

Southern Illinois News



June 2026



SIC receives American flag flown during combat mission

HARRISBURG, Ill. — Southeastern Illinois College recently received a special presentation from USAF Captain Jacob “Atlas” Vaughan, SIC’s 2026 Distinguished Alumnus, who donated an American flag flown during a combat sortie over Iraq and Syria as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

The flag was flown aboard an F-16CM Fighting Falcon assigned to the 125th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron during a defensive counter-air combat mission on Oct. 9, 2023. According to the accompanying certificate, the mission launched from Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia and supported ongoing efforts to combat terrorist forces in the region.

Vaughan presented the framed flag and certificate to SIC President Dr. Karen Weiss during a recent visit to campus.

“As Memorial Day approaches, this display serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by members of our armed forces and the freedoms they



USAF Captain Jacob “Atlas” Vaughan presents flag to SIC President Dr. Karen Weiss.

protect,” Weiss said. “We are honored to preserve and display this piece of history in the Rodney J. Brenner Board Room for our students, employees and visitors to reflect upon.”

A native of Bowling Green, Ky., and a 2016 SIC graduate, Vaughan currently serves as an F-16 Instructor Pilot with the Indiana Air National

Guard. During pilot training, he earned Distinguished Graduate honors along with Air-to-Air and Air-to-Ground Top Gun awards. He later deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield, flying 25 combat missions and earning both the Air Medal and the Aerial Achievement Medal.

“SIC helped shape who I became both personally and professionally, so it was important to me to bring this flag home and share it with the college and community that supported me,” Vaughan said. “I hope it encourages students to value service, leadership and the opportunities in front of them.”



Marion Chamber 42nd annual Golf Scramble set for September 18th

The Marion Chamber of Commerce will hold its 42nd annual Golf Scramble at Kokopelli. on Friday, September 18th (Note, this is a change from our traditional Thursday date). Participants enjoy networking, delicious food, and interactive games and contests. Proceeds from this event fund projects tied to the Chamber’s mission (Ex: Marion youth outreach and continuing education for adults) and operation expenses.

Team Registration Portal opened on Tuesday, June 2nd

Early Bird Registration Ends on July 31st

\$500 for a 4 person scramble team (\$600 after July 31st)

Registration Includes: SKINS entry and 4 mulligans

Use of the range,

green fees, golf cart rental

Lunch from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm.

Menu includes burger / brat, choice of chips, snacky dessert, ice tea, and water.

Insulated bag provided by First Southern Bank Drink Ticket and Oasis Beverages (additional drink ticket if registered by July 31st)

Automatically registered for Scramble Contests Automotive Dollar Hole-in-One

\$10,000 Putting Contest

Hole-in-One Prize Games

Additional games and contests provided by our Live Hole Sponsors!

Special Door Prize Entry

Find out more information about this event on our website!

Staying safe during hot weather

As temperatures rise during the summer months, it is important to take precautions to prevent heat-related illnesses. Excessive heat can be dangerous for people of all ages,

especially young children, older adults, and those who work or spend long periods outdoors.

One of the most important heat safety tips is to stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid excessive amounts of sugary, caffeinated, or alcoholic beverages, as they can contribute to dehydration.

When possible, stay indoors during the

hottest parts of the day, typically between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you must be outside, wear lightweight, light-colored clothing, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunscreen to protect your skin from harmful UV rays. Take frequent breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas.

It is also important to recognize the signs of heat-related illnesses. Symptoms of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating, dizziness,

nausea, weakness, and headache. Heat stroke is a medical emergency and may cause confusion, loss of consciousness, or a high body temperature. Seek immediate medical attention if heat stroke is suspected.

By staying hydrated, dressing appropriately, and limiting exposure to extreme heat, individuals can enjoy summer activities while protecting their health and safety.



MARION
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Golf
SCRAMBLE

Summer Farming: The season of growth and hard work

Summer is one of the busiest and most important seasons for farmers. As temperatures rise and daylight hours increase, crops grow rapidly, livestock require extra care, and farmers work long days to ensure a successful harvest later in the year. Across rural communities, summer farming plays a vital role in providing food, supporting local economies, and maintaining agricultural traditions.

For crop farmers, summer is a critical growing season. Corn, soybeans, tobacco, vegetables,



and many other crops depend on warm weather and adequate rainfall to thrive. Farmers

spend much of the summer monitoring fields for weeds, insects, and diseases that could damage

crops. Modern technology, including drones, GPS-guided equipment, and precision agriculture

tools, helps farmers identify problems early and apply treatments only where needed.

Weather is one of the greatest challenges during the summer months. While crops need sunshine and warmth, excessive heat and drought can stress plants and reduce yields. On the other hand, heavy rains and severe storms can flood fields, wash away soil, and damage crops. Farmers closely monitor weather forecasts and often make important decisions based on changing conditions.

