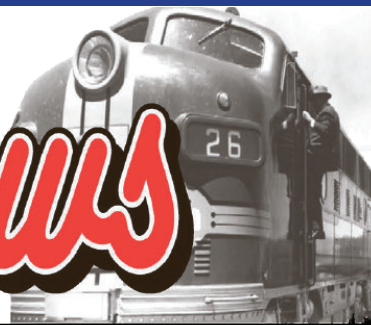


Southern Illinois News



October 2026



Marching bands and fun are all part of this year's SIU Carbondale Homecoming which will celebrate 75 years of Salukis.

Photo provided

SIU's 2026 Homecoming celebrates 75 years of Saluki pride with concerts, football and fun

By Pete Rosenbery

CARBONDALE, Ill. — It's a diamond anniversary for Southern Illinois University Carbondale's unique mascot during the 2026 Homecoming festivities. After all, there is only ONE Saluki!

"Decades of the Dawg: 75 Years of Saluki Pride," Oct. 12-17, promises to be memorable with a giant pep rally, Homecoming Music Street Festival, numerous activities, a parade, tailgating and Saluki football.

"The students are what make Homecoming possible — and this year is especially meaningful as we celebrate 75 years of the Saluki as our mascot," said Dylan Stemm, SIU Carbondale Student Programming Council Homecoming (SPC) director. "It's special to showcase SIU's journey through the decades while celebrating where we are today. Bringing students, alumni and the community together to celebrate our shared Saluki pride is what Homecoming is all about. Once a Saluki, always a Saluki."

Powerful week of music and fun

Along with the return of alumni to SIU's majestic campus for a time of reflection and memories of being a Saluki, current students and the community will find happenings on campus that will bring smiles to everyone of all ages. The week is filled with events, many of which are free and open to the public.

The third annual SIU Homecoming Music Street Festival on Friday, Oct. 16, will transform the Strip along Illinois Avenue into a giant block party starting at 3 p.m. with two stages and feature guest the Spin Doctors. At 10 p.m. on the Strip, SIU's SPC keeps the homecoming energy going with diamond-certified, multi-platinum recording artist KYLE.

Chosen by students

The Saluki name was actually the suggestion of Leland "Doc" Lingle, student, teacher, coach and later namesake for Lingle Hall. In 1951, SIU's student body voted overwhelmingly to adopt "Salukis" as the new mascot for SIU. The name pays homage to the region's

"Little Egypt" heritage. Salukis, known for their strength and grace, is one of the oldest-known dog breeds and were favored by ancient Egyptian pharaohs. A pyramid memorial near the entrance to Saluki Stadium pays homage to King Tut, SIU's first official Saluki mascot.

King Tut's Pep Rally

To get the week started, we return to where the Saluki legacy began in 1951 with a big kickoff and pep rally, which officially launches homecoming week. The celebration starts at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, at Faner Plaza, and everyone is welcome. It's an enhanced version of a traditional pep rally, offering inspiring guest speakers, involvement fair, the homecoming court announcement, free food, a live DJ and the signing of the homecoming proclamation at 5 p.m. Students can also claim the first of five limited edition 2026 homecoming T-shirts.

A Homecoming Blood Drive in partnership with the American Red Cross is from noon to 6 p.m. at the SIU Student Center on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Donors can grab the

second of five limited edition homecoming T-shirts.

SIU students show school spirit by wearing oversized, maroon hats that say Salukis. At 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, the Saluki Carnival Block Party on Lincoln Drive in front of Pulliam Hall returns for another year. This homecoming tradition for the entire community is a 1990s-inspired free festival that includes live performers, carnival rides, games, music, food and surprises. This is also a chance to grab the fourth of five limited-edition Homecoming T-shirts. Food vendors will be on-site, offering refreshments for purchase. To ensure the public's safety and enjoyment for all, a few rules will be in place. Pets, solicitation, smoking, glass bottles, underage drinking and multiple-serve containers are prohibited.

The 53rd Miss Ebonyess pageant hosted by the Beta Eta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. is Saturday, Oct. 17, in the Student Center

see **SIU**,
page 6

First Mid Insurance Group earns top Medicare rankings ahead of open enrollment

Mattoon, IL — As millions of Medicare beneficiaries prepare to review their coverage during the upcoming Open Enrollment period, First Mid Insurance Group's (FMIG) Senior Solutions division is entering the season with national recognition for its performance and expertise in serving Medicare clients.

In Senior Marketing Specialists' (SMS) latest Key Accounts Leaderboard, FMIG earned four top 10 rankings among 67 key accounts, including third place in ancillary product sales and attachment rate, fifth in Medicare Advantage and prescription drug plan applications, and sixth in year-over-year growth. The Senior Solutions team also submitted 73 more applications in 2026 than at the same point last year.

