that the park will become a "treasure" for Springfield.

"You're going to have just an unbelievable number of people coming to Springfield who probably wouldn't have ventured here," said Luker.

All this tangible optimism is starting to attract interest from others hoping to get in on the action. Legacy Pointe Development still has available land around the sports fields, roughly 50 acres beyond the 70 occupied by the sports facilities, and Indiana businessman Tim Turpin wants a piece.

Turpin hopes to build a 60,000-square-foot Illinois Sports Hall of Fame on the grounds of the park, which would occupy four or five of the available acres. The ISHOF would house artifacts and exhibits on great players and teams from Illinois, from high school to the pros. The way Turpin sees it, sports-inclined visitors need more than just the tournament games at Scheels Sports Park to fill their time for a weekend, so why not pay \$10 a head to see genuine memorabilia from Michael Jordan, Walter Payton or Ernie Banks, or get a picture with a Jordan statue out front?

There are a lot of brick-and-mortar sports halls of fame out there – even Springfield has one, soon to be ensconced in the new city transportation hub currently under construction on Ninth Street – but there is none for a state version for Illinois. To get the proposed venture off to a good start marketing-wise, Turpin has organized a twonight banquet for the first inductees to the ISHOF,



A schematic drawing of Scheels Sports Park at Legacy Pointe looks north of the Scheels sporting goods store, with the future site of a 180,000-square-foot air structure depicted at top right. It is slated to be inflated by the end of June, and the complex will begin hosting sporting events in October. DRAWING COURTESY OF THE SPORTS FACILITIES COMPANIES

June 13-14, at the BOS Center in downtown Springfield.

Inductees who will speak include, among others, legendary Chicago Bears defensive lineman Dan Hampton, Cincinnati Bengals quarterback and Batavia native Ken Anderson, Markham native Denny McClain – the last Major Leaguer to win 30 games in a season – and DePaul basketball star Terry Cummings. Famous Illinois sports stars coming to Springfield for banquets and inductions are one of the main selling points Turpin has for the proposed project, which he estimates would cost \$7.5 million to do right.

Turpin, a Hall of Fame former semi-pro baseball player (yes, there is such a HOF), says he wants to create "The Cooperstown of the Midwest," referring to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in New York. Turpin and his company, GEBHOF Sports Hall of Fame, have incorporated other state HOFs in Indiana and Ohio, but none of the proposed projects have yet to result in shovels in the dirt.

"If somebody gives us the land, we'll raise the money for it," said Turpin, whose company's bread-and-butter is selling sponsored bricks and other exhibits around Halls of Fame. "These kids and their parents need something to do when they're not playing games. And that's what the attraction is for Springfield."

How will the \$7.5 million be raised? That's what Luker and Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau director Scott Dahl would like to know. A late May meeting between Turpin and Luker is in the works, and Turpin has had a few informal discussions with Dahl.

"We'd love to have one in the capital city. It would be a nice addition to our other attractions," Dahl said. "I'm not sure it'd be a destination,

but when people are considering Springfield, we try to tie as many things together as possible. Having an Illinois Sports Hall of Fame right here in the capital city could not hurt. We'd welcome it if we could get it done."

While Dahl said locating the ISHOF in Legacy Pointe would create a "built-in audience," he's open to other possibilities if it makes the project more feasible.

"If you have trouble with that \$7.5 million, maybe there's a downtown space? We're still waiting to see what will happen with the Wyndham (hotel). Downtown will feel (the effects of) Scheels Sports Park at

Legacy Pointe no matter what," he said. "This will branch out and touch all parts of the city."

Dahl described the Scheels Sports Park as "an amazing deal for the city," noting that the city doesn't have to own or operate it.

"We're giving up 2% of the hotel tax and 1% of the sales tax, only at Legacy Pointe," he said. "We're providing the incentives as long as the facility is open."

What kind of incentives Turpin can wrangle from the city remains to be seen. But with his Indiana country twang and good-ole-boy demeanor, Turpin has, at least, an inviting vision for a building in Springfield. If it's built, will they come? That is the nagging question, as Turpin's visions are only that right now. There is no proof that any of his proposed state sports Hall of Fames can be a moneymaker.

Luker, at least for now, is willing to listen to more of Turpin's ideas.

"We're in favor of any project coming to Springfield that's for the betterment of the community. Anything that would enhance or promote the sports complex, we're more than happy to sit down at the table when the time is right, to see if there's a home for him out at Legacy, and if it makes sense," Luker said. "But it hasn't even gotten to the starting block with us. It's a dream at this point. That being said, that's how the sports complex started."

Adrian Dater, a longtime former sportswriter in Denver and author of seven books, moved to Springfield in 2023 to get his first taste of life in the Midwest. He can be reached at adater@comcast.net.

	NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE/EMAIL	NUMBER OF ROOMS	NUMBER OF MEETING ROOMS	ROOM RATE SINGLE/DOUBLE	GENERAL MANAGER
1	President Abraham Lincoln Springfield - A DoubleTree by Hilton 701 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-544-8800 dtspringfieldil.com	310	18	\$109 - \$299	Christi Rios
2	Crowne Springfield Convention Center 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-7777 cpspringfield.com	288	32	\$109 - \$229	Holly Smith
3	Holiday Inn Express 3050 S. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-7771 hiexpress.com	140	2	\$89 - \$165 (2 suites)	Holly Smith
4	State House Inn 101 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-528-5100 statehouse-inn.com frontdesk@statehouse-inn.com	125	6	\$110 - \$220	Ella White
5	Mainstay Suites, Extended Stay by Choice Hotels 3185 S. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-1100 extendedstayamerica.com	109	0	\$86 - \$199 (\$342/week)	Ben Anthony
6	Drury Inn & Suites 3180 S. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-3900 druryhotels.com	116	0	\$99 - \$210	Miranda Bergman
6	Hilton Garden Inn Springfield 3100 S. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-7171 springfieldil.gardeninn.com	117	7	\$129 - \$250 (13 suites)	Lenee Pilkington
7	Candlewood Suites 2501 Sunrise Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-522-5100 candlewoodsuites.com gm.cwsuites@gmail.com	110	1	\$125 - \$150	Justin Roesch
8	Residence Inn Springfield South 2915 Stanford Ave. Springfield, IL 62703	217-527-1100 marriott.com/spiri	108	1	\$169 - \$249	Mark Vanhala
9	Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center 3280 Northfield Drive Springfield, IL 62702	217-523-7900 northfieldinn.com	105	8	\$109 - \$169	Tony Curtis
10	Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center 625 E. Saint Joseph St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-6626 rt66hotel.com route66hotel@gmail.com	103	4	\$72 - \$249 (10 suites)	DND
11	Motel 6 6011 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62712	217-529-1633 motel6spf@gmail/com	101	0	Based on availability	DND
12	Ramada Springfield North 3281 Northfield Drive Springfield, IL 62702	217-523-4000 springfieldramada.com mikegrant@springfieldramada.com	97	2	Based on availability	Mike Grant
13	Hampton Inn & Suites 2300 Chuckwagon Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-793-7670 hamptoninn.com	83	1	Based on availabilty	Phyllis DeRosear
14	Staybridge Suites 4231 Schooner Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-793-6700 staybridge.com	82	1	\$100 - \$200 (all-suite hotel)	Phyllis DeRosear
15	Comfort Inn & Suites 3675 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-8898 comfortinn.com	80	1	\$90 - \$160	Sarah Dietrich
15	SpringHill Suites Springfield Southwest 3921 MacArthur Boulevard Springfield, IL 62711	217-789-0000 Marriott.com/SPISH	80	2	\$169-\$249	Darin Dame
16	Courtyard By Marriott Springfield 3462 Freedom Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-793-5300 marriott.com/en-us/hotels/spicy	78	1	\$134-\$499	Nathan Biermann