Livestock farmers face their own

set of summer responsibilities. Cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and other animals require plenty of fresh water and shade during hot weather. Farmers regularly check animals for signs of heat stress and ensure pastures remain healthy. Hay production is also a major summer activity. Farmers cut, dry, and bale hay to provide feed for livestock during the winter months when grass is no longer available.

Summer is also a busy time for fruit and vegetable

see **FARMING**, page 3

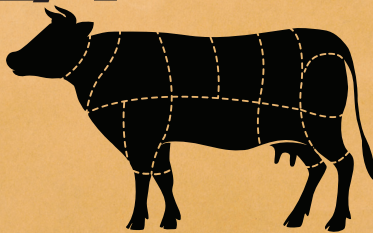
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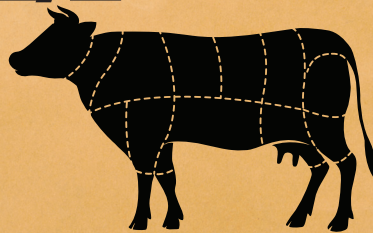


APPROX. 125 LB. OF PREMIUM MEAT

\$59 / WEEK

4 TO 6 MONTH FOOD PLAN
Based on a family of four

1/2 BEEF

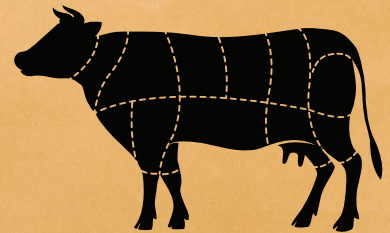


APPROX. 250 LB. OF PREMIUM MEAT

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POULTRY

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• WHOLE CHICKEN

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June Dairy Month celebrates farmers and dairy products

Each year, June Dairy Month provides an opportunity to recognize the hardworking dairy farmers who help supply nutritious milk and dairy products to families across the United States. The annual observance highlights the importance of the dairy industry, its contributions to local economies, and the role dairy products play in a healthy diet.

June Dairy Month began in 1937 as National Milk Month, a campaign designed to promote milk consumption during the summer when dairy production was at its peak. The observance later expanded to include all dairy products and became known as June Dairy Month. Today, communities across the country celebrate with farm tours, dairy breakfasts, educational programs, and events that connect consumers with local dairy farmers.

Dairy farming is an important part of American agriculture. Dairy farmers work year-round to care for their cows and produce high-quality milk. Their responsibilities include feeding and monitoring animals, maintaining clean facilities, managing herd health, and ensuring milk is safely collected and transported. Modern dairy farms use advanced technology to improve efficiency while maintaining high standards of animal care and milk quality.

Milk is one of the most widely consumed dairy products and serves as the foundation for many

other foods, including cheese, yogurt, butter, ice cream, and cottage cheese. These products provide essential nutrients such as calcium, protein, potassium, phosphorus, and vitamins A and D. Calcium is particularly important for building and maintaining strong bones and teeth, making dairy products a valuable part of many diets.

The dairy industry also contributes significantly to local and national economies. Dairy farms support jobs in transportation, processing, manufacturing, veterinary services, equipment sales, and retail businesses. In many rural communities, dairy farming provides economic stability and helps preserve agricultural traditions that have been passed down through generations.

June Dairy Month offers an opportunity for consumers to learn more about where their food comes from. Many dairy farms host open houses and tours that allow visitors to see firsthand how milk is produced. These events help build trust between farmers and consumers while providing educational experiences for children and adults alike.

In addition to celebrating farmers, June Dairy Month encourages people to enjoy dairy products in their daily meals. Whether it is a glass of cold milk with breakfast, yogurt as a healthy snack, cheese on a sandwich, or ice cream on a warm summer evening, dairy

products are enjoyed by millions of people every day.

As consumers become increasingly interested in food production and sustainability, dairy farmers continue to adopt practices that conserve resources, protect the environment, and improve animal welfare. Many farms use innovative technologies to reduce waste, recycle water, and improve energy

efficiency.

June Dairy Month serves as a reminder of the dedication and hard work of dairy farmers and the many benefits the dairy industry provides. By celebrating this special month, communities can recognize the people behind the products they enjoy every day and gain a greater appreciation for the important role dairy farming plays in agriculture and daily life.

FARMING,
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growers. Farmers' markets become filled with fresh produce such as tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, peppers, watermelons, peaches, and berries. Many families enjoy visiting local markets or participating in community-supported agriculture programs to purchase fresh, locally grown food. These direct-to-consumer sales help farmers connect with their communities while providing nutritious products.

Agriculture contributes significantly to the economy during the summer season. Farm supply stores, equipment dealers, trucking companies, and food processors all benefit from agricultural activity. In many rural areas, farming remains a cornerstone of the local economy, supporting jobs and businesses throughout the

region. Despite the hard work, many farmers find summer to be one of the most rewarding times of the year. Watching crops grow, caring for animals, and seeing the results of months of planning and labor bring a sense of accomplishment. Farming often involves long hours, including weekends and holidays, but the dedication of farmers helps ensure a reliable food supply for communities across the country.

