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### AGRI NEWS • SPRING LAWN & GARDEN

# Southern Illinois News



April 2026



## RHI Easter Egg Hunt held in Goreville

On March 28, Rural Health, Inc. and the City of Goreville held their annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Goreville City Park in Goreville, Illinois. Although the weather was a bit chilly, coordinators estimated that over 100 kids and their families enjoyed the event where they hunted roughly 6000 eggs and visited with the Easter Bunny.

Children were awarded prizes for golden eggs found in each age category (under age 6 and ages 7 to 12) and a free Easter Basket raffle was held for the families.

*Photos at right:*  
Prize winners and volunteers pictured top, L-R: Kimberly Dubson and her sons, Jack and Waylon Woelk, winners

of the Easter Basket raffle; Goreville High School CNA volunteers, Kaleigh Harrison, Jessica Throgmorton, RN School Nurse, and Kaitlyn Kelly; and Chucky Sigler, winner for finding a golden egg in the under age 6 category. Rural Health, Inc. wishes to thank all those that helped make this event possible.



## SoIL Regional Chamber to hold Spring luncheon



The Southern Illinois Spring Regional Luncheon is coming up in collaboration with the Southern Illinois Regional Chambers!

The luncheon will be held on May 8th from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at the Granada Theatre, 108 North 9th Street, Mt.

Vernon, IL 62864.

This year's theme is "Disaster Relief," bringing together community leaders and professionals for an informational and network-worthy day focused on preparedness, response, and

supporting our region when it matters most.

More details to come.

Sponsor opportunities are available.

Contact your chamber office for more information, or if you are interested in a sponsorship.

## Gov. Pritzker advocates for Illinois farmers during Agriculture Legislative Day

SPRINGFIELD — Governor JB Pritzker today joined hundreds of farmers, agricultural advocates, and lawmakers for the Illinois Department of Agriculture's (IDOA) 56th annual Illinois Agriculture Legislative Day. The annual event brought together scores of industry representatives and highlighted the state's \$26.4 billion agricultural sector that employs hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans while bolstering communities across the state.

"Illinois Agriculture Legislative Day gives us all an opportunity to gather in celebration of the lifeblood of our economy," said Governor JB Pritzker. "Our farmers feed the world, and Illinois will always

have their backs. With transformative infrastructure upgrades, a dynamic business environment, and an unwavering commitment to protect farmers in the face of trade wars and tariffs, Illinois is empowering our agricultural industry to remain competitive in today's global economy."

"While decisions made in Washington continue to make life harder for our farmers and agricultural workers, Illinois is stepping up," said Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton. "We'll continue to fight for Illinois agriculture — for the families who rise before the sun to care for their farms, the workers who transport our food, and everyone involved in the journey from farm to table."

"Agriculture is Illinois' #1 industry,

and our farmers deserve a partner in government who is willing to stand up for them," said IDOA Director Jerry Costello II. "At a time when federal policies are creating uncertainty, instability, and driving up costs, we are focused on delivering real support — from international marketing efforts that create new export opportunities to funding that increases conservation efforts to protect the health of the nation's most fertile soil to investing in our state's strongest agriculture resource: our ag students. Illinois Agriculture Legislative Day is a powerful reminder that when we work together, we can protect and grow this vital industry for generations to come."

At this year's Agriculture

Legislative Day, Governor Pritzker highlighted a proclamation declaring March as Month of the Woman Farmer in Illinois, supporting the United Nations' declaration of 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer. Illinois is home to nearly 34,000 female producers representing over a quarter of the state's agricultural workforce. The Governor recognized a distinguished group of these Illinoisans during the event, highlighting their roles in shaping the state's top industry.

Governor Pritzker continues to champion Illinois' agricultural industry, especially as the federal government turns its back on hardworking farmers nationwide. Donald Trump's

crushing tariffs are straining farmers in Illinois, and now, Trump's reckless actions in Iran have caused fertilizer and fuel prices to increase. This development will potentially reduce profits for corn and soybean farmers, especially if the conflict in the Middle East continues long-term.

Despite these headwinds from the federal government, Illinois is standing strong in defense of its farmers, agribusinesses, and other industry leaders that power the state's agricultural economy. Last year, Governor Pritzker issued an executive order mobilizing state support to mitigate the harmful effects of Trump's tariffs on farm families. Additionally, the Governor urged Congress to pass the

Tariff Refund Act of 2026, legislation that would return unlawfully collected tariffs back to American families. This letter came on the heels of a lawsuit filed by the Illinois Attorney General and 22 other states to block Trump's latest efforts to impose illegal tariffs on American families, farmers, and businesses without congressional approval.

Illinois continues to see significant business development and growth in the agricultural sector. At the 2025 Farm Progress Show, the Governor announced Cronus Chemicals' \$2 billion investment to construct a new fertilizer production facility in Tuscola — a critical boost for Illinois' manufacturing and agricultural industries.

# Spring Farming: A season of preparation and growth

Spring is one of the busiest and most important seasons on the farm. After the cold winter months, farmers welcome the warmer temperatures, longer daylight hours, and the chance to begin a new growing season. Spring farming is a time of preparation, planting,

and caring for both crops and animals. The work done during this season helps determine the success of the harvest later in the year.

As winter ends, farmers begin by preparing their fields. During winter, soil can become compacted and

covered with leftover plant material from the previous year. Farmers use tractors and plows to loosen the soil, a process called tilling. Tilling helps air and water reach plant roots more easily and prepares the ground for planting seeds. In some cases,

farmers also test the soil to check nutrient levels. If nutrients are low, fertilizers or compost may be added to improve soil quality and help crops grow strong and healthy.

Planting is one of the most well-known spring farming activities. Different crops are planted at different times depending on the weather and soil temperature. In many areas, farmers plant crops such as corn, soybeans, wheat, and vegetables during the spring months. Timing is very important. If seeds are planted too early, late frost can damage young plants. If planted too late, crops may not have enough time to grow before the hot summer months arrive. Farmers carefully watch weather forecasts and soil conditions to choose the best time to plant.

Spring is also a time of growth for farm animals. Many livestock animals, such as calves, lambs, and chicks, are born during the spring season. Warmer temperatures make it safer and easier to care for newborn animals. Farmers spend time feeding, monitoring, and protecting these young animals to ensure they stay healthy. Fresh grass begins to grow in pastures, allowing animals to graze and receive natural nutrition from the land.

Weed control is another important spring farming task. Weeds compete with crops for sunlight, water, and nutrients.

Farmers remove weeds using a variety of methods, including mechanical tools, mulching, or approved herbicides. Keeping weeds under control early in the season helps crops grow more successfully and reduces problems later.

Spring farming also includes repairing and maintaining equipment. Tractors, planters, irrigation systems, and fences may have been damaged during winter weather. Farmers inspect machinery, replace worn parts, and make sure everything is working properly before the busiest planting days begin. Well-maintained equipment saves time and prevents delays during critical moments of the season.

Weather plays a major role in spring farming. Rain is necessary for crops to grow, but too much rain can flood fields and delay planting. On the other hand, dry conditions can make it difficult for seeds to

sprout. Farmers must be flexible and ready to adjust their plans based on changing weather patterns. Some farmers use irrigation systems to provide water when rainfall is not enough.

In addition to planting and caring for crops, spring is also a time for planning and recordkeeping. Farmers review notes from previous years to decide which crops to plant, how much seed to buy, and where to place each crop. Crop rotation, or planting different crops in different fields each year, helps maintain soil health and reduces pests and diseases.

Overall, spring farming is a season filled with hard work, careful planning, and hope for the months ahead. The tasks completed in spring lay the foundation for a successful growing season and a plentiful harvest in the fall. For farmers, spring is not just a season—it is the beginning of a new cycle of life on the farm.



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# AUCTIONS



## Construction Equipment

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

3 SELLING

**EA5449 '21 Komatsu WA320-8 wheel loader**



DU2745 '23 Komatsu PC210LC-11 excavator



YA2149 '24 Kenworth T880 dump truck



YA2202 '22 Komatsu D71PXI-24 dozer



EA5450 '22 Komatsu WA320-8 wheel loader



DU2744 '21 Komatsu PC210LC-11 excavator



EM5044 '00 CAT D6R XL dozer



FB3564 '19 Peterbilt 567 dump truck



DT0084 '06 Roadtec MTV material transfer vehicle



YA0733 '17 Kenworth T880 dump truck



YA2190 '20 Freightliner 114SD crane truck



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# Buying a Farm: What to know before you take the leap

Buying a farm is a dream for many people who want more space, independence, and the opportunity to grow their own food or raise animals. Whether you are interested in starting a small hobby farm or running a full-scale agricultural business, purchasing a farm is a major investment that requires careful planning and research. Understanding what to look for and how to prepare can help make the process smoother and more successful.

One of the first things to consider when buying a farm is the purpose of the land. Different types of farming require different conditions. For example, growing crops such as corn or soybeans requires fertile soil and access to water, while raising livestock requires pasture space and proper fencing. Knowing your goals—whether it is gardening, livestock, hay production, or mixed farming—will help you choose the right property. Location is another important factor.



maintenance, feed, seed, fuel, and equipment. Some buyers seek loans specifically designed for agricultural purchases. Creating a realistic budget that includes both startup and yearly costs can help prevent financial stress later on.

