

Springfield

SCENE MAGAZINE

A TRIPLE
TALENT
ON THE
RISE

**MEREDITH
CRIFASI**

**BRINGING HEART,
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CREATIVITY TO
EVERY STAGE**

**SINGER,
ACTRESS &
VIOLINIST**

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Rising Stars
THE FUTURE
IS BRIGHT

SPRINGFIELD SCENE MAGAZINE



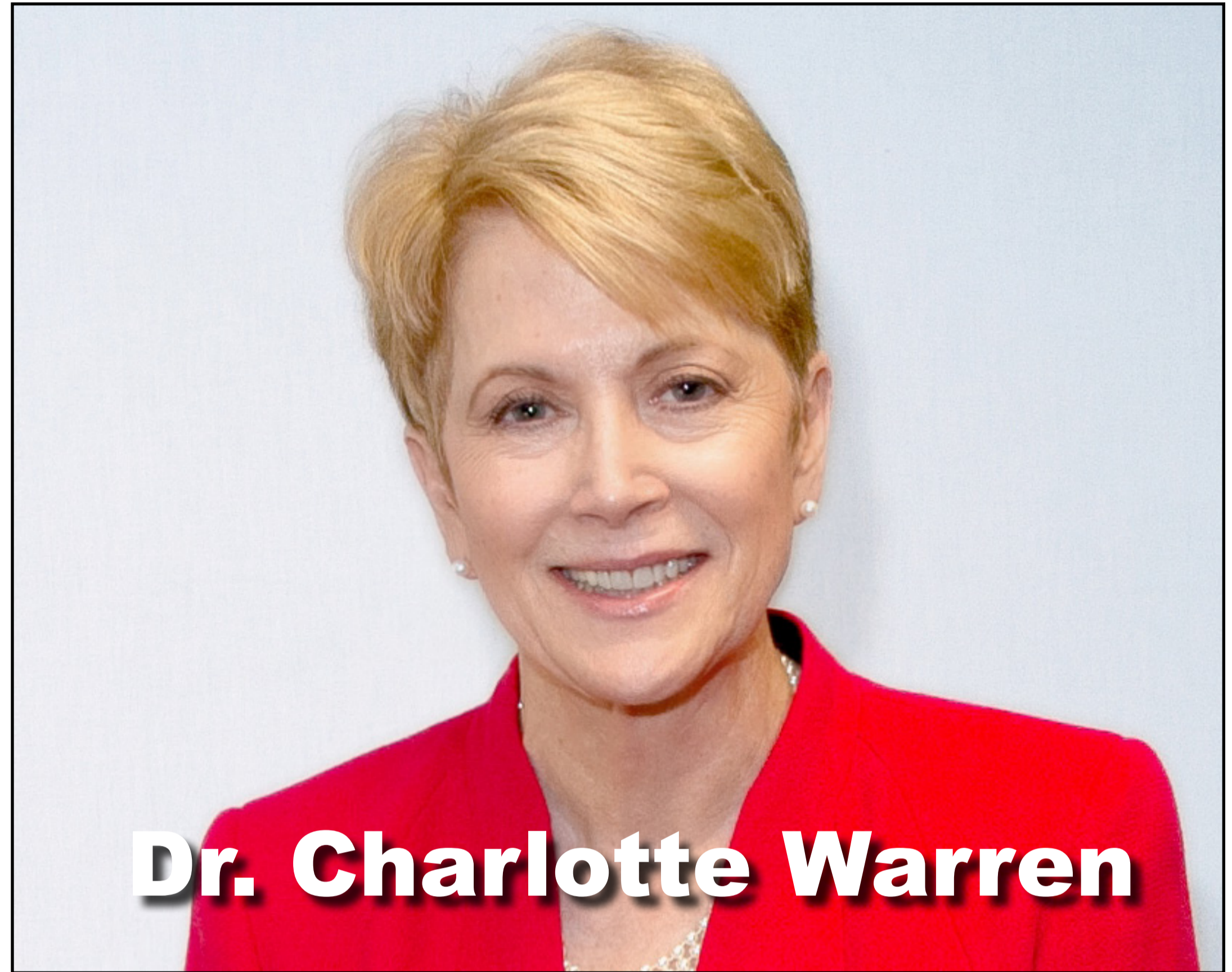
Cover Photo
by
Bill
Stokes

Issue Number 5 - Volume 22 - May 2026

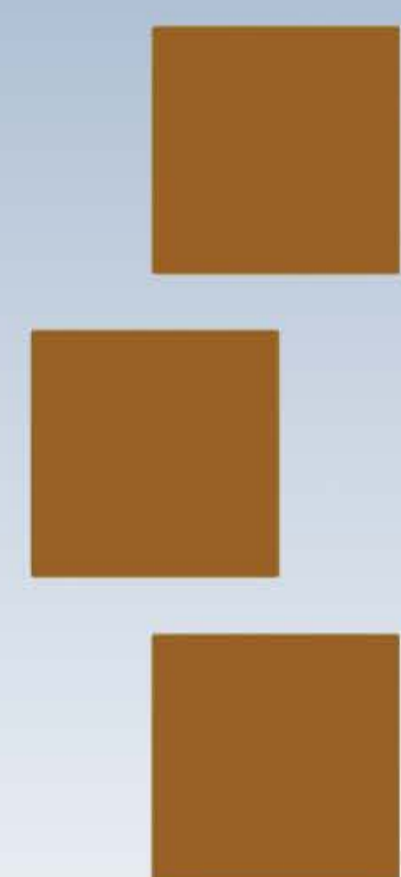
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*Shinning A Light On
Philanthropy And The
Arts In Our Community
& The People Who Are
Making A Difference.*

Table of Contents



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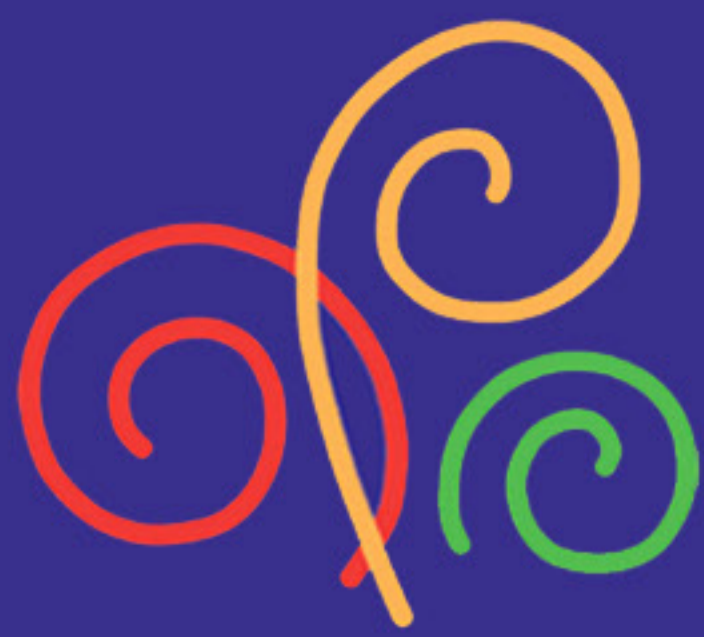
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May 29



Stella Cole in Concert June 3

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the course of these events, it became necessary to explain to the world the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That whenever a Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

1776

The Musical

JULY 1-5



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ARTSCENE
10 QUESTIONS WITH MEREDITH CRIFASI
A LIFE IN MUSIC AND MOTION

Springfield native Meredith Crifasi is the kind of artist who refuses to choose just one path—and excels because of it.

A classically trained violinist, pianist, and vocalist, Crifasi has been performing since the age of four, building a résumé that spans orchestra pits, concert halls, and center stage in some of Central Illinois' most recognized productions. From the Hoogland Center for the Arts to the Springfield Theatre Centre and the Millikin Decatur Symphony

Meredith as Sandy Dumbrowski in The Legacy Theater's 2025 summer production of Grease performing "Summer Nights"



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Orchestra, her presence is felt both in the spotlight and behind the scenes.

But what makes her story compelling isn't just the performance credits—it's the balance.

By day, she works as an Environmental Protection Specialist with the State of Illinois, applying her degree in biochemistry to protect public health. By night (and often in between), she's rehearsing, teaching, performing, and continuing a lifelong pursuit of musical excellence.