EVENT VENUE LIST

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

212 N. Sixth St. 217-558-8873 presidentlincoln.illinois.gov

Arlington's

210 Broadway St. 217-679-6235 arlingtonsspi.com

Camp Widjiwagan

71 Wienold Lane 888-623-1237 widjievents@girlscouts-gsci.org

Columbian Grand Hall Event Venue

2200 S. Meadowbrook Road 217-787-2360

Crowne Plaza Hotel

3000 S. Dirksen Parkway 217-529-7777 cpspringfield.com

Edwards Place

700 N. Fourth St. 217-523-2631 springfieldart.org edwardsplace.org

Firefighters / Postal Lake Club

940 W. Lake Shore Drive 217-691-6472 www.fflc37.com

Hilton Garden Inn

3100 S. Dirksen Parkway 217-529-7171

Hoogland Center for the Arts

420 S. Sixth St. 217-523-2787 hcfta.org

Illinois State Fairgrounds

801 Sangamon Ave. Springfield https://statefair.illinois.gov/non-fairevents/facilities.html

Inn at 835

835 S. Second St. 217-523-4466 innat835.com

Lake Springfield Beach House

101 Long Bay Drive 217-757-8660, ext. 1095 lakereservations@cwlp.com

Legacy Theatre

101 E. Lawrence Ave. 217-528-9760 AtTheLegacy.com

Lincoln Memorial Garden

2301 East Lake Shore Drive 217-529-1111 lincolnmemorialgarden.org joel@lincolnmemorialgarden.org

Long Bridge Golf Course

1055 W. Camp Sangamo Road 217-744-8311 longbridgegc.com

Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center

3280 Northfield Drive 217-523-7900 northfieldinn.com

Panther Creek Country Club

3001 Panther Creek Drive 217-546-4431 panthercreekcc.com bjesh@panthercreekcc.com

Piper Glen Golf and Social Club

7112 Piper Glen Drive 217-483-6537 piperglen.com

Poe's Catering

295 East Andrew Road 217-487-7601 poescatering.com

Pole Barn Chic

4491 Old Chatham Road 217-685-7389 polebarnchic.com

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

701 E. Adams St. 217-321-2433 dtspringfieldil.com spias_ds@hilton.com

Rail Golf Course

1400 S. Club House Drive 217-525-0365 mary@railgolf.com

Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center

625 E. St. Joseph St. 217-529-6626 rt66hotel.com

Springfield Park District

South Grand Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard 217-544-1751 springfieldparkdistrict.org

State House Inn

101 W. Adams St. 217-528-5100 thestatehouseinn.com

The Brinkerhoff Mansion

1500 N. Fifth St. 217-361-5555 Thebrinkerhoffmansion.com

The Pasfield House

525 S. Pasfield St. 217-670-2449 Pasfieldhouse.com

Venue 1929

711 S. Fifth St. 217-899-5688 or 217-899-9061 venue1929.com

VFW Post 755

2211 Old Jacksonville Road 217-546-9515 or 217-836-6032

Surrounding area

Bullard's 311 South Sixth

311 South East Sixth, Morrisonville 217-827-0587 cbullard1957@yahoo.com bullardslonghouse.com

Clavville Historic Site

12828 State Route 125, Pleasant Plains 217-481-4430 clayville.org

Edgewood Golf Club

16497 Kennedy Road, Auburn 217-438-6131 golfedgewood.com

Elkhart Hill Farm

4 Drake Lane, Elkhart 217-523-4466 ElkhartHillFarm.com

Hamilton's at 110 North East

110 N. East St., Jacksonville 217-675-2720 hamiltonscatering.com info@hamiltonscatering.com

Hamilton's at the Lake

2244 4-H Club Road, Jacksonville 217-675-2720 hamiltonscatering.com info@hamiltonscatering.com

Hill Prairie Winery

23753 Lounsberry Road, Oakford 217-635-9900 hillprairiewinery.com.

The Homestead

Northwest of Springfield on I-97 in Tallula 217-502-0019 homesteadreceptioncenter.com

Paul's Paradise

12430 State Route 125, Pleasant Plains 217-971-7876 paulsparadise@mail.com

Prairie View Reception Center

8865 State Route 4, Chatham 217-483-7999 prairieviewreception.com

Oak Terrace Resort

100 Beyers Lake Estates, Pana 217-539-4477 koltmanns@oakterraceresort.com

RiverBank Lodge

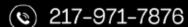
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Nelson's Catering celebrates 30 years

By David Blanchette



Left to right: President, Josh Lindvall, Operations Manager, John Bale, Sales Manager, Mindy Beeler, Catering Services Manager, Margo Maynerich and Wedding Coordinator, Wanda Croxton. PHOTO BY DAVE BLANCHETTE

Nelson's Catering of Springfield was founded in 1995 and began operations from the back of the Williamsville IGA, using a single pickup truck with a camper top to service clients. The business has grown substantially from its humble beginnings and is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a new barbecue menu, online ordering and a continued commitment to the company motto: "experience is everything."