Legal considerations should not be overlooked. Zoning laws and land-use regulations may affect what you are allowed to do on the property. Some farms have easements or restrictions that limit building or farming activities. It is also wise to confirm property boundaries through a survey before completing a purchase.

Buying a farm can be both exciting and challenging. With proper research, planning, and financial preparation, it can become a rewarding investment that supports a productive lifestyle. Taking the time to evaluate land quality, infrastructure, and long-term goals will help ensure that your farm purchase is a success for years to come.

Farms located near towns or markets can make it easier to sell produce or livestock. Access to good roads, suppliers, and veterinary services can also make daily operations easier. Climate plays a major role as well. Some crops grow better in certain regions, and weather patterns can affect planting seasons and harvest times. Researching the local growing conditions

and average rainfall is essential before making a purchase. The quality of the land itself should be carefully evaluated. Soil type, drainage, and fertility can determine what you are able to grow. Many buyers request a soil test before purchasing land to learn about nutrient levels and soil health. In addition to soil quality, water availability is critical. Farms need reliable

water sources such as wells, ponds, or nearby streams. Irrigation systems can also be valuable for maintaining crops during dry periods. Buildings and infrastructure are another major consideration. Many farms include barns, sheds, fencing, and storage areas. These structures can save money if they are already in good condition, but repairs

can become costly if they are outdated or damaged. Checking the condition of roofs, electrical systems, and plumbing is important. Equipment storage and animal housing should also be suitable for your specific farming plans. Financial planning is a key part of buying a farm. In addition to the purchase price, there are ongoing costs such as property taxes, insurance,

## Getting your garden off to a great start

Spring is one of the most exciting times of the year for gardeners. As the weather warms and the days grow longer, it's the perfect time to prepare your soil and begin planting a variety of vegetables, flowers, and herbs. With a little planning and care, spring garden planting can lead to a healthy and productive growing season. The first step in spring planting is

preparing the soil. After winter, garden soil can become compacted and low in nutrients. Loosening the soil with a shovel or garden fork helps improve drainage and allows roots to grow more easily. Adding compost or well-rotted manure enriches the soil with nutrients that plants need to thrive. Removing weeds and leftover plant debris from the previous season also helps

prevent pests and diseases. Choosing the right plants for spring is important. Cool-season vegetables are often the best choice for early planting. Crops such as lettuce, spinach, carrots, peas, and radishes grow well in cooler temperatures and can tolerate light frost. Many gardeners also plant onions, potatoes, and broccoli during this time. Flower lovers can

begin planting hardy annuals like pansies and snapdragons, which add bright color to gardens and containers. Timing is another key factor in successful spring gardening. It's important to pay attention to your local frost dates before planting tender plants. Starting seeds indoors is a great way to get a head start on warm-season crops like tomatoes and peppers.

Once the danger of frost has passed, these young plants can be transplanted outdoors into prepared garden beds. Watering and maintenance play a big role in early growth. Newly planted seeds and seedlings need consistent moisture to establish strong roots. Mulching around plants helps retain moisture, reduce weeds, and keep soil temperatures steady.

Checking your garden regularly allows you to catch problems early and keep plants healthy. Spring garden planting is a rewarding activity that brings both beauty and fresh food to your home. With proper soil preparation, careful plant selection, and regular care, your spring garden can grow strong and provide enjoyment throughout the season.

**ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION THURSDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 @ 10:00 AM**

**2 FARMS - Farm 1: 2811 County Road 1110, Fancy Farm, KY - Farm 2: 425 Old Dublin Hill Road, Fancy Farm, KY**

2 Farms - 184± Acres  
in 12 Tracts & Combinations



TRACT 1 - Features Home, Attached 1 Car Garage, Sunroom/Enclosed Patio, Detached 2 Car Garage with Boat Dock, Large Beautiful Pond, 2 Sheds and Green Metal Barn/Shop 48'x48' at Entrance of Tract 1.

Well-maintained 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath brick home offering spacious living, beautiful surroundings, and outstanding versatility. Features include a large kitchen with custom cabinetry and island, open living and dining areas with fireplace, and a comfortable primary suite with en-suite bath and outdoor access. Enjoy additional living space with a bright sunroom, a dedicated laundry area enhances convenience, plus a peaceful setting with mature trees and a covered front porch. A standout feature is the detached garage/recreation building overlooking a pond, complete with deck, covered area, and private dock. Multiple outbuildings, shops, barns, and grain storage provide excellent space for equipment, hobbies, or agricultural use. Additional tract offers even more buildings and functionality.

A RARE COMBINATION OF COMFORT, WATERFRONT APPEAL, AND USABILITY.

<p><b>PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spacious home with open living, dining &amp; kitchen layout</li> <li>Custom wood cabinetry, large island &amp; ample counter space</li> <li>Cozy fireplace and inviting main living areas</li> <li>Primary suite with en-suite bath &amp; outdoor access</li> <li>Walk-in shower, walk-in tub &amp; large vanity</li> <li>Sunroom/enclosed patio with great natural light</li> <li>Dedicated laundry area with built-in storage</li> <li>Large yard w/mature trees &amp; attractive landscaping</li> <li>Covered front porch for relaxing outdoor space</li> </ul>	<p><b>WATERFRONT &amp; RECREATION FEATURES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached garage/recreation building near pond</li> <li>Covered outdoor area &amp; deck overlooking water</li> <li>Private dock for fishing and enjoyment</li> </ul> <p><b>OUTBUILDINGS &amp; FARM IMPROVEMENTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple shops and storage buildings</li> <li>Detached garage with office/workspace</li> <li>Outbuilding with kitchen area (multi-use potential)</li> <li>Barns, grain bin &amp; silo for agricultural use</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional tract (Tract 12)</b> (Farm 2) 53.447 acres - 37.07 tillable In Dublin, Kentucky - Graves County</p>
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130.02

Acres in 11 Tracts

Farm 1: CARLISLE COUNTY

Tillable Acres 100.82

Auction Held On Farm 1

Public Preview Date: Sunday, April 19th 12-1PM

Farm 2: GRAVES COUNTY

Tillable Acres 37.07

Dublin Community



53.447

Acres in 1 Tract

The auction shall be conducted in two farms. Farm 1: Tracts 1-11. Farm 2: Tract 12. No combinations between these farms will be combined. The property will be sold in the manner resulting in the highest total sale price. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. 15% as down payment on the day of the auction with balance in cash at closing on or before 45 days. The down payment may be in the form of cashier's check, personal check, or corporate check. YOUR BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING, SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING. Closing shall take place on or before 30 days from auction date. All 2026 ad valorem taxes will be prorated at closing. SURVEYS: The 4 properties will be sold by a new survey. Buyer will be responsible for 50% of the survey cost. LEAD BASED PAINT: Buyer will be required to sign a lead based paint disclosure waiving the opportunity to conduct a 10 day post sale inspections. Make all inspections prior to the day of sale.

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# How to protect your vehicle's paint job



## Prepare now and be road trip-ready

The allure of the open road compels millions of people to get behind the wheel and set off in the direction of new horizons every year. A freedom of adventure is an inherent trait of road trips, and these excursions can be incredible ways to explore the sights. But vehicle preparation is important before taking to the open road.

Vehicle breakdowns can derail a road trip quite quickly. Breakdowns can be costly and are always inconvenient. According to AAA, tire-related issues consistently rank among the top reasons for roadside assistance calls. AAA data also shows battery-related issues account for a significant portion of roadside calls. Here are some key areas to address when preparing a vehicle for a road trip.

**• Tires, tires, tires:** Incorrect tire pressure can affect fuel efficiency and handling. Ensure tires are inflated to the correct PSI as indicated in the

driver's side door jamb or in the vehicle's owner's manual. Inspect the tread depth on all tires to ensure it is adequate, and also look for any tire damage like cracks, embedded objects or bulges. While you're checking the tires, make sure the spare is inflated and in good condition.

**• Battery life:** Many automotive centers offer free battery testing. If the battery is between three and five years old, consider having it checked or replaced. Use a wire brush to clean battery terminals of corrosion.

**• Under the hood:** If a road trip is close to the next oil change, do it before leaving. Ensure that all coolant levels are correct, and that the brake fluid isn't low. Transmission fluid and power steering fluid also should be checked. Refill the wiper fluid reservoir to maintain visibility on the trip.

**• Belts and hoses:** Inspect the belts for cracks and fraying. Check the hoses for

leaks and bulges.

**• Brakes:** Brakes are the primary safety system. If the brakes squeal, grind or pulse when you are braking, they may need to be replaced. The same can be said if a visual brake pad inspection indicates the pads are thinning.

**• Essentials kit:** Even with the best preparation, unexpected issues can happen on road trips. That's why it's a good idea to have a kit stocked with jumper cables, a portable air compressor to fill tires, first-aid kit, flashlight with extra batteries, basic tools, flares, water, and non-perishable snacks. A blanket or warm clothing or reflective vest also is helpful.

Don't leave home without a driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. If you are part of a roadside assistance program, keep the contact information and member number handy. While GPS tools on phones and other devices are very efficient, they're only as good as the cellular signal. Paper maps or printed directions are a backup for GPS.

A successful road trip starts with preparation. Ensuring the car or truck is road-ready is very important.

Drivers go to great lengths to ensure what's under the hood of their vehicles is well taken care of. But it's equally beneficial to tend to the exterior of a vehicle, including its paint job.