The recognition comes ahead of Medicare Open Enrollment, also known as the Annual Enrollment Period, which runs from October 15 through December 7. During this time, beneficiaries can review their health and prescription drug coverage and make changes for the coming year.

"A plan that worked well this year may still be the right choice, but people should not assume that without reviewing the details. We're here to help clients understand plan changes and avoid potential pitfalls," said Mike Hurm, head of the Senior Solutions division at First Mid Insurance Group. Before deciding whether to retain or change coverage, beneficiaries should review their plan's Annual Notice of Change, total out-of-pocket costs, prescription drug coverage, provider network, and pharmacy participation. Changes in health, medications, or preferred providers may also affect whether current coverage

remains appropriate.

FMIG also encourages beneficiaries to remain vigilant against suspicious solicitations during the enrollment period. Medicare advises that it will not call beneficiaries to sell them a plan or visit their homes to sell Medicare products.

FMIG recommends beneficiaries take the following precautions:

Do not provide a Medicare number, Social Security number, banking information, or other sensitive information in response to an unexpected requests.

Be cautious of callers who pressure someone to act immediately or offer free products or services in exchange for a Medicare number.

Do not enroll in a health or prescription drug plan over the telephone unless the beneficiary initiated the request for assistance.

Review Medicare Summary Notices and explanations of benefits for unfamiliar services or charges.

FMIG's latest recognition also extends to individual members of its Senior Solutions team. Matthew Barnes, Senior Solutions Account Executive, has ranked among the top 10 individual ancillary producers during both the first- and second-quarter SMS leaderboard reviews.

Beneficiaries can obtain official Medicare information at Medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Suspected Medicare fraud may also be reported through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General at oig.hhs.gov/fraud.

For more information on the services and support that First Mid Insurance Group offers to Medicare beneficiaries and seniors, visit firstmidinsurance.com/senior-solutions/ or call 1-800-373-7505.

Farmers grateful for diesel tax relief

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall tonight applauded the executive order signed by President Trump to ease limits on the use of tax-exempt dyed diesel fuel to give farmers a break.

“We thank President Trump for recognizing that what happens at the fuel pump directly affects what happens on the farm and therefore at dinner tables across America. Allowing dyed diesel fuel to be used over-the-road will bring welcome relief for farmers because every cent per gallon matters when you’re running a fleet of grain trucks or hauling cattle hundreds of miles.

“As we detailed in a letter to the president last week, this effort will bring much needed price relief for farmers as they work to complete harvest across the U.S. The federal highway diesel tax is currently more than 24-cents per gallon, so it’s a big deal to farmers to be able to use tax exempt diesel more broadly to get their harvest to market. We appreciate that the president listened to farmers and responded.”

Read a Farm Bureau Intel on the impact of diesel prices during harvest at <https://www.fb.org/intel/markets/diesel-costs-increase-for-harvest>



photo credit: Arkansas Farm Bureau, used with permission

HUNTERS Night Out WEEKEND

OCTOBER 22, 23 & 24

Mark Your Calendar!

KICKOFF NIGHT

THURSDAY
October 22nd
6 PM - 9 PM

FRIDAY

October 23rd
9 AM - 6 PM

SATURDAY

October 24th
9 AM - 5 PM

SALES ALL WEEKEND LONG!

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Tips to winterize a home as cold weather approaches

It’s not uncommon to spend a lot of time out of the house when the weather outside is warm. The popularity of outdoor living spaces has made it easier than ever to enjoy nature without leaving home, which can generally be done from late spring to mid-fall each year in many regions. But as fall creeps toward winter and temperatures drop, it’s time to head back indoors.

As millions prepare to go back inside with winter approaching, it can be beneficial to winterize a home so interior spaces are more comfortable and exterior spaces are better able to withstand potentially harsh winter weather.

• Check your carbon monoxide detectors. Fall is a great season to open the windows in many regions that feature prototypical autumn air. But the crisp air of fall will eventually give way to much colder air, at which time the windows will be closed



and likely remain shut for months to come. The Minnesota Department of Health notes that carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that cannot be detected by the senses. When windows remain closed for long periods of time, such as in winter, the buildup of CO, which can come from sources like water heaters, gas stoves, fireplaces, and clothes dryers, can poison residents over

time. CO detectors are a safety net against such a fate, but they must be operating at peak capacity in order to be effective. As fall winds down, check all CO detectors to make sure they’re working properly and replace any that are not.

