

Rotary Blood Donations Meet Goal

The need for blood never stops. That's a big part of why Rotary sponsors six Red Cross blood drives per year. Each individual can only give a maximum of six times in a 365-day period. Even though there may turn out to be seven drives in that 365 days, six times is all one can donate. If the seventh opportunity falls on day 363 or 364 of that period, donors will not be able to give.

While the Rotary blood drive has many regular donors who give six times per year, there are also many semi-regular donors who give when they can. Because of that, the total number of donations can vary greatly. Rotary officials said they hope that as some donors can no longer donate because of health issues, medications or other reasons, younger donors will take their place. That has not happened as often as needed, and total donations appear to be declining, even though they vary during different times of the year.

Rotary members were surprised at the May 12 blood drive when they learned the goal was only 53 donations. They believed the goal would be easy to meet because it



Local resident and regular donor Joyce Heggie cheerfully shares her blood with others in need assisted by Blood Tech Katana

had never been that low during Rotary's more than 40 years of involvement. However, it remained uncertain until the final hour whether the goal would be reached. A late surge of donors helped push the total to 58 donations. While still low by past standards, the drive met and surpassed the goal set by the Red Cross.

The need for blood never stops, and at times it increases.

The next Rotary Red Cross blood drive will be held Tuesday, July 14, at the Moose Lodge from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Organizers encouraged those who are able to donate on July 14 or at future drives.

As an added incentive, July is usually the time for the Cardinal Red Cross T-shirt giveaway. Organizers encouraged donors to come to the Moose Lodge on July 14.

ISBE Votes to Adopt Rural Definition Proposed by the Rural Education Advisory Council



Since its formation in August 2022, the Rural Education Advisory Council (REAC) has focused their efforts on creating a rural definition for Illinois. At their May 13, 2026, Board meeting, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) voted to adopt this definition.

The following criteria now define a rural school district in Illinois:

- District NCES Locale Code of 31, 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43.
- Community Unit District Enrollment of 3,500 or fewer.
- Elementary District Enrollment of 2,500 or fewer.
- High School District Enrollment of 1,100 or fewer.

By implementing a standard rural definition, the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools (AIRSS), the REAC, ISBE, lawmakers, and advocates can better inform education policy to fairly consider rural schools. Now, all entities can agree what "rural" means when discussing education issues and ensure that the unique needs of those districts are represented.

The implications of this definition also extend to federal funding access. The Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) has its own definitions for rural and small when determining if a Local Education Agency (LEA) is eligible for funding. However, a state agency definition can

be used to supplement the REAP definition when determining eligibility. According to ISBE Rural School District Lead Melissa Oller, the new Illinois definition will give 28 LEAs in Illinois access to federal REAP funding that were previously considered ineligible.

"Today is a great day for rural and small schools in Illinois," said AIRSS Executive Director David Ardrey. "After a decade of work and significant advocacy, a clear and specific definition of rural and small schools has been adopted. It is an important step to advocate and develop good policy that reflects the needs and concerns of rural and small schools."

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal 3056
First Publication
May 7, 2026
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FAYETTE COUNTY, VANDALIA, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF CATHERIN R. RENTFROW, DECEASED 2026PR18

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Catherine R. Rentfrow of Farina, Fayette County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 17, 2026, to Jason R. Fields of PO Box 245, 201 North Hickory, Farina, Illinois 62838 and Rebecca S. Shamhart n/k/a Rebecca S. Rentfrow of 10741 East 1600th Avenue, Effingham, Illinois 62401, whose attorney is Kirsten W. Osteen of McDevitt Osteen Chojnicki & Deters, LLC. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Fayette County Government Center, Vandalia, Illinois, or with the representative or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, May 7, 2026, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Jason R. Fields and
Rebecca S. Shamhart n/k/a Rebecca S. Rentfrow,
Executor
Kirsten W. Osteen
McDevitt Osteen Chojnicki & Deters, LLC
Attorneys for Petitioners
127 West Jefferson Avenue
P.O. Box 507
Effingham, Illinois 62401
Phone: 217-342-8060
osteen@mocdlaw.com
ARDC No. 6290393