According to Popular Mechanics, oxidation can adversely affect iron-based metals. That can put vehicles in jeopardy and take significant time off their life expectancy. The good news is that rust and other issues that can affect a vehicle's paint job and appearance are typically avoidable. That should be music to the ears of new vehicle owners, who likely need no reminder of the sizable financial investment required to drive off the lot with a fresh set of wheels. Drivers who want their cars and trucks to maintain their looks over the long haul can consider these simple strategies to protect their paint jobs.

**• Make car washes part of your vehicle maintenance routine.** Seasoned drivers are undoubtedly familiar with the conventional wisdom surrounding oil change intervals, but those same motorists may not recognize the importance of routine car washes. Over

time, contaminants such as pollen, dust and pollution can settle on a vehicle's exterior, potentially jeopardizing the paint job. Routine car washes can prevent such damage and help a car look like it was just driven off the lot.

**• Wax the exterior of the vehicle.** The automotive experts at Carfax® report that waxing is a significant and simple way to protect vehicle paint. Carfax® notes that certain paste waxes contain mild abrasives that help remove fine scratches from painted surfaces. Wax also can protect paint jobs from fading related to exposure to ultraviolet rays. That's especially noteworthy for drivers who do not routinely park their cars in a garage.

**• Use a car cover.** Car covers may or may not be practical for cars drivers use every day, but they are an effective way to protect a paint job from the elements. Drivers who have a spare car they rarely drive or even those who do not drive their primary vehicle a lot each day can purchase a universal-fit car cover or a premium cover designed specifically for their vehicles. Car covers protect paint

jobs from ultraviolet rays and the elements and may reduce the need for more frequent trips to the car wash.

**• Park in the shade, but choose spots wisely.** Parking in the shade may protect vehicles from the ultraviolet rays of the sun, but it's important that drivers pick the right shady spot to park their cars and trucks. A shade tree might seem like a great ally to vehicle owners, but if birds nest or rest in the tree, drivers could be exposing their cars to bird droppings. That's no small threat, as bird droppings are high in uric acid, which quickly damage a vehicle's exterior. Parking directly beneath a tree also might expose the paint job to sap or fallen leaves or berries, each of which can adversely vehicle exteriors. If you plan to park in the shade to protect the paint job, ideally choose a spot that is not directly beneath the tree.

A well-maintained paint job can improve the appearance and life expectancy of a vehicle, which is something drivers should keep in mind as they hope to get the most out of their automotive investment.



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## Car Care Basics

Keeping your car interior clean doesn't have to be difficult if you build a few simple habits into your routine. A clean interior not only makes your car more comfortable to ride in, but it also helps protect its value and keeps it smelling fresh.

Start by removing trash daily. Keep a small bag or container in your car to collect wrappers, receipts, and other garbage. Empty it whenever you get gas or arrive back home. This simple habit prevents clutter from building up and keeps your car looking neat.

see **BASICS**, page 9

# Grad Spree set for May 14th for MHS graduates

This year's Grad Spree event will be after the Marion High School's Graduation Ceremony on May 14th. Activities and entertainment is provided to each Marion High School graduate free-of-charge. Event ideas are submitted by the MHS Student Council Seniors and event planning committee.

### Exciting Activities:

Our event is packed with exciting activities to keep you entertained all night long.

### Hypnotist, Brian Madrid

A world-class show that captivates the imagination and demonstrates the power of your subconscious. The volunteers become the stars of the show with hilarious and mind-blowing moments you have to see to believe!

### Video Preview

360 Photo Booth – Sponsored by The Mission Church

### Hub Activities

Including sports, pickleball, friendship bracelet station, face painting, silent disco, and swimming

### Bowling & Arcade at SI Bowl

Teams will compete with the chance of earning amazing prizes. Arcade tokens will also be available.

### Delicious Food:

Enjoy a variety of tasty snacks and refreshments throughout the night, provided by: Cold Blooded Coffee – Full Coffee and Frappe Stand Pepsi MidAmerica – Soft Drinks and Water And Much More! Prizes and Giveaways: Goodies Bags include an event bag, t-shirt, sunglasses, cups, and snack coupons.

Test your luck and win fantastic prizes in our raffles and competitions, with giveaways ranging from gift cards to electronics and beyond.

Gift Cards  
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Much More!

### Unforgettable Memories:

Most importantly, you'll create memories with your fellow graduates that will last a lifetime. Whether you're sharing laughs with friends, trying new activities, or simply enjoying each other's company, the post-graduation overnight event is sure to be a night to remember.

### Leaving Early:

We understand that obligations during Graduation weekend may prevent students from staying for the whole event. Parents/Guardians who need to pick up students early are asked to provide information to the Chamber and planning committee. The FINAL DEADLINE for Departure Forms is 2 pm the day of the event.

### Early Departure Form (PDF)

ABOUT GRAD SPREE Since 1986, our post-graduation overnight event, Marion Chamber Foundation's Friends For Life Graduation Spree (known as Grad Spree), has been a cherished tradition, offering high school graduates a safe and substance-free way to celebrate this milestone in their lives. For forty years, we've provided a memorable and enjoyable experience for students, ensuring that their graduation night is one they'll never forget—for all the right reasons.

### A Safe and Substance-Free Celebration

At our post-graduation overnight event, safety



is our top priority. We understand the temptations and pressures that can come with graduation night, which is why we offer a supportive environment where students can have fun and make memories without the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Our event provides a variety of activities and entertainment options to suit every interest

and preference. From games and music to food and friendship, there's something for everyone to enjoy as they celebrate this momentous occasion.

As we celebrate another year of graduates, we invite you to join us in continuing the tradition of our post-graduation overnight event.

By choosing our

substance-free celebration, you're not only prioritizing your own safety and well-being but also contributing to a positive and supportive community that values responsible decision-making and camaraderie.

Ensure your free event goodie bag by registering for the event by late April. In May, gift bags will be available as supplies last.

### Learn about Duck Spree

**VOLUNTEERING** Volunteers ensure that our Grad Spree guests have an amazing experience. You can be involved in a variety of ways:

Committee Members help to plan the event. This group meets monthly through May.

Event Volunteers include venue volunteers and activity chaperones for Grad Spree. Our chaperones make this a memorable night for the seniors. We have various shifts covering the event from 9 pm to 4 am.

To sign up to volunteer, call the Chamber at 997-6311 or e-mail the Chamber at [programs@marionillinois.com](mailto:programs@marionillinois.com).

# SIU's Great Cardboard Boat Regatta set for April 18th

By Christi Mathis

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Have you ever tried sailing a banana? Or perhaps floating on a canopy bed or giant guitar?

There's just no telling what people will be paddling around Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Campus Lake April 18 when the Great Cardboard Boat regatta makes its 51st appearance. Make plans now to see for yourself.

The competition begins at 1 p.m. in the beach area near Becker Pavilion and it's a family friendly affair. There's still time to sign up to participate. Spectators are welcome at no cost. The event will also feature food trucks, bar and grill, vendors and more.

### Everyone is welcome

Admission is free for the regatta with viewers encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets and claim their favorite vantage point to enjoy the spectacle. Race participation is open to all as well, competing either as individuals or in groups of up to 10 people.

It's a supreme test of creativity, ingenuity and problem-solving skills with some imagination liberally added to the mix. The goal is simple: use sheets of corrugated cardboard to create a human-powered watercraft to successfully navigate a 300-yard long, U-shaped racecourse. Contestants can use glue, caulk, tape, staples or other similar materials to hold their watercraft together. A one-part waterproofing product such as latex paint is allowed as well, but no fiberglass or flex seal.

Racing takes place in several categories, giving all a chance to win:

**Class I** – Boats powered by canoe paddles, oars or kayak paddles.

**Class II** – Boats driven by paddle wheels, propellers, plungers or other novel forms of muscle-powered propulsion. Gas or

electrical power is a no-no.

**Class III** – Instant boats, created that day on the spot and powered with provided paddles. The Instant boat kits are available for \$20 on a first-come, first-served basis. Included are a 7-foot-by-8-foot sheet of cardboard, a sheet of plastic, a box knife, a nail and a roll of duct tape – all the essentials for crafting a last-minute boat.

**Class IV** – Kids' boats, built to any of the standards for the other classes but crafted by youths age 12 or younger. They compete on a shorter course.

**Class V** – Teen boats for ages 13-17, competing on the full course. The race is a popular event for area schools and youth groups and they got their own division for the first time in 2025.

The top three finishers in each division, based on times, will earn prizes and bragging rights. There are also several special awards, including the coveted "Titanic Award," presented in recognition of the most spectacular sinking. There are also honors for the best use of cardboard, the best team spirit, and for people's choice.

### Proud tradition

The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta is now a worldwide phenomenon, duplicated at universities and communities everywhere, but it all began rather inauspiciously at SIU long ago. In truth, cardboard boats first appeared in 1962 at Campus Lake, courtesy of then design department chair Davis Pratt. It seemed to be a one-and-done event. That is, until 12 years later when faculty member Richard Archer, unaware of his colleague's challenge, hatched a cardboard boat race as a final exam for his freshman dimensional design class. He insisted that creating a successful boat design would aptly assess what his Salukis had learned.