As summer progresses, farmers continue preparing for the harvest season ahead. Their efforts during these warm months lay the foundation for a successful year and highlight the essential role agriculture plays in everyday life. Summer farming is more than just a season of work—it is a season of growth, stewardship, and commitment to feeding the world.

Estate AUCTION 

SATURDAY • JUNE 13, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.

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LOTS OF SILVER ITEMS & FINE GLASSWARE • OLD SILVER DOLLARS & COINS SELL AT 2:00 PM
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Auctioneers Note: Lovely townhouse with spacious area, newer roof, safe neighborhood, close to everything
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How Flag Day got its start

Flag Day is commemorated each year in the United States on June 14. Though Flag Day is not an official federal holiday, the day remains significant nonetheless, as it traces its origins all the way back to 1777.



The Second Continental Congress formally adopted the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777. That resolution noted certain characteristics of the new flag, including the alternating red and white stripes that remain part of the flag that is celebrated each June 14.

Flag Day is one of various notable events and holidays commemorated in June, a list that includes Father's Day, Juneteenth and the summer solstice. That can make it easy for Flag Day to get lost in the proverbial shuffle, but the Farmer's Almanac notes it is customary for the sitting president of the United States to encourage Americans to display the flag

outside of their homes and businesses each June 14. The flag is flown from all public buildings on Flag Day, which the Farmer's Almanac reports is another rich tradition that dates back 1877 and the centennial of the flag's adoption.

President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation on June 14, 1916, that designated the day as Flag Day going forward. Thirty-three years after President Wilson's proclamation, the U.S. Congress officially established June 14 as National Flag Day.

One notable tidbit Americans can consider this Flag Day is the connection between the flag and seamstress Betsy

Ross. Many American schoolchildren were taught that Ms. Ross designed and sewed the first American flag, but historians have since discredited that legend. The Farmer's Almanac notes that many historians now believe George Washington already had a design for a flag with 13 red and white alternating stripes and 13 six-pointed stars set in a circle when he visited Ms. Ross in Philadelphia. And while historians do not doubt that Ms. Ross sewed a flag reflecting the design George Washington brought with him when visiting the seamstress, it's hard to confirm if she in fact sewed the first flag.

Illinois Dept of Agriculture to offer free recycling program for agrichemical containers

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) encourages farmers and agrichemical facilities to take part in a free agrichemical container recycling program. Beginning in the middle of July and continuing into August, sites throughout the state will collect containers that are recycled to make shipping pallets.

"Each year, this program gives farmers and agrichemical facilities an easy way to responsibly dispose of empty pesticide containers," said IDOA Director Jerry Costello II. "Instead of ending up in the trash, these containers can be brought to a nearby collection site and handled the right way."

Metal and household pesticide containers are not eligible for the recycling program. Collection sites will accept only high-density polyethylene, #2 plastic agrichemical containers that are clean and dry. Participants are responsible for rinsing them and removing all caps, valves, metal, labels, booklets and foil seals. Participants are also responsible for cutting off the top and bottom of plastic drums and cutting the side of the drum from top to bottom.



Mini-Bulk and Intermediate Bulk containers can be recycled via the Department's container recycling program by making the following container preparations: Mini Bulk (cage) containers are required to be cut into separate top, bottom and sides, fittings discarded (no metal, no wood) (6 slabs of plastic). Intermediate Bulk Containers are to be cut into one-foot square pieces, fittings discarded (no metal, no wood). G. Phillips and Sons, LLC is offering services to pick up Mini-Bulk and Intermediate Bulk containers throughout the year. Call 678-232-6047 to learn more about their Mini-Bulk and Intermediate Bulk container collection service.

The program

is a cooperative venture between the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Container Recycling Council, GROWMARK, Inc., Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, G. Phillips and Sons, LLC, Illinois Farm Bureau, and University of Illinois Extension.

To obtain a free brochure about the program, call the Illinois Department of Agriculture toll free at 1-800-641-3934.

The collection sites and dates for the 2026 Pesticide Container Recycling Program are as follows:

Permanent collection sites:


Pike
Logan Agri Srv, Inc.
Griggsville
Troy Kennedy
(217) 833-2375

see **RECYCLING**,
page 5

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RECYCLING,
from page 4

Lawrence
Klein Flying Service
Lawrenceville
Ryan Klein
(812) 890-6685

White
Klein Flying Service
Carmi
Bri Klein
(812) 890-8605

Single Day Collection Sites:

