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Business

JOURNAL

June 2026



Q&A With Brian Brennan

BUNN appoints new CEO

Springfield area sheds jobs

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In this issue:

SBJ articles



14

BUNN appoints new CEO

By Angela Mueller



18

Building a skilled workforce

By Lynn Whalen



34

Hospital Sister Mission Outreach ships supplies

By SBJ Staff

12 MAJOR EMPLOYERS • 16 MAJOR MANUFACTURERS - SANGAMON COUNTY

17 MAJOR MANUFACTURERS - MORGAN COUNTY • 21 HOTELS • 27 CATERERS & FOOD TRUCKS • 30 NETWORKING GROUPS



Cover

Q&A With Brian Brennan

By David Blanchette

Photos By Zach Adams

Columns

32 Ask an attorney

By Thomas C. Pavlik Jr.

34 Medical news

36 Professional development

By Kelly Gust

38 Restaurant review

By Thomas C. Pavlik Jr.

40 Philanthropy

By Janet Seitz

42 New businesses

Adapt or die

Americans are living longer than ever before but the companies they work for have increasingly shorter lifespans. While many businesses historically operated with the expectation that the next generation of the family would take over, that has become as rare as someone working for the same company for their entire career.

Only about one-third of newly founded companies successfully operate for a decade or more, with 20% failing in the first year, according to Bureau of Labor statistics. And longevity is not always the goal, with an increasing cultural focus on encouraging startups, mergers and acquisitions. Some industries, such as technology, value novelty and youthfulness more than institutional knowledge.

However, the list of major employers in this month's issue shows that half of our area's 10 largest employers have been in existence since the 1800s. The two new kids on the block, University of Illinois Springfield and SIU School of Medicine, launched in 1969 and 1970, respectively.

There is a new addition to the list of Sangamon County manufacturers, with REEL USA Corp.'s recent opening of a Springfield facility, although the business itself has been around since 1946. The other significant change to that list is BUNN, which remains in the top spot but has a new CEO due to the sale of the fifth-generation family business earlier this year (see p. 14).

Springfield Business Journal has been in existence since 1997, and our sister publication, Illinois Times, celebrated its 50th anniversary last September. As of April 1, both are under the umbrella of a newly formed nonprofit, Local Journalism Matters. It's not enough to simply keep doing the good work we've always done – we must grow and adapt. By adding donations and grants to the ways we're already generating revenue, we will be able to fund more coverage of our community.

While recent trends ranging from social media to AI have affected our industry, only the ways we share our reporting has changed, not the mission itself. When the publications first started it was exclusive to print, then websites were added, then email newsletters and now social media. What has remained consistent is that we are a trusted source of local news, civic information and community connection for central Illinois.



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Q & A

with

Brian Brennan

By David Blanchette

Brian Brennan has now been at the helm of HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield for a year, having been named HSHS Central Illinois market president and CEO, as well as president and CEO of St. John's, in May of last year. As market president, he oversees strategic and financial operations at HSHS hospitals in Decatur, Effingham, Litchfield and Shelbyville, as well as leading St. John's.

Brennan, who has more than 20 years of healthcare executive leadership experience, joined HSHS from Baylor Scott and White Healthcare in Austin, Texas, where he served as chief operating officer of the Greater Austin Region. A Wisconsin native, Brennan holds a master's of healthcare administration from the University of South Florida, Tampa, and a bachelor's in nuclear medicine technology from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse.

Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Wisconsin, first in Milwaukee, and then when I was 7, we moved to a little southeastern Wisconsin town called Palmyra. My first job was as a lifeguard. I loved being outside in the sun and teaching kids how to swim. That's probably why when I graduated from college, the first thing I did was move to Florida because I was not a fan of the snow.

What first drew you to the profession?

I was always good in science and enjoyed chemistry, so I thought I was going to go into chemistry, but my freshman year in college I started wondering if I really wanted to be stuck in a lab my whole life because I'm a people person. Then one of my roommates told me about a lecture where they were giving away free pizza, and, being a starving college kid, I said, "Free pizza? Let's go!" So I went and learned about this new technology called nuclear medicine. That launched me into healthcare, and I really fell in love with taking care of patients while also using my science and chemistry.

As far as the executive part of it, I really just worked my way up. I was good with people. I was just 21 years old when I was made a nuclear medicine manager. In healthcare that's a pretty common way that folks move up; you're a good leader, you're good with people, you can motivate teams and make good decisions, so you get promoted from within.

How do you deal with so many responsibilities while still maintaining relationships with individual employees?

The more senior you get the more people you are responsible for, so that gets harder and harder. I have almost 5,000 colleagues and caregivers that I'm responsible for, and I utilize technology as much as I can because I obviously can't get out and talk to 5,000 people every day.

I love being in the weeds, getting with the nurses and techs and housekeepers and folks that make this place run, but unfortunately, I can't spend as much time as I would like doing that. So we create pathways so people can share information. I use the shotgun approach; I do communications, meetings and video conferencing. I've created a blog and a way where folks can communicate directly with me, and I can answer them. It's really nice to utilize all those different technologies to stay as connected as possible.

How do you encourage innovation in a healthcare system, and do innovative ideas sometimes come from patients?

We have people from every generation and different viewpoints and ideas, and we try to get as many of those ideas from them as possible. Our CEO, Damond Boatwright, implemented a great program this year where he cultivated ideas from everybody within the system. I try to emulate that myself because I don't have all of the answers, but I have a lot of people around me who have great ideas.

I think a lot of the innovation in healthcare comes from patients, but we're very cautious about what technology we adopt and how quickly we adopt it because patients' lives are at stake. But now a patient can live in Springfield and take a vacation anywhere, and they can walk into a hospital and within a few clicks that hospital can have all of that patient's medical records at their fingertips. That creates safer, healthier care across the entire continuum.



Brian Brennan with his wife, Emilee, and their son, Joe.
PHOTO COURTESY BRIAN BRENNAN

What are the biggest opportunities and risks in healthcare today?

Staffing is a big problem in the healthcare industry, mostly direct caregivers like nurses and doctors. Every day it gets harder to be a doctor because you spend more of your time working on paperwork and regulations and less time with patients. COVID-19 did not help either because everybody worked at such a pace that many left the healthcare field earlier than they wanted. You combine that doctor and nurse shortage with folks like baby boomers living longer, and it's creating an issue where the supply and demand is getting farther apart every day.

But there is an opportunity to leverage technology to help get ahead of that curve. Doctors now have access to millions of patients' data, and that data can be aggregated through AI technology, so they can find diagnoses and treatment options for the exact same issues their own patients have. That knowledge frees up doctors to see more patients.

Will AI or tele-health ever be able to completely replace in-person human interaction in healthcare?

It's not going to ever replace the interaction between a doctor and a patient or a nurse and a patient. What I think it will do is provide more resources to caregivers, schedulers, billing folks and administrators to access information more quickly and provide faster diagnoses and responses. I don't think AI will ever replace the number of human beings that are currently working, but in the future where 200 people are needed for a certain job right now, maybe you might need only 180 to do the same thing. It's really about keeping the core component of what we do, that doctor-patient relationship, and letting technology give us aid.

What gives you the greatest satisfaction in your work?

It gives me great satisfaction to be able to take some of my knowledge and ability and help another person in need. I now have thousands of patients a day that I can help because I am helping the leaders and caregivers who are helping the patients. When teams of people realize the impact they have on patient care, whether they are direct caregivers or not, and they light up with pride at the realization, it gives me great satisfaction.

What advice would you give to young people who are entering today's career field?

A lot of information is at your fingertips today, but young people should not become complacent about that because you still have to work hard if you really want to succeed in this world. If you're using ChatGPT to get all of your assignments done, you're not learning how to learn. You need the ability to think critically and make good decisions.

You don't have to be a nurse or doctor to get into healthcare, although there is an incredible need for those professionals right now. But if you're a person who likes computers, sales or leading teams like I do, there is a path for you in healthcare, wherever your passions are.

