

People in Business

Financial advisor earns CFP designation

Jim Pipkin, a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Wood River, has earned designation as a Certified Financial Planner from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc., a nonprofit board based in Washington, D.C.



Pipkin

The certification is awarded to individuals who meet the CFP Board's stringent requirements. To gain certification, a financial advisor must complete a CFP Board Registered educational program, pass the CFP examination and background check, and agree to comply with the CFP Board's Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

CFP professionals are trained in 70 topic areas and must accrue thousands of hours of experience prior to earning their certification. Some of the principal knowledge areas of the CFP certification include: professional conduct and regulation; general principles of financial strategies; risk management and insurance planning; investment strategies; retirement savings and income planning; and estate considerations.

1st MidAmerica tabs regional manager

Bethalto-based 1st MidAmerica Credit Union announced Julius Sims as the new regional manager. Sims comes to the



Sims

credit union with more than 15 years of experience in financial services.

With his previous experience as a market manager, Sims will be an excellent addition to the operations team at 1st MidAmerica.

Through the years, Sims has held both member-facing and back office positions at financial institutions that will lend him a unique perspective in his role.

Sims resides in Florissant. He volunteers with the National Black MBA Association, with his church and other various organizations.

Chair named for United Way board

Keith Williamson, president of the Centene Charitable Foundation, has been named the 2022-2024 chair of the board of directors for United Way of Greater St. Louis. He succeeds Michael Moehn, executive vice president and chief financial officer at Ameren Corp.



Williamson

and president of Ameren Services, who held the board chair position since 2020.

"This year is a very special milestone as United Way celebrates its 100-year anniversary, and I am honored to serve as board chair during this exciting time in the organization's history," Williamson said.

United Way of Greater St. Louis also welcomed the following new board members:

- Abel Anderson, First Mid Bank & Trust
- Paris Forest, Boeing
- Brian Gibson, First Mid Bank & Trust
- Katy Jochum, Wells Fargo Advisors
- P.K. Johnson V, Johnson, Johnson & Nolan Attorneys
- John Koppin, PWC
- Laura B. Ray, Deloitte
- Anne Ritter, Armanino
- Patrick Smith, Ameren
- Charles Stewart, Bi-State Development Agency
- Nora Stupp-Coggin, Stupp Brothers

New director named for Downtown Airport

Bi-State Development has hired Sandra Shore to lead St. Louis Downtown Airport effective Feb. 28.



Shore

Shore replaced Erick Dahl who served as director of for nearly eight years before leaving to pursue another opportunity last fall. The airport is the busiest general aviation airport in Illinois and the third-busiest airport overall in the state after O'Hare and Midway. St. Louis Downtown Airport contributes more than \$422 million in annual economic benefits to the local economy and is located on 1,000 acres in St. Clair County in Cahokia Heights and Sauget, just across the Mississippi River from the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

Shore most recently was airport director at Quincy (Ill.) Regional Airport, where she has held the position since 2018. Prior to that, Shore was the airport manager at Floyd W. Jones Lebanon Airport in Lebanon, Mo. Her experience ranges from general aviation and fixed based operation to Part 139 certified air service airports. During her time at Quincy Regional Airport, she managed more than \$7 million in federal Airport Improvement Funding, secured an additional \$18 million in funding, and has programmed another \$17 million in airport funding over the next two years.

Goldenberg firm welcomes veteran lawyer

Edwardsville-based Goldenberg Heller & Antognoli has welcome veteran attorney Robert Bruegge to the firm. Bruegge



Bruegge

will serve as of counsel for the firm, with his practice focusing primarily on business transactions, real estate, bankruptcy, estate planning and mergers and acquisitions. Prior to attending law school, Bruegge studied accounting at the University of Illinois in Champaign, IL. He then passed his CPA exam and became a Certified Public Accountant while attending the University of Houston Bates College of Law in Houston, Texas. Bruegge has practiced law for over 40 years.

He will be part of the firm's debtor/creditor team with Joel Kunin, Sandy Tatoian and Steve Wallace, said Mark Goldenberg, founder and managing partner of the firm.