A tradition was born and by 1976,

the race was open to anyone, including other universities. W. Larry Busch, SIU art and design program emeritus acting chair/associate professor, hasn't missed a regatta and for many years coordinated the event with Larry "Skip" Briggs, the emeritus professor in SIU's School of Art and Design. Briggs also played a critical role in the growth of the regatta prior to his death in 2018. Busch loves to regale people with countless memories he holds dear from decades of regattas.

Regardless of the weather, the size of the crowd, or the number of entries, organizers say the regatta is a popular tradition that never goes out of style. For instance, while attending SIU, Chad Stuemke and some of his fellow Salukis created a classic car watercraft, the Plymouth Fury "FURYUS 3" and raced it in the regatta. Now, the 1995 art and design graduate is an assistant instructor in SIU's School of Art and Design, teaching SIU's designers of tomorrow.

The boat designs through five decades have been as diverse as the human imagination. Dragons, a Volkswagen beetle, Viking ships, an army helicopter, a space capsule, the Lock Ness monster, and so much more have attempted to sail the lake. Creative and unique monikers for the watercraft have included Root Beer Float, SS Cherry π, The Leaky Sink, The Drowning Dolphin and indicators of timely news, such as "Expletive Deleted," in reference to the Richard M. Nixon tapes released to the public with curse words omitted, and "Exxon Valdez" after the ship's tragic oil spill.

Check out the regatta's Facebook page as well as SIU's retrospective regatta video and photo gallery for photos, memories and more information from 50 years of fascinating tradition.

SIU celebrated the half-century anniversary of the regatta last year – 2020 and 2021 were skipped due to the

pandemic – and this year Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center and the SIU Alumni Association are joining forces this year with Alpha Chi Sigma and Recreational Sports and Services to ensure a fantastic event, organizers say.

All contestants must submit completed risk waivers as well; parents or guardians must sign for participants under age 18. Speed up the registration process by printing the form, completing it and bringing to the regatta. Registration, waivers, and additional

information can be found here: <https://ton.siu.edu/campus-programs/carbondale-boat-regatta.php>. You can also register in advance by calling Touch of Nature at 618-453-1122.

Participants can use their own cardboard or purchase 7-by-8-foot sheets for \$4 each – boats typically take four or five pieces – in Room 110A of the Neckers Building at SIU's School of Chemical and Biomolecular Science.

If you're the last-minute type, don't worry as participants can still register from 10 a.m. to noon the day of the event

for \$20.

Kayak paddles, oars and life jackets are furnished for race participants. Boat inspections are from 10 a.m. to noon.

Purchase additional shirts online through the registration link. A limited number of shirts will be available at the regatta.

For more details, including the complete rules, entry forms, updates and more, visit the regatta website or the Great Cardboard Boat Regatta Facebook page. Email [ton@siu.edu](mailto:ton@siu.edu) or call 618-453-1188 with questions.



Chad Stuemke, in the water guiding the FURYUS3, participated in the regatta as a student and now teaches industrial design at SIU. Photo provided.

Photos by Yenitza Melgoza and SIU Carbondale

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# Outdoor structures offer aesthetic appeal and protection

The day a child leaves home can be bittersweet for parents. Although a son or daughter being successful and mature enough to move on to new opportunities can be a source of pride, parents typically lament the quiet that comes from empty rooms and a change to the daily routine they'd grown accustomed to when the kids were around. After some time, some couples decide to downsize to a home more befitting the empty nester lifestyle.

Downsizing presents an option for homeowners whose kids have left the nest. New analysis from a survey of 2,500 empty nesters commissioned by Regency Living found that 30 percent of empty nesters choose to downsize and move from their original family homes. When retirement is just around the corner, many professionals

shift focus to how they want to live and where. Moving to a new home presents plenty of opportunities for older adults, including a chance to choose a home based on what's right for them in this stage of life. There are questions homeowners can ask themselves as they ponder if downsizing is right for them.

1. How much upkeep can I handle? A lifelong family home may be well-loved, but chances are it requires significant upkeep and repairs. Empty nesters may choose to move on to a home that offers lifestyle benefits like less maintenance. Homes in lifestyle communities or those overseen by a homeowners' association tend to have certain maintenance built into a monthly fee.

2. Is this layout still a fit? Many empty nesters may not immediately

feel the effects of aging, but before selecting a next home, individuals should think about aging in place and any unique needs they may have. Opting for a single-level home, or at least one with the owner's suite on the main level, can be advantageous.

3. Can I make due with less square footage? A cavernous home with many rooms often isn't desirable for empty nesters. All of that square footage requires heating, cooling and maintenance. Rattling around inside a big, empty house may precipitate the decision to downsize. Downsizing also can free up home equity, which can be used to fund retirement needs.

4. Which features do you desire? Many empty nesters want the next home to focus on some luxury items they may have bypassed in



the first home when priorities lay elsewhere. Upscale environments like gourmet kitchens, spa-like bathrooms and outdoor living spaces may be in the budget when moving into a home with a smaller footprint.

5. Will my home be secure while I travel? Empty nesters might want to choose homes in gated communities or

condominium complexes for safety reasons. Should they opt to spend a portion of time at a vacation rental or second home as snowbirds, secure communities enable residents to leave their primary residence with the peace of mind that those homes will be less vulnerable to thieves.

6. Does this home have enough light? The

American Optometric Association says many adults start to have problems seeing clearly beginning at age 40. Homes with more light from large windows and artificial lighting can reduce accident risk.

Moving to a smaller home is a consideration for many empty nesters. Various features offer benefits to adults who want to age in place.

## How to decide between a deck or pavers in an outdoor remodel

Outdoor living spaces have become sought-after commodities among homeowners. A recent survey of homeowners conducted by the New Home Trends Institute found that open yards are less appealing to home buyers than they once were. The survey noted that just 28 percent of respondents chose open yards, while 65 percent preferred patios and 55 percent chose decks.

Green spaces remain popular, but the survey indicates that many would-be home buyers also want an outdoor living area to make the most of their home exteriors. Homeowners aspiring

to transform their home exterior spaces typically must decide between a deck or pavers when the time comes to plan such areas.

That's a personal choice homeowners must make, but those without strong feelings on either option can consider these tips as they try to decide if a deck or pavers are for them.

• **Determine your budget.** Budget is a notable variable with any home renovation project, and the addition of an outdoor living space is no exception.

The materials homeowners choose will ultimately determine the cost of each project.

For example, composite decking materials tend to cost significantly more than wood decks, but that higher price tag also comes with less maintenance and typically a longer life span. Pavers may prove less expensive than composite decking, but those cost savings may be negligible if a yard requires extensive excavation to prepare an area for a new patio. It requires patience, but gathering estimates of the various materials can serve as a good starting point when planning an outdoor living space.

In addition, homeowners must recognize that material costs can fluctuate

considerably over time, as such prices are often contingent on a range of variables, including supply chain issues. So it's best to gather estimates in a short period of time to make the most accurate price comparisons.

• **Identify your vision for the space.** Homeowners who have a vision for their outdoor living space, even if they are not sure about which material they prefer, may find the process goes more quickly and even more smoothly than those who are unsure about what they want. Those who prefer a flexible multi-use space may be best going with

pavers, as the spaces can be easily converted and areas simply designated as one might differentiate between rooms inside the home. For example, an outdoor living room can be separated with the installation of a pavillion and fireplace, while kitchen and dining areas can be separate spaces on the same patio. Decks tend to be less flexible, which might make them ideal for homeowners who prefer an outdoor dining area but don't need a more expansive entertaining space. Of course, decks can be as big as homeowners choose, which can make the spaces more multi-functional.

• **Recognize both may be in your best interest.** Homeowners also should know that many outdoor living spaces feature both a deck and a paver patio. Homeowners may like an elevated deck that steps down to a patio, which can easily distinguish between the spaces and establish the area as a multifunctional space.

Homeowners planning outdoor living space projects may find themselves choosing between a deck and pavers.

Each option can work, and homeowners may even want to combine the two.

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# VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

## The gap between knowing what is right and actually living it

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

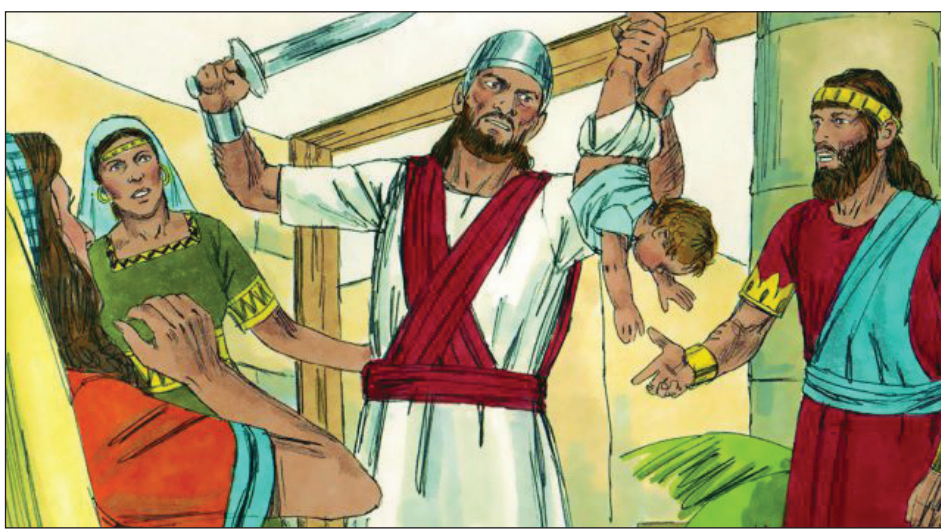
According to Dr. Dillip Jeste, author of the book, *Wiser*, “Wisdom is so necessary for the society, much more than intelligence, because wisdom is associated with mental well-being and happiness. Well-being and happiness are what the society needs, and that can come with wisdom.”

