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SUMMER HOME IMPROVEMENT

Southern Illinois News



July 2025



Illinois State Fair announces “Adventure Awaits”

SPRINGFIELD, IL — Adventure Awaits at the 2025 Illinois State Fair! The theme for this year’s fair sets the tone for an unforgettable journey through all that makes the Illinois State Fair a must-see event—livestock competitions, jaw-dropping performances, thrilling carnival rides, delicious food, and nonstop entertainment.

This theme also sets the stage for one of Springfield’s favorite traditions: the Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade, stepping off at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 7. The parade kicks off the 11-day celebration of Illinois agriculture, community, and creativity, winding through Springfield

streets and into the heart of the fairgrounds.

From high school bands and community groups to classic cars and creative floats, the Twilight Parade is an annual tradition.

“The Twilight Parade is the perfect way to kick off this adventure,” said Jerry Costello II, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. “This year’s theme invites every fairgoer to discover something new, and it all starts with the parade.”

“There’s a world of fun waiting inside the gates,” added Illinois State Fair Manager Rebecca Clark. “We encourage families to grab a lemon shake-up, find their favorite curbside spot,

and enjoy this time-honored tradition. We cannot wait for you to experience all the adventure the Illinois State Fair has to offer.”

The Twilight Parade will start at 5:30 p.m. in Lincoln Park and travel onto Sangamon Avenue, entering the fairgrounds through the Main Gate. From there, the parade marches down Main Street, turns left onto Grandstand Avenue, marching past the Grandstand, and exits through Lot 21.

Opening Day Highlights – Thursday, August 7:

- Fairgrounds admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, free for kids 12 and under
- Carnival rides open at noon – all rides just \$3 all

day on August 7

- “Double the Fun” parking deal – pay to park on August 7, and return with free parking on August 12, 13, or 14
- Monsters of Destruction roars into The Arena at 7:30 p.m. – plan ahead and enter through Gate 6 to avoid parade traffic. Tickets can be purchased at StateFair.Illinois.gov

The 2025 Illinois State Fair runs from August 7 through August 17 in Springfield. Stay up to date with all the latest news and announcements by connecting with us via Facebook and Instagram.

Adventure Awaits – don’t miss your chance to be part of it!

Du Quoin State Fair Box Office opens

DU QUOIN, IL – The Du Quoin State Fair Box Office is now open for in-person ticket purchases.

Regular box office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. During the Fair, August 22 to September 1, the box office will be open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for the River Radio/Pepsi Mid-America Stage shows:

David Lee Roth – August 23

Little River Band – August 24

Tesla – August 28

Jake Owen – August 29

Tucker Wetmore – August 30

Gabby Barrett – September 1

Online sales are also available anytime at dsf.illinois.gov.

Carnival wristbands, which offer one full day of unlimited rides, are also on sale now through August 21, 2025, for only \$25. Once the fair begins on August 22, wristbands will sell for \$30 for weekdays and \$35 for weekends.

“The Du Quoin State Fair is an end-of-summer family tradition in southern Illinois,” said Luke Davison, Du Quoin State Fair Manager. “We have a line up packed with entertainment options for the whole family, and now is a great time to buy concert tickets and carnival wristbands to plan ahead for family fun.”

The 2025 Du Quoin State Fair will take place August 22 to September 1. For questions about the Grandstand, please call the Ticket Office at 618.542.1535. For questions about Carnival Wristbands, please call 618.542.1515. Visit dsf.illinois.gov/ for the latest news and updates.

How to build stronger rural communities

Small towns and rural communities may not always get the attention they deserve, and it’s easy for their needs to be eclipsed by larger cities. Small town needs are ever-changing and unique to their respective locations.

While some rural communities have experienced a downward trend between 2010 and 2020, the numbers are complex and not universally applicable. Still, many of these areas can use help, as they are facing steep population declines, according to FWD.us. This bipartisan political organization says in the last 20 years departures from rural counties outweighed new arrivals by 700,000 people.

Empowering rural communities and helping them grow comes down to some key areas of focus.