• Check for drafts. Check around windows and doors throughout the home to see if there are any gaps that are allowing air from outside to enter the home. If

daytime temperatures are mild well into the fall, then it can be difficult to see if there are any drafts before the sun goes down. Conduct this check in the evenings when temperatures are a little more chilly and leaks are easier to detect. If drafts are detected, apply weather stripping around doors and windows that do not require replacement. If there’s drafts around aging windows

and doors, consider replacing them.

• Call a chimney sweeping service. Cozying up beside a fire can make anyone forget the cold weather outside. But fireplaces should be subjected to a thorough cleaning by a skilled professional before each winter. Animals might have nested in the chimney since the fireplace was last used, and you will want any nests cleared prior to lighting your first fire of the season. In addition, the tar-like substance creosote, which forms when wood is burned in a fireplace, can build up and harden over time. That’s a dangerous prospect, as creosote is highly flammable, which can lead to chimney fires. Creosote also can block the flow of air through a chimney, and that can trap gasses, including CO, in a home.

• Reverse your fans. It’s a simple step but one people may not even realize they can make. In homes with ceiling fans, residents

can reverse the fans so the blades spin clockwise. This simple step pushes trapped warm air hovering around the ceiling into the living space below. This can make home interiors warmer without requiring residents to turn up the thermostat and increase their energy bill.

• Replace your HVAC air filter. Replacing the air filter on your HVAC prior to winter can make the unit operate more efficiently, which can help reduce your wintertime energy bill. Replacing the filter prior to winter also improves indoor air quality, which is a notable benefit during a time of year when the windows typically remain closed for months.

Winterizing a home is not a significant undertaking, but it can be very effective at making homes healthier and more comfortable once windows are closed for the season.

The benefits of a professional gutter cleaning

Gutters serve an important role on a building, catching rainwater from the roof and channelling it away from the structure. Without properly functioning gutters and downspouts, basements can flood, foundations may become cracked and soil can erode. Gutters also help maintain roof and siding longevity, ensuring that rainwater will not pool under shingles or siding. Wet leaves also create habitats for pests to live, notably for mosquitoes, termites, rodents, and birds.

Homeowners can clean their own gutters, but the job is often best left to professionals. Here are some of the reasons to leave gutter cleaning to an expert.

• **Pros have the equipment.** As with any project, having the right equipment means it will be done correctly. Handyman



services and professional gutter cleaners already have the gear to reach gutters and tackle the mess, unlike some homeowners who will have to purchase tools.

• **Pros are trained in safety.** Gutter cleaning professionals are trained in proper safety procedures

and have the right equipment to safely scale homes. Gutter cleaning involves climbing ladders, walking on roofs, and handling slippery debris. It also may require working close to electrical and cable wires entering the home. Homeowners who don’t know how to navigate these conditions safely risk

falls or other injuries.

• **Pros can spot other damage.** Professionals may spot damage to a home that homeowners do not see. This may include cracked seams, loose fasteners, sagging sections, and even roof damage. This allows homeowners to get a jump on the problem early on

before it progresses to something more serious.

• **Pros save homeowners time.** One of the obvious perks to letting a professional clean the gutters is that it saves homeowners time. The expert can get the job done in less time and more efficiently than a novice weekend

warrior. Mr. Handyman, a home improvement service, says the general recommendation is to get the gutters cleaned at least twice a year: once in the spring after trees have dropped their seeds, and again in the fall after all leaves have fallen. People with heavier amounts of natural debris may need more frequent cleanings. A professional gutter service will typically include inspection of the entire gutter system; removal of all debris from gutters and downspouts; flushing of gutters and downspouts to ensure water flows correctly; assessment of water being directed away; and identification of areas in need of repair.

Gutter cleaning is an important step that safeguards a home by keeping gutters and downspouts in working order.

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

CHOOSE THE PATH

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

It is hard to understand why some things happen in this world.

Why are there mass shootings? Why does God allow genocide and starvation? Why are children sexually or mentally abused while perpetrators sometimes escape justice? And why doesn't God simply destroy those who commit such terrible acts so they can no longer harm their victims? These are difficult questions. They are questions many people ask, especially when confronted with suffering and evil.

There is another question many people ask: "Why don't I feel like I'm saved?" We can't change the terrible things happening in the world, but we can know we're saved.

In Ephesians, the Apostle Paul writes that we were once in darkness, but now we are light in the Lord. He encourages believers to "walk



as children of light." The Apostle John also teaches about the difference between walking in darkness and walking in the light.

So, what exactly are "darkness" and "light"? In the simplest terms, darkness keeps you from seeing. Light allows you to see.

Perhaps some people don't "feel saved" because they don't act saved. They go on in

life as before, but that just doesn't work out very well. We've all heard it said, "If there has been no change, there was no change." When a person truly comes to Christ, something changes within.