Crifasi's journey reflects discipline shaped early—years of competitive performance, intensive music study, and mentorship under respected instructors—combined with a mindset grounded in humility and teamwork. As she puts it, “it takes an orchestra,” a philosophy that guides both her artistry and her life.

Her story is also one of momentum. From leading roles like Sandy in *Grease* to her upcoming debut as Sophie in *Mamma Mia!* and stepping into the role of orchestra conductor for *Hairspray*, Crifasi continues to expand not just what she does—but who she is as an artist.

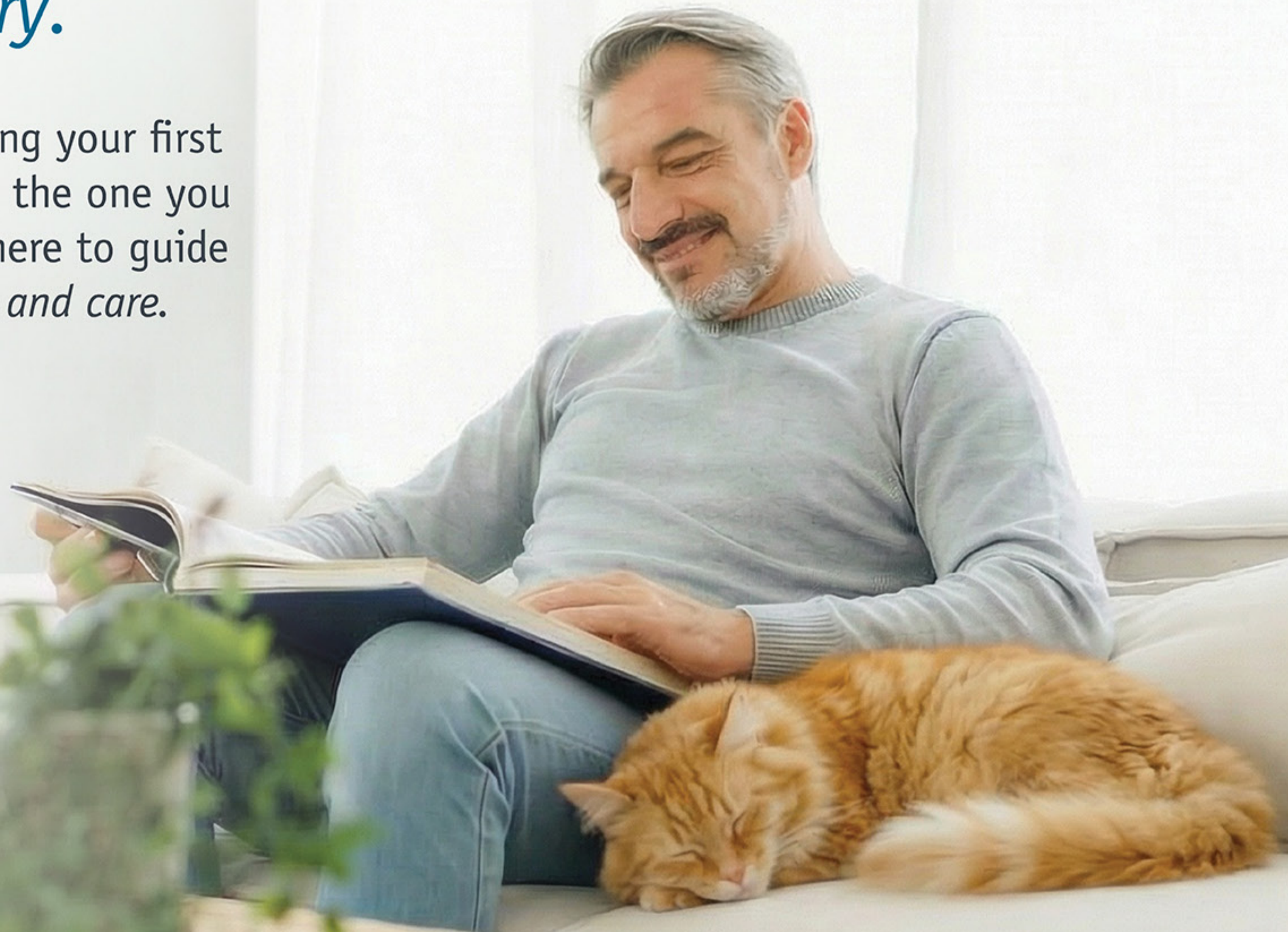
At its core, this is a story about commitment—to craft, to curiosity, and to a life where science and art don't compete, but coexist.