King Solomon’s story is no secret. He life stands as one of the most fascinating and tragic figures in biblical history. He was a man who was given extraordinary wisdom, yet ultimately failed to live by it.

Scholars say Solomon was probably between 14 and 18 years old when he began his reign. At the time he began to reign, he was humble and realized

his need for God. When God appeared to him in a dream and offered to grant him anything he desired, Solomon did not ask for wealth, power, or long life. Instead, as you know, he asked for understanding and wisdom. He asked for a discerning heart to govern the people well. God was so pleased with his prayer that He granted him the greatest wisdom ever given to man, along with riches and honor.

His wisdom quickly became evident when he solved a heated dispute in the case of two women claiming to be the mother of the same child. He suggested cutting the baby in half and giving half to each mother. To save the child’s life, the real mother quickly



stepped up to offer the baby to the other woman. This quickly caused his reputation to spread far beyond Israel, drawing the attention of leaders from distant lands who came to hear him speak.

Solomon’s story is not just one of wisdom, but more importantly, it is a warning about the gap between knowing what is right and actually living it.

They don’t always match up.

Despite his divine gift, Solomon gradually drifted from the very principles he understood so well. He formed political alliances through marriages, taking many foreign wives, which he knew was spiritually dangerous. These relationships slowly influenced him, leading him to tolerate and even

participate in the worship of other gods.

Solomon spent much of his life writing about wisdom, obedience, and the fear of God. His writings emphasize the importance of guarding one’s heart, avoiding temptation, and remaining faithful. And yet, his own life became an example of neglecting the very truths he wrote about.

His downfall wasn’t due to a lack of knowledge, but it was a failure of application. I believe, Solomon’s life highlights a profound reality: wisdom is not intellectual. It is not proven by what we know, but by what we do. A person can understand truth deeply and still choose a different path.

I am thankful his story is in the Bible because it is as relevant today as it was thousands of years ago. It reminds us that wisdom must be practiced daily, guarded intentionally, and lived consistently.

*Editor’s note: Dr. Dillip Jeste’s quote is from, This Is Your Brain With Dr. Phil Stieg: Why Wisdom is Necessary. Podcast.*

## Connecting others to Christ

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett  
Bandana Baptist Church

“Hey Siri, call John.” Nowadays, that’s all you need to do to contact somebody. The artificial intelligence in your smartphone will do the work for you. You can also send a text message or e-mail in less than a minute. Technology and the internet have made present-day communication instantaneous.

It has not always been this way, of course. Before the days of smartphones and computers, we relied on switchboards and their operators to contact people. Calling your neighbor or relative required an operator and a manual telephone switchboard. You would dial the operator and they would connect you by inserting a

pair of phone plugs into the appropriate jacks. And often, especially if there was a bit of delay, the operator would say, “I am trying to connect you.” That was their purpose and mission—to connect you. Operators were indispensable for connecting you with whom you needed to speak—there was no other way.

While cellphones and laptops have eliminated the need for operators, one kind of operator will never be replaced by technological advancement: you. If you are a follower of Jesus, the Lord has commanded you to be an operator to connect people to Him. It is your glorious mission and purpose to connect people to Jesus Christ. The Lord



commissioned you with this blessed task when He said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15, KJV). He also charged you to be His witnesses and to make disciples of all nations (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20).

The word of God

teaches that the only way sinners can be saved is if they “dial” Jesus: “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13). People must get connected with Jesus in order to go to heaven. As Christ Himself said, “I am the way, and the truth, and

the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). There is only one way, one Circuit that will connect a person to God, as Paul said: “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

You are indispensable for connecting people to Christ and helping them dial Him for their eternal salvation. No person can call on the name of the Lord without an operator. You must preach the good news and publish the gospel of Christ to the unsaved or they will never call out to Jesus for redemption. That is why Paul asked, “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” (Romans 10:14). Christian Operator, to whom are you saying, “I am trying to connect you”?

## Explaining the Stations of the Cross

Tradition features prominently in Holy Week celebrations. The week leading up to Easter Sunday, Holy Week is a sacred time for faithful Christians. The Stations of the Cross are one of the traditions that many Christians feel bolsters their faith and brings them closer to God.

What are the Stations of the Cross? According to

Catholic Online, the Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ’s last day on Earth as a man. Each of the 14 stations focus on a specific event of Jesus’s last day as a man.

Where can the Stations of the Cross be found?

Stations of the Cross are typically found in churches. Many times the Stations adorn

the interior wall of a church, and Catholic Online notes they’re often depicted using small icons or images. Some churches with sizable exterior grounds may arrange larger Stations along footpaths in yards or gardens on the premises.

When do people most commonly pray the Stations of the Cross?

Lent is the most common time to

pray the Stations of the Cross, and some churches hold weekly prayer sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays during this time of year.

What are the 14 Stations?

Catholic Online notes the 14 Stations of the Cross are:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus carries the cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets with

His Mother

5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross

6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

7. Jesus falls a second time

8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

9. Jesus falls a third time

10. Jesus’s clothes are taken away

11. Jesus is nailed to the cross

12. Jesus dies on the cross

13. The body of

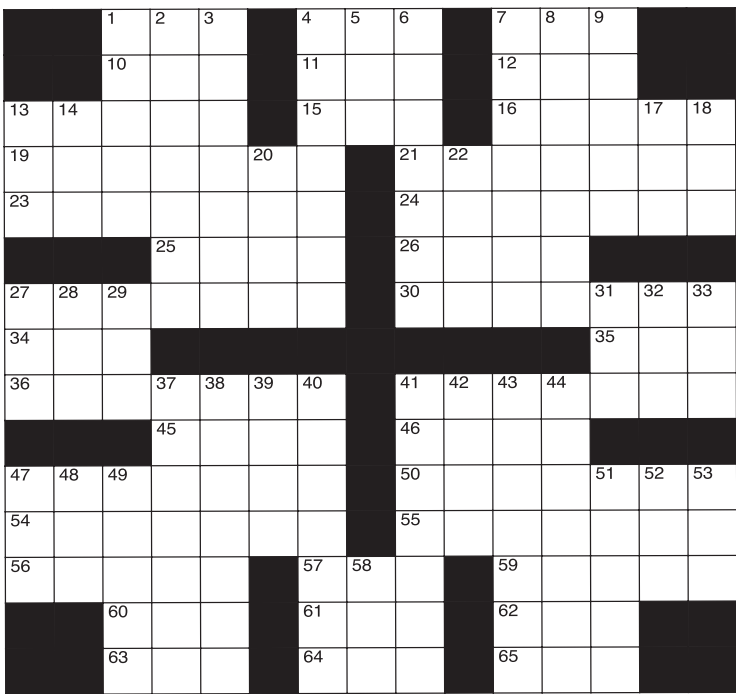
Jesus is taken down from the cross

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

The Stations of the Cross are an important Easter tradition that shed light on Jesus’s resurrection. Individuals

interested in praying the Stations of the Cross are urged to contact a local church so they can engage in this moving Christian tradition.

### Crossword Puzzle



#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Health care pros
- 4. A person inhabiting Benin
- 7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 10. Split pulses
- 11. Frozen water
- 12. Small constellation
- 13. Perennial mountain rice
- 15. Pick up
- 16. Japanese historical period
- 19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- 21. Unattached
- 23. Fishing port in SE France
- 24. Products for dogs
- 25. One point south of southeast
- 26. Having the skill or resources to do something
- 27. Involve oneself deeply
- 30. Immobile
- 34. \_\_\_ pai dong: Hong Kong food stall
- 35. Move quickly on foot
- 36. Gathered
- 41. A way through
- 45. Another name for Thor
- 46. Sharp dueling sword
- 47. The supreme commander of a fleet
- 50. Seasoned sausages
- 54. Path
- 55. Christian hermit
- 56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
- 57. Where wrestlers go to work
- 59. Roman statesman
- 60. Explosive
- 61. Licensed for Wall Street
- 62. Where golfers start
- 63. Grow old
- 64. Autonomic nervous system
- 65. No seats available

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1. A legally binding command
- 2. General feeling of discomfort
- 3. Dribble
- 4. Soft touch
- 5. South American plant
- 6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
- 7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
- 8. Lines created by folding
- 9. Strong belief
- 13. Senior officer
- 14. Adult
- 17. Joint entrance examination in India
- 18. Passports and drivers' licenses are two
- 20. Those who go against an accepted authority
- 22. One point east of northeast
- 27. Journalist Tarbell
- 28. One's mother (British)
- 29. Nowhere to be found
- 31. A way to save for old age
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. The work of a sailor
- 38. Mark with striae
- 39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 40. Sticky situation
- 41. Monetary units of Spain
- 42. Three-banded armadillo
- 43. Chooses
- 44. More disreputable
- 47. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 48. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
- 51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
- 52. OJ trial judge
- 53. Politician
- 58. Airborne (abbr.)