That does not mean a Christian becomes perfect or never struggles with sin again. We are human, and we still face temptation and problems in our sinful nature. But there should be an

internal check that warns us when we are tempted to go against God's nature of goodness.

If you are walking in the light and intentionally want to cause someone harm, inflict pain or destroy another person's reputation, something inside you should tell you that it is wrong.

Walking in the light allows us to see. It opens our eyes. When we see clearly, we

have an advantage. You can recognize obstacles and understand where choices lead. Light helps us make better decisions because we are aware of the consequences of our actions.

There is a danger when walking in darkness, one of the most obvious problems is that we cannot see the dangers, obstacles or consequences ahead of us.

Darkness can

cause people to make decisions without understanding the future consequences of those choices: the mental, physical and emotional pain they may cause themselves and others. Darkness hides the long-lasting effects of our actions.

Being a Christ follower has many benefits. If you want the best outcome for your life, choose to live in the light of God. It's a faith walk. There is no better way to say it than, "believe with your heart and confess with your mouth" (Romans 10:9).

When you walk in Light, by faith, you know the blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin. We may not understand everything that happens in this world. We may never have satisfactory answers to all the disturbing question about suffering, evil and injustice, but we can choose the path we walk on. Darkness or Light which will it be?

Who wants a lifestyle of spiritual awareness?

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

Have you noticed that when we are bombarded with negativity and told that the world is falling apart at the seams, it drains our joy and hope? Of course, we are concerned about our nation, the world, and the future of our family, but may we look beyond the veil of doom and gloom and realize the world is also filled with good news, whether we want to accept it or not. Like you, I scan information from the newspaper, radio, television, internet, and even the religious voices, and mostly what I gather are those obligated to relay how bad everything is. Actually, we can make as much difference in the world as we choose. When someone relays a story, we should be aware they are relaying a view

of what they personally believe or what they've been told. For example, when someone declares that no one can be trusted and that society is evolving into a mass of mindless zombies, we should realize this is a "glass half-empty" view. In reality, many kind-hearted and loving individuals are demonstrating what Jesus is saying.

Perspective is a key word to consider because we have an obligation to discern and think carefully about not only what we say, but what has been said. We were not created to be simple-minded souls who are gullible and easily deceived. Since God is all-wise and lives within His children, He wants us to manifest the highest intelligence and spiritual sensitivity as possible. First Corinthians 2:16: "For, who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who

knows enough to teach him, but we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ." It's important to realize that all human communication is presented through an individual's personal way of thinking, whether it be positive or negative. This is why spiritual discernment is so important, so that we can filter out the personal bias from the facts. Listening to anyone speak about something (including what you are reading now) is a personal responsibility and a challenge when we comprehend this.

Since we have the opportunity to express our free will to establish our own interpretations and opinions about everything, including our religious views, we are faced with the most serious point of our conversation. To what extent has the information we have

learned been demonstrated as obedience unto God? What good would it be if a person listened to Biblical sermons for 50 years, and never allowed God's word to change them into a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ? It's as if many churchgoers have convinced their conscience that simply believing there is a God qualifies them for eternal life.

Change is a popular word when associated with personal transformation, but usually considered a necessity for others and not for ourselves. What we have decided to believe is indeed the hill we will die on, so to speak, which reminds us that we need to make sure our thoughts are correct. There is an old saying, "What is down in the well will come up in the bucket," as our conversations are a direct extension of

our thoughts. As the glass being half-full or half-empty can describe our positive or negative attitudes, we seldom examine which type of personality we are. Much of who we are is based on the complex nature of how we process what we hear and learn. Within this system of cognition, it encompasses various mental activities such as reasoning, problem-solving, and decision-making.

The truth is that not everything in our world is doom and gloom, and all is not lost. Each soul can choose to be the type of person they have a passion to be and make as much difference in the world as they want, good or bad. Some pray to be a light of truth, while it seems that others enjoy spreading fear and darkness. Just because we do not know these people or see

their good deeds does not mean they do not exist. It simply means that a pessimist bases their worldviews and judgments on their own opinions and what they have experienced. Many will ask, "What does personal spiritual transformation include?" Now that is a good question. We've already mentioned how the mind must be renewed, which, by the way, is a very important aspect of spiritual warfare, and as we will talk more in the coming weeks, it will come down to whether we really want to become totally committed to what Christ died for us to be.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and Christian author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com.

Simple ways to curb heating costs

As fall gives way to winter, air conditioners typically get turned off and heaters get turned on. Home heating costs can quickly add up for homeowners. According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, heating a space is the single largest energy expense for American households, accounting for roughly 42 percent of total residential energy consumption. However, individuals can implement certain strategies to cut down on heating costs and optimize energy efficiency.