Click through for the full “10 Questions” and discover the depth behind one of Springfield's most dynamic young performers.

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Josh Johnson

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Illuminate The Night - Prohibited

Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU Medicine

April 17th - President Abraham Lincoln Springfield - DoubleTree by Hilton - Photos by Bill Stokes



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[Back To Table of Contents](#)

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DR. CHARLOTTE WARREN

After two decades of leadership, Dr. Charlotte Warren leaves behind a transformed Lincoln Land Community College—one defined by expanded opportunity, stronger workforce connections and a clear path forward for students at every stage of life.

Read the full story —>



[Back To Table of Contents](#)

Photo by Bill Stokes



Renovate or Relocate?



To renovate your home or to pack up and move - It's a question almost every homeowner asks at some point.

When your home no longer fits your family's needs, it's natural to wonder what comes next.

It's not always about more space — sometimes it's about better space.

“

If you love where you live, renovation might be the right move.

”

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20th Annual LLCC Foundation Gala

Lincoln Land Community College - Back to the 70s Gala
April 25, 2026 - Photos by Paul Turner



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[Back To Table of Contents](#)

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on Friday Night

Weekly Saturday
Tastings



Dinners & Classes

Mon 10 AM–7 PM
Tue 10 AM–7 PM
Wed 10 AM–7 PM
Thu 10 AM–7 PM
Fri 10 AM–8 PM
Sat 10 AM–7 PM
Sun 12–5 PM