Legal 3057
First Publication
May 7, 2026
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FAYETTE COUNTY, VANDALIA, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF JAMES A. RENTFROW, DECEASED 2026PR19

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of JAMES A. Rentfrow of Farina, Fayette County, Illinois. Letters

of Office were issued on April 17, 2026, to Rebecca S. Shamhart n/k/a Rebecca S. Rentfrow of 10741 East 1600th Avenue, Effingham, Illinois 62401 and Jason R. Fields of PO Box 245, 201 North Hickory, Farina, Illinois 62838, whose attorney is Kirsten W. Osteen of McDevitt Osteen Chojnicki & Deters, LLC. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Fayette County Government Center, Vandalia, Illinois, or with the representative or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, May 7, 2026, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Rebecca S. Shamhart n/k/a Rebecca S. Rentfrow,
and Jason R. Fields
Executor
Kirsten W. Osteen
McDevitt Osteen Chojnicki & Deters, LLC
Attorneys for Petitioners
127 West Jefferson Avenue
P.O. Box 507
Effingham, Illinois 62401
Phone: 217-342-8060
osteen@mocdlaw.com
ARDC No. 6290393

Legal 3059
First Publication
May 14, 2026
ESTATE CLAIM NOTICE
DOYLE E. POWELL ESTATE
#26-PR-20

Notice is hereby given of the death of Doyle E. Powell, Vandalia, Fayette County, Illinois. The Representative of the Estate is Teresa Powell of 1931 US Highway 51, Vandalia, Illinois 62471, whose attorney is Patrick F. Schaufelberger, of The Schaufelberger Law Offices, Ltd., 107 South Fourth St., Vandalia, Illinois, 62471. Claims against the Estate must be in writing and contain sufficient information to notify the Representative of the nature of the claim, and may be filed in the Circuit Court Clerk's office at the Fayette County Courthouse, Vandalia, Illinois, 62471, or with the Representative, or both. If a claim against the Estate is filed with the Clerk, then within 10 days of such filing, copies

of the claim must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and the Representatives' attorney and proof of such mailing or delivery must be filed with the Circuit Court Clerk. Claims against the Estate will be barred if they are subject to this notice and are not filed as required by statute on or before the 14th day of November, 2026.
Teresa Powell, Administrator
Estate of Doyle E. Powell
PATRICK F. SCHAUFELBERGER
THE SCHAUFELBERGER LAW OFFICES, Ltd.
107 South Fourth Street
Vandalia, Illinois 62471-2899
Phone: (618) 283-1411
Fax: (618) 283-1413

Legal 3060
Publication Date
May 21st, 2026
STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FAYETTE COUNTY-JUVENILE DIVISION IN THE INTEREST OF CONNER KOZAK, Minor

No. 2023-JA-51 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, and any and all unknown fathers, that on May 7, 2026 a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Brenda M. Mathis in Fayette County Court and that in the courtroom of Honorable Judge presiding in Fayette County Courthouse, 221 S. Seventh St., Vandalia, Illinois, on June 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and to appoint a guardian and for other relief under that Act. The court has authority in this case to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor. UNLESS you appear at the hearing and show cause to the contrary, AN ORDER OF JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE PETITION.
Dated May 11, 2026

Legal 3061
Publication Date

May 21, 2026
STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FAYETTE COUNTY-JUVENILE DIVISION IN THE INTEREST OF TIMOTHY KOZAK, Minor