AM Site hours are 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

PM Site hours are 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

*** Site hours are 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

07/16 ***

Bockhorn Ag, Inc.
Sparta
Randolph
Justin Bockhorn
(618) 443-3905

07/16 PM
Gateway FS
Waterloo

Monroe
Jacob Charron
(618) 939-8237

07/17 AM
Nutrien Ag Sol, Inc.
New Baden
Clinton
John Engelmann
(618) 588-3525

07/17 PM
Irvington Elevator Co
Irvington
Washington
Steve Seidel
(618) 249-6206

07/20 PM
Wabash Valley Serv
Co

Ellery
Wayne
Kent Ochs
618-516-1697

07/21 AM
Effingham Equity
Montrose
Effingham
Rodney Schultz
(217) 254-1435

07/21 PM
Nutrien Ag Sol, Inc.
Vandalia
Fayette

Dylan Reeter
(618) 780-8663

07/22 AM
M & M Service Co
Girard
Macoupin
Brian McKinney
(217) 627-2151

07/22 PM
Effingham Equity
Pana
Christian
Rodney Schultz
(217) 254-1435

07/23 AM
United Prairie, LLC
Tuscola
Douglas
Matt Whittington
(217) 621-2485

07/23 PM
Heritage FS, Inc.
Gilman
Iroquois
Chris King
(815) 707-7020

07/24 AM
Prairieland FS, Inc.
Greenview
Menard
Jacob Lounsberry

(217) 968-2282

07/24 PM
Sunrise FS
Virginia
Cass
Zach Witherell
(217) 416-9808

07/27 PM
Prairieland FS, Inc.
Rushville
Schuyler
Derek Prather
(217) 322-2028

07/28 AM
Chem-Gro, Inc.
Bowen
Hancock
Todd Nelson
(217) 842-5514

07/28 PM
Nutrien Ag Sol, Inc.
Blandinsville
McDonough
Travis Weaver
(309) 652-3694

07/29 AM
Earlybird Feed & Fert
Deer Creek
Tazewell
Karmon Gudeman
(309) 620-1440

07/29 PM
Ag-land FS, Inc.
Hanna City
Peoria
Jarret Summers
(309) 565-4315

07/30 AM
Grainco FS, Inc.
Lostant
LaSalle
Bill Fassig
(815) 368-3215

07/30 PM
Helena Agri
Enterprises
Toluca
Woodford
Steve Miller
(815) 452-2377

07/31 AM
Chebanse Ag
Chebanse
Kankakee
Dean Schafer
(815) 697-2392

07/31 PM
Nutrien Ag Sol, Inc.
Saunemin
Livingston
Eric Green
(815) 832-4491

08/03 AM
Helena Agri
Enterprises
Kirkland
DeKalb
Gary Hopkins
(815) 970-3133

08/03 PM
CHS Inc.
Maple Park
Kane
Paul Ramm
(630) 247-8882

08/04 PM
Conserv FS, Inc.
Rockford
Winnebago
Mike Webb
(815) 703-4612

08/05 AM
Pearl City Elevator,
Inc.
Dakota
Stephenson
Scott Daniels
(815) 291-5310