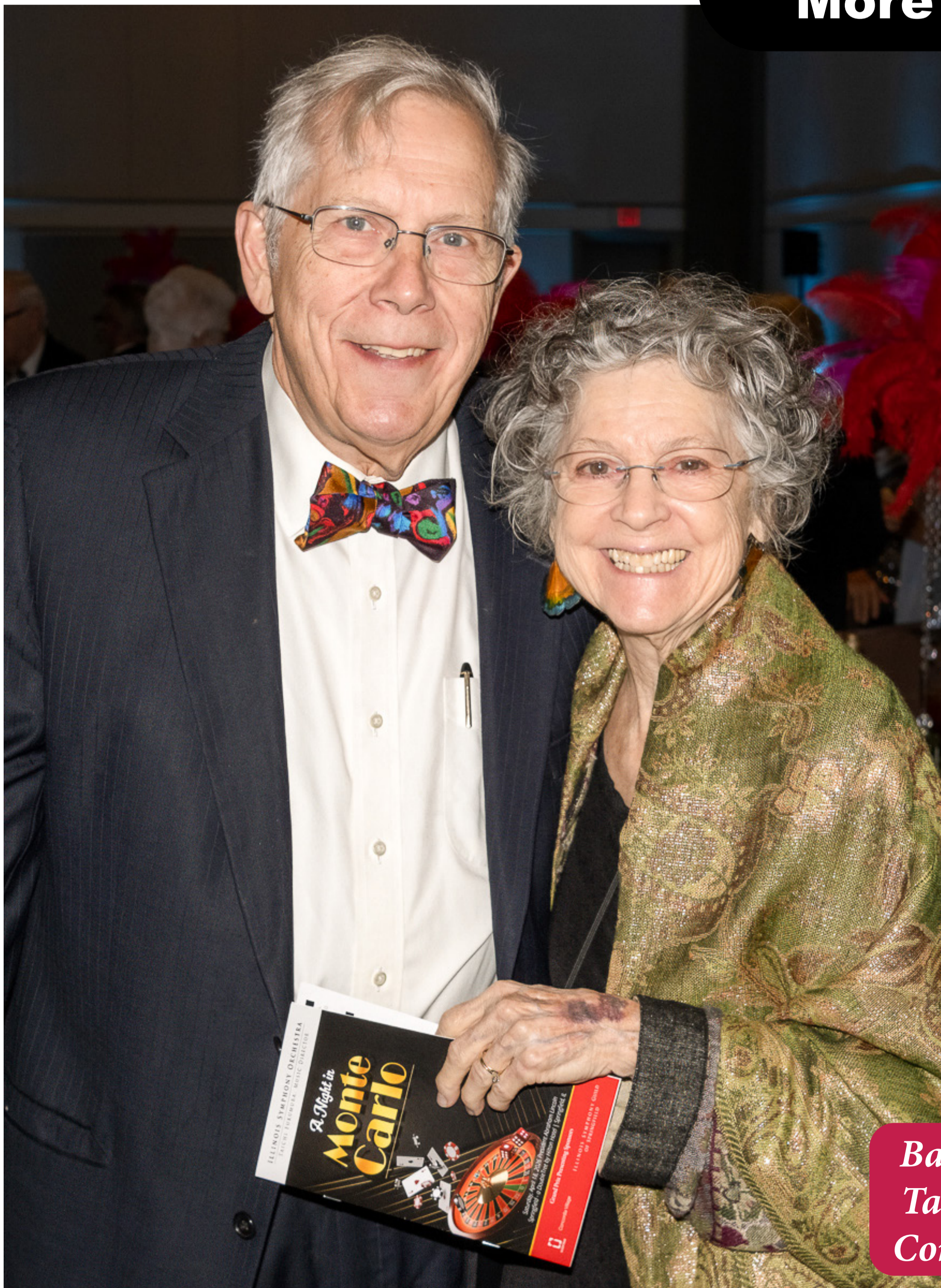
Illinois Symphony Orchestra

Monte Carlo Night - Gala

April 18, 2026 - Pres. Abe Lincoln Springfield Doubletree by Hilton Hotel - Photos by Javid Rassi



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[Back To Table of Contents](#)