No. 2023-JA-52 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, and any and all unknown fathers, that on May 7, 2025 a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Brenda M. Mathis in Fayette County Court and that in the courtroom of Honorable Judge presiding in Fayette County Courthouse, 221 S. Seventh St., Vandalia, Illinois, on June 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and to appoint a guardian and for other relief under that Act. The court has authority in this case to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor. UNLESS you appear at the hearing and show cause to the contrary, AN ORDER OF JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE PETITION.
Dated May 11, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given by the Board of Trustees of the Altamont Fire Protection District that its Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation ordinance for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2026 and ending April 30, 2027, has been prepared in tentative form and is available for public inspection at the office of the Altamont Fire Protection District, 109 W. Jefferson Avenue, Altamont, Illinois, for the next thirty days, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. A public hearing shall be held as to such Budget and Appropriation Ordinance prior to final action thereon at the Altamont Fire Protection District Building, Altamont, Illinois, on July 13, 2026,

at 8:00 a.m.
ALTAMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Effingham - Effingham, ILLINOIS
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUNDS SOCIETY, FSB AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF THE RESIDENTIAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TRUST IX-A
Plaintiff
vs.
JONATHAN BARCUS, JR.; RANDY BARCUS; JIM BARCUS; DAMON RITENHOUSE AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR JONATHAN BARCUS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JONATHAN E. BARCUS, deceased UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendant
24 FC 22

CALENDAR NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Effingham County will on June 29, 2026, at the hour 10:00 a.m., first floor lobby, Government Center, 120 West Jefferson St., Effingham, IL 62401, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
APART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF FRACTIONAL SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 7 NORTH, RANGE 5 EAST OF THE 3RD P.M., MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID FRACTIONAL SECTION 3; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 12' EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID FRACTIONAL SECTION 3, A DISTANCE OF 410.2 FEET TO THE EXISTING SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF U.S. ROUTE 40 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 67 DEGREES 39' EAST ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 547.0 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 28 DEGREES 59' EAST, A DISTANCE OF 599.0 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 43' WEST, A DISTANCE OF 795.0 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF THE

NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID FRACTIONAL SECTION 3; THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES 12' WEST, A DISTANCE OF 320.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING (AS MORE SPECIFICALLY SHOWN BY THE PLAT OF SURVEY DATED FEBRUARY 23, 1984, AND PREPARED BY CHARLES A. BRAASCH, I.L.S. NO. 2052), SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF EFFINGHAM AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.
P.I.N. 04-06-003-010.
Commonly known as 9069 E. US Highway 40, Effingham, IL 62401.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Lavelle Law, 1933 North Meacham Road, Suite 600, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173. (847) 705-7555. WSF vs. Barcus SHERIFF 13287466

Ordinance No. 1119, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4, Division 2, Paragraph 8 Of The City Of St. Elmo, (Fayette County), Illinois Municipal Code (Water Rates) was passed by corporate authority of the Board of Alderman of the City of St. Elmo, Illinois and signed by Mayor Kimberly Baron of the City of St. Elmo, Illinois on May 7, 2025 and is on file at City Hall, 411 N. Main Street, Mon-Fri from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for public inspection. Ordinances will be in effect 10 days after passage, approval and publication as required by law.

REAL ESTATE LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Effingham - Effingham, ILLINOIS
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUNDS SOCIETY, FSB AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF THE RESIDENTIAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TRUST IX-A
Plaintiff
vs.
JONATHAN BARCUS, JR.;

RANDY BARCUS; JIM BARCUS; DAMON RITENHOUSE AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR JONATHAN BARCUS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JONATHAN E. BARCUS, deceased UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendant
24 FC 22
CALENDAR NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S

SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Effingham County will on June 29, 2026, at the hour 10:00 a.m., first floor lobby, Government Center, 120 West Jefferson St., Effingham, IL 62401, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real

estate:
P.I.N. 04-06-003-010.
Commonly known as 9069 E. US Highway 40, Effingham, IL 62401.
The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section

189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record

and the title record to verify all information before bidding.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Lavelle Law, 1933 North Meacham Road, Suite 600, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173. (847) 705-7555. WSF vs. Barcus SHERIFF 13287466