What may people be surprised to learn about you?

I like to travel, play golf, and I'm a family guy. I love being a coach. I have a son who's a very successful college baseball player, and I truly have enjoyed getting out of the office and using some of the skills I have by motivating and mentoring and being with young baseball players and teaching them how to play the game.

WOMEN



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 Thursday, May 7, 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 recipients: Dr. Richa Pandey-Kochar, Jennifer Gill, Helen Moose and Barbara Malany.
2. Helen Moose accepts her award from Stephan Paul Antonacci, president and CEO of Security Bank.
3. Each recipient was given an engraved vase and flower bouquet.
4. Dr. Richa Pandey-Kochar, center, takes pictures with her family and Jennifer Gill, right, following the ceremony.

PHOTOS BY ZACH ADAMS

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BEST PLACES TO WORK CEREMONY 2026



1. Nearly 150 people attended the reception and awards ceremony held at United Community Bank's Montvale branch.
2. A group from Sacred Heart Convent of the Dominican Sisters accepts their award.
3. Mayor Misty Buscher gave the keynote address.
4. Marcus Johnson, president and CEO of Springfield Urban League, accepts the award on behalf of his team.

The 2026 Best Places to Work were recognized at a reception and awards ceremony held on April 30th at United Community Bank, 1900 W. Iles Ave.

- Modern Countertops
- Xcessories Squared
- Sacred Heart Convent of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois
- Springfield Urban League
- Springfield Clinic (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 springfieldbusinessjournal.com and click on the "awards" tab to see a list of previous selectees or make a nomination.

PHOTOS BY ZACH ADAMS

the IWIL CONGRATULATES

2026 ATHENA LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINEES

The recipient will be announced during a ceremony on July 23, 2026 at Erin's Pavilion.

HEATHER BURTON



CINDEE FASSERO



DR. NIKKI HERNANDEZ



ANGIE SOWLE



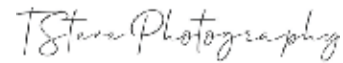
SARAH WILKS



MONICA ZANETTI REED



CHELSEY ZIEBLER



MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Sources: Sangamon County Growth Alliance.
 *State of Illinois number includes all state government agencies, including education institutions within Sangamon County.

	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	Healthcare	1897	memorial.health
3	Springfield Clinic	3,700	Rebecca Birenbaum CEO	Healthcare	1939	springfieldclinic.com
4	Hospital Sisters Health System	3,289	Damond W. Boatwright President and CEO	Healthcare	1875	st-johns.org
5	Springfield Public Schools #186	2,619	Dr. Terrance Jordan (as of July 1) Superintendent	Education	1854	sps186.org
6	SIU School of Medicine	2,420	Jerry Kruse Dean/Provost	Higher education/ Healthcare	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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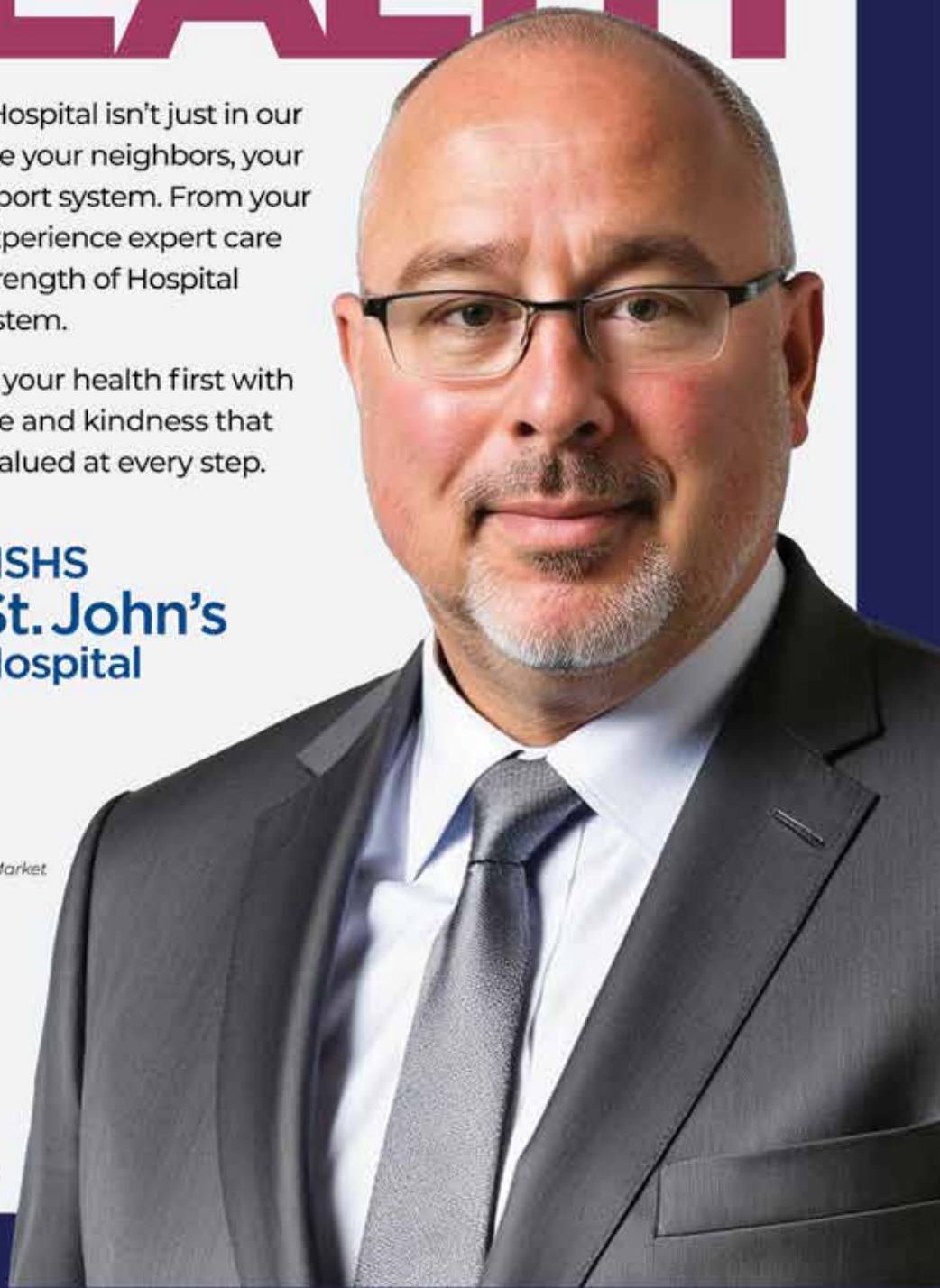


HSHS
St. John's
Hospital

Brian A. Brennan
President and CEO,
HSHS St. John's Hospital
and HSHS Central Illinois Market



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BUNN appoints new CEO

By Angela Mueller

The Ali Group, which acquired Springfield-based BUNN in March, has appointed a new president and CEO to lead the beverage equipment manufacturer.

Brad Willis, who is currently the chief financial officer of Ali Group, will take the reins at BUNN as of May 11, according to a statement from Chicago-based Ali Group.

As president and CEO, Willis will oversee all day-to-day operations at BUNN, according to the statement. He will report to Filippo Berti, chairman and CEO of Ali Group.

BUNN, Sangamon County's largest manufacturer, had been owned by the Bunn family for five generations. The company announced in March that it had been acquired by



Brad Willis has been appointed president and Chief Executive Officer of BUNN.
PHOTO COURTESY THE ALI GROUP

Ali Group, a global foodservice equipment company. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Willis will replace Arthur "Hy" Bunn, who served as president and CEO of the company from 1988 to March 2026, according to the BUNN website.

Willis has been CFO of Ali Group since 2018. He has been with the company since 2009 and has led "multiple acquisitions from due diligence through integration," according to the Ali Group statement.