"We now average about 100 events per week, and over the years we have transformed into a company that can do everything from basic barbecue to a full, sit-down event," said Josh Lindvall, president of the company. "We are working hard to be Springfield's best homegrown, full-service catering company. We've done parties as small as 20 people all the way up to serving 7,500 at a single event."

Nelson's is based in northern Indiana, and Lindvall and his father, Doug, bought the franchise for the Springfield area in 1995 from the founder, Nelson Gongwer. The local Nelson's franchise services all areas within a two-hour radius of Springfield and now has its own complex on Springfield's west side and a fleet of 25 vehicles. It employs 15 full-time and up to 75 part-time workers.

At first the Nelson's Catering menu was pretty basic, offering half chickens (still Lindvall's favorite), baked beans, potatoes and salad. Now the company offers full-course gourmet meals as well as its signature barbecue, which is still prepared in founder Nelson Gongwer's patented, stainless-steel rotisserie grill. For the 30th anniversary, Nelson's is also debuting online ordering as well as new barbecue styles such as Memphis, Carolina

and other regional favorites.

Getting all of that food prepared and on its way is a task overseen by operations manager John Bale.

"We need to get everything situated and ready to go when the day of the event arrives, start the loading process and make sure each event has the food and equipment it needs," said Bale, whose favorite Nelson's recipe is beef tenderloin with bourbon peppercorn sauce. "Then everything comes out of the oven and off the grill, and the catering staff takes over and gets it all to the event."

If you think that scene has the makings of a chaotic ballet, you would be right.

"It's pretty hectic; there's a lot going on, it's very fast-paced and requires a lot of teamwork," Bale said. "But everybody jumps in to help, and



Left to right: Catering Services Manager, Margo Maynerich, Wedding Coordinator, Wanda Croxton, Sales Manager, Mindy Beeler, President, Josh Lindvall and Operations Manager, John Bale. PHOTO BY DAVE BLANCHETTE

those busy days go by pretty quickly."

Sales manager Mindy Beeler, who also likes the beef tenderloin with bourbon peppercorn sauce, has had several roles at Nelson's since joining the firm in 2007. She helped implement employee-training programs, worked in the catering division and now leads the event-planning team.

"We have a great formula and great people; our service and food are top-notch," Beeler said. "We want to be the caterer that wows the customer. We use our experience to talk to each customer about what we can do for them, and we are willing to do just about anything."

A good example of that willingness is the

biennial Farm Progress Show in Decatur, which is coming up in late August.

"That's about a month's worth of catering in just three days," Beeler said. "We have been able to adapt as the event keeps growing larger, adding more golf carts, more food, more people and more happy customers."

Beeler said that Nelson's added a higher-end menu about 10 years ago in order to accommodate a more diverse clientele.

"When it comes to catering in Springfield, you'd better be pretty diversified," Beeler said. "You can't just be a barbecue or a boutique caterer, you have to be able to please everybody. So we have this other, higher-end menu with service levels that are up a notch for places like the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum."

The actual on-site event experience is the forte of catering services manager Margo Maynerich, who likes Nelson's meatless lasagna and also has a commitment to make sure each client receives the food and experience they desire.

"When I schedule staff, I try to make sure each team has what it needs," Maynerich said. "You might need a good lifter to carry items, a speedy person who can quickly get to all areas of the venue and seasoned people to show newer staff how things are done."

Maynerich also makes sure that potential food

allergies are addressed before each event.

"That's a huge issue right now, and I probably get six such special requests every weekend," Maynerich said.

Nelson's sweet potatoes and pork loin are the favorite items for wedding coordinator Wanda Croxton, who makes sure that everything is perfect for the couple's big day.

"This will likely be the most important day of their lives up to this point, so this is a big deal to me because it's a big deal to them," Croxton said. "We provide the most exceptional service and make sure the menu features food the couple wants, that everyone is going to like and will be well-suited for the event."

Like all of Nelson's employees, compliments are Croxton's greatest reward.

"We love to hear people come up and say, 'The food and service were so good, we loved everything," Croxton said. "That is an amazing feeling."

Three years ago, Lindvall bought his brother out and started to give ownership of Nelson's Catering to key staff members, including all of those quoted in this article.

"I think that's the key to growth and the longevity of the company," Lindvall said. "We are excited about what the next 30 years will bring."



Operations manager, John Bale, working the grill. PHOTO BY DAVE BLANCHETTE

CATERERS & FOOD TRUCKS

NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE/EMAIL	OWNER(S)	MIN/MAX SERVED	PRICE RANGE PER PERSON	YEAR EST'D
Arena Food Service, Inc. 3086 Normandy Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-698-2944 arenafoodservice.com info@arenafoodservice.com	Shaun Moore Sherri Madonia	25-5,000	varies	1985
Bloom Hospitality & Catering 1012 W. Iles Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-825-0836 bloomcaters.com info@bloomcaters.com	Gabi Thompson John Huffman	25-1,000	varies	2023
Conn's Hospitality & Events	217-523-4466 connscatering.net angiec@connshg.com	Karen and Court Conn	Any size group	All events individually quoted	1947
Cured Catering 10076 Old Route 36 Dawson, IL 62520	217-391-2380 curedcaters.com curedcaters@gmail.com	Brian and Melissa Reilly	25-1,000	varies	2017
Emerald's Eats 713 W. Seventh St., Riverton IL 62561	217-971-1538 emeraldseats.com marisa@emeraldseats.com	Marisa DeLay	Up to 500	varies	2022
Fulgenzi's Catering 2700 W. Lawrence Ave., Suite T Springfield, IL 62704	217-971-7517 fulgenziscatering@gmail.com www.fulgenziscatering.com	John John Fulgenzi	1-3000	\$15-\$40	1997
Hamilton's Catering 101 Main St. Franklin, IL 62638	217-675-2720 hamiltonscatering.com info@hamiltonscatering.com	Kyle Hamilton Gina Hamilton	30-5,000	\$16 and up	1913
Holmestyle Catering Online	217-638-8400 markyholmes69@gmail.com	Marcus and Allie Holmes	2-400	Varies	2017
Hy-Vee 2115 S. MacArthur Boulevard Springfield, IL 62704	217-726-1006 1640cateringmgr@hy-vee.com Hy-vee.com	Hy-Vee	Any size group	All events individually quoted	2014