08/05 PM
Ag View FS
Milledgeville
Carroll
Riley Warnken
(815) 499-7271



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JUNE 11







YA3557

JUNE 10

2023 John Deere 6155M
MFWD tractor



ED5241

JUNE 18

2022 Barbco 36/48-650
horizontal boring unit



ED5236

JUNE 11

2022 Western Star 4900EX
semi truck



YA1742

JUNE 18

2020 Mack Granite GR64F
dump truck



ED5242

JUNE 11

2021 Western Star 4700SF
semi truck



FB8128

JUNE 18

2019 Bobcat T870
tracked skid steer



YA2275 **2 SELLING**

JUNE 11

2024 International HX520
semi truck



YA3552

JUNE 18

2012 Link-Belt RTC8030
crane



EF1199

JUNE 18

2021 Hitachi ZX210 LC-6
excavator



FC3084

JUNE 18

1990 Caterpillar D8N
dozer

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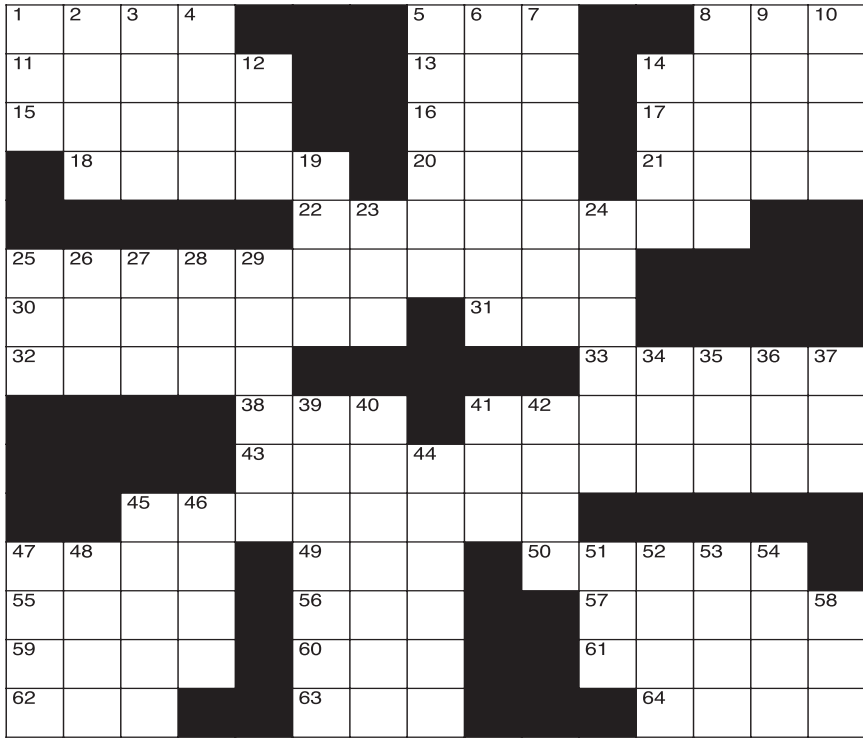
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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull-god
- 5. A young canine
- 8. Cologne
- 11. Fictional British P.I.
- 13. Midway between northeast and east
- 14. A place to shop
- 15. Minneapolis suburb
- 16. Single lens reflex
- 17. NY Mets great Tommie
- 18. Informal loan clubs
- 20. Habitual twitching
- 21. Holm oak
- 22. Willing to consent or submit
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Made possible
- 31. Language in Ghana
- 32. Relating to one's birth
- 33. Deep-bodied fishes
- 38. Defunct European currency
- 41. Small American songbird
- 43. One from L.A.
- 45. After tenth
- 47. Hillside
- 49. Red deer
- 50. Partner to "ooled"
- 55. Indian musical pattern
- 56. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 57. Golden peas plant
- 59. Breezed through
- 60. Midway between east and southeast
- 61. Frameworks
- 62. Danish krone
- 63. Fall back
- 64. Influential Korean leader

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky lizard
- 4. Turkish leader title
- 5. Nag
- 6. Blank
- 7. Closely woven cotton fabric
- 8. A nice shot in golf
- 9. Away from wind
- 10. Evergreen shrub genus
- 12. Large African antelope
- 14. Something you receive
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Wet dirt
- 24. No longer here
- 25. Writing utensil
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Licensed for Wall Street
- 29. Alternative forms of a gene
- 34. Buddy
- 35. We all do it
- 36. Chicken
- 37. No seats available
- 39. Yearned to possess
- 40. Ineffectual
- 41. Explosive
- 42. Turkish title
- 44. Worn near the foot
- 45. Impatient
- 46. Set an example for others
- 47. Actor Pitt
- 48. Instrument of torture
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. A way to print
- 54. Storied college hoops program
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

Word Search

DEEP BLUE SEA WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ABYSS
- ANEMONE
- ARCHIPELAGO
- BENTHIC
- COASTLINE
- CORAL
- CURRENT
- DOLPHIN
- ESTUARY
- HYDROTHERMAL
- KELP
- LAGOON
- MARINE
- OCEANIC
- PELAGIC
- PLANKTON
- REEF
- SALINITY
- SEAFLOOR
- SHARK
- SHORELINE
- TIDE
- TSUNAMI
- WHALE

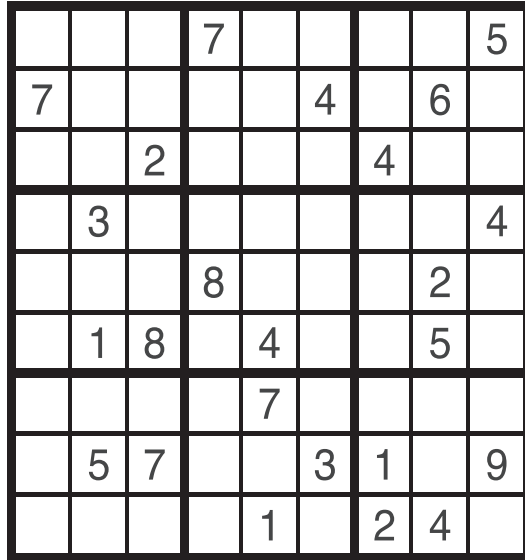
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted 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!

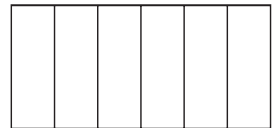
ANSWERS ON CLASSIFIED PAGE



Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the ocean.

YROEST



Answer: Oyster

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in California on June 4, 1975. Before acting, I had considered being a funeral director and dropped out of acting classes. It's a good thing I stuck with it, as I won an Academy Award for a 1999 film and have since had a prolific career. I have three biological kids and three adopted children.