The Ali Group and its subsidiaries include more than 115 global brands that employ 17,000 people in 30 countries. This includes 80 manufacturing facilities in 16 countries.

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MAJOR MANUFACTURERS SANGAMON COUNTY

Sources: Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance; 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	BUNN 5020 Ash Grove Dr. Springfield, Illinois 62711	800-637-8606 217-529-6601 bunn.com	850	100,000+	Brad Willis 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, micronutrients, 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 supplied to ready mix, mortar and concrete product producers. A full line of decorative 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
11	REEL USA Corp. 3501 Mayflower Blvd. Springfield, IL 62711	reelinternational.com/en	10	65,800	Dominic Jolicoeur, North America VP operations	Custom design, manufacturing and installation of industrial electromechanical lifting devices	1946

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 2026 E. Morton 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	Nestlé USA 1111 Carnation Drive Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-9511 nestleusa.com	176	30 acres	Martin Craig plant manager	Non-dairy creamer	1970
4	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
5	CCK Automations, LLC 500 Capitol Way Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-6040 cckautomations.com	110	100,000	Mark Stephenson, CEO, Michelle Serogum, GM	Printed circuit board assemblies and injection molded parts	1999
5	ILMO Products Company 7 Eastgate Drive Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-2183 ilmoproducts.com	110	44,000 (12 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
6	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
7	Pallet Repair Systems (PRS) 2 Eastgate Drive Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-291-0009 prsgroupinc.com	30	50,000	Jeff Williams	Manufacturer of machinery	1989
7	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
7	UGL 550 Capitol Way Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-7878 ugl.com	30	43,000	Scott Knott	Home maintenance and repair items	1985
7	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
8	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
9	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
10	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

Building a skilled workforce

O'Shea, Memorial, Roland Machinery partner with LLCC

By Lynn Whalen

Businesses large and small nationwide partner with community colleges to secure their future workforce. Locally, employers increasingly are teaming up with Lincoln Land Community College to train employees. For instance, O'Shea Builders helped design the college's new construction lab and provides several instructors for the program. Memorial Health funded the expansion of LLCC's nursing program and more recently its allied health programs such as radiography and sonography. Roland Machinery supported the diesel technology program that will soon graduate its second class, and the state of Illinois has hired individuals to take information technology classes at LLCC then move into full-time state employment.

Accompanying this trend are more students and parents questioning the return on their investment in higher education, resulting in more interest in workforce programs that lead directly to a career.

LLCC works with hundreds of area employers to make sure a steady stream of prepared students is ready to step into local jobs, according to Josh Collins, assistant vice president of business relations at LLCC. "One way local employers help us is with program design," Collins said. "We reach out to employers, and they come to us, telling us what they need. We determine their barriers to growth and what can we do to help solve those problems, to create a better pipeline of people filling their jobs, earning better wages and creating a better local economy."

Karen Sanders, vice president of advancement and executive director of the LLCC Foundation, said business partnerships have greatly expanded throughout her 23 years at the college. "What has happened over time is our employers found that they



Lincoln Land Community College instructor Matt O'Shea of O'Shea Builders gives his class a hands-on lesson in reading blueprints. PHOTO COURTESY OF LAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

needed people — shortages of qualified workers in healthcare and the trades, in diesel tech, welding, HVAC and truck driving, along with retirements due to an aging population. And, as a community college, we can be nimble and responsive to those community needs, which is our mission and responsibility."

Seeing this trend developing, LLCC President Charlotte Warren created the business relations position six years ago under the umbrella of the college's advancement office "to centralize those requests and make sure that we were responding appropriately and effectively with our industry partners," Sanders said.

"It just exploded because when Josh came on board, what we also had the opportunity to do was strengthen our program advisory committees. We have advisory committees for nearly every program on campus, and it enabled us to connect and have effective communication with the right partners at the table," Sanders said. "We know many of our workforce and healthcare graduates stay and work locally."

O'Shea Builders

O'Shea Builders, a leading commercial construction services company in central Illinois, along with its subcontractors and other industry professionals, helped LLCC reimagine its construction program, Collins

said. That included identifying what courses needed to be taught and the desired learning outcomes, with industry professionals helping teach the courses.

Mike O'Shea, president of O'Shea Builders, said his company has supported LLCC's new construction program and lab on the Springfield campus in several meaningful ways. "For two years, we collaborated with a group of industry partners — including Anderson Electric, A&R Mechanical, B&B Electric, E.L.

Pruitt, Henson Robinson, Joyner Construction Services and Mid Illinois Companies — to help shape the program's curriculum and ensure it aligns with real-world needs," O'Shea said.

Beyond curriculum development, O'Shea has stayed actively involved by facilitating job-site visits, offering internships and providing scholarships to students in the program. "Several of our staff members have also served as adjunct instructors, bringing their experience directly into the classroom," O'Shea said. "One example of this impact is Alexis Bowman, a member of the inaugural construction class and recipient of the O'Shea scholarship, who was recently hired full-time by our company."

He said an ongoing partnership with the local community college is a significant opportunity for O'Shea, allowing the company to play an active role in shaping the next generation of construction professionals and ensuring students are developing the skills the industry needs.

"By staying involved, we're able to build relationships with students early on, provide real-world insight into the field and create a strong pipeline of talent for our company," he said. "It's a win-win — students gain valuable experience and career opportunities, and we gain access to a well-prepared, motivated future workforce."

Memorial Health

LLCC announced an agreement with Memorial Health to address the local nursing shortage in 2020. Memorial Health's \$6.1 million gift allowed LLCC to nearly double its student capacity in a new Nursing Education Center.

"More recently, Memorial Health donated \$1.4 million to expand allied health programs, so we can increase the number of students graduating from those as well," Sanders said.

She said the expansion of cardiovascular and diagnostic medical sonography, radiography, respiratory therapy and surgical technology programs, with improved training facilities and equipment, leads to more qualified workers in these in-demand positions at local healthcare facilities.

Roland Machinery

Another example is the college's diesel technology program. "Roland Machinery recognized the huge shortage of diesel technicians in our region," Sanders said. "They stepped forward and helped us build the program."

Roland continues to provide donations

of heavy equipment and scholarship support as well as hosting LLCC's diesel tech interns and hiring program graduates.

"The Roland donation impacts our local economy," Sanders said. "It's truly putting students to work and filling a worker shortage need."

State of Illinois

A unique partnership formed several years ago between LLCC and the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT). "They hired three cohorts of students, and their job was to enroll in LLCC," Collins said. "The students completed our IT help-desk curriculum while they were DoIT employees, and that allowed DoIT to grow their own. Many of them were able to grow into an IT career with the state of Illinois."


LLCC formed a similar program with the Illinois Department of Revenue. "They had employees take our accounting classes, many delivered on site at their workplace, and their employees were able to upskill to better paying jobs within the department," Collins said. "We also work regularly with Central Management Services to connect our students with various careers at the

state of Illinois through career fairs and help them navigate the state-hiring process."

Cooperation among competitors

Sanders said a unique aspect of these business partnerships is the cooperation among competitors. "These industry partners are coming to the table for the good of the community," she said. "They actually brought in competitors to the table to talk about what's best, what does this curriculum need to look like so that when students leave our program, we're sending out the best to all of these different companies. Across the board, our partners have come together for the greater good."

Partnerships such as O'Shea Builders' with LLCC are essential to strengthening the future workforce and supporting the local economy, O'Shea said.

"As the available workforce continues to shrink, these collaborations help local companies stay competitive by developing a steady pipeline of skilled talent," he said. "Partnerships like this not only benefit individual businesses but also help build a more resilient, prepared workforce for the entire community." 