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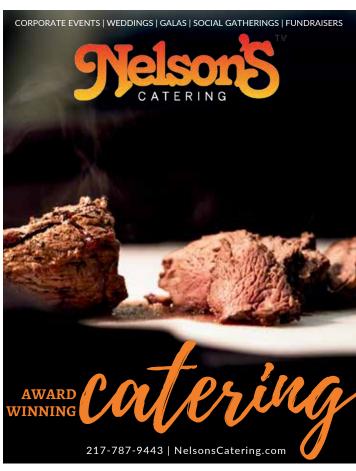
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Irie Jerk Chicken Truck	217-820-3722 www.facebook.com/jamaicanmehungry876 kiddwilliam1961@gmail.com	Wayne Kidd	Any size group	\$5-20	2017
Just The Basics Mobile Bar 231 E. Walnut St. Chatham, IL 62629	217-381-8108 JTBmobilebar.com info@jtbmobilebar.com	Madison Regan	25-5,000	\$12+	2017
MJ's Fish and Chicken Express 716 E. Enos St. Springfield, IL 62702	716 E. Enos St. (2014)003		50-300	\$12-\$15	2016
Nelson's Catering 3005 Great Northern Road Springfield, IL 62711	005 Great Northern Road Nelsonscatering.com		25-10,000	Varies per event	1995
Poe's Catering 295 E. Andrew Road Springfield, IL 62707	Andrew Road poescatering.com		20-10,000	\$15.95 and up	1998
Robert's Seafood Market & Catering 1615 W. Jefferson St. Springfield, IL 62702	W. Jefferson St. www.robertsseafoodmarket.com		Depends on the event	\$15 and up	1916
Soul Shack 2800 S. Walnut Springfield, IL 62704	S. Walnut 217-691-1795		20-200	varies	2019
TaDa! Catering	217-549-3219 tadacateringandevents.com tadacateringevents@gmail.com	Chelsey Ziebler	Up to 200	varies	2022
Twyford BBQ & Catering	217-370-2274 ord BBQ & Catering twyfordbbq.com randy@twyfordbbq.com		Any size group	All events individually quoted	2008

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New networking groups

By Adrian Dater

The Springfield area has a wide variety of networking groups, some based on specific industries and others open to anyone. Networking groups are about connections between individuals and businesses for the exchanging of ideas, information and resources. They are a platform for career development and business growth.

Jeff Dillman, general manager of Masco Packaging & Industrial Supply and founder of Land of Lincoln Professional Networking Group, believes businesses that share best-practice ideas can ultimately lead to better outcomes for all, which is why he started LLPNG in early April with a goal to "empower locally owned businesses through meaningful connections, referrals and shared opportunities."

In a recent conversation, Dillman emphasized the word "local" and stressed that for a networking group to be successful it has to be more business than pleasure. He said, "I wanted our (networking group) to be a little different. No happy hour meetings. No food, no drinks – simply, let's roll up our sleeves, and let's work instead of socializing. Let's network and get out of here in an hour."

Dillman remarked that his networking group is off to a great start. "So far, it's booming. They're doing a really good job of using each other's services."

Dillman was thrilled with the turnout of the first meeting. "At our first meeting, we had over 65 businesses attend, and right now we're up to 78" for the second meeting. He explained that in the initial stage, the group is getting to know about each other's businesses so they'll know best how to refer business within the group. Dillman explained that he has sat on boards and belonged to other groups where the idea of networking like this was discussed so he finally decided to give it a go. "But I didn't expect it to take off like it has. It's clear that people wanted a different concept, and that's what we've done," said Dillman.

The LLPNG's conditions to join the group are: it has to be a local business only (no chains, no franchises), a \$10 fee is required to attend each meeting and members must bring two referrals.

"At the end of the quarter, we're going to take \$1,000 and donate it to a local charity," Dillman said. "The other thing is, we're not soliciting. We're having people find us. I felt that if they find us, they're going to have a little more ambition in meeting for this (purpose). People are recommending people, one after another."

Dillman gave the example of a man who runs a wildlife abatement business. "He needed a new roof, so we put him together with the roofing guy we have, then he needed painting, so we put him with the painting guy. We want local businesses to work together and for local businesses to stay open."

For more information on the group, visit www.llpng.com.



New name but same goal

From 1977 to earlier this year, Women in Communications, a national networking group, operated a chapter in Springfield. Recently, however, the national organization dissolved, but the Springfield chapter of WIC lives on with a new name: Mid-Illinois Communications Association.

Michelle Eccles McLaughlin, director of MICA, said the name change made sense because, even though men could join WIC previously, "most weren't aware or thought they couldn't." The stated mission of MICA is "to provide a platform and support for professionals in the industry to connect, collaborate and grow."

The communications industry, be it print or

electronic media, public relations and more, has been transformed in the internet age and now by artificial intelligence.

To that end, some of MICA's upcoming meetings will focus on making the best use of AI for businesses in the field.

On July 2, MICA will host an event at 1 Horace Mann Plaza, Navigating a Generational Shift Among Journalists, with Investigate Midwest executive director Erin Orr as the featured speaker.

MICA's description of the event reads: "Change is inevitable, but the shifts in how new journalists gather, report, write and publish news has changed dramatically in the last 5-10 years. Why? It isn't just the advent of generative Al. The way much of society communicates has

shifted to text and instant messaging. . . . so, just how do newsroom and communications leaders close the divide between younger and early career journalists based on their established expectations and practices?"

McLaughlin, public relations account manager at Horace Mann and morning show host at NPR Illinois, said MICA is growing with more men joining.

"There are just so many forms of communications out there, and it became apparent to us that we needed to have more of a local organization and local focus," McLaughlin said.

For more information, visit www. midilcommunications.org.