Answer: Angelina Jolie

Crypto Fun

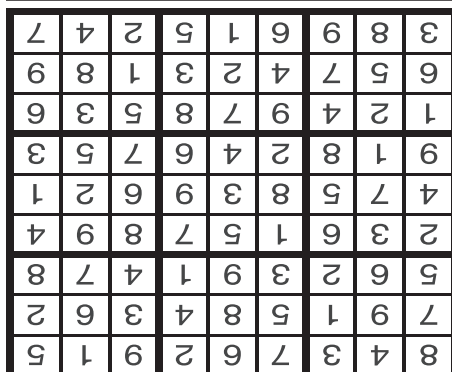


Solve the code to discover words related to oceans. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = E)

- A. 6 23 9 25**
Clue: Rising and falling of the sea
- B. 16 25 13 20 25 25 9**
Clue: Kelp
- C. 16 13 26 6 24**
Clue: Full of sodium
- D. 9 25 8 6 12**
Clue: Distance from top to bottom

Answers: A. tide B. seaweed C. salty D. depth

Sudoku Answers



Word Search Answers



VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Faith and character marked as conditions for divine protection

By Teresa A. LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

Do you ever wonder what the Lord requires of you? From what I understand it's not more works, but a change of heart that changes everything for the better. Drawing from the book of Isaiah 33: 15-16 and of Micah 6:8, their messages emphasize that God provides protection and care for those who walk uprightly before Him during times of rebellion and spiritual decline. I think you'd agree, we live in a time of rebellion and spiritual decline.

There are scriptures that declare, "He shall dwell on high," describing a place of safety and defense prepared for the faithful. These passages promise that "bread shall be given him" and "his water shall be sure," which, to me, describes a picture of God's provision and security



for His people.

All throughout Scripture, attention is given to several areas of godly conduct: one's walk, speech, actions, hearing, and sight. Isaiah's question concerning who will stand "when the devouring fire comes," explains that divine protection is connected to the condition of a person's life. How we walk with God and interact with

people, apparently, is important to God

Psalm 24:4 refers to the kind of heart God expects. The call from God is for people to "speak uprightly" and live with "clean hands and a pure heart." The writer of Psalm clearly states, we need both clean hands and a pure heart, which indicates our intentional interaction with the world and how we treat others; acting

for the right reasons and not harboring hidden resentments, are things God pays attention to.

Micah 6:8 asks what the Lord requires of His people in an age of idolatry and rebellion. The answer was not extravagant sacrifice and working until you have nothing left to give, but simple obedience: "to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy

God."

Justice can be described as living honestly; fulfilling obligations, being fair, and letting God be the ultimate judge because He sees the big picture. We don't. Mercy is explained as having compassion, refusing revenge, and learning to place oneself in another person's position.

We are reminded not to hold grudges

or retaliate against criticism or hatred. Instead, believers are encouraged to love those who oppose them, pray for those who mistreat them, and bless those who curse them. Only God's spirit in us can help us forgive like that, but there is a blessing promised to those who do.

In conclusion, when we ask ourselves, "What does the Lord require?", we're reminded that all people stand in need of redemption and that true humility before God produces compassion, mercy, and a willingness to seek the good of others. There is no room for a judgmental spirit, if we want clean hands, a pure heart, and divine protection. As followers of Christ, I believe that is something we all continue to work toward.

Taking a moment to appreciate our soulmate

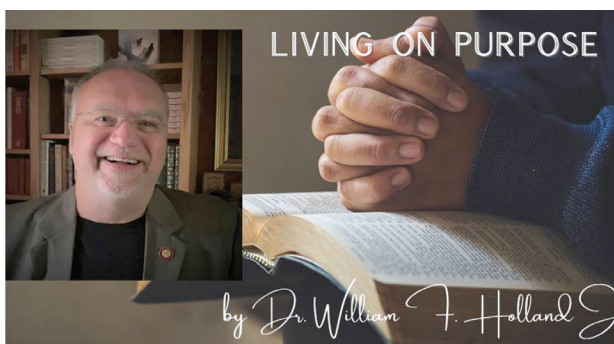
By Billy Holland

Recently, I was sitting in my office on a dreary afternoon, tapping on the keyboard and listening to the rain blowing against the window. The house is quiet during the day as my writing routine includes our dog sprawled out on the cool hardwood floor, snoring contentedly around my desk. Then it suddenly dawned on me, June fourth will be the forty-ninth year of our marriage. I then thought about our upcoming golden wedding anniversary in 2027, and how blessed I am to share this milestone with the one I love. I'm confident she feels the same way and definitely deserves a medal for her patience, support, and for embracing the work and shared vision with me for nearly five decades. It's been an amazing journey so far, and throughout the hard times and the good times, we know we

are truly blessed.

Familiarity is a slow-growing deception that can cause us to take people for granted, and in the realm of marriage, this is one of the many reasons couples become distant. Those of you who have been married for a while can relate when I say that holidays, birthdays, and even vacations can lose a little of their sparkle and excitement after years of repetition. It's not the occasion, it's the awareness of who we are with. Could it be that falling into a predictable routine can cause our love to grow cold as we just go through the motions? When we were dating and then became newlyweds, life was like a romantic, magical fairy tale. Even just taking a walk around the block or going for a drive was exciting simply because we were together.