• **Create a walkable Main Street.** Planning boards can carefully consider where well-thought-out development should go. While it’s important to maintain the integrity of the rural community without too much building,



having a walkable and attractive town center where businesses can thrive is key. Families

can live close by to daily destinations, and this may encourage more people to relocate

to or stay in these areas, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

• **Help for farmers.** Government officials need to hear more about the challenges farmers face. Tom Vilsack, former Iowa governor and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture during the Obama and Biden administrations, says programs like the Climate Smart Commodities Program can help farmers. This program pays farmers a premium for using sustainable agriculture tools, or practices that make use of innovative farm products that produce renewable energy. Farms that work efficiently and lower the burden of labor on farmers are a boon for rural communities. U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics indicate the majority of farmers in the United States have to supplement their incomes with off-farm jobs because smaller farms simply can’t keep up to make ends meet. Fighting for policies that keep more money going to small farms can strengthen rural communities.

• **Improve infrastructure and resources.** Rural communities need

access to the right resources in order to thrive. Improving access to high-speed internet, for example, can bring new business and educational initiatives to rural areas and small towns. Lenders can be more receptive to local entrepreneurs to help stimulate economic growth and job creation in these communities, according to the professional development group StrengthenND. Priority also should be given to improving roadways so residents can safely get to and from homes, stores and businesses.

• **Protect open spaces.** Rural communities can rally to protect the landscape and help preserve open spaces. Focus also should be placed on providing places for recreation, and not only for local residents. Such features can make smaller towns more appealing to tourists, which in turn can increase investments in the local economy.

Small towns and rural communities can use certain strategies to foster growth and sustainability.

6 issues affecting farmers

The agricultural sector continues to face unique challenges. Issues affecting the agricultural sector have a ripple effect that affects domestic food security and the economic strength of rural communities.

In order to adapt to the changing landscape, farmers need to identify strengths and weaknesses in their

operations, and then collaborate with policyholders to create a more resilient agricultural sector that benefits all involved. The following are six notable challenges farmers face in modern agriculture, based on data from Verdesian, a nutrient use efficiency company; AgAmerica, an agriculture lending firm; and Pinion, a business advisory

organization.

1. Labor shortages
Finding and retaining skilled agricultural labor is a notable challenge. The aging farmer population coupled with labor shortages is a concern. There is a need for new talent in farming as older generations are retiring and younger ones are failing to fill in

the gaps.

2. Depletion of agricultural resources
The global population continues to grow, which means the demand for food and other agricultural products is increasing. This puts a strain on the resources farmers rely on that may be in short supply. Farming utilizes a considerable

amount of the world’s freshwater supply, and farmers must continually identify ways to manage water resources efficiently, including wastewater reuse initiatives. As fossil fuels also may be finite resources, the agricultural industry needs to pivot to renewable energy alternatives, some of which may require considerable costs

to retrofit current operations.

3. Inflation and food prices
Although the cost of food is no longer as high as it was just a few years ago, consumers are still feeling the pinch at supermarkets and other retail stores. Shoppers may continue to tighten their budgets

see **GARDENING**,
page 3

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acres

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TRACT 2: 71.4+/- Acres
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How to involve more young people in agriculture

The agricultural industry will undergo exciting changes as it looks to overcome developing challenges in the decades ahead. Technology will continue to play a pivotal role in the agricultural sector, making agriculture an evolving and exciting career path for young professionals.

Much has been made of projections that suggest the world population is increasingly looking to urban areas to call home. Though data from the United Nations indicates urban areas could grow by 2.5 billion people by 2050, more recent UN data indicates that 90 percent of that increase will take place in Asia and Africa. All told, estimates indicate that rural areas will remain home to 3.1 billion people by 2050.

A sizable rural population and the challenges climate change and population growth will present underscores how important the agricultural sector will be in the coming decades. That means

and spend less on food, which may translate into reduced demand for produce and other food products. The food price outlook is uncertain, and historical data indicates food price deflation only occurred once in the past 50 years. Farmers may have to adjust operations to produce more for less to be competitive in the marketplace.