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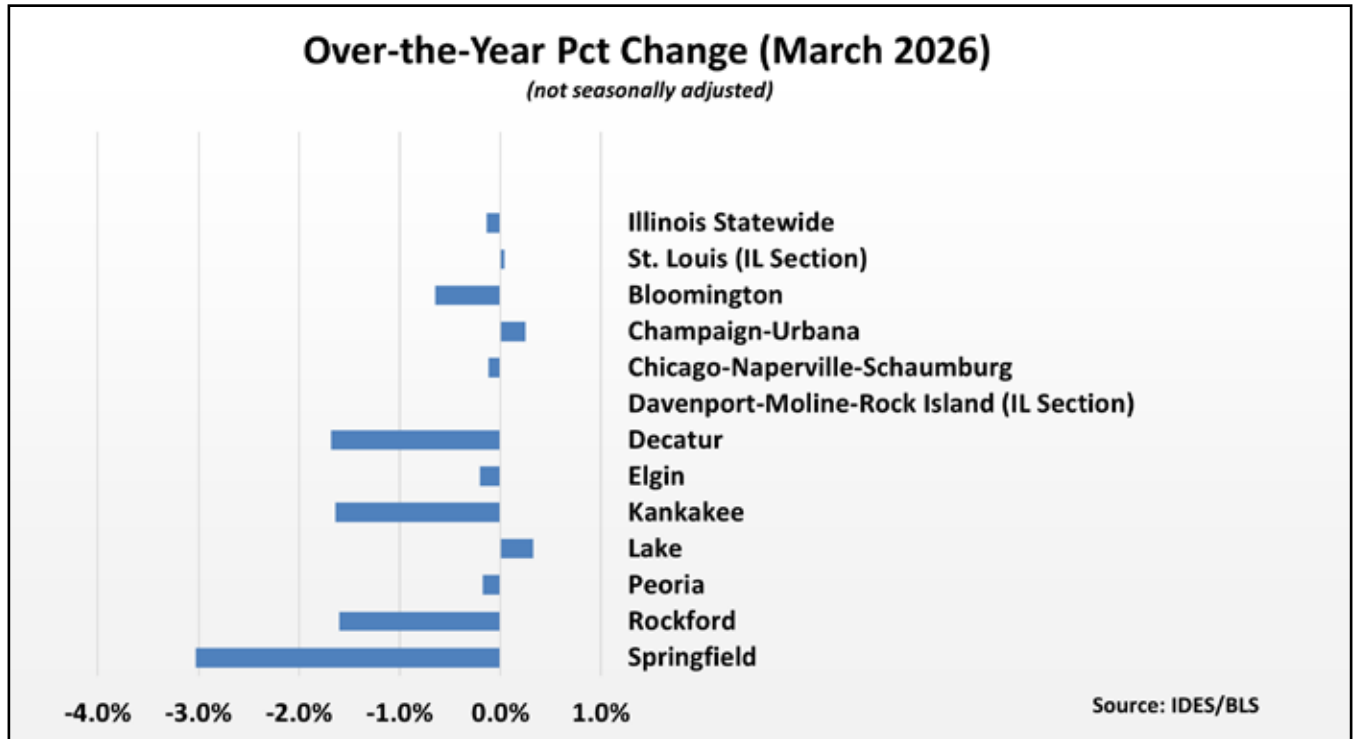
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Springfield area sheds jobs

Led the state in year-over-year job losses

By Dilpreet Raju



Despite no major business layoffs or closures, the Springfield area led the state in job losses year over year, according to Illinois Department of Employment Security non-farm employment data released early this month.

Springfield lost 3,300 jobs from March of last year to this year, nearly two-fifths of all the jobs lost by the state in that time. Employment for the information sector – a field that includes advertisers, library staff, reporters and editors, telecom equipment workers and service representatives, computer programmers and more – has dramatically fallen in the past year for Springfield. IDES estimates the sector lost roughly 1,900 positions, making up the bulk of the total job losses. Other local sectors that shrank significantly include business services and retail trade in addition to transportation and utility work.

Mike Murphy, president and CEO of The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, told *Illinois Times* he wasn't aware of any major closures beyond the hospitality industry.

"While a few smaller employers, particularly within the hospitality industry, have experienced closures, there have also been new businesses and operations opening during the year," Murphy wrote to *IT* after reviewing the data.

Only a handful of private industries in the Springfield area have had payrolls grow compared to last year – construction, goods production and mining.

The Illinois Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) database shows no mass layoffs reported in the past 12 months for Sangamon and Menard counties, the counties that federal agencies designate the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area.

It does, however, show a May 4 notice for the nearly 100 Kincaid power plant workers in Christian County. Vistra Corp, the Texas-based owner of the Kincaid power plant, listed Jan. 4, 2028, in the filing as a first layoff date.

A separate May 21 IDES report looks at the state's employment situation as a whole with respect to April 2025 through April 2026. It showed modest month-to-month growth but indicates there are considerably fewer jobs across the entire state now than in 2025.

"Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs were down 4,500 jobs," the report reads. "The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: professional and business services (-14,300), trade, transportation and utilities (-9,900), and financial activities (-6,900)."

In turn, the number of unemployed Illinoisans jumped up nearly 13% over the past year to more than 337,000 people. The unemployment rate for Illinois in the past year has stayed higher than national averages, according to the May 21 report.

The May 7 IDES press release highlighted Champaign bucking state trends with "14 months of consecutive year over year growth."

While most of Illinois is straining to find new avenues for job growth, Deputy Gov. Andy Manar – without specificity to budgeting, tariffs or the war on Iran – cast blame on federal policy for the state's diminished labor outlook.

"Metro areas across Illinois are continuing to feel the effects of economic uncertainty coming from Washington, creating added pressure for employers and workers," Manar said. "Even with those headwinds, some regions continue to see steady job growth, Illinois will continue focusing on policies that support job creation, economic stability and long-term growth in communities across the state."

Local job numbers for April were not available at time of writing but are expected to be published by IDES before June. **SBJ**

HOTELS

Source: The Hotels
Ranked by number of rooms.

	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 Plaza Hotel and Convention Center by Holiday Inn Express 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 www.wyndhamhotels.com/trademark/ springfield-illinois/state-house-inn- trademark-collection/overview	125	6	\$99 - \$250	Shah Rais Khan
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	\$110 - \$329	Nicole Robinson
6	Hilton Garden Inn Springfield 3100 S. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-7171 springfieldil.gardeninn.com SPIGL_GM@hilton.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	Christina Guerrero
8	Residence Inn Springfield South 2915 Stanford Ave. Springfield, IL 62703	217-527-1100 frontdesk.residence@gmail.com marriott.com/spiri	108	1	\$169 - \$249	Mark Vanhala
9	Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center 3280 Northfield Drive Springfield, IL 62702	217-523-7900 reservations@northfieldinn.com northfieldinn.com	105	8	\$109 - \$169	Jennifer Fuiten
10	Motel 6 6011 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62712	217-529-1633 motel6spf@gmail.com	101	0	Based on availability	DND
11	Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center 625 E. Saint Joseph St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-6626 rt66hotel.com route66hotel@gmail.com	99	4	\$72 - \$249 (10 suites)	Jason Negri
12	Ramada by Wyndham 3281 Northfield Drive Springfield, IL 62702	217-523-4000 springfieldramada.com reservations@springfieldramada.com	97	2	Based on availability	Mike Grant
13	Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Springfield 3951 S. MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, IL 62711	217-280-8700 Marriott.com/SPIFW Julia.Cox@marriott.com	91	1	Based on availability	Justin Roesch
14	Hampton Inn & Suites Springfield-Southwest 2300 Chuckwagon Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-793-7670 https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/spiilh-hampton-suites-springfield-southwest	83	1	Based on availability	Phyllis DeRosear
15	Staybridge Suites Springfield-South 4231 Schooner Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-793-6700 https://www.ihg.com/staybridge/hotels/ us/en/springfield/spiso/hoteldetail	82	1	Based on availability	Phyllis DeRosear
16	Comfort Inn & Suites 3675 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-8898 comfortinn.com	80	1	\$90 - \$160	Sarah Dietrich
16	SpringHill Suites Springfield Southwest 3921 MacArthur Boulevard Springfield, IL 62711	217-789-0000 Marriott.com/SPISSH darin.dame@marriott.com	80	2	\$169-\$249	Darin Dame