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Red Shoe Gala

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois

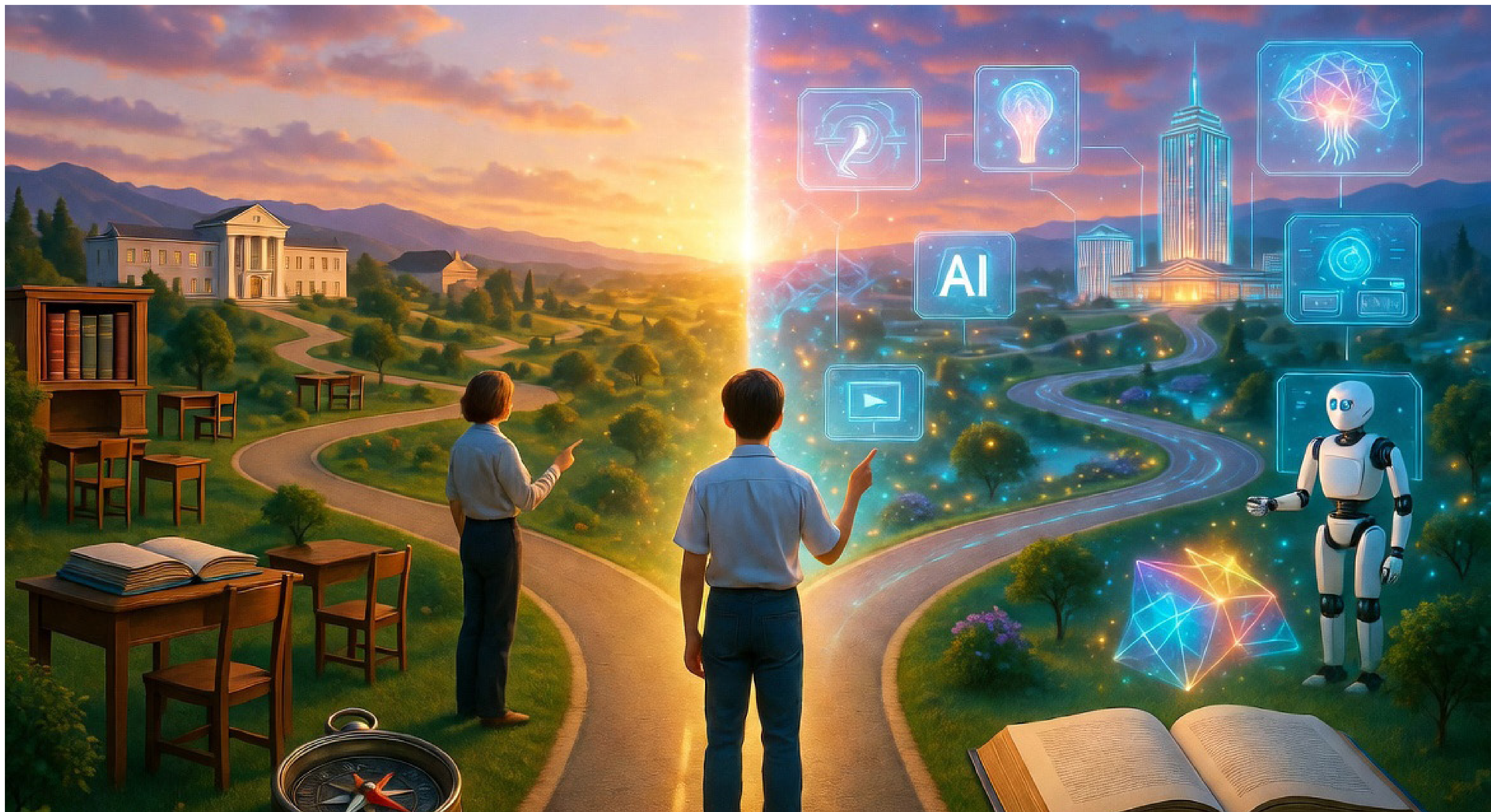
April 25, 2026 - Crowne Plaza - Photos Provided by RMHCCI