4. Technological overhauls

It's becoming increasingly necessary for farms to utilize new technologies and embrace automation. Some farmers may not be trained in the utilization and application of these technologies, and conversion to new farming practices may require education/skills to manage new tools, or the hiring of skilled technicians from a shrinking agricultural workforce.

5. Climate change

Climate change and extreme weather can have a notable impact on farming. Weather

there should be plenty of opportunities for young people to make an impact, especially if more efforts are made to encourage them to consider careers in agriculture.

- Encourage agriculture-based curriculum. After recognizing that the majority of Kenyan students had no access to farming training and education, the organization Farm Africa initiated a program to make agriculture more accessible to students. Students who participated learned about everything from keeping livestock to marketing produce for global markets. Similar programs can be encouraged in developed countries where opportunities in the field of agriculture figure to increase in the years to come.

- Emphasize technological advancements in the field. Modern young people are growing up with technology all around them, but few may be aware of the vital role technology plays in the agricultural sector.

events like droughts, floods and storms have become more common and severe. Farmers are vulnerable to unpredictable conditions and crop yields.

6. Animal illnesses

One only has to look to the recent avian influenza outbreak to understand the disruption illnesses can have on livestock. The disease has led to mass culling of infested flocks, which has caused widespread losses in chickens, financial burdens to poultry farms and disruptions to egg production that has driven up costs. Bird flu is not isolated to poultry, either. Avian flu can affect dairy cattle, causing decreased milk production and cow death. The need for cleanup procedures and biosecurity measures from these illnesses puts an added financial burden on farmers.

Modern farmers face many different challenges that require adjustment to meet consumer demands.



Young people's ears may perk up upon hearing terms like "robotics" technologies are now a big part of life on the farm. Recognition of that may compel more young people to pursue careers in agriculture.

- Highlight the

challenges ahead and how agricultural professionals can help overcome them. UN projections indicate the global population will grow by more than two billion people by 2050. Finding a way to feed all of those people in the face of

climate change will be no small task, but it's a task that will require dedicated agricultural professionals. Educators and parents can emphasize these challenges when speaking to young people about a career in the agricultural

sector, noting that such careers will present real opportunities to make a difference.

Young people looking for rewarding careers in an exciting, ever-evolving field can be encouraged to consider the agricultural sector.

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Excellent 284 acres farm for sale in southeast Arkansas, including very fertile, precision leveled, and irrigated farm land, plus exceptional duck and deer hunting. Super location, fronting on excellent paved highway.

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Illinois State Fair postcard design winners at Ridgely Elementary School in Springfield.

Illinois State Fair, Ridgely Elementary School unveil winners of 2025 Postcard Contest

SPRINGFIELD, IL - Students at Ridgely Elementary put their creativity on display through a unique partnership between Springfield Public Schools District 186 and the Illinois State Fair.

For the third year in a row, students were invited to participate in a contest to design a postcard for the Illinois State Fair. In their art class, students captured the theme of ‘Agriculture at the Fair’ in their postcard designs, and staff selected one postcard from each grade level as the winner.

“The Illinois State Fair is all about creating community, and Ridgely Elementary School

is a great neighbor,” said Rebecca Clark, Illinois State Fair Manager. “We value our partnership with District 186 and the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the talent and creativity of Ridgely students.”

The six winning postcards will be printed and available for free in the Emmerson Building during the 11 days of the Illinois State Fair in August. Kids of all ages are encouraged to write a message to a friend or loved one and mail them, free of charge, at the U.S. Post Office, located in the Expo Building on the fairgrounds.

“The Illinois State Fair isn’t just an event—it’s a part of our school’s extended

family. We’re proud to share a corner of the city with them and grateful for the way they invest in our students, staff, and community each year,” said Ridgely Elementary Principal Jennifer Butcher.

Students throughout District 186 are invited to enter their art projects in the Illinois State Fair Art Competition. Entries are due by July 15 and include categories such as painting, watercolors, drawings, sculptures, crafts, photography and digital imagery. Cash prizes are offered. More details can be found on the Illinois State Fair website, StateFair.Illinois.gov

Country star Jake Owen to headline Illinois State Fair grandstand

SPRINGFIELD, IL — Country music hitmaker Jake Owen will headline the Illinois State Fair Grandstand on Friday, August 8.