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
customercare@girlscouts-gsci.org

Columbian Grand Hall Event Venue

2200 S. Meadowbrook Road
217-787-2360
kccolumbiancenter.com

Crowne Plaza Hotel

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

Edwards Place

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

Firefighters / Postal Lake Club

940 West 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
membership@panthercreekcc.com

Piper Glen Golf and Social Club

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

Poe's Catering

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

Pole Barn Chic

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

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

701 E. Adams St.
217-321-2433
dtspringfieldil.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

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State House Inn

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217-528-5100
thestatehouseinn.com

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www.Preservation-Inc.com

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217-836-7669 or 217-741-2489
www.Preservation-Inc.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

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217-853-6058
1912barn@gmail.com

Bullard's 311 South Sixth

311 South East Sixth, Morrisonville
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Pleasant Plains
217-481-4430
clayville.org
rentals@clayville.org

Edgewood Golf Club

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

Elkhart Hill Farm

7 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, Jackson-
ville
217-675-2720
hamiltonscatering.com
info@hamiltonscatering.com

Hill Prairie Winery

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

Indian Creek Farmstead

19468 Curtis Blacktop Road,
Petersburg
217-717-4401
indiancreekfarmstead.com

The Homestead

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

Marian Banquet Hall

335 S. Fourth St., Riverton
217-629-7202
Marianbanquethall.com
MarianBanquetHall@gmail.com

Paul's Paradise

12430 State Route 125, Pleas-
ant Plains
217-891-8516
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.
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Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois presents The Local Focal Fashion Show, Thursday, June 11 at 5 p.m. in the historic Venue 1929, 711 South 5th St. to support local women retailers.

The show will feature fashions from local retailers: SGK Boutique, Springfield Vintage, Studio on 6th, Better with Bubbli, Inspira: The Lifestyle Brand and My Sister's Closet.

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Catering companies try to stay competitive

Some add alternative revenue streams to balance out event business

By Adrian Dater



Brian and Melissa Reilly, owners of Cured Catering in Dawson, bought Arlington's Catering & Historic Venue in downtown Springfield in 2024. Having a steady clientele of state workers during the legislature season has helped offset the slower catering during the winter months. PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

The business of catering in Springfield is highly competitive, with businesses vying to cater events large and small in a city known for people who love to eat.

Many caterers – in Springfield and beyond – are seeking ways to diversify and find other revenue streams beyond the traditional catering.

That is why Jesse Taelua and his wife Tesla pursued and won a contract to run a café-style kiosk inside the SIU School of Medicine's 801 Rutledge St. building. Students, faculty or anyone else walking through the building can order all kinds of coffee and other beverages, along with breakfast and lunch items made to order or grab and go.

Jesse Taelua, who opened Taelua's Table in 2019, said business inside SIU has been brisk since they started operating the café in May. "We were lucky to be chosen to put in a new café here," Taelua said. "We're more than just a catering company. Now we're doing this café, but we still do events of all sizes."

Taelua said he's had to expand staffing to keep up with demand at the café. "I was almost expecting the same flow of traffic (as previous food and beverage merchants), but it's just been so much greater than I anticipated," he said.

Brian Reilly, owner of Cured Catering in Dawson, has also focused on diversification. In September 2024, Brian and his wife, Melissa, bought Arlington's Catering & Historic Venue, 210 Broadway, from Ebben Moore. Arlington's has a strong clientele of state workers during legislature season, which has helped Reilly during the slower winter months that caterers typically endure and provided more of a year-round revenue stream.


"Having a venue where we could do kind of what we did mobile-wise, but in one location, worked out really well," Reilly said. "Catering is a very seasonal business, but the legislators really help us. That location really helps us from January to May, but in May, we kind of go into our wedding season. So, the Arlington's building flexes very well to be used as a wedding space. It's a very historic building that has been kept that way with all the décor and things like that. We've also been able to do some pop-ups there, with lunches and cocktail dinners and some concerts coming up on the horizon."

Caterers such as Taelua's Table and Cured Catering face tough competition from long-established companies such as Nelson's Catering of Springfield, and Nelson's too, has diversified recently. Nelson's won a two-year contract to run the giant beer tents

at the next two Illinois State Fairs, replacing American Business Club, a nonprofit which had operated concessions at the fair since 1954.

For smaller operations such as Taelua's and Cured, finding other revenue streams can mean the difference between success and failure. "Catering is kind of a flexible market, so we have to be able to flex with that," Reilly said. Recently, Reilly has been providing catering for a building on Second Street that used to be a firehouse and is now mostly used by state lobbyists.

Taelua said it's important to take things one day at a time and not expand business too fast. However, he is hoping to get a foot in the door at the new transportation hub soon to come online in Springfield.

"You can't spread yourself too thin, and that's easy to want to do, especially with a guy like me who has an entrepreneur mindset," Taelua said. "There are other companies out there that have the manpower to go in and overpower everyone with a \$1 million budget. But I'm really happy with what we've got right now, and you always have to focus most on the tasks at hand in this business. Otherwise, you can get off track." 

CATERERS & FOOD TRUCKS

Sources: The caterers
Listed alphabetically.

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 bloomcaterers.com info@bloomcaterers.com	Gabi Thompson John Huffman	25-1,000	varies	2023
Conn's Catering 835 S. Second St. Springfield, IL 62704	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 curedcaterers.com curedcaterers@gmail.com	Brian and Melissa Reilly	25-1,000	varies	2017
Elevated Appetites 2242 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-220-3478	Bryant Walls		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 Fulgenzi	1-3000	\$15-\$40	1997
Hamilton's Catering 101 Main St. Franklin, IL 62638	217-675-2720 hamiltonscatering.com info@hamiltonscatering.com	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

CATERERS & FOOD TRUCKS

Sources: The caterers
Listed alphabetically.

NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE/EMAIL	OWNER(S)	MIN/MAX SERVED	PRICE RANGE PER PERSON	YEAR EST'D
Just The Basics Mobile Bar 231 E. Walnut St. Chatham, IL 62629	217-381-8108 JTBmobilebar.com info@jtbmobilebar.com	Madison Kulek	25-5,000	\$12+	2017
MJ's Fish and Chicken Express 2901 South Grand Ave. East (as of July 31) Springfield, IL 62703	217-816-5673 j69641983@yahoo.com	Jerome Taylor	50-300	\$12-\$15	2016
Nelson's Catering 3005 Great Northern Road Springfield, IL 62711	217-787-9443 Nelsonscatering.com mindyb@nelsonscatering.com	Josh Lindvall John Bale Mindy Beeler Margo Maynerich Wanda Croxton	25-10,000	Varies per event	1995
Poe's Catering 295 E. Andrew Road Springfield, IL 62702	217-487-7601 poescatering.com poecater@msn.com	Lance Poe Angela Poe	20-10,000	\$15.95 and up	1998
Robert's Seafood Market & Catering 1615 W. Jefferson St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-546-3089 www.robertsseafoodmarket.com arobert@robertsseafoodmarket.com	Dean "Robbie" Robert Andrea (Robert) McLaughlin	Depends on the event	\$15 and up	1916
Soul Shack 2800 S. Walnut Springfield, IL 62704	217-691-1795 ashleyward223018@icloud.com	Ashley Ward	20-200	varies	2019
Taielua's Table	217-891-7628 taieluastable.com taielyajesse@yahoo.com	Tesla Taielua Jesse Taielua	25-400	varies	2019
Twyford BBQ & Catering	217-370-2274 twyfordbbq.com randy@twyfordbbq.com	Randy Twyford	Any size group	All events individually quoted	2008
Vine & Rind 3267 Ginger Creek Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-549-3219 tadacateringandevents.com tadacateringevents@gmail.com	Chelsey Ziebler	Up to 200	varies	2022

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NETWORKING GROUPS

Source: The individual networking groups
Ranked by number of members.
Many groups are meeting online at this time. Contact the groups for more information.