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

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

### Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to driving. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 15 = E)

**A. 20 1 14 20 8 2 22**

Clue: Road

**B. 3 15 20 1 18 21 15**

Clue: Car or truck

**C. 19 1 14 20 16 19 15 15 1 7 14**

Clue: Enjoying the view

**D. 18 11 12 1 19 15**

Clue: Maintain set speed

Answers: A. highway B. vehicle C. sightseeing D. cruise

### Word Search

#### MILITARY SERVICE WORD SEARCH

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

#### WORDS

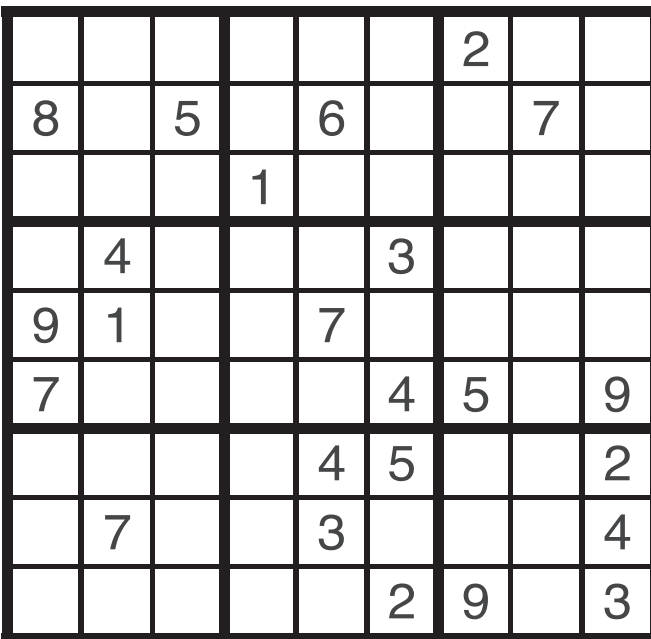
- ARTILLERY
- BARRACKS
- BATTALION
- CAMOUFLAGE
- COALITION
- COMMANDEER
- DEPLOYMENT
- FORTIFICATION
- GARRISON
- INFANTRY
- LIEUTENANT
- LOGISTICS
- MANEUVER
- ORDNANCE
- PROTOCOL
- RECONNAISSANCE
- REGIMENT
- SKIRMISH
- SQUADRON
- STRATEGY
- TACTICS
- UNIFORM
- VANGUARD
- VETERAN

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

### Sudoku Puzzle

#### How it Works:

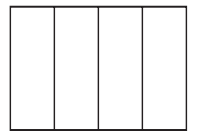
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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



### Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the military.

YDTU



Answer: Duty

### Guess Who?

**GUESS WHO?**

I am an actress born in Florida on April 2, 2002. One of my earliest roles was in the television series "The Glades," and I've had a few roles in films. These days I can be found "wolfing out" in a popular Netflix series opposite my macabre roommate.

Answer: Emma Myers

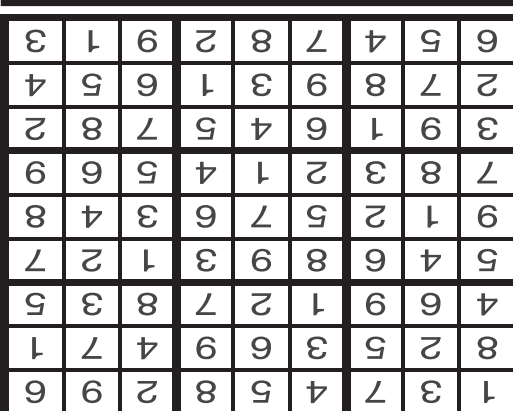
### COLORING FUN

APRIL SHOWERS

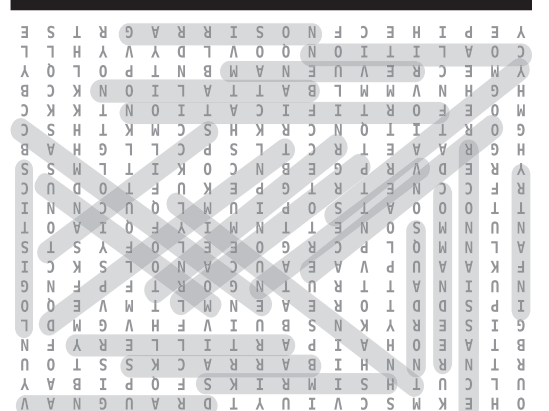


BRING MAY FLOWERS

#### Sudoku Answers



#### Word Search Answers



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**BASICS**  
from page 4

Next, use floor mats to protect your carpets. Rubber or all-weather mats are especially helpful because they trap dirt, mud, and water. Shake them out once or twice a week and rinse them off when they get especially dirty. Vacuuming your car interior

regularly—about once a week—helps remove dust, crumbs, and pet hair that can collect on carpets and seats.

Wipe down surfaces often to prevent dust and grime from sticking. Use a microfiber cloth to clean the dashboard, steering wheel, and door panels. For deeper cleaning, use interior-safe wipes or sprays designed for your car's materials.

Don't forget to clean cup holders and storage compartments, since they collect sticky residue and debris over time.

Protecting your seats also makes a big difference. Seat covers are helpful if you have kids, pets, or frequently transport messy items. If your car has leather seats, condition them occasionally to prevent cracking and keep them looking new.

Finally, avoid eating messy foods in the car whenever possible. Spills and crumbs are one of the biggest causes of interior mess. By combining regular cleaning with simple preventive habits, you can keep your car interior clean, fresh, and comfortable all year long.



# Registration is open for the International Year of the Woman Farmer ACE Summit

In celebration of the International Year of the Woman Farmer initiative, the American Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Leadership program, together with a strong coalition of U.S. agrifood system stakeholders, will host a landmark national gathering to honor the vital role women play in agriculture and the supply chain.

Registration is open for the International Year of the Woman Farmer ACE (Advocate, Cultivate,

Empower) Summit, which will take place in Washington, D.C., June 1-3. The summit is open to all women farmers from across the country, regardless of Farm Bureau membership.

This signature event will empower, equip and connect women farmers, ranchers and agribusiness professionals. Through skill-building sessions, high-impact networking and leadership-focused programming, attendees will

strengthen their voices and leadership within the agricultural community.

"The ACE Summit is our premier gathering for agricultural leaders," said Isabella Chism, chair of AFBF's Women's Leadership Committee. "I love this summit because it's a chance to take a deep breath, meet new people and sharpen my skills. Farmers don't take

see **SUMMIT**  
page 10

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Komatsu WA 180-II Loader, S/N A 70516  
Unverferth 5225 Grain Cart, Roll Tarp, 1000 PTO  
Deere 548E Skidder, S/N DW548ES541716  
Prentice D210D Bunk Loader, S/N 210P26870  
Brillion 5 Shank Ripper w/Gauge Wheels  
(2) Gooseneck & Receiver Mover, 3 Pt.  
Hay Spear & Gooseneck Mover, 3 Pt.  
48" Pallet Forks, Skid Steer Hookup  
10' Pasture Drag, 3 Pt.  
7' Bucket, Global Hookup  
(3) Bale Unroller, 3 Pt.  
10' Aerator, 3 Pt.  
7' Aerator, 3 Pt.  
12' Aerator, 3 Pt.  
Double Hay Spear & Gooseneck Mover, 3 Pt.  
Bale Spear, JD Pin Hookup  
7.5' Bucket, Skidsteer Hookup  
6' Bucket, JD 500 Series Hookup  
Woods 2126 Rotary Cutter, 10', 540 PTO  
IH Hay Rake  
Unverferth 31' Rolling Harrow  
BH 12' Rotary Cutter  
2025 Apache AS850 Sprayer, 2-WD, 128 Hrs., 850 Gal. Tank, 100' Booms, Ag Leader Mon, Auto Steer, Auto Height Controls, Section Control  
(2) 520/85R46 Floater Tires For Apache Sprayer  
Brillion 34' X-Fold Cultipacker  
Haybuster 1575 Drill, 15', No Till, w/Markers  
10 Bale Hay Grapple, Skidsteer Hookup  
JD 348 Square Baler, 540 PTO  
Brent 544 Gravity Wagon  
JD 1010 Field Cultivator  
Bale Grapple, JD Hookup  
JD Magnum 48" Pallet Forks  
H&S 24' Hay Wagon Feeder  
Merlot P50.18HM Telehandler, 11,000# Lift, 59' Reach, 3 Steering Models, Tilt Option, Horiz. Shift, 388 Hrs.  
Woods 3180 Rotary Cutter, 15', 540 PTO  
CIH TT330 Turbo Vertical Tillage Tool, S/N JFH0045615  
(12) Amvac Insecticide Smart Boxes w/Monitor  
Deere 230LC Trackhoe, 4' Bkt., Mech. Thumb, Hrs. Unknown  
JD 8430 Tractor, 5752 Hrs., 16 Spd. Quad Range, 2 SCV, 3 Pt. No Arms, 1000 PTO