With 10 No. 1 singles and more than 2.5 billion U.S. on-demand streams, Owen is a standout performer in the country music scene. His laid-back style and chart-topping songs like “Barefoot Blue Jean Night,” “Beachin’,” and “The One That Got Away” have made him a household name.

“August 8 is Agriculture Day at the Illinois State Fair, and this is the perfect way to celebrate,” said Jerry Costello II, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

“Country artists are a crowd favorite in central Illinois, and we are excited to bring Jake Owen to the Grandstand.”

The gold and platinum-selling recording artist, and ACM award winner, has released nine studio albums. He also appeared in the film



Our Friend (2019). Jake is currently in the recording studio preparing to release two new projects in mid-to-late 2025.

“Jake Owen brings the kind of feel-good, singalong energy that defines summer nights at the Illinois State Fair,” said Illinois State Fair Manager Rebecca Clark. “We’re excited to welcome him to Springfield and give fairgoers another reason to celebrate with us this August.”

Tickets for Jake Owen will go on sale Saturday, May 17 at 10

a.m. via Ticketmaster. Tier 3 - \$30 / Tier 2 - \$35 / Tier 1 - \$40 / Track - \$50 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$95

*A \$30 Pre-Show Party ticket is offered as an additional upgrade for all paid concerts.

Mark your calendars for the 2025 Illinois State Fair, August 7 through August 17 in Springfield.

Stay up to date with all the latest news and announcements from the Illinois State Fair by connecting with us via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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Jakobi — Fifth Grade Winner

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

When miracles seem so far away

By Teresa LeNeave
Leneave2@comcast.net

I believe God intervenes in the affairs of man, but I have to admit there are times when He doesn't work as quickly as I would like. ... Times when miracles seem so far away. I was taught that God is always available and eager to respond to our prayers. So, when I hear of bad things happening all around us, I just can't believe God leaves us to random chance. Somehow, I believe He will intervene.

I believe, somewhere in all that happens in this world; in all the wars and fighting and hatred and in all the mistakes we make, there is a God whose watching with eyes full of grace and mercy. I believe He allows us to make our own mistakes so we can learn from them, but I don't believe we are on an island alone left to struggle to the

death.

Do we ever really learn? Why does man keep doing the same things over and over? After thousands of years of war and revenge will man ever learn love and kindness is a better way? Let's bring it closer to home. Why don't we learn that in our families and our churches?

God wants His people to live victorious lives. I am sure of that, but there are so many people who fill church pews who are struggling with life; struggling to hold faith close when everything is against them. Let me remind you, God is on your side if you really love Him. The Bible is full of redemption. Of second chances. Of miracles. Of healing. Faith, the Bible says, is the victory that overcomes the world (I John 54).

His plan is that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves



(Luke 10:27).

I know, loving people we love is hard enough, but loving our enemy is even harder. There is a very complex scripture hidden in the pages of the Bible that I, personally, had a battle with. Matthew wrote, "You have heard that it has been said, you shalt love your neighbor, and hate your enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them

that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust (Matthew 5:43-45). That's a hard command to follow when nothing seems to be working out.

There are times when prayer is like fighting a battle and

miracles seem so far away. It's those times, when we are blinded by circumstances, that we can spend too much time trying to figure things out on our own and not enough time trusting God close the mouths of the lions.

In tough times, it is in our nature to think logically and use what knowledge we have to search out a solution, and I think we should do that, but not to the extent of letting stress and anxiety defeat

our faith. Paul said God can be strong in our weakness if we just let Him be. "And He said to me, my grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9a).

Matthew 17:20 tells us that if we have even the smallest amount of faith, we can do what seems impossible. What I guess I'm trying to say, is "don't be defeated by circumstances. They are subject to change, and if they don't God will change us and give us strength". I believe it was King David who said, "I have been young and now am old; I've never seen the righteous forsaken, or His seed begging for bread. He is ever merciful, and lends; and his seed are blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for ever more (Psalm 37:25-27). When miracles seem so far away, that's a great promise to hold on to.