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[Back To Table of Contents](#)



Choosing the Right Path in a Changing World

Guiding teenagers—and ourselves—through education in the age of AI

For generations, the path forward seemed clear: graduate, choose a college, earn a degree and begin a career.

That model is evolving.

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how work gets done, changing the skills employers value and creating new opportunities for those willing to adapt. In this environment, the question is no longer simply “Where should I go?”

A better question is: “What do I need to learn next—and where is the best place to learn it?”

Whether you’re a parent helping a teenager take their first step or a professional looking to stay relevant, the answer begins not with a school—but with a direction.

[Our Guide is simple but important, Click Here.](#)

*Back To
Table of
Contents*

Women's Power Luncheon

SIU School of Medicine

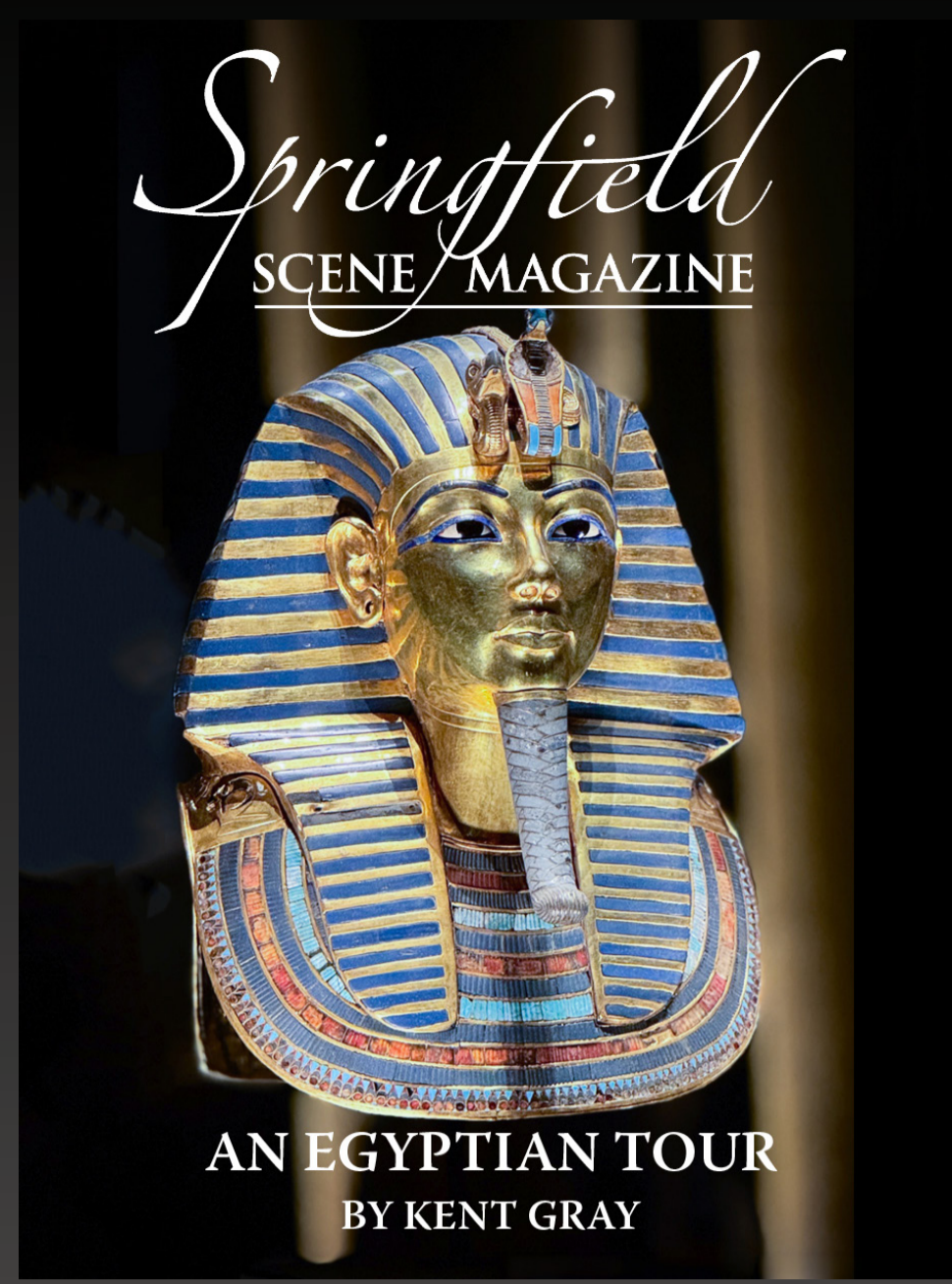
May 1, 2026 - President Abraham Lincoln Hotel - Photos by Bill Stokes