	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 gsc.org/RISE RISE@gsc.org	See website for event info	800+		No dues	2023
2	Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL) Illini Country Club 1601 Illini Road Springfield, IL 62704	iwil217.org iwil.board217@gmail.com	Third Thursday of each month	300	Debbie Thompson	\$100 annually	2004
3	Central Illinois Customer Service Association Event locations vary	cilcsa.org smile@cilcsa.org	6-8 networking and educational program events per year.	250	Michael Thomas	\$100 individual, \$300 nonprofit, \$500 corporate	2015
4	Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI) Meeting location varies	217-414-9727 wecispringfield.org wecispringfieldil@gmail.com President@wecispringfield.org	Second Wednesday of each month	70	Elissa GoldbergBelle	\$99 annually	2010
5	Mid-Illinois Communications Association Meeting location varies	midilcommunications.org michellemeccc@gmail.com	Meeting days and times vary	45	Blake Wood	\$65 professional \$20 student	1977
6	Capitol Area Networkers (CAN) Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County, South Sixth Street	217-313-0580 sarsanyells@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.toastmastersclubs.org randaln1@yahoo.com vppr-51@toastmastersclubs.org	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	630-673-9600 1313356.toastmastersclubs.org president-1313356@toastmastersclubs.org	Wednesdays 12 p.m.	15	Eric Ulvestad	Six months \$75 12 months \$135	2009
9	Noontime Toastmasters Club Laurel United Methodist Church 631 South Grand Ave. W., Room 201 Springfield, IL 62704	312-618-1948 217-341-5147 noontime.toastmastersclubs.com vpm-7316@toastmastersclubs.org	Mondays 12 p.m.	11	Linda Leasman Susan Rankin	Six months \$68 One time new member fee \$20	1998

Anderson Electric Announces New Executive Leadership and Acquisition of SEA Group Springfield, IL



Colin Beveridge, CEO



Rodney A. Frey, Jr., COO

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Anderson Electric, Inc., a 100% employee-owned (ESOP) union electrical contractor with 108 years of continuous service, announced the appointment of Colin Beveridge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Rodney A. Frey, Jr. as Chief Operating Officer (COO). The company also confirmed its recent acquisition of SEA Group, a total systems integration company, further strengthening its regional capabilities.

Beveridge and Frey are both long-tenured members of the Anderson Electric team, having advanced through the organization with a shared commitment to excellence, safety, and craftsmanship. Their promotions reflect the company's strong tradition of developing leadership from within and reinforcing its employee-ownership culture.

As a 100% ESOP, Anderson Electric's leadership transition underscores its commitment to shared ownership and long-term sustainability. Beveridge and Frey will focus on continuing the company's legacy while positioning it for future growth in an evolving industry.

"I'm honored to serve as CEO of a company with such a rich history and strong culture," said Colin Beveridge. "Our employee-owners are the foundation of our success, and I look forward to building on that strength as we continue to grow and innovate."

Rodney A. Frey, Jr. added, "Stepping into the COO role is a privilege. Anderson Electric has always prioritized quality and safety, and I'm excited to help lead our electrical operations as we expand our capabilities and serve our clients at an even higher level."

Along with these leadership announcements, Anderson Electric has completed the acquisition of SEA Group, a respected local information technology infrastructure installation company known for its technical expertise and customer-focused approach. The acquisition represents a strategic, small-scale expansion designed to enhance service offerings and increase capacity across the region. "The addition of SEA Group aligns with our commitment to thoughtful growth," Beveridge said. "We're excited to welcome their talented team into our workforce and

continue delivering exceptional service to our customers."

As it enters its next phase of growth, Anderson Electric remains dedicated to supporting skilled union labor, maintaining the highest safety standards, and delivering reliable, high-quality electrical solutions across commercial, industrial, and institutional markets.

Founded in 1908, Anderson Electric is a 100% employee-owned union electrical contractor serving Central Illinois and West Central Indiana. Anderson Electric is presently headquartered in Springfield with branch offices in Bloomington, Danville, and Mattoon. With 108 years of experience, the company is recognized for its commitment to safety, quality workmanship, and long-term client relationships.



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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 deal.

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 asset-purchase 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, asset-purchase 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.

SBJ



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



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Hospital Sister Mission Outreach ships \$1 million of supplies to Bolivia



Patients in Bolivia with a volunteer clinician arranged through Solidarity Bridge/Puente de Solidaridad.
PHOTO COURTESY SOLIDARITY BRIDGE/PUENTE DE SOLIDARIDAD

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach has shipped a container of medical supplies and equipment valued at \$1 million to Bolivia.

The 40-foot shipping container of requested supplies left the Mission Outreach warehouse, 4930 Laverna Road in Springfield, on May 5. This is the most expensive shipment since the medical supply and equipment recovery organization was founded in 2002. The medical items will be distributed and used by Solidarity Bridge and Puente de Solidaridad throughout five Bolivian hospitals.

The average value of a Mission Outreach container shipment is about \$400,000. This container is valued significantly higher because it is filled with medical supplies and equipment with a focus on surgical care, including two C-arms – a mobile imaging system that provides

real-time, high-resolution X-rays during surgeries – and a surgical microscope.

The mission of Solidarity Bridge and Puente de Solidaridad (its sister organization) is to increase access to surgical care for tens of thousands of people across Bolivia and Paraguay.

Seventy percent of the global population lacks access to surgical care that is safe, affordable and timely,” said Erica Smith, Mission Outreach executive director. “Building infrastructure in health systems means hospitals in low-resource areas will have basic, operational medical equipment for patient care. In the hands of trained surgeons, physicians and clinicians, these medical items save millions of lives globally. Mission Outreach is proud to collaborate with Solidarity Bridge and Puente to help all Bolivians receive the surgical care they need.”

UIS Innovate Springfield and SIU School of Medicine partner to expand area research

Innovate Springfield, the University of Illinois Springfield’s hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, and Southern Illinois University School of Medicine have partnered to expand access to specialized research and innovation space in Springfield, creating new opportunities for entrepreneurs, startups and small organizations across central Illinois.

The two institutions will collaborate for the next 10 years to promote and provide access to facilities that support biomedical, biochemical and chemical research.

“This partnership further strengthens Springfield’s biomedical research and innovation ecosystem by connecting our advanced laboratory and research infrastructure with entrepreneurial support,” said Don Torry, associate dean for research at SIU School of Medicine. “Together, we’re opening new doors for discovery, business growth and regional impact.”

SIU School of Medicine offers research and clinical resources rarely found outside large metropolitan areas, including wet-lab space

equipped with fume hoods, safety systems, imaging tools and other high-tech core research equipment. These facilities provide critical infrastructure for innovators developing and testing new ideas in biotechnology, chemical sciences and related fields.

Innovate Springfield brings a complementary strength through its entrepreneurial ecosystem. As one of 15 hubs in the Illinois Innovation Network, Innovate Springfield supports business incubation, training, coworking and mentorship that help startups and small businesses grow.

“UIS is excited about what this partnership will mean for entrepreneurs and for the region,” said Bruce Sommer, UIS visiting director of innovation strategy. “Founders should not have to piece together support on their own, and this partnership creates a clear referral pathway, so they can spend less time searching for help and more time building.”

Under the partnership, each institution will independently manage its own facilities while

jointly promoting available space to prospective tenants. Entrepreneurs and small research teams will be able to lease space, participate in educational workshops and engage in networking opportunities coordinated through both organizations.

The collaboration reflects a growing national trend in higher education and health care research known as lab-sharing, in which universities provide laboratory access to external partners. For Springfield and surrounding communities, the partnership represents more than shared space – it is an investment in the region’s future health care, education and economic development. By providing access to advanced tools and expertise close to home, the collaboration strengthens central Illinois’ ability to attract talent, foster innovation and improve health outcomes.