The boomerang of blessing

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

You rarely notice it happening—but if it ever ceased, the whole world would notice. It happens in the mountain streams—they generously pour themselves into lakes only to be replenished by rain. What they give always comes back. It happens in the clouds above you. These rolling giants bountifully bless the earth with rainfall only to be refilled with the rising mists of evaporation. What they give away is

always given back.

This is not just the way things work in nature—this is how God's economy of blessing works as well. Believers are blessed to be a blessing to others, and blessings come to those who bless. As Solomon assured, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days" (Eccl. 11:1, KJV). Jesus also taught the same truth: "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For

with the measure you use it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38).

Believers can bless others through burden-bearing, need-meeting, forgiveness-giving, truth-telling, and countless other Spirit-empowered actions. And those who do experience a "boomerang effect," wherein God richly replenishes what is given—either in this life or the next (Matt. 19:29). It happens like this: "Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered"

(Prov. 11:25; cf. 2 Cor. 9:6). God notices when you lavishly give your time, talents, and treasures to others, and that's when He opens the windows of heaven to "pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Mal. 3:10; cf. Prov. 19:17).

The hoarding Christian who never gives becomes like the stagnant and lifeless Dead Sea, which only receives water but never gives it. A garden plant heavy with fruit will collapse and wither if it

doesn't release what it bears. A soaking sponge never wrung out will grow moldy. A well never drawn might be full, but it quenches no one's thirst with its water locked away. Likewise, stashing away and stockpiling our blessings willfully interrupts God's cycle of blessing, resulting in spiritual decay, disintegration, and dryness.

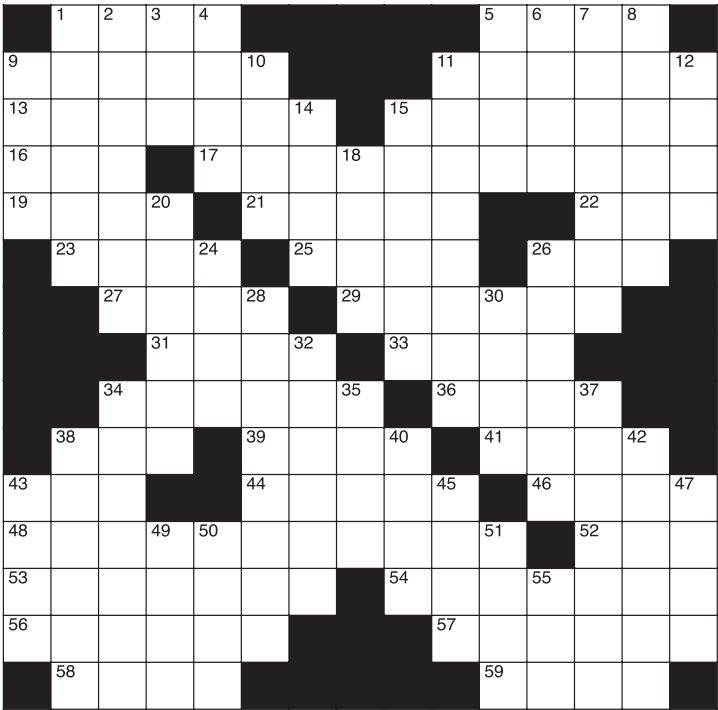
Of course, we do not give just to get. We give to please the Lord, not to manipulate His process of blessing. In obedience to God,

the widow woman from Zarephath gave Elijah the little oil and flour she had left, and God provided her with a feast of bread, and the resurrection of her son (1 Kings 17:8-24). Mary of Bethany anointed Christ with a costly jar of perfume to honor her Lord, not to gain a blessing—and yet, she is honored every time the gospel is preached (Mark 14:3-9). We give for the glory of God and the good of others. But often, when blessing others, we are blessed all over again.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

— JOHN 14:1

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Resorts

5. One point south of southwest

9. Musical performances

11. Matched

13. Four-footed animal part

15. Express severe disapproval of

16. Type of leaf

17. Preparatory

19. Walk heavily

21. Succulent plants

22. Rectangle of grass

23. Lump in yarn

25. Too

26. Foot (Latin)

27. Afflicts

29. Smoothed

31. Mind (Greek)
33. Tampa ballclub

34. Semitic language

36. Sheltered sides

38. Ocean

39. Electronic point of sale

41. Thrust a knife into

43. 12th month (abbr.)