Manage the

thermostat
Managing a home thermostat is a cost-effective and simple adjustment. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, turning a thermostat back by 7° to 10° F from its normal setting for eight hours a day can save up to 10 percent a year on heating bills. Utilizing the automated scheduling capabilities on programmable or smart thermostats enables people to program a lower baseline temperature when out at work or school and while sleeping.

Seal up the home
Warm air from indoors can easily

escape through unsealed gaps in a home. Similarly, cold air from outdoors can infiltrate through the same spots. This causes heating units to work overtime. Studies from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy indicate combining window upgrades with high-efficiency heating systems can cut heating demands considerably. Also, applying weatherstripping and caulking can prevent drafts, while ensuring adequate attic insulation will create a tight thermal barrier.

Change the heat delivery
Upgrading a heating



system to a more efficient one can save homeowners money. According to research by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, replacing traditional

fossil-fuel furnaces with electric heat pumps can drastically reduce energy expenditures. Modern heat pumps deliver more thermal energy

than the electrical energy they consume. Homeowners have different options that may help them reduce their heating and energy bills.

Potential fireplace problems

Fireplaces are often a centerpiece of an interior living space. Homeowners often laud the ambiance a fireplace can provide, and the supplemental heat a fireplace can provide can be just what people need to stay warm on a cold day. The Northeast Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association says an estimated 57 percent of homeowners in the United States own some type of fireplace, freestanding stove or hearth product. However, fireplaces are not without their potential for problems. Issues that can affect a fireplace will depend on the type of system, as problems that affect wood-burning fireplaces will differ from those that can affect gas units. The following are some potential issues homeowners can look out for when using

their fireplaces.

- **Smoke spillage:** Fireplaces are supposed to vent up and out through a chimney or exhaust pipe. But if a damper is closed or blocked, if the chimney is dirty, or if there is negative air pressure in a tightly sealed home, smoke cannot escape and will enter the living space.
- **Creosote formation:** Creosote is a flammable, tar-like substance that is the result of burning wood. Creosote significantly increases the risk of a chimney fire. Creosote can build up in the flue over time if it is not remediated.
- **Odors:** A dirty chimney from creosote or moisture damage can result in a foul odor emanating from the fireplace. This also may occur if a bird or rodent nests in the chimney.

- **Ignition failure:** Gas units may not always light properly. Doctor Flue says it could be the result of a malfunctioning pilot light or an improperly placed log set. In addition, if the pilot light goes out as soon as the button is released, it may indicate a dirty or faulty thermocouple or thermopile, which are sensors that keep the gas valve open.
- **Cracked masonry:** Any cracks in the mortar, firebricks or chimney crown are major hazards. Cracks in such components increase the risk of a house fire and should be immediately addressed.
- **Drafts:** Cold air coming through the fireplace may indicate a damaged or missing damper.
- **Carbon monoxide:** Grill Parts Replacement says poorly vented fireplaces can lead to a buildup of carbon monoxide inside the home, which is a health hazard. Oftentimes homeowners should leave fireplace troubleshooting to a professional. Annual inspections of units can head off potential problems to ensure safer operation.





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CHAMBER NEWS

Ribbon cutting at Bank of Herrin Carterville Oct. 21

Join The Bank of Herrin as it celebrates the unveiling of its newly remodeled Carterville facility with a Ribbon Cutting and Open House.

This special event will be a joint ribbon cutting hosted in partnership with the Carterville Chamber of Commerce, Herrin Chamber of Commerce, and Marion Chamber of Commerce.

Community

members, customers, business leaders, and local partners are invited to tour the newly remodeled facility, meet members of the Bank of Herrin team, and celebrate this exciting investment in the Carterville community.

Guests can enjoy light refreshments and participate in giveaways throughout the event.

Everyone is welcome to

attend and help commemorate this exciting milestone for The Bank of Herrin.

When:

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 1:00 PM

Where:

1001 S. Division St. Carterville, IL 62918

For More Info:

NIcci Addleman
618-942-6666 x2300
nicci.addleman@bankofherrin.bank
<https://www.bankofherrin.bank/>

SUPPORT, from page 1

Ballrooms. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the show starting at 6:06 p.m.

While many activities are open to the community, several are geared toward SIU Carbondale students only. Those include:

Tuesday, Oct. 13 — 5 p.m. Student Center Ballrooms. Saluki Retro Rewind: Roller Rink. The third of five limited edition homecoming T-shirts will be available.