NETWORKING GROUPS

	NAME MEETING ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE & EMAIL	MEETING TIME	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	CONTACT	DUES	YEAR EST'D
1	RISE Springfield Event locations vary	217-525-1173 ext. 207 gscc.org/RISE RISE@gscc.org	See website for event info	600+	Olivia Lohse	No dues	2023
2	Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL) Illini Country Club 1601 Illini Road Springfield, IL 62704	iwil.biz info@iwil.biz	Third Thursday of each month	300	Debbie Thompson	\$80 annually	2004
3	Central Illinois Customer Service Association Event locations vary	cilcsa.org smile@cilcsa.org	6-8 networking events per year.	250	Michael Thomas	\$100 individual, \$500 corporate	2015
4	Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI) Meeting location varies	217-572-1884 wecispringfield.org wildroseartisans@gmail.com	Second Wednesday of each month	70	Monica Zanetti	\$75 annually	2010
5	Mid-Illinois Communications Association Meeting location varies	awcspringfield.org brandyrenfro@gmail.com	Meeting days and times vary	45	Brandy Renfro	\$25 plus national dues, various membership categories	1977
6	Capitol Area Networkers (CAN) Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County, South Sixth Street	217-313-0580 sarsanysells@yahoo.com	First and third Tuesday 8:30 a.m.	27	Deb Sarsany	No dues	2018
7	League of Our Own Toastmasters Club Springfield Urban League, Inc. 100 N. 11th St. Springfield, IL 62703	1179206.toastmastersclubs.org cullen_watkins@yahoo.com	Second and fourth Friday 11:30 a.m.	16	Cullen Watkins	\$12.50 monthly New members \$20	2008
8	McBrian Lincoln-Douglas Toastmasters Club 3040 S. Lincoln Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-8624 mcbrianlincoln.toast- mastersclubs.org randaln1@yahoo.com	Thursdays 6 p.m.	15	Nate Randall	Six months \$66 international new member \$20	1936
8	Capital City Toastmasters IDOT Building (Hanley Building) 2300 Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62764 Currently meeting on Zoom or in person	217-210-0185 1313356.toastmastersclubs.org president-1313356@toast- mastersclubs.org	Wednesdays 12 p.m.	15	Bridget Ingebrigtsen	Six months \$75 12 months \$135	2009
9	Noontime Toastmasters Club #7316 Laurel United Methodist Church 631 South Grand Ave. W., Room 201 Springfield, IL 62704	312-618-1948 noontime.toastmastersclubs. com	Mondays 12 p.m.	9	Linda Leasman	Six months \$68 International new member \$20	1998

The lurking danger of legacy liability

By Thomas C. Pavlik Jr.

One would think that when purchasing a business through an asset sale, a seller's legacy liabilities stay with the seller and don't attach to the buyer. In most instances that's true. The purchaser of a business asset is not going to be on the hook for existing liabilities connected to the assets. But there are significant exceptions to that general rule. If the uninformed business purchaser is not careful, he or she can potentially be subject to unwanted legal consequences through a concept known as legacy liability. Also commonly referred to as successor liability, legacy liability can easily be foisted on the unwary or ill-advised business purchaser.

Business acquisition 101

The average person is unaware that acquiring a business is not as simple as Elon Musk cutting a large check to Twitter in a moment of rich-guy spontaneity. Business purchases involve a lot of paperwork, and with good reason.

Business acquisitions come in two general flavors – asset purchases and stock purchases.

A stock purchase is where the purchaser buys an ownership interest in the business itself. Such a transaction necessarily includes indirect acquisition of an ownership of the assets held by the business at the time of the purchase. Because a stock purchase entails buying into an ownership share of the actual business, it usually entails the transfer of preexisting liabilities held by the business, which are obviously things a seller is happy to transfer. Notably, the acquisition of legacy liability by a stock purchaser is a natural part of the process and is something the purchaser knows going into the

In contrast to a stock purchase agreement, an asset-purchase agreement does not consist of buying into the business. Rather, it is simply the purchase of the assets held by a business such as machinery, intellectual property or customer lists. Unlike a stock purchase, in an asset purchase the seller retains ownership interest in the business after the transaction is complete, along with any legacy liabilities.

The law's take on asset purchasers and legacy liability

Under Illinois law, there are four ways a business purchaser can be subject to legacy liability in an asset purchase. A simple way for a business purchaser to avoid this problem would be to ask four basic questions prior to entering into an asset purchase agreement:

- 1. Does the asset-purchase agreement expressly or impliedly state an assumption of liability?
- 2. Could the transaction reasonably be considered a de facto business consolidation or merger?
- 3. Is the asset-purchase agreement structured so that you are merely a new hat for the seller?
- 4. Is the seller presently involved in litigation, being contacted by creditors or does it appear to be in financial turmoil?

This is straightforward, since you simply need to read the actual language of the purchase agreement to see if there is anything about inheritance of the seller's legal liabilities. Illinois courts interpret contracts by examining the "plain and ordinary meaning" of the language used in the document. This means that if there is language in an asset-purchase agreement that explicitly states (or very strongly implies) a transfer of liability, you should expect to be on the hook if you signed the document. Sometimes buyers agree to take on certain liabilities – accounts payable or certain employee obligations are common examples.

That being said, not many people outside of lawyers can sift through lengthy contracts without falling asleep from boredom. By design, it is often easy to overlook detrimental language, even if it is plainly stated in the agreement. Although it is customary for business acquisitions such as asset purchases to involve lawyers on both ends, any purchaser who thinks themselves capable of proceeding without counsel in their corner would be ill-advised. At the very least, purchasers should have an experienced attorney read over the assetpurchase agreement to see if there is any whiff of legacy liability, especially if the seller has a lawyer on their side.

A de facto merger occurs when the business buyer and seller style the deal as an asset purchase, but the substance of the transaction resembles a merger or a consolidation of the two entities. Even though this question is more of a deterrent applicable to those looking to commit fraud rather than looking to purchase assets, it

should be on every business purchaser's radar.

The bottom line is that just because a business sale is called an asset-purchase agreement or is structured to appear as one, it does not itself make the transaction an asset-purchase agreement. Such a transaction can be unwound, and, worse yet, under those circumstances an unsuspecting buyer could possibly find themselves at the mercy of legacy liability.

Does the asset-purchase agreement state something to the effect of the seller's same employees will continue to use the same assets, with the same management, to produce the same product at their preexisting location? If so, you might be in trouble.

This exception to the general rule that a buyer is not responsible for the liabilities of a seller is the one that poses the greatest risk. Courts look at whether the transaction is a continuation or reincarnation of the seller. And part of that analysis looks at the ownership and management of the purchaser compared to the ownership and management of the seller. If there is great similarity, it's likely that a court will allow successor liability. Also, if any language in an asset-purchase agreement enables the seller to retain access to the assets it is purportedly selling to you, there is no shame in walking away. Again, experienced counsel should be able to advise you on these types of traps.

Whereas I suggested that a business-asset purchaser looking to avoid legacy liability should walk away in the previous scenario, this would be where running would be the better option. And that's all the more true if there's even a hint that the transaction is designed to defraud creditors. No further explanation is necessary here other than my advice for buyers to avoid the temptation of any discounted prices offered by a seller, no matter how alluring they may be.

These four issues are why, in part, assetpurchase agreements can be so lengthy. But that language is there to protect you. Do it right and seek out experienced legal counsel to assist you.