44. Ringworm

46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)

48. Fighting back

52. Cease to exist

53. Insects in adult stage

54. Freestanding sculpture

56. Caps

57. Repents

58. Brown and Wallace are two

59. Moved quickly

CLUES DOWN

1. Goes bad

2. Yard structure

3. They __

4. Marine invertebrate

5. European river

6. Office supplies firm

7. Physically abused

8. Service stations in Australia

9. Kills

10. Liquid body substances

11. Particular to a given individual

12. Brave or noble act

14. Sicilian city

15. Conqueror

18. Elected officials

20. Type of “pig”

24. Drop of viscous substance
26. Monetary unit of Spain

28. Guarantees

30. Coloring materials

32. Reddish browns

34. Square measure

35. Will not

37. Canned fish

38. Appeared

40. Six (Spanish)

42. Took off

43. Negligible amount

45. Posts in a Greek temple

47. Witnesses

49. Phil __, former CIA

50. Places to park

51. Guns

55. Dance to pop music

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Coloring Fun



Word Search

STAY COOL WORD SEARCH

N L I K I F W H F F R E S U F F I D M N
V D S G I K N G K L P N A D M W U Z U Z
W G R O H E A T P U M P W E L S W W U A
U U K C N W U F R O T A R O P A V E V W
G P K M T S L C T I Y Z T U G R N I I O
G W R T C E D Y T R C I T D A H Y E V N
I K A E H C M L I I Z K D L S D M E F U
M V R P S T K P I T A T S O M R E H T G
D E N O N C D E S O Z C V S E U L U H S
K Y T Y W V E L S R C U P C U U P D U Z
O C T S C T P D E M A V L N R M T E M Y
Z I S I Y N C E N R T T H V A C T C I S
S Y O V C S E U E O H A U S L A W R D P
E V M F E A E I D P C G W R S R O V I H
N F R E R E N P E C V E O A N E E L N T O
O T S C K E T A O I S C E A D P F A Y S
Z Z L W C W D S C M F D O P M M R F Y M
R E L D N A H N M F N F K O A A I N Y K
R E T L I F V I V O E W E D L D A H Z O
R O P A V F A H C R E F R I G E R A N T

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

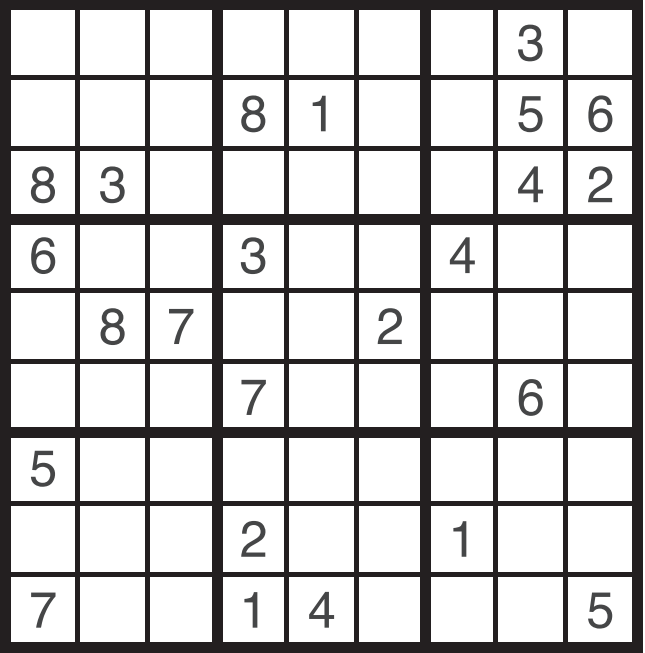
WORDS

AIRFLOW
CAPACITY
COIL
CONDENSATE
CONDENSER
COOL
DAMPER
DIFFUSER
DUCTWORK
EFFICIENCY
EVAPORATOR
FAN
FILTER
HANDLER
HEAT PUMP
HUMIDITY
HVAC
REFRIGERANT
SYSTEM
TEMPERATURE
THERMOSTAT
VAPOR
VENTS
ZONES