CIH Farmall 120A Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 2523 Hrs., Quicke Q40 Loader w/Bucket, 18.4-34 Rear Tires, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 12 Spd, LHR, 3 Pt. w/Top Link  
Haybuster 107 Drill, No Till, 6700 Acs. On Meter  
Hinson 812 Grain Cart, Small 1000 PTO, 400 Bu.  
JD 787 Commodity Cart  
Melroe 220 Sprayer, Volkswagen Gas Engine, 200 Gal. Tank, Raven Controller, Foam Marker, 60' Booms, 8-16 Rears 24' Disk  
2013 Kinze 3660 Planter, 16 Row, Electric Seed Drive V Set, Delta Force, Martin Row Cleaners, 550 Gal. Liquid Cap, Control Box, Owners Manual, Pallet Off Parts  
JD 608C Corn Head, Header Height Sensors, Hyd Deck Plates, S/N H0608CC725317  
2010 Geringhoff 12 Row Corn Head, 30" Spacing, CIH Hookup, Head Sight, Knife Rolls, Hyd Deck Plates  
2020 JD 6155R Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 689 Hrs., 380/85R30 Front, 420/80R46 Rear Duals, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 3 Pt. w/Top Link, IVT Trans, S/N 1L06155RHL960224  
JD 460M MegaWide HC2 Silage Baler, Net & Twine, Est 5200 Bales, 1000 PTO, w/Monitor  
JD 8760 Tractor, 4-WD, 7502 Hrs., 4 SCV, Bareback, 24 Speed Trans, 20.8-42 Duals, S/N RW8760H004233  
BH 646 Loader, w/Bucket, Spear, & Forks  
2015 Kubota BV4160 Round Baler, Premium w/High Moisture Kit, 2750 Bales, 540 PTO  
1997 JD 7810 Tractor, MFWD, 5200 Hrs. Approx (Nothing Shows On Dash When Started), 18.4-42 Duals, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 16 Speed PowrQuad, S/N RW7810H005366  
2004 JD 8120 Tractor, MFWD, 8351 Hrs., 420/85R30 Front Tires, 520/85R42 Rear Duals, 4 SCV, 1000 PTO, Quick Hitch, Powershift Transmission, S/N RW8120P027273  
JI Case 1370 Tractor, 2-WD, Cab, 3459 Hrs. Showing, 11.00-16 Front Tires, 20.8-38 Rear Tires, 2 SCV, 1000 PTO, S/N 8805843  
2014 JD 6115D Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 2787 Hrs., 13.6-24 Front Tires, 18.4-34 Rear Tires, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 9 Speed, LHR, S/N 1P06115DPEM052326  
CIH DX24 Compact Tractor, 481 Hrs., 23x8.50-12 Front Tires, 12-16.5 Rear Tires, 3 Pt., PTO, Hydro Transmission, S/N HDG400089  
2024 JD 6R 145 Tractor, MFWD, 1189 Hrs., 380/85R30 Front Tires, 480/80R42 Rear Tires, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 Spd, Warranty Till May 2028 Or 4000 Hrs., S/N 1L06145RERK217869

2021 JD 6175M Tractor, 2820 Hrs., MFWD, JD 680R Loader w/Bucket, 420/85R28 Front Tires, 480/80R42 Rear Tires, 20 Spd, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, S/N 1L06175MEMK112635  
2022 JD 5055E Tractor, MFWD, Open Station, ROPS, 280 Hrs., JD 520M Loader w/Bucket, 11.2-24 Front Tires, 16.9-30 Rear Tires, 1 SCV, 540 PTO, Limited Basic Warranty Till Oct. 2028, S/N 1PY5055EJNN155500  
2012 JD 8310R Tractor, 2900 Hrs., ILS, 380/80R38 Front Duals, 480/80R50 Rear Duals, 5 SCV, 1000 PTO, IVT Trans, 60 GPM Hyd Pump, S/N 1RW8310RECD063403  
2023 JD 6120M Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 666 Hrs., JD 620R Loader w/Bucket, 380/85R24 Front Tires, 460/85R34 Rear Tires, 2 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 16 Spd, LHR, 1 Owner, S/N 1L06120MPPH198500  
2024 JD 6155M Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 154 Hrs., 420/85R28 Front Tires, 460/85R42 Rear Tires, JD 640R Loader w/Bucket, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 Spd. PowrQuad, LHR, 1 Owner, Warranty Till Jan. 2029, S/N 1L06155MHPG209957  
2022 JD 6155R Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 2138 Hrs., 380/85R30 Front Tires, 480/80R42 Rear Tires, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, IVT Trans, LHR, Warranty Till Sept. 2027, S/N 1L06155ELPN141828  
JD 2520 Compact Tractor, 907 Hrs., ROPS, 4-WD, JD 62D2 62" Deck, Hydrostat, 540 PTO, 3 Pt. w/Top Link, 23x8.50-12 Front Tires, 14-17.5 Rear Tires, Mid Mount Hyd, S/N LV2520H207654  
2022 JD 5055E Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 240 Hrs., JD 520M Loader w/Bucket, 9.5-24 Front Tires, 14.9-28 Rear Tires, 1 SCV, 540 PTO, Limited Basic Warranty Till Oct. 2027, S/N 1PY5055EPNN0408280  
2024 JD 6155M Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 1000 Hrs., JD 640R Loader w/Bucket, 380/85R30 Front Tires, 480/80R42 Rear Tires, Rack & Pinion Rear Axles, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 Speed PowrQuad, LHR, S/N 1L06155MLRG416351  
2020 JD 5780 Combine, 4-WD, 2204/1446 Hrs., 36" Tracks, ProDrive, Extended Wear, 26" Auger, Advanced Powercast, Tristream Rotor, Premium Cab, S/N 1H0S780SHLT811682  
2019 JD 5790 Combine, 4-WD, 2119/1693 Hrs., Tracks, 750/65R28 Rear Tires, Powercast Tailboard, Chopper, Contour Master, Power Bin Extensions, S/N 1H0S790SLKT805075  
2008 CIH 8010 Combine, 4-WD, 3175/2296 Hrs., 520/85R42 Duals, 540/65R30 Rear Tires, Lateral Tilt, Chopper w/ Spreader, S/N HAJ202217

1987 NH TR86 Combine, 2-WD, 5023 Hrs., Chopper, 28L-26 Front Tires, 11.00-16 Rear Tires, S/N 527369  
2013 Claas 918 Corn Head, 12 Row, 30" Spacing, Knife Rolls, Row Sense, S/N 91802024  
2018 JD 712C Corn Head, Knife Rolls, Hyd Deck Plates, Header Height Sensors, Row Sense, S/N 1H00712CHJX805004  
2015 JD 640FD Flex Draper Platform, Flip Over Reel, S/N 1H0640FDTF0775684  
J&M 1151 Grain Cart, 1000 PTO, Roll Tarp, 68x50.00-32 Tires, S/N 6072  
2014 E-Z Trail 510 Grain Cart, Roll Tarp, 1000 PTO, Low Use, S/N A153803  
IH 14 Ripper, 6 Shank, Paratilt Shanks, w/Pallet Of Regular Shanks  
2019 JD R4038 Sprayer, 2173 Hrs., 90/100' Booms, Row Sense, 15" Nozzle Spacing, Fence Row Nozzles, SS Eductor, Front Fill, 1000 Gal. Tank, Crop Shields, 380/90R46 Tires, ExactApply Nozzle Control, Gen 4 Display & Extended Monitor, S/N 1N04038RJ0194462  
650/65R38 Floater Tires  
2017 JD R4038 Sprayer, 1644 Hrs., 120' Booms, 15" Nozzle Spacing, 380/90R46 Tires, ExactApply, SS Eductor, JD 6000 Receiver, JD 2630 Display, SF1 & SF3 Activations, S/N 1N04038RCHA174542  
Woods 6000 Finish Mower, 6', S/N 864486  
H&S 8 Wheel Hay Rake  
Tiger 24' Gooseneck Flatbed Trailer, Tandem Axles, 5' Ramps, No Title  
7' Box Blade  
JD 500 Grain Cart, 500 Bu, 1000 PTO  
2014 JD 5085M Tractor, MFWD, Open Station, ROPS, JD H260 Loader w/Bkt., 2 SCV, 16 Spd, LHR, 3115 Hrs.  
Brillion X108 Cultipacker, 25' w/Scrapers  
IH 720 4 Bottom Plow, w/Coulters, Toggle Trip  
1998 JD 9510 Combine, 4060 Hrs.  
JD 925 Platform, 25'  
JD 693 Corn Head, 6R, 30"  
Raven Aluminum Dump Trailer, 30', 66" Sides  
Unverferth HT30 Header Wagon

**MaryElizabeth Roeder Coleman AHO#303097 - (270) 350-5132 Cal Kaufman - Auctioneer - Lic. #NP6114 Brent Schmidgall - Auctioneer**

**All Equipment will be held for sale through Monday, April 20.**  
**Receiving Hours: April 1 - 22, Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm April 23: NOT RECEIVING EQUIPMENT**  
**NO JUNK TIRES WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

Equipment sold "As Is" unless directly stated. Roeder Auction is not responsible for price protection day of sale. No titled vehicles unless directly related to the handling of grain will be accepted. All titles must be fully executed the day of sale. Any sold titled vehicles must have proof of insurance before leaving lot. Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed material. No Consignments Accepted Day of Sale.