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MEDICAL NEWS

New HSHS Central Illinois Market President and CEO



PHOTO COURTESY HSHS

Hospital Sisters Health System has named Brian Brennan HSHS Central Illinois Market President and CEO. In addition to his market role, Brennan will also serve as the president and CEO of HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield. He will join HSHS on May 27.

In this role, Brennen will oversee strategic and financial operations at HSHS ministries in the Central Illinois Market. In addition to HSHS St. John's Hospital, hospitals in this market include HSHS St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur; HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, Effingham; HSHS St. Francis Hospital, Litchfield; and HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital, Shelbyville.

Brennan brings more than 20 years of executive experience leading regional health care systems as well as community and rural hospitals and clinics within integrated delivery networks. He has led transformational growth focusing on patient-centered care, developed innovative delivery models and built collaborative relationships with medical teams to establish high-quality care systems. He joins HSHS from Baylor Scott and White Healthcare in Texas,

where he served as chief operating officer of the Greater Austin Region in Austin. Prior to that, he served as system vice president and COO of the UT Health East Texas Medical Center in Tyler.

Brenann is board-certified in health care management from the American College of Healthcare Executives and has a master of healthcare administration from the University of South Florida, Tampa, and a bachelor of science in nuclear medicine technology from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

"I am excited to be returning to the Midwest and serving with a health system with such a rich history of service and caring, and offering my support in delivering high-quality, compassionate care to the patients served by HSHS," Brennan said. "I am also looking forward to becoming an active member of the Springfield community by getting involved with many of the local organizations."

He and his wife, Emilee, will be relocating to Springfield in the coming weeks.

Memorial Health names Drew Early as COO



PHOTO COURTESY SPRINGFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Memorial Health has named Drew Early as its Chief Operating Officer, a newly created position that reflects the health system's continued evolution.

Early, who currently serves as CEO of Decatur Memorial Hospital, will assume responsibilities as COO while continuing to lead DMH until a new CEO is appointed. In this new role, he will partner with Memorial Health President and CEO, Mandy Eaton, to oversee system operations and drive greater alignment across all hospitals and services.

"Drew's strong operational background, deep institutional knowledge, and commitment to our mission make him the ideal choice for this role," Eaton said. "We're confident his leadership will strengthen the system's ability to deliver excellent care across the communities we serve."

Early became DMH's CEO in October 2019 and has been with Memorial Health since 2006. Previously, he served as vice president of operations at Springfield Memorial Hospital. He also has served as administrator of emergency medical services and cardiovascular services, as well as director of business development and support.

He earned a master's degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and a bachelor of science degree in healthcare systems administration from Ferris University in Big Rapids, Michigan.

Early was named one of Springfield Business Journal's Forty Under 40 in 2009.





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They work hard for the money

So you better get compensation right

By Kelly Gust

I recently worked with a 30-person information-technology firm based here in central Illinois to benchmark its compensation and time off package. Working on this project and needing to strike the right notes from a compensation perspective had me humming songs about money, like the Donna Summer classic, "She Works Hard for the Money." Just for fun, I wove some of the other money-related song references through this article. Enjoy.

At the start of the project, the firm was just emerging from a year-long slump in profits and knew its people were overdue for meaningful pay increases. However, even though the bottom line was improving, the business couldn't afford to overdo it. This company had long participated in the Great Places to Work survey, and although it scored well in areas such as culture, manager relationships and work-life balance, leaders knew from reviewing survey results that employees had money on their minds.

If your organization is looking at pay adjustments, here are some tips to help you avoid overpaying, underpaying or losing top talent to companies who know that money talks.

Use fresh, reliable data: Market conditions shift fast. Make sure you're using up-to-date, industry-relevant compensation surveys or platforms.

Play the market: In addition to looking at compensation survey data, search for comparable jobs in your area; it's important to know what moneymaking opportunities your staff will see if they hop on Indeed.



Compare like for like: Go beyond titles – be a gold digger and dig into responsibilities, level and geography. A marketing manager in New York is not the same as one in Springfield. For that matter, no two Springfields are even alike.

Balance external data with internal equity:

Sure, it's only money, but fairness within your team matters just as much as competitiveness outside it. Benchmarking should support pay equity, not undermine it.

Understand the position's value: Benchmarking isn't just a numbers game – it's a strategy discussion. Know which job titles are your money makers, and if you had \$1 million, know where you would adjust your price tag for your positions accordingly. Companies also don't want to give away money for nothing to lower-value positions that don't directly impact the bottom line or customer satisfaction.

Consider the total picture: Base pay isn't the only thing employees value. Time is money too, and you can adjust other compensation levers such as paid time of and bonuses, as well as health plan and retirement plan contributions.

Update regularly: Set a schedule – annually or biannually – to revisit compensation and adjust as needed. Pay expectations evolve quickly, especially in high-growth sectors where in-demand employees wanna be rich.

So how did things turn out for the IT firm? We benchmarked base pay using two different data sources and found com-

parable jobs posted on Indeed and LinkedIn. Using that data, we established minimum, maximum and mid-point pay bands for each position. Then, with stakeholder input, we prioritized the most high-value positions and those with the largest pay gaps. We established a plan for the adjustments, with proper messaging and timing. Employees also received a total compensation statement, reminding them of the complete value of their pay and benefits package. While the employees knew that it wasn't easy money, they were very appreciative that they just got paid. The company's Great Places to Work survey will launch in a few weeks, and the managers are expecting top scores.

Sure, money can't buy me love, but getting compensation right will help your business attract top talent and keep them happy, too. Transparency, fairness and competitiveness go hand in hand. If you haven't reviewed your compensation strategy recently, maybe now's the time to shake your money maker and review your company's pay and benefits.