Wednesday, Oct. 14 — 5 p.m. Student Center Auditorium. Ferris Bueller's Homecoming Movie Night features a special screening of the iconic 1980s film, "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," along with movie bingo and free concessions.

Music on the Strip

The Oct. 16 street festival on Friday featuring the Spin Doctors also showcases other performers including the North Mississippi Allstars, Cowboy Kyle, Lucas Wayne and the Cottonmouths, City of Soul and Johnny Rock-itt and The Double-Wide Symphony. Get free tickets online. Visit the SIU Alumni Association website for details.

Hosted through a partnership between the City of Carbondale, SIU Alumni Association, River Radio, Hangar 9, SIU Student Programming Council, Carbondale Main

Street, SIU Foundation, Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois and community partners, the evening will include vendors, food trucks and fun galore.

The celebration continues with the Homecoming After-Party featuring KYLE. Get ready for great music, exciting vibes — and students will have a chance to win a meet and greet with KYLE after the show. Remember to bring your valid SIU Student ID to grab the fifth and final limited-edition Homecoming T-shirt for FREE and complete your collection!

Saluki spirit takes the spotlight on Saturday

Saluki pride reaches fever pitch on Oct. 17 with the annual homecoming parade, tailgating and the nationally televised Missouri Valley Conference football showdown as SIU's football team hosts Illinois State at Saluki Stadium.

Marching Salukis. The parade begins at 10 a.m. at East Mill Street and travels down Illinois Avenue onto campus.

Parade entries are accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 14. High school and junior high bands as well as small and large floats, cars/trucks and walking units are invited to compete for prizes as they entertain the crowd.

Tailgating on Saluki Row starts after the parade, from noon to 3 p.m. ahead of the match-

up with Illinois State, televised on ESPN.

Crowning of the homecoming royalty, chosen by the students through online voting during the week, happens at halftime along with the announcement of the parade winners and honoring the grand marshals.

Purchase game tickets at the Banterra Center ticket office, on the Saluki Athletics website or at the gate.

Additional Saluki teams at home during homecoming week include the Saluki women's volleyball team in action against Bradley at 5 p.m. on Oct. 17 at Davies Gym, and the Saluki baseball team facing Eastern Illinois in a fall matchup at 3 p.m. Oct. 16, at Itchy Jones Stadium.

Campus pride abounds

Campuswide, you will see Dawgs and Saluki maroon far and wide as students, faculty, staff, departments and registered student organizations participate in spirit competitions, decorating doors and public areas as they vie for trophies and prizes. There are competitions for RSO spirit and Greek Life spirit.

Complete details online

Find the complete schedule of events and additional information at homecoming.siu.edu. For additional information, email homecoming@siu.edu or call 618-453-5714.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21ST
2026



1:00 – 3:00 PM
Actual Ribbon Cutting
at 1:30 PM



The Bank of Herrin
Carterville Facility
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Carterville, IL 62918



GIVEAWAYS



LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

We look forward to seeing everyone then!

How the role of police has evolved

There are 800,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. The Canadian Encyclopedia says that, as of 2025, there were approximately 69,500 police officers serving in Canada. Police are responsible for keeping citizens safe and enforcing the law. Through crime prevention, emergency response and investigation, law enforcement officials are integral members of the communities they serve.

While law enforcement officials are now vital components of every community, these figures have not existed since the beginning of civilization. In fact, police forces are a relatively modern invention, according to Gary Potter, a crime historian at Eastern Kentucky University. During early American colonization, policing was informal and part-time employment. Also, those who were tasked with keeping order were paid through a for-profit, privately funded system. Peace and order also was maintained by volunteers who provided a “night watch” system that was not very efficient.

The common law and system of sheriffs, constables, watchmen, and stipendiary justice

known in England was at the roots of early policing in the United States. Early Americans were weary of establishing standing police forces.

However, as America continued to grow through immigration, and rural communities evolved into urban cities, crime increased.

Citizens began to band together into “committees of vigilance” that took lawfulness into their own hands, not always with success.

By the mid-19th century, it became clear that earlier attempts at maintaining order were largely ineffectual. Middle-class frustration with the deterioration of cities and infrastructure led to the passage of laws that regulated public behavior and created new police forces and penitentiaries. The first police departments in the United States were in Boston and formed in 1838. New York City developed its own forces in 1844, and other cities quickly followed suit. By the 1880s, almost every major city in the country had a police force. The primary roles of police

departments were to prevent crime and keep order. It wasn’t until the 1850s that detective units began to appear.