Bruegge served as Chapter 7 Trustee for the Southern District of Illinois

for 16 years. In addition, he also reviewed and administered cases as an independent trustee appointed by the United States Department of Justice.

Director of quality named at firm

West Star Aviation announced the promotion of Darren Nash to director of Quality Assurance. Nash will focus on



Nash

supporting operations company-wide while working with each location to align all of the quality assurance functions. He has been with West Star since 2007 working within the quality assurance team in several capacities. He earned his FAA A&P certificates from Belleville Area College, now Southwestern Illinois College. He pursued many different aspects in his aviation career, including repair stations, flight schools, and the rare opportunity to be the Director of Maintenance for a museum that operated several retired military aircraft including North American Aviation's B25 Mitchell and P51 Mustang.

West Star's primary facilities are located in East Alton.

Holland Construction names new CFO

Swansea-based Holland Construction Services President Mike Marchal announced the promotion of Katie McCutchen to chief financial officer. McCutchen has 18 years of construction accounting experience and has spent the last several years serving as Holland's controller. As CFO, McCutchen leads strategy

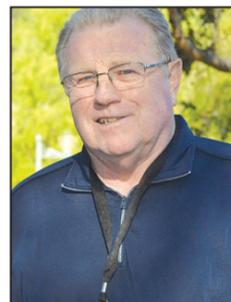


McCutchen

around growth and profitability, forecasts revenue needs, maximizes cash flow and investments and keeps the company competitive in the market. She also oversees the accounting, human resources, and IT departments. During her time at Holland, McCutchen has held a variety of financing and accounting positions including assistant controller, controller, and now CFO. Additionally, she has provided accounting/finance mentoring to emerging contractors in the industry. She joined Holland in 2016.

Focal Pointe names executive director

Focal Pointe Outdoor Solutions, based in Caseyville, has announced the appointment of Bruce K. Wilson as executive director.



Wilson

Founded by John Munie in 1998, Focal Pointe has revenues in excess of \$20 million and is one of the nation's Top 150 landscape firms. "Bruce has been an extraordinary industry leader and advisor to us over the years, and his expertise will be invaluable as we embark

on a new era of growth," said company President John Munie. "Bruce and I are aligned in how we define success, and I'm confident he can be a great and inspiring mentor to our team."

Wilson joins Focal Pointe from a 50-year career in the landscape industry and is a nationally recognized expert on performance.

A Cornell University graduate, Wilson received the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Landscape Professionals and the 2015 Industry Leadership Award from Lawn & Landscape magazine. He is currently executive director of green industry consulting group, Bruce Wilson & Company; former co-owner and CEO of Conserve LandCare; and former president of ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance.

Town and Country adds mortgage originator

Town and Country Bank promoted Clair Crider to mortgage loan originator in Edwardsville. She previously served as a mortgage loan assistant.



Crider

Crider graduated from Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville, earning an associate degree in Applied Science - Computer Information Systems. Prior to joining Town and Country Bank, Clair was a part of the Post Closing Corporate Team with The Home Loan Expert in St. Louis as well as served as a project manager for Cardinal Catastrophe Services Inc. in Edwardsville.

Clair has been a resident of Edwardsville for more than 20 years.

Moore appointed to Bi-State board

St. Clair County Board Chairman Mark Kern has appointed Debra Moore to serve as a member of the Bi-State Development Board of Commissioners through January 2027.



Moore

The St. Clair County Board confirmed the appointment on Jan. 31. Moore is the director of administration for the St. Clair County Board.

Before Moore assumed the role of director of administration for the St. Clair County Board in 2015, she oversaw the administration of federal and state grant programs for St. Clair County.

She received a Ph.D. and Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Missouri-Saint Louis and Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Moore replaces Commissioner Justin Zimmerman, whose term expired last month. Zimmerman had represented Madison County since 2017 on the Bi-State Development Board of Commissioners. He served as the board vice chair until last month.

Send People in Business items to Editor Dennis Grubaugh, dgrubaugh@ibjonline.com.