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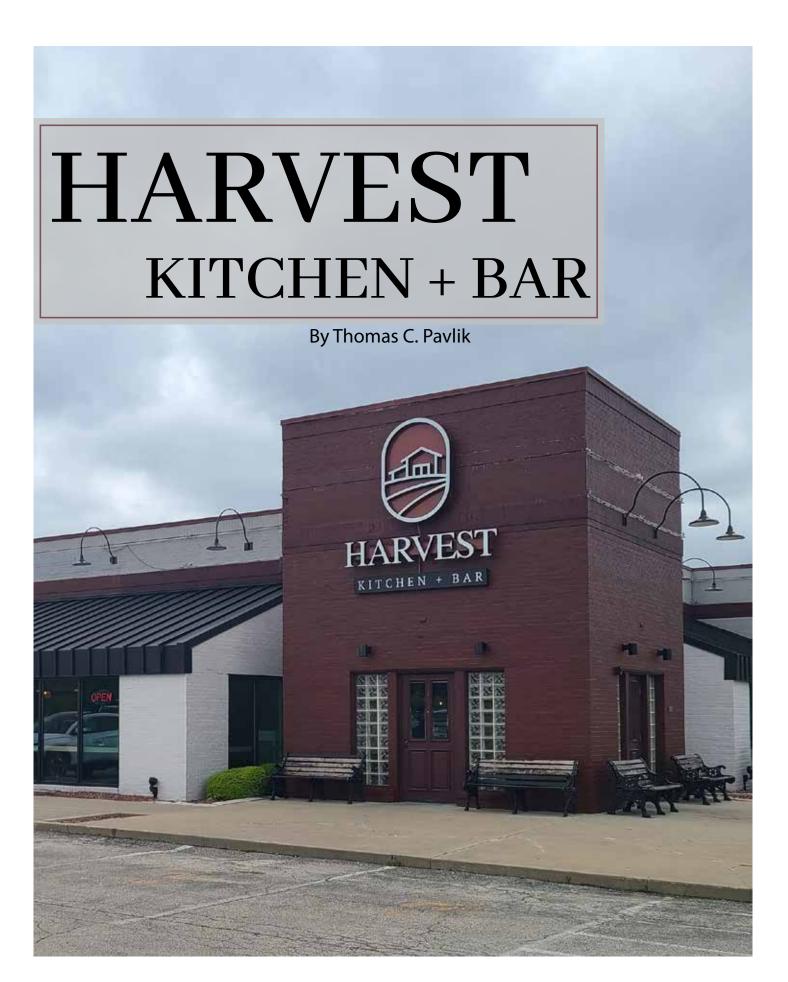


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Located in Prairie Crossing in the former Sweet Basil Café, Harvest Kitchen + Bar offers a contemporary dining experience that seamlessly blends tradition with innovation. Its lunch menu features a variety of dishes that cater to diverse palates, each crafted with care and attention to detail.

Odette Yobal, a fresh-faced 19-year-old, is Harvest's co-owner along with her mother, Vivian Domingues. Yobal changed the interior and exterior color schemes so that the overall design now embraces a rustic-chic aesthetic, characterized by the use of natural materials and earthy tones. Exposed brick walls and reclaimed wood elements add texture and warmth to the space, while modern lighting fixtures provide a contemporary touch. There's plenty of seating, spaced out far enough that diners can hold private conversations.

Although it initially opened just for breakfast, lunch and brunch, Harvest now offers dinner as well via a separate menu. The restaurant also has a liquor license now, so whether you want a mimosa with brunch or a drink with dinner, there is an expansive drink menu with both alcoholic and mocktail options.

My guests and I arrived early in the lunch window and were quickly seated. Our server immediately appeared and took our orders. By the time she returned, we were ready to dive right in.

I decided to go with the lunch chicken fajitas. They were a delightful rendition of a classic favorite – tender strips of chicken sautéed with bell peppers and onions. In a twist, it was then topped with melted mozzarella cheese and fresh pico de gallo. Served with warm flour tortillas, a side of sour cream and seasoned rice, this dish offered a satisfying balance of flavors and textures. The chicken remained



Porkchop seasoned with rosemary and garlic, organic mixed greens. PHOTO COURTESY FACEBOOK

juicy and flavorful, while the vegetables added a crisp freshness that complemented the richness of the cheese. I shared some with one of my guests, and he was pleased as well.

He was looking for a heartier option and decided to try the lunch pork chop. Grilled to a perfect medium, the pork chop was seasoned with rosemary and garlic, which imparted a fragrant and savory profile. Accompanied by baby potatoes and organic mixed greens, finished with a touch of lemon, this dish was both comforting and refined. He was a bit confused that the greens were served without dressing and whether the grilled lemon halves were the dressing or were for the pork. In any event, the lemon bright-

ened the dish, balancing the richness of the meat and the earthiness of the potatoes. The pork chop itself was juicy and tender, with a crispy exterior that added a satisfying crunch.

My third guest opted for the steak and eggs. It was a grilled six-ounce ribeye paired with two eggs cooked to your liking, accompanied by your choice of potatoes and toast. The ribeye was cooked to a nice medium-rare, with a smoky char that enhanced its natural flavors. The eggs were prepared with precision. This guest was on a low-carb diet so he skipped the toast and eggs. From my

other guest's plate, we knew that the potatoes were crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. And, we imagined that the toast would have provided a hearty base that would have completed the dish.

While we were all pleased with our selections, two other dishes caught our collective eyes as enticing choices for those looking the explore some different flavors.

First was a traditional Spanish dish, the Spanish tortilla. It features roasted onions and potatoes bound together with four eggs, topped with chorizo and a dollop of sour cream. Served with your choice of toast, this dish looked hearty and satisfying, with the chorizo adding a spicy kick that elevates the flavors.

Our second interest was a French classic, the croque madame. It's a decadent sandwich featuring griddled ham and mustard between slices of sourdough bread, topped with a creamy béchamel sauce and a three-cheese blend. It's finished with a poached egg and a roasted serrano pepper. We imagined it would result in a rich and indulgent dish that combines savory, creamy and spicy elements in every bite.

Harvest Kitchen + Bar is a welcome addition to Springfield's lunch scene. With a menu that features a variety of dishes crafted from fresh, high-quality ingredients, Harvest caters to a wide range of tastes and preferences. Whether you're in the mood for classic comfort food or an innovative twist on a traditional dish, Harvest Kitchen + Bar delivers flavors that satisfy and delight.

Of Well-Office Policy Hands

Steak and eggs featuring a six-ounce Black Angus ribeye, crispy potatoes and eggs. PHOTO COURTESY FACEBOOK

Address: 4241 Conestoga Drive, Springfield Phone: 217-717-1978 Website: harvestkitchenandbar.com Credit Cards: Yes

Hours: Monday - Saturday 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tragedy leads to benevolence

Bv Janet Seitz



Chatham Café celebrated its 10-year anniversary May 10 by donating 100% of sales to the families affected by the Chatham tragedy. More than \$14,700 was raised, between \$12,000 in sales and an additional \$2,725 in donations. PHOTO COURTESY FACEBOOK

Following the tragic accident April 28 at the Chatham YNOT after-school program that resulted in the death of three children and a teen, the community held vigils and sought ways to help all involved. Those killed were Ainsley Johnson, age 8; Kathryn Corley, 7; Alma Buhnerkempe, 7; all of Chatham, and Rylee Britton, 18, of Springfield. Six other children were hospitalized, one in critical condition.