A similar evolution took place in Canada. Early policing was predominantly a local concern with municipalities following French and English traditions of constabularies or watchmen systems. Just like it was in the United States, the early 19th century was a time of change for the Canadian police force. After the establishment of England’s Metropolitan Police in London, Canada developed its own law enforcement system as a public system that required the consent of fellow citizens. In addition, thanks to Canada’s vast frontier, Prime Minister John A MacDonald established the North-West Mounted Police in the mid-1800s to enforce laws in the region. That force was initially 150 members, and would later be renamed the Royal North- West Mounted Police.

The police have a storied past with responsibilities that have evolved considerably through the years.



How to honor local police

Safe communities allow residents to thrive and live their lives to the fullest. Such communities are sought-after places to live, and maintaining a community-wide sense of safety and security is no small task.

Local police forces do much to keep their communities safe, so it’s no great mystery why residents want to show how much they appreciate the people who ensure their towns and cities remain wonderful places to call home. With that in mind, community residents, small business owners and elected officials can consider the following ways to honor local police.

- Small business owners recognize the vital role local police play in keeping Main Street safe. A safe dining and shopping district is beneficial to business owners’ bottom line, and that makes it worth their while to offer discounts to local law enforcement and their families.

- Showcase officers on social media. Local governments can get in on the act by highlighting a different officer each month on various social media platforms. Interview a new officer each month and highlight their backgrounds and careers. This can be a great way to showcase the talents of local officers and foster strong connections between community residents and the men and women in law enforcement who keep their towns and cities safe.

- Feature officers during public celebrations. Parades, holiday bazaars and local scholastic sporting events are some examples of events that bring community residents together. Such events provide great opportunities to thank local law enforcement and bring them into direct contact with residents.

- Support police



during town council meetings. Attendance at town council meetings is a good way to remain informed about what’s going on in a community, and it also serves as an opportunity to support measures aimed at benefitting local law enforcement personnel. Support efforts to increase salaries for local

police officers and upgrade their resources so they can continue to do their jobs to the best of their abilities.

There’s no shortage of ways for communities and residents to express their appreciation and support for the local law enforcement personnel who keep their towns and cities safe.

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Illinois Dept. of Ag announces Illinois Product Expo-Chicago

CHICAGO, IL – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) is excited to announce the first-ever Illinois Product Expo in Chicago, taking place Friday, Oct. 16, and Saturday, Oct. 17, at

the Isadore & Sadie Dorin Forum on the East Campus of the University of Illinois Chicago. “The expansion of the Illinois Product Expo to Chicago marks a major milestone in

the ongoing investment to support and uplift Illinois’ agricultural community,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “The inaugural Chicago Product Expo will allow residents to sample and shop

high-quality, home-grown products by Illinois’ farmers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. By connecting local businesses with a broader consumer base, this event will help spur local job creation, bolster communities throughout the state, and showcase what Illinois has to offer.” “Agriculture is our number one industry—from farm to table, it touches so many aspects of life in Illinois,” said Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton. “Coming to Chicago for the first time, this Expo is a wonderful opportunity for Chicagoans to explore the diverse range of products crafted right here at home and to see what makes Illinois agriculture so special.”

Expanding the long-standing success of the Springfield Illinois Product Expo and Du Quoin Illinois Product Expo, the Chicago Illinois Product Expo 2026 brings more than 70 Illinois vendors together for a two-day celebration of Illinois products. More than 5,000 attendees are expected to join this inaugural event, offering Chicago-area consumers a unique opportunity to sample, shop, and connect with producers from across the state.

“The Illinois Product Expo has long been a staple event showcasing the incredible diversity and quality of Illinois-made products,” said IDOA Director Jerry Costello II. “We’re thrilled to bring this experience to Chicago and connect even more consumers with the farmers, makers, and small businesses who drive Illinois’ agricultural economy.”

“This first Chicago Expo opens the door for new audiences to discover what makes Illinois products special,” said Jackie Sambursky, Bureau Chief of Marketing, Promotion, and Grants. “Whether it’s finding a new favorite snack, meeting innovative entrepreneurs, or revisiting beloved brands, the Expo offers something for everyone.”

Advance tickets are available online for \$10 (plus fees), providing attendees with a convenient and cost effective way to secure entry ahead of time. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$15 (plus fees). Guests are encouraged to buy tickets in advance to ensure quicker entry and a smoother Expo experience.

What to Expect:
More than 70 Illinois vendors
Product samples

throughout the Expo Opportunities to meet Illinois producers
New and unique Illinois products
FREE Illinois Product bag (while supplies last)

Event Details
Friday, October 16
12 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Tickets: Purchase Friday Tickets – www.illinoisproductexpo.com

Saturday, October 17
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tickets: Purchase Saturday Tickets – www.illinoisproductexpo.com

Location:
Isadore & Sadie Dorin Forum
University of Illinois Chicago, East Campus
725 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Chicago, IL 60608

For vendor listings, updates, and additional details, visit www.illinoisproductexpo.com.