Both institutions view the partnership as a model for how universities can collaborate to advance discovery, entrepreneurship and public service.

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Feedback is a gift

Can lead to growth if given and received properly

By Kelly Gust



Feedback done right: Giving it and getting it

Organizations love to talk about feedback. We build cultures around it, train managers to deliver it and encourage employees to be open to receiving it. In theory, feedback is the engine of growth. But in reality, it's far more complicated. Because while we say we want feedback, we don't always use it well. And while we're encouraged to give feedback, we don't always deliver it in ways people can actually hear. The result? Conversations happen, but behavior doesn't change.

To make feedback actually work, professionals need to master two distinct and equally challenging skills: how to give feedback effectively and how to receive it productively.

When feedback goes wrong

Consider a common scenario: A manager tells a high-performing employee during a performance discussion, "You need to be more strategic." The employee nods, leaves the meeting and does ... absolutely nothing differently. Why? Because they don't know what "more strategic" even means. Meanwhile, the manager assumes the message landed and gets frustrated when nothing changes. Months later, the same feedback resurfaces, this time with more urgency, and the employee feels blindsided. This is how feedback breaks down. Not because it wasn't delivered but because it wasn't clear or actionable.

The receiving side: Why feedback doesn't land

Receiving feedback is not passive. Rather, it's an active skill. Even experienced professionals feel an immediate internal reaction: defensiveness, explanation or quiet disagreement. We may appear

receptive, but internally we're filtering.

Strong receivers of feedback do three things differently:

- They separate message from delivery. Not all feedback is well said. Instead of dismissing it, ask yourself, "What part of this might be useful?" Don't dismiss good feedback just because it was poorly delivered.
- They pause instead of reacting. The instinct to defend is strong but rarely helpful. Simple responses like, "That's helpful, and I'd like to think about it," create space for reflection.
- They look for patterns, not perfection. One piece of feedback may be off, but repeated signals are data.

The giving side: Why feedback misses the mark

On the other side, giving feedback often fails because it prioritizes expression over impact. We say what we think but not in a way that leads to change.

Here's what works instead:

- Be specific and observable. Vague feedback creates confusion. Instead of, "Be more strategic," try, "In recent meetings, you've jumped quickly into solving the problem. I'd like you to step back first and help the group define the bigger picture." Clarity drives action.
- Focus on behavior, not identity. When feedback targets behavior, people can change it. When it feels personal, people resist it.
- Time it to be useful. Wait too long, and the feedback is irrelevant. Too immediate, and it may feel reactive. Effective timing balances relevance with thoughtfulness.
- Manage your own discomfort. Many people either dilute feedback to avoid awkwardness or

deliver it bluntly out of frustration. Neither works.

The goal is not to feel better after giving feedback by getting it off your chest. Rather, the goal is to help someone improve.

Closing the gap

Feedback often fails in the space between giving and receiving. The giver thinks, "I was clear." The receiver thinks, "That didn't apply to me." What's missing is alignment. Feedback is not about proving a point; it's about creating shared understanding.

That means checking for clarity by asking, "What are you taking away from this?" and following up by explaining, "Here's what progress looks like," and reinforcing change when it happens. Without those steps, feedback becomes a one-time conversation instead of a development tool.

Final thought: Feedback is a skill, not a value

Most organizations don't lack a commitment to feedback; they lack the capability to deliver it well. Feedback isn't just about being honest or open. It's about precision in how we speak and thoughtfulness in how we listen. Done well, feedback builds trust, sharpens performance and accelerates growth. Done poorly, it creates confusion, frustration and missed opportunity. In the end, feedback is effective only if both sides know how to make it work.



Kelly Gust is the founder and CEO of HR Full Circle, a Springfield-based consulting firm. She now supports talent development at O'Shea Builders, focusing on coaching, learning and building people programs that help individuals and teams succeed. For the past several years, she has written a monthly professional development column for Springfield Business Journal.

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By Thomas C. Pavlik

Billing itself as Springfield's "newest retro diner," The Fountain on 66 has been dishing out classic American favorites for the last year out of the historic former Sunrise Donut space along the original Route 66.

The Fountain on 66 embraces the diner vibe and offers visitors a bright, airy space with large windows and 1950s music playing in the background. The whole place has a decided retro feeling to it, including counter seating that reminded me of childhood visits to my grandmother's soda fountain in Cleveland. That's not surprising given that the owners installed a 1941 soda fountain counter they found in Chicago.

Don't worry – nostalgia doesn't overshadow modern comfort, and in that regard The Fountain manages to honor Springfield's connection to America's Mother Road without become overly themed or kitschy. Although the space is somewhat small, the environment is equally suitable for business and social lunches as well as for tourists.

Speaking of tourists, on the day of our visit The Fountain had a healthy mix of what appeared to be out-of-town visitors (not surprising, given the paucity of dining options in the core downtown area) and locals. We arrived a little early in the lunch window, and the entire time we were there it was close to capacity.

Regarding the menu, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, there's just no excuse today for not having your menu readily available online. Even without a dedicated website, restaurant owners really should take steps to make their menus available – even if just by taking some photos and posting to their Facebook page. Please take note.

The menu is compact and consists of a few ap-



The Fountain serves a variety of smashburgers including special varieties such as a hangover burger served with bacon and a fried egg, the pastrami smashburger and the chili cheese curd burger. PHOTOS BY ZACH ADAMS

petizers, some salads, chili, burgers, dogs (including corn dogs) and sandwiches. There's enough here to appeal to the general public as well as to satisfy Route 66 devotees. For those into breakfast, there are separate offerings that are available all day.

We were particularly interested in the multiple flavored fountain sodas as well as the shakes and the root beer float (again, all evocative of time spent in my family's soda store back in the day).

Regarding that milkshake, I decided to start with a chocolate shake. It came close to those I remember from childhood and was probably the standout of the entire visit – enough that as I write this, I can almost taste it.

My guest and I wanted to start with the chili cheese fries (topped with onions) but decided that would constitute gluttony given our milkshake start. Still, we noticed an adjacent table with an order, and they looked tasty. I also made a mental note to add The Fountain to my chili group's list of places to try.

I opted for the burger. All options were smashburgers. There were some fun options like the hangover burger served with bacon and a fried egg, the pastrami smashburger and the chili cheese curd burger. Maybe I'll try one of those next time, but this time I wanted to concentrate on the burger itself, so I went with the simple cheese-

burger. It was a beef patty smashed flat over a searingly hot flat-top grill until it developed into a crispy, craggy, non-uniform, cooked-through patty that was juicy, caramelized and beefy. It was advertised as served with a toasted brioche bun, but apparently mine came untoasted. Although toasted is always my preference, the soft brioche bun worked nicely with the crispiness of the smashed burger. Crinkle cut fries (onion rings available for an upcharge) completed the dish.

My guest decided on the BLT – an iconic diner dish if there ever was one. This version came with honey-smoked bacon. I generally don't like my bacon to have any sweet notes, but my guest thought it added some flair. A BLT is such a basic sandwich that even the slightest miss can destroy the balance created by smoky, salty bacon, crisp, cool lettuce, juicy tomatoes and toasted white bread that holds everything together without fighting the filling. She thought The Fountain's version of the BLT hit the correct notes and had the requisite balance.

Service felt warm and attentive. Drink glasses stayed full, food arrived promptly, and the staff maintained a sort of upbeat professionalism.

Pricing was also reasonable, especially considering current restaurant economics. Portion sizes, ingredient quality and service all compared favorably with The Fountain's peers.

Springfield has long embraced its connection to Route 66, and restaurants like The Fountain on 66 help reinforce why that heritage remains meaningful. But it's welcoming service and quality food that hopefully encourage guests to return.

Address: 1101 S. Ninth St., Springfield

Phone: 217-679-1020

Hours: Monday through Sunday 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

Website: facebook.com/p/The-Fountain-on-66



The BLT is served with honey-smoked bacon to add some flair.