But as the years pass by, the exhilaration seems to wear off, and



when we would come home from a hard day of work, it became mutually agreeable that a peanut butter sandwich, a candy bar, and watching Wheel of Fortune would be plenty of excitement for the evening. Whatever happened to all the hugging, kissing, and holding hands? Do you remember how the first years of marriage had three-word phrases like "I love you" and "you are amazing," and then after a few years, they evolved into "toilet seat down," "car needs gas", and "need more Advil?" When we were younger, we didn't know the

meaning of tired, and now we become giddy about an afternoon nap. Nonetheless, it's a comfort to know that the person who shares our couch with us every night is there because they love us and wouldn't have it any other way.

Showing appreciation to the one we love doesn't require a special holiday or a fancy restaurant. It's the little things that prove how we feel. Of all the people in the world we could have set our sights on, the person we are with now is the one we selected. They are the ones who stole our hearts, so there is nothing

preventing us from expressing how much we need them. We assume they already know we love them, and they do, but there's nothing wrong with showing it more than just a Valentine's Day card. Another thing that we avoid thinking about is that life will not always be like it is now, which is another reason to cherish the moments we have together. Life is precious, let's appreciate each moment. We can also turn to the Bible as a wonderful source of wisdom, as it reminds us of our responsibility to honor our vows. We made a pledge as we lit the unity candle, promising that having God at the center of our marriage would bind us together with Him.

I heard someone say that marriage is finding that one special person you want to annoy for 50 years- ha!. But seriously, we do not need to be a marriage counselor to understand the dangers

of allowing the fires of our passion to grow cold. May we use our own imagination to come up with fresh ideas that can fan the embers of our love into a bonfire of affection? I would rather have someone give me a candy bar while telling me how much they love me than to receive elaborate, expensive gifts like a new house, car, or jewelry out of obligation. Character traits like respect, forgiveness, sacrifice, and humility are foundational pillars that strengthen the covenant bond with our spouse. Let's remember: God is love, and walking in communication with Him is the key to maintaining a lasting relationship with our soulmate.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, counselor, and author. To learn more about a life filled with purpose, visit: billyhollandministries.com.

OVER 1000 USED TRUCKS IN INVENTORY ALL THE TIME!



2009 Peterbilt, Model 340, 330 HP, Automatic Allison transmission, nice truck, runs excellent! 2000 gallon fuel tank, 5 product tank, grease barrell, air compressor, hose reels, air pumps!
Stk. #09PETE246LUBE..... **\$30,000**



2020 PETERBILT 579, 455 HP, 12 speed, automated transmissions, nice truck, runs excellent, low miler, air seat, power windows, power/heated mirrors, tilt/tele, differential lock, dump valve, sliding 5th wheel, good tires.
Stk. #20MX371579DC..... **\$28,500**



2022 PETERBILT 579, 455 HP, very nice truck, very clean/ fleet maintained!! runs and drives excellent, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, sliding 5th wheel, air seats, tilt/tele, double bunk! Stk. #22MX58579..... **\$34,000**



2014 INTERNATIONAL PROSTAR, 450 HP, manual Eaton-Fuller transmission, Air Ride suspension, good truck, runs excellent, low miles, power windows, air seat, dump valve, differential lock, cruise, sliding 5th!
Stk. #14MF324PRODC..... **\$12,000**



2021 INTERNATIONAL LT, X15 Cummins engine, 12 speed automated transmission. Super nice truck, runs and drives excellent, fleet maintained, air seat, smart wheel, power windows, power/heated mirrors, sliding 5th.
Stk. #21X15443LTDCC..... **\$26,000**



2018 PETERBILT 579, 455 HP Paccar engine, good truck, runs and drives excellent, fleet maintained! air seat, very nice truck, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, A/S 5th, cruise, tilt/tele! Stk. #18MX590579DC..... **\$22,000**



2016 PETERBILT 579, 455 HP Paccar engine, good truck, fleet maintained! truck runs and drives perfect! good tires, clean cab, power windows, power mirrors, power door locks, tilt/tele, differential lock, dump valve! Stk. #16MX789579DC..... **\$18,000**



2019 PETERBILT 579, Good truck, runs great, clean, air seat, fleet maintained, no rust, very nice truck, power windows, power/heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, A/S 5th, cruise, tilt/tele, 12 speed. Stk. #19MX631579DC..... **\$25,000**



2020 KENWORTH T680, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, no rust, southern ran t truck, air seat, air brakes, tilt/tele, power windows, power/heated mirrors, 455 HP, 12 speed, differential lock
Stk. #20MX541T680DC..... **\$24,000**



2016 MACK PINNACLE CHU613, 455 HP, good truck, runs excellent, well maintained, 12 Spd mDRIVE, air seat, power window, power mirrors, heated mirrors, dump valve, differential lock, sliding 5th wheel!
Stk. #16434FLATCH..... **\$20,000**



2005 MACK GRANITE CV713, 410 HP, good truck, runs excellent, nice truck, thick frame, 10 Spd Mack manual transmission, differential lock, sliding 5th wheel, good tires! heavy duty truck! *pre-emissions!!
Stk. #05CV376TADC..... **\$25,000**