**Loading Out:**  
**Monday, April 27 - Friday, May 1: 8 am - 5 pm**  
**Saturday, May 2: 8 - 12 Noon**

Commission Rates: \$25.00 minimum per item - 10% on the first \$1,000 - 5% on the next \$2,000 - 3% on the next \$10,000 - 2% thereafter with a \$2,200 max.  
**For financing, please contact Amy Ezell 270-604-2880**

**NOTE! INFORMATION OR TO CONSIGN EQUIPMENT, CALL AMY EZELL 270-604-2880 OR MARYELIZABETH COLEMAN 270-350-5132 OR 270-962-7273 www.roederauctioncompany.com**



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SUMMIT  
from page 9

breaks often enough and this is a golden opportunity to invest in yourself.”

A limited number of attendees may register for an

optional “Women in Ag Day on Capitol Hill” experience, which includes one of the following: advocacy visits on Capitol Hill, industry tours or independent sightseeing, followed by a Congressional Reception celebrating

the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

Learn more and register by May 6 at <https://web.cvent.com/event/f3274291-35c8-455d-b45b-82607867b320/summary>

**LIVE ONSITE AUCTION**

# APRIL HEAVY EQUIPMENT AUCTION

**SAT. APRIL 18TH. 2026 @ 8:30AM**

4938 S STATE ROUTE 49  
GREENVILLE OHIO 45331



**EXCAVATORS:** 2013 Komatsu PC360LC-10-9,213hrs, aux hydr, EROPS, heat/ac, 64in bucket, 34in pads, SN#KMTPC242L54A32730; 1998 CAT 345BL-7,247hrs, aux hydr, 60in bucket, 24in steel tracks, EROPS, heat/ac, SN#7KS00304; 2017 SANY SY365C LC-7,018hrs, EROPS, aux hydr, heat/ac, radio, SN#SY036MBG80988; 2019 CAT 326FL-8,119hrs, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, 55in bucket, rear camera, SN#CAT0326FEFBR20586; Komatsu PC300LC-5K-15,390hrs, quick coupler, 54in bucket, 32in pads, EROPS, SN#K20431; 2018 CAT 313FL-4,276hrs, EROPS, aux hydr, hydr quick att, SN#CAT0313FKPRG10552; 2019 Volvo ECR88D-1,689hrs, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, aux hydr, hydr thumb, blade, SN#VCE00E88T00216291;



**MINI EXCAVATORS:** 2021 Deere 85G-1,175hrs, hydr thumb, quick att, aux hydr, blade, 24in bucket, EROPS, heat/ac, SN#1FF085GXEMJ022656; 2022 Case CX75CSR-815hrs, quick coupler, hydr thumb, 36in bucket, blade, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, SN#DAC075K6NNS6A1705; 2022 Bobcat E50R2-295hrs, hydr thumb, aux hydr, blade, 24in bucket, boom swing, rubber tracks, quick coupler, SN#B4GP14820; 2023 Komatsu PC55MR-5-1,055hrs, EROPS, hydr thumb, blade, coupler, 26in bucket, aux hydr, SN#KMTPC259VNE023395; 2015 CAT 303E CR-3,049hrs, aux hydr, blade, rubber tracks, boom swing, EROPS, 2spd, SN#CAT0303EESMG01318; **WHEEL LOADERS:** 2021 Komatsu WA380-8-5,778hrs, rock bucket, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, rear camera, SN#KMTWA130JMNA75740; 2019 Komatsu WA320-8-15,195hrs showing, forks, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, rear camera, SN#KMTWA135AKA085783; 2015 Kawasaki 9527B-10,301hrs, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, SN#97J2-5015; **SKID STEERS - TRACK:** 2024 CAT 289D3-2,053hrs, 2spd, hi-flow, hydr att, 78in bucket, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, heated seat, SN#CAT0289DCJX919659; 2020 CAT 289D3-2,371hrs, 2spd, high flow, hydr quick att, 80in bucket, 18in tracks, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, SN#CAT0289DLJX902100; 2017 CAT 289D-3,190hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, rear camera, rubber tracks, heat/ac, radio, SN#CAT0289DCTAW09086; 2023 CAT 259D3-3,568hrs, new crate engine, 2spd, aux hydr, 84in bucket, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, SN#CAT0259DTCW922943; 2023 CAT 259D3-3,421hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, heat/ac, radio, rear camera, heated seat, SN#CAT0259DKCW924811; 2023 CAT 259D3-3,098hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, hydr quick att, 74in bucket, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, SN#CAT0259DTCW925633; 2022 CAT 259D3-3,157hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, hydr quick att, 72in bucket, rear weights, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, CAT0259DCCW917725; 2021 Deere 333G-2,397hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, rear camera, 84in bucket, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, SN#1T0333GMTMF399800; 2020 Deere 333G-1,969hrs, aux hydr, quick att, 84in bucket, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, SN#1T0333GMJLF373149; 2021 New Holland C332-730hrs, pilot controls, aux hydr, rear camera, EROPS, SN#JAF0C332CMM497484; 2023 Bobcat T770-301hrs, 2spd, quick att, EROPS, heat/ac, SN#AT6342523;



**DOZERS:** Komatsu D65EX-12-2,355hrs, OROPS, 136in blade, 4 way blade, SN#62813; **MOTOR GRADERS:** 2007 Deere 672D-13,314hrs, 12ft blade, ripper, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, SN#DW672DX612151; **COMPACTION EQUIPMENT:** 2015 CAT CS66B-2,767hrs, smooth drum, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, SN#CATCS66BTS6600114; Benford 2010SD-558hrs, Deutz engine, 55in drums; **BACKHOES:** 2008 CAT 420E IT-4,723hrs, outriggers, front aux hydr, quick att, 36in bucket, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, SN#CAT0420EKKMW02954; **TRACTORS:** 2023 New Holland Workmaster 120-16hrs, MFWD, 3 remotes, PTO, 3pt, SN#4FX4028742; 2023 New Holland Workmaster 120-12hrs, MFWD, 3 remotes, PTO, 3pt, SN#NH1641489; 2004 Challenger MT765B-8,267hrs, 4 remotes, PTO, 24in tracks, cab, heat/ac, radio, SN#AGCMT765EAMS61515; 2024 Bad Boy 1022H-8hrs, loader, PTO, hydrostatic, SN#1022HS00476; **TRUCKS:** 2007 Peterbilt 379 Sleeper-1,060,402 miles, Cat engine, manual trans, aluminum wheels, heat/ac, radio; 2004 Peterbilt 379 Sleeper-1,501,655 miles, Cat engine, manual trans, aluminum wheels, heat/ac, radio; 2012 Kenworth T660 Sleeper-1,163,178 miles, Paccar engine, 10spd, mid roof sleeper, heat/ac, radio; 1998 International 9300 Sleeper-over 2,000,000 miles, Cat 3406, 18spd, rebuilt engine/trans; 2015 Volvo VNM64T200 Day Cab-584,430 miles, Volvo engine, manual trans; 2008 International Prostar Day Cab-724,052 miles, wet kit, 10spd; 1993 International 8200 Day Cab-864,112 miles, Cummins engine; 1992 International 9400 Day Cab-784,380 miles, Cummins engine; 2012 Peterbilt 384 Day Cab-606,721 miles, Paccar engine, manual trans, tandem axle, SN#1XPVDP9X7CD133093; 2002 Peterbilt 385 Day Cab-452,385 miles, Cummins engine, auto trans, heat/ac, radio, SN#1XPGD09X32D571883; 2005 Peterbilt 385 Day Cab-820,419 miles, Cat engine, manual trans, tandem axle, SN#1XPGDU9X15N854983; 2013 Kenworth T660 Sleeper-1,387,668 miles, Cummins engine, tandem axle; 2015 Volvo VNL Sleeper-984,071 miles, Volvo D13 engine, tandem axle; 1999 Volvo VNL64T300 Day Cab, Detroit 12.7L, manual trans, wet kit; 1996 Ford LNT8000 Vac Truck-255,233 miles, Vactor system; 2001 Freightliner FL60 Mulch Truck-227,443 miles, conveyor system; 2002 Chevrolet W5500 Landscape Truck-300,253 miles, 22ft bed; 2019 Kenworth T880 Dump Truck-316,757 miles, Paccar MX-13, auto trans, quad axle, 20ft bed; 1994 Kenworth T800 Dump Truck-912,734 miles, Cat engine, manual trans, quad axle, aluminum bed; 2018 Ford F550 Dump Truck-34,397 miles, 9ft 6in plow, dump bed; 2005 GMC Topkick 5500 Bucket Truck-155,745 miles, Hi Ranger boom, service body, SN#1GDE5C1EX5F901699; 2011 Ford F350 Bucket Truck-183,540 miles, Altec boom, service body; **PARTIAL LISTING ONLY!! VISIT BUSSEYBROS.COM FOR FULL INFO!!**



**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** A 10% BUYERS PREMIUM WILL BE CHARGED ON ALL ITEMS CAPPED @ A MAXIMUM OF \$5,000.00 IN PREMIUM. Online bidder fees apply. All items sell “as is- where is”. Payment can be made w/ cash, approved check, or credit card w/ 4% fee. Sales Tax: 7.25% Sales tax applies to all purchases unless tax exempt paperwork is properly filed with office. Loadout: Day of auction after drive thru equipment is finished. Then next week we are open 8am-5pm Mon- Friday. Sat. Loadout is by appointment. All items must be removed by May 8<sup>th</sup>. 2026. This auction will be both LIVE in person & LIVE online bidding as well.



**4 AUCTION RINGS GREENVILLE - OHIO**



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