In an amazing show of community support, fundraisers, meal assistance, blood drives and many more events quickly went into motion. GoFundMe pages and other efforts continue to provide assistance for medical and emotional support, miscellaneous expenses and memorial funds. Area health care organizations, counselors and pastors hosted a series of events to offer grief counseling and traumainformed support to members of the Chatham community.

Glenwood High School's student council initiated a GoFundMe page to help the affected families with funeral services, medical bills and other expenses as needed. On May 1, organizer Amanda Power posted: "The vigils over the last two days have been incredibly beautiful ways for our community to come together. Your support of our families is not going unnoticed. We have a \$10,000 donation from United Community Bank and another \$10,000 donation from Landmark Ford, on top of our current total. I cannot tell you how this is going to impact our community. Hold each other close. We are

#ChathamStrong."

At the time of this writing, more than \$245,000 had been raised.

Logan Kienzle, who had worked at YNOT for three summers throughout college, is the co-organizer for the Child Care Fund for Families of YNOT. He posted, "Jamie, the owner of YNOT, always works his hardest to be flexible with families experiencing financial difficulty, and I respect that most about him. We all see that rising costs are continuing to rise, and child care is not exempt from that. With this tragedy, many of these kids will need mental health services. For some families that is an expense that could restrict them from being able to pay for child care throughout the summer. I am asking all of you to help me put together a fund to support the families who attend YNOT. As a community, we should not want parents to be forced to choose between mental health services because of this horrific tragedy and child care during the summer."

YNOT is a nonprofit organization, and among other suggestions, the Britton family notes that donations can be made to YNOT in memory of Rylee.

Dr. Michael Buhnerkempe, a research associate professor at SIU School of Medicine, lost his daughter, Alma. The Alma Buhnerkempe Memorial Fund will fund initiatives that support SIU School of Medicine while reflecting Alma's passions and spirit. The fund's webpage states: "This fund aims to create a lasting legacy that celebrates Alma's love for sports,

music and community involvement, ensuring that her memory continues to inspire and bring joy to others." More than 300 people have contributed so far.

The Buhnerkempe family also requested that donations be made to The KASE Project in lieu of flowers. Alma's brother, Will, has autism, and as a devoted sister Alma volunteered and ran Red Light, Green Light games for Will's activities with the FLASH program, an adaptive-sports program for kids with disabilities. The KASE Project aims to raise awareness for and support the autism community through community outreach and direct fundraising.

Additionally, some two dozen individuals and businesses have been selling items or providing services to showcase Chatham Strong and donate proceeds to support the families.

A Linktree page (https://linktr.ee/chathamstrong) provides information for community members who want to help or who need support. It includes information on fundraisers, supply and blood donation opportunities, upcoming vigils and other events, community resources and support.

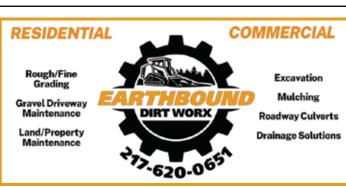


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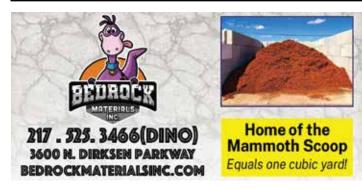


















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Next Level School of Cosmetology Arts, 510 E. Apple Orchard Road, Suite 105. 217-572-1306. Veris Van.

SG Communities, 3303 E. Enos Ave. 865-210-8728. Saratoga Group, Inc.

Vivid Vixen Designs, 1125 W. Elliott Ave. 447-226-9579. Rachel Good Farrand.

Cowork Springfield, 2532 Farragut Drive, Suite 1. 618-506-0041. John Curry.

On The Mark Woodworks LLC, 1431 Johnson Lane. 217-741-9630. Mark C. Melton.

Earth Movers, 2491 S. Fleck Road, Buffalo. 217-416-6910. Craig S. Prior, Judson S. Conn.

Springfield Finest Detailing, 5986 Industrial Drive, Curran. 217-494-4640. Billy J. Clark.

DeskGent, 1813 Seven Pines Road, Apt. 4. 217-960-0076. Shayne Douglas Logsdon.

Procure IQ, 501 Kenyon Drive. 217-836-3070. Veronica Yvette Williams.

In Out Life, 1505 S. Meadowbrook Road. 530-300-9389. Naomi L. Salter.

The Golden Comb Barbershop, 106 W. Elm St., Buffalo. 217-303-2769. Kaylie Schneider.

The Bleacher Boutique, 4665 Timberview Drive, Auburn. 217-899-2274. Katie Gardner.

Finn's Antiques, 14266 Frazee Road, Divernon. 217-741-0952. Nancy Jane Finn.

Earth Worx Excavating, 2491 S. Fleck Road, Buffalo. 217-416-6910. Craig S. Prior, Judson S. Conn.

Ice Heating & Cooling, 8188 Cardinal Hill Road, Rochester. 217-440-6487. Darren Lee Ice.

Demure Design, 712 S. Douglas Ave. 217-801-1306. Camille Harkins.

Xia's Massage, 960 Clocktower Drive, Suite I. 314-496-2868. Susie Wang, Xia He.

SHS Class of 65, 1224 Centre West Drive, Suite 200A. 217-698-8444. Barry Hines.

Stateline Waste Solutions, 2806 S. Lincoln Ave. 217-299-0524. Uno Purpose LLC.

Williams Family Farm Rochester, 825 S. Walnut St., Rochester. 217-691-7336. Janice Williams, Lonnie Williams.

Pita Or Bowl, 848 South Grand Ave. E. 217-494-4733. Faruk Abdullah, Sameer Ramahi.



Host Board Meetings, Conferences, Staff Retreats, Award Dinners, Holiday Parties,
Corporate Anniversary Receptions and more!

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Green Nissan, Knob Hill Landscape Co., Isringhausen Imports, Springfield Plastics, YMCA of Springfield, HSHS St. John's Hospital

What do we love most about our community? The people who make it so special!

That's why we're so passionate about supporting local businesses, organizations, families,

and the hardworking individuals who call our local communities home! Beyond offering tailored financial solutions, we are honored to celebrate those who provide the Best Places to Work and all those who make our communities the Best Places to Live!

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