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

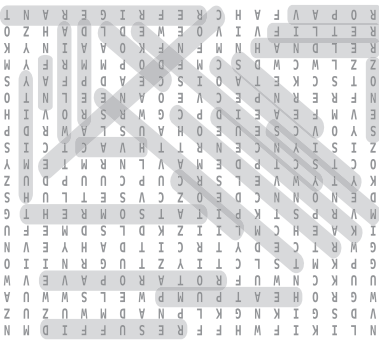
Sudoku puzzles are fomatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! Good Luck!



Sudoku Answers

5	2	3	6	4	1	8	6	7
8	9	1	5	7	2	9	4	3
4	7	6	8	3	9	2	1	5
6	9	2	4	8	7	3	5	1
3	1	5	2	6	9	7	8	4
7	8	4	1	5	3	6	2	9
2	4	7	6	9	5	1	3	8
9	5	6	3	1	8	4	7	2
1	3	8	7	2	4	5	9	6

Word Search Answers



GOOD EATING



HOT DIGGETY DOG!

It's National Hot Dog Month!



Hot Dog Casserole



Ingredients
3 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 to 1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon pepper
1-1/2 cups 2% milk
5 medium red potatoes, thinly sliced
1 package (1 pound) hot dogs, halved lengthwise and cut into 1/2-inch slices
1 medium onion, chopped
1/3 cup shredded cheddar cheese
Chopped green onions, optional

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a small saucepan, melt butter. Stir in the flour, salt and pepper until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened and bubbly, about 2 minutes.
2. In a greased 2-1/2-qt. baking dish, layer with a third of the potatoes, half the hot dogs and half the onion. Repeat layers. Top with remaining potatoes. Pour white sauce over all.
3. Bake, covered, for 1 hour. Uncover; sprinkle with cheese. Bake until potatoes are tender, 10-15 minutes longer. If desired, garnish with green onions.

Corn Dogs

Ingredients
3/4 cup yellow cornmeal
3/4 cup self-rising flour
1 large egg, lightly beaten
2/3 cup 2% milk
10 pop sticks
10 hot dogs
Oil for deep-fat frying

Directions
In a large bowl, combine cornmeal, flour and egg. Stir in milk to make a thick batter; let stand 4 minutes. Insert sticks into hot dogs; dip into batter.

In an electric skillet or deep-fat fryer, heat oil to 375°. Fry corn dogs, a few at a time, until golden brown, 6-8 minutes, turning occasionally. Drain on paper towels.



Hot Dog Pie



Ingredients
1/2 pound ground beef
4 hot dogs, cut in half lengthwise and sliced
1 can (16 ounces) baked beans
1/2 cup ketchup
2 tablespoons brown sugar
2 tablespoons prepared mustard
2 ounces process cheese (Velveeta), cubed
1 frozen deep-dish pie crust (9 inches)
4 slices American cheese

Directions
Preheat oven to 400°. In a large saucepan, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Add hot dogs, beans, ketchup, brown sugar, mustard and cheese cubes. Cook and stir until cheese is melted.
Meanwhile, prick crust with a fork. Bake for 10 minutes. Fill with hot beef mixture. Cut each cheese slice into four strips; make a lattice topping over pie. Bake until cheese is melted, 5-10 minutes longer.

Did You Know?
American purchase about 9 billion hot dogs a year! That works out to about 70 hot dogs per person!

Hot Dog Roll-Ups

Ingredients
8 hot dogs
1 block (4 ounces) cheddar cheese, cut into 8 strips
2 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
1 tube (8 ounces) refrigerated crescent rolls

Directions
Cut a lengthwise slit in each hot dog; fill with a strip of cheese and about 1/2 teaspoon bacon.
Separate crescent dough into 8 triangles.
Place a hot dog on the wide end of each triangle; roll toward the point.
Place cheese side up on an ungreased baking sheet.
Bake at 375° until golden brown, 12 minutes or until golden brown.



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