2014 MACK PINNACLE CXU613, 445 HP, very good truck, runs excellent, dump valve, differential lock, fleet maintained, air seat, tilt/tele, power windows!
Stk. #14CXU546TADC..... **\$14,000**



2019 MACK ANTHEM 64T, 395 HP, very nice truck, runs great, fleet maintained, very clean, air seat, power windows, power door locks, power mirrors, heated mirrors, dump valve, differential lock, tilt/tele!
Stk. #19ANTH692TADC..... **\$18,000**



2020 INTERNATIONAL RH, good truck, runs and drives excellent, fleet maintained, power windows, power door locks, smart wheel, tilt/tele, cruise, sliding 5th wheel, dump valve! *low mileage!!
Stk. #20YEL360RHDC..... **\$14,000**



2021 INTERNATIONAL RH, fleet maintained, excellent shape, runs and drives perfect, smart steering wheel, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, differential lock, air seat! dual 80 gallon fuel tanks!
Stk. #21GA263RHTADC..... **\$20,000**



2017 WESTERN STAR 4700, Good truck, runs excellent, air seat, air brakes, differential lock, sliding 5th wheel, dump valve, fleet maintained, thick frame, heavy duty truck. Low miles, southern truck, not rusty.
Stk. #17DET123WSDC..... **\$25,000**



2020 KENWORTH T370, 350 HP Paccar PX9, auto Allison RDS transmission, nice truck, runs excellent, air seat, air brakes, hard steel bed, differential lock, dump valve! *salvage title/ truck has been fixed!
Stk. #20T3302TADUMP..... **\$65,000**



2006 MACK GRANITE CV713, 370 HP, manual Eaton-Fuller Transmission, good truck, runs excellent, thick frame, A/C, nice dump bed, air gate, electric tarp! differential lock!
Stk. #06CV535TADUMP..... **\$35,000**



2015 INTERNATIONAL TRANSTAR 8600, 410 HP, good truck, low miles! runs excellent! air seat, air brakes, differential lock, well maintained! *nice bed/ air gate/ electric tarp!! *rear hitch!
Stk. #158600116SADUMP..... **\$35,000**



2013 INTERNATIONAL DURASTAR 4400, 240 HP, automatic Allison transmission, nice truck, runs excellent, A/C, cruise control, autocrane body and crane, tool boxes, hose reels, lots of storage!
Stk. #134400226SER..... **\$25,000**



2015 RAM 5500 HD, 350 HP Cummins ISB6.7, nice truck, well maintained, summit 11 ft body, 4416 summit crane with remote, rolling drawer tool boxes, lots of storage, vanair power flex generator/ air compressor combo!
Stk. #15RAM305SER..... **\$35,000**



2002 WILSON, 43 ft. Good trailer, good doors and hoppers, air ride with dump valve, roll tarp. Two standard hoppers, two speed landing gear, air ride suspension, all steel wheels, tandem axles.
Stk. #02WIL960HOPPER..... **\$15,000**



2012 TIMPTE, Good trailer, roll tarp, good doors, vibrators. 42 ft hopper, two hoppers, standars, knock rails, manual roll tarp, two speed landing gear, front and rear ladder locations, front and rear catwalk, 65,000 lb. GVW.
Stk. #12TIM390HOPPER..... **\$18,500**



2008 JET, Nice trailer, excellent shape, tarp, jet hopper bottom, steel composition, roll tarp, front and rear ladder locations, spring suspension, all stell wheels, tandem axles, 68,000 gross vehicle weight, 40 ft length.
Stk. #08JET220HOPPER..... **\$17,000**



2011 WILSON 43 FT, nice trailer, roll tarp, good doors, dump valve! front and rear ladder! wilson 43 ft hopper, front and rear catwalk, air ride suspension, tandem axle, fixed axle.
Stk. #11WIL740HOPPER..... **\$24,000**



2020 TIMPTE, nice hopper trailer, ag hoppers, good tires, roll tarp, dump valve! 72 inch sides, 40 ft long, 96 inch wide, front and rear ladder, air ride tandem fixed axle.
Stk. #20TIM40HOPPER..... **\$32,000**



2005 J & J, nice trailer, good tires, not rusty, electric tarp, air gate, dump valve! liner, J & J 32 ft tandem axle end dump.
Stk. #05JJO46DUMP..... **\$17,000**



2025 ATRO, new 2025 34 ft dump trailer, high lift gate, built with ar hard ox steel, 13,337 empty weight, external cylinder/ no doghouse for easier dumping capabilities, front ladder, led lights *12% fet must be paid with purchase!
Stk. #25ATRO610DUMP..... **\$33,000**



2013 MAC TRAILER, nice trailer good box, needs lift arms and tarp replaced, air ride tandem axle, sells as is/ pulls good! Mac trailer mfg 40 ft end dump
Stk. #13MAC024DUMP..... **\$17,000**



2008 SUMMIT, nice trailer, full frame, good tires, air gate! Summit 34 ft end dum.
Stk. #08SUM919DUMP..... **\$20,000**



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