PHOTOS BY ZACH ADAMS

St. Patrick Catholic School to close, but legacy continues

By Janet Seitz



St. Patrick Catholic School, 1800 South Grand Ave. East, was founded in 1910 but will close at the end of this school year because of financial challenges. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

St. Patrick Catholic School, located at 1800 South Grand Ave., opened its doors in 1910, a time when families of Irish descent – some of them immigrants themselves – dominated the surrounding neighborhood. The area also was home to German, Austrian and Italian residents. Many were struggling coal miner families who desired a Catholic education for their children. The Dominican Sisters of Springfield were among the first administrators and educators at the school and continued in those roles until the late 1990s.

In time, the neighborhood surrounding the school changed, and the school evolved to serving low-income, non-Catholic students, providing a faith-based education and small class sizes. Scholarships made it possible for students to attend who otherwise could not afford to do so.

Dominican Sister Marilyn Jean Runkel joined the school's board in 2000, serving on the advancement and finance committees and helping lead the school to become a 501(c)(3) with a governing board. "The greatest challenge through these years has been assuring that St. Patrick School was academically and financially sound," Runkel said. "Both of these were board responsibilities and were accomplished by the presence of committed board members and qualified administrative leaders and educators."

This financial challenge was met by support from individuals, organizations and foundations. St. Patrick also was fortunate to have a donor initiate an endowment for the school. "This endowment grew through the years, and interest from it contributed to the operations, as did many advancement and fundraising projects," Runkel said. "It was always a

priority to continue as a Catholic school, providing daily faith-based classes."

Yet, long-term financial challenges led to a heartbreaking decision. The closure of the school at the end of May marked the end of a long and meaningful chapter for generations of students, families and supporters. But its legacy will live on.

"There is a clause in the St. Patrick Endowment's purpose that states: If the school ever closes, the endowment's interest will be used to enable low-income and minority students to have the opportunity for a Catholic education in another local Catholic school," Runkel said.

This clause is the key to a scholarship program that will continue to support students whose parents want them to attend Catholic schools. In addition to the endowment, the St. Patrick's board will hold yearly fundraisers such as the Blarney Bash for Scholarships, radiothons, annual fund and other initiatives to continue St. Patrick's mission through this new approach.

Of St. Patrick's students, 35 have been offered scholarships and are registered to attend St. Aloysius and Little Flower Catholic schools this fall. The board has approved up to \$150,000 in scholarships for the 2026–2027 school year. "Our commitment to students and families does not end here," said St. Patrick Principal Bridget Timoney. "Through the St. Patrick Scholarship Program, we will continue carrying forward the spirit and tradition that has defined St. Pat's for decades."

In the two-plus decades Runkel has been involved, she said her most memorable experience, which occurred on a regular basis, was the care and support of St. Patrick provided by the Spring-

field community and the many individuals who respected the school's mission. "I always felt it was God's guidance and wisdom that enabled us to face challenges and continue the presence of a treasured icon of Springfield's educational opportunities," she said.

"I also believe a memorable experience through the years has been the impact on the Springfield community," Runkel said. "People and organizations significantly respect St. Patrick's. District 186 provided the federal programs that were required to be shared with nonpublic schools. That relationship was a key factor to our academic success. Whenever there was a need, a response came about that supported the school and its students and teachers – many benefactors.

"The school flourished and continued to provide the legacy of enabling Catholic education for these 116 years," Runkel said. "The scholarship program will continue this legacy with the support of those who see the value of enabling students, whose parents cannot afford full tuition, to attend a Catholic school!"

The St. Patrick Scholarship Program will kick off at the Blarney Bash for Scholarships on June 24 at the Knights of Columbus #364 on Meadowbrook Drive from 5-8 p.m. The event will feature live music, food, drinks, a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle.

For more information about these events or the St. Patrick Scholarship Program, visit st-patrick.org or call 217-523-7670. **SBJ**

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

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New businesses

Sangamon County new business registrations, April 16 – May 15., 2026

Finish LLC, 618 S. Seventh St., Apt. 3. 312-375-7777. Braelon White.

JDM Painting & Drywall LLC, 2003 Lindbergh Blvd. 217-553-1722. Jose Daniel Morales.

Strandz Hair Studio, 987 Clocktower Drive, Suite B. 217-652-8301. Teresa Walsh-Puma, Debbie Holdener.

Crown X Productions, 2417 S. 15th St. 217-691-2688. Jacob L. Thompson, Torri L. Thompson.

Dog House Outfitters, 2026 Briarcliff Drive. 217-652-7127. Alex Nicholas Pfeiffer.

Millionaire's Roast, 324 Kenyon Drive. 217-370-8331. Maximiliano Gomez.

J & J Plumbing, 2110 N. Republic St. 217-414-4415. Jim Kieffer.

Private Capital Group, 2812 Pat Tillman Drive. 217-416-5059. David Choate Hughes.

Sprout and Shine, 1 Country Towne Road. 217-993-1792. Jori N. Fleck.

Dane Brothers Décor, 2501 Wabash Ave. 309-434-0977. John R. Cunningham.

The Glove Medic, 1101 N. Columbia Ave. 217-725-3517. Christian Price.

"PORTIAR" Basics Apparel, 2419 Lynnhaven Drive. 708-200-5535. Chatara Janee' Porter.

Capitol Recovery Services, 1111 Grooms St., Suite 1, Pawnee. 217-381-9745. John M. Zak.

Mari Jai Zhang, 2501 Chatham Road, Suite 6667. 217-299-1012. Pragma Publishing LLC.

Mi'monee B. Green, 2501 Chatham Road, Suite 6667. 217-688-9998. Pragma Publishing LLC.

123D Prints, 412 Blane Court, Dawson. 217-922-5484. Vance Dhooge, Molly Dhooge.

Dream Forge, 3504 S. Park Ave. 217-416-0342. Leslie J. Ardebili.

Forever Florals LLC, 1789 Covered Bridge Road, Glenarm. 217-412-4662. Rachele Matthiesen.

Puppy Periodicals, 2276 E. Grandview Ave. 217-280-3670. David Schlosser.

Artfully SJ, 3125 Leonard St. 217-341-9011. Sarah J. Thomas.

Mr Painterman, 400 Chatham Road, Suite Lower Level Office 2. 217-220-4859. Tommie Wofford III.

The Frosted Crop, 632 S. Meadowbrook Road. 217-414-4088. Mike Canny.

Kirkwood Mobile Detailing, 2246 E. Cedar St., Apt. B. 447-226-9545. Kahlyel Kirkwood.

Endure, 1300 North Grand Ave. W., Apt. 1. 217-720-6728. Darius Johnson.

Freedom Lawn Care, 1604 Seton Drive. 217-588-0885. Matthew Gietl Christie.

Naturelle/Anjewls, 1300 North Grand Ave., Apt. 1. 217-553-6635. Angel Morgan.

Sprout Montessori School, 717 Rickard Road. 217-220-5811. Amber Fitzgerald.

Barely Buns, 119 Calvin Ave. 217-381-9071. Samuel William Forness.

Poochie Corner, 2800 Via Rosso St., Unite 141. 217-494-9659. Carol J. Edwards.

William Shaffer Attorney, 1039 Wabash Ave., LL#10. 217-522-9880. William Shaffer.

Staab-Harmony Properties, 2173 Greenbriar Road. 217-836-7565. Paul John Staab III, Dustin Blaine Harmony.

Heartfelt Assistance, 1411 E. Washington St. 217-685-7380. Toba F. Castro.

Mortal4Mortal, 2501 Chatham Road, Suite R. 702-845-5581. AE Whaley.

Kailynd Marie Photography, 1325 Stanton Airport Road, Riverton. 217-801-3558. Kailynd Wood.

Amber And Peers, 717 Rickard Road. 217-220-5811. Amber L. Fitzgerald.

Little Sprouts Montessori, 717 Rickard Road. 217-220-5811. Amber Lynnette Fitzgerald.

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