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[Back To Table of Contents](#)



AN EGYPTIAN TOUR
BY KENT GRAY

April 2026



Kevin O'Dea
President SSHOF

Ryan O'Malley
Class of 2026
Inductee

Mayor Misty
Buscher

The 34th Springfield Sports
Hall of Fame

March 2026



"Art has the power
to touch people
we may never meet."

Kristen Clark Houch
Artist. Dancer. Muse.

February 2026



CHERRILYN POE MAYFIELD
Faith. Presence. Community.
Why Cherrilyn Believes Showing Up Still Matters

The Mayfield Family: Charles, Amelia, Michelle, William & Cherrilyn
Mason, E. Caleney, Erika, E. Bills, Elizabeth, Thomas, Helen, Steven, Ryan

January 2026



MELISSA SKINNER-LIBERMAN
"Championing Families, Nature, and the
Heart of Giving"

The Liberman Family: Alice, Owen, Melissa, Colin,
Anna, Will, Ernie, Traci, Grant, Victoria, Keeg

December 2025



STELLA COLE
The Magic of a Timeless Voice

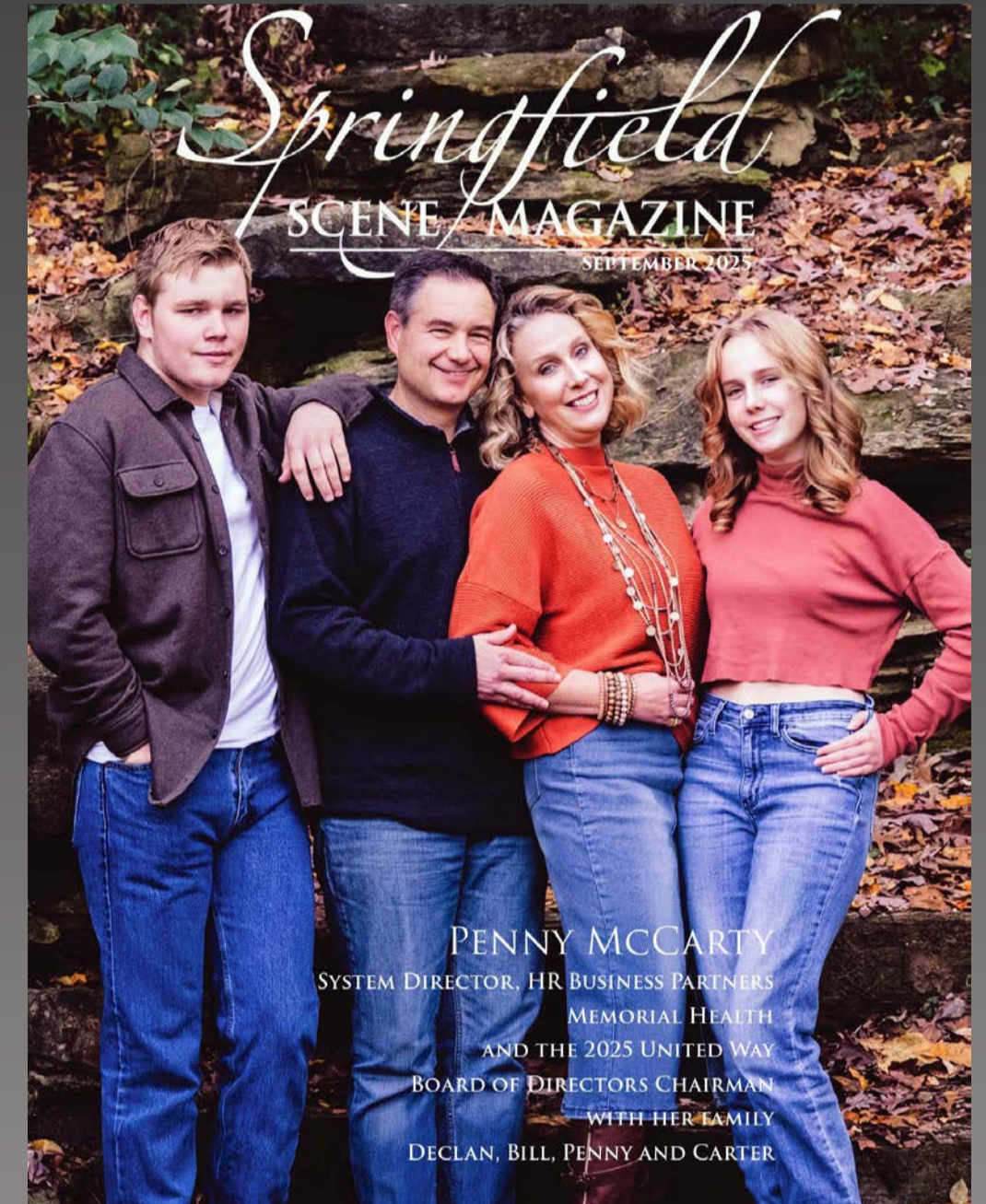
From Springfield to the World
— Inside Her Journey, Music, and Magic

November 2025



DEBBIE GIMAROSSA THOMPSON
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Always On Consulting

October 2025



PENNY MCCARTY
SYSTEM DIRECTOR, HR BUSINESS PARTNERS
MEMORIAL HEALTH
AND THE 2025 UNITED WAY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIRMAN
WITH HER FAMILY
DECLAN, BILL, PENNY AND CARTER

September 2025



JASMINE FRENCH
ACTRESS WHO PLAYS
LORBELL ROBINSON IN
HOOGLAND'S PRODUCTION
OF "DREAMGIRLS"
AUG. 22-24 & AUG. 29-31

August 2025



ERIN HASCUP
EXEC. DIR., SMITH CENTER FOR
ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH AND TREATMENT

CASEY COPELAND
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, SIU MEDICINE

July 2025



CATHY SGRO BOERKE
PRESENTS
LINDA APENBRINK
WITH A 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE AWARD

June 2025



CINDY SINCLAIR
STAGE MANAGER ON
AMERICAN IDOL AT
CBS TV CITY IN LA.

May 2025



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RETIRED PRESIDENT AND CEO
OF MEMORIAL HEALTH
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LEARNING CENTER

April 2025



MARKE FREEMAN
2025 SPRINGFIELD
SPORTS HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE - BASKETBALL
MAYOR MISTY BUSCHER
& SSHOF PRESIDENT
KEVIN O'DAY AT HER SIDES.

March 2025



TAICHI FUKUMURA
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ILLINOIS SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

February 2025



SERGIO "SATCH"
PECORI
CHAIRMAN & CEO
HANSON

January 2025



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*Back To
Table of
Contents*