If an Illinois food company would like to learn more about the Illinois Product Expo or other programs offered by the Illinois Department of Agriculture, contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Marketing, Promotion and Grants at 217-782-2581 or agr.illinoisproduct@illinois.gov



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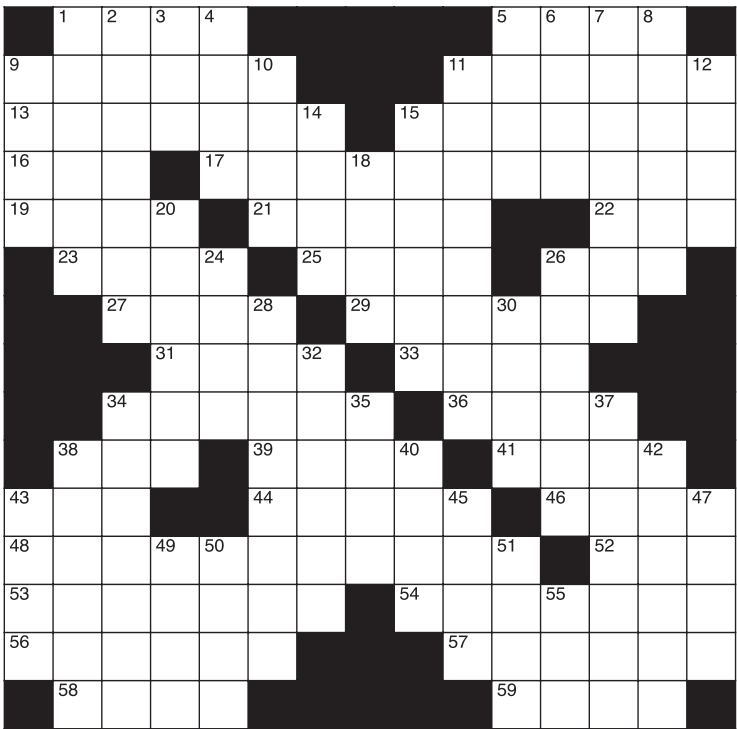
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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. A group of similar things ordered one after another
11. Loved Romeo
13. Something to solve
15. Pelvic areas
16. Informal debt instrument
17. Ineffective
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. "Fresh Prince of ___ Air"
23. Astronomer Sagan
25. C. Utah city
26. Turkey
27. Informal terms for money
29. Awakens
31. Those who favored Prohibition

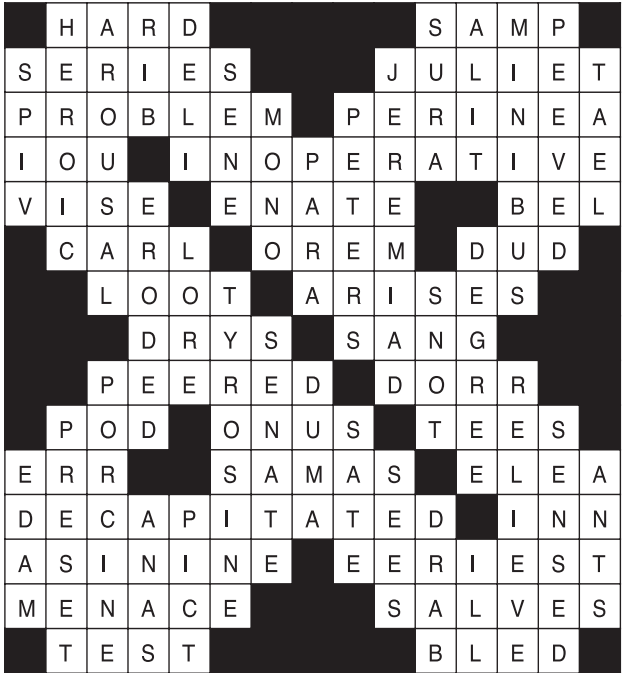
33. Blabbed
34. Looked through
36. Rhode Island rebellion
38. A type of "cast"
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Removed someone's head
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. "Dennis" is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Examination
59. Leaked fluid

CLUES DOWN

1. Brave
2. A state of excitement
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted from a horse
7. Small vehicle
8. Irrked
9. A disreputable man
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. A list of woes
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Broadway legend Bernadette
18. Monetary unit of Serbia
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. Students seek one

28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. Branch of U.S. Congress
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Set up in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unhealthy

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Word Search

CONTACTS CARE WORD SEARCH



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

ANSWERS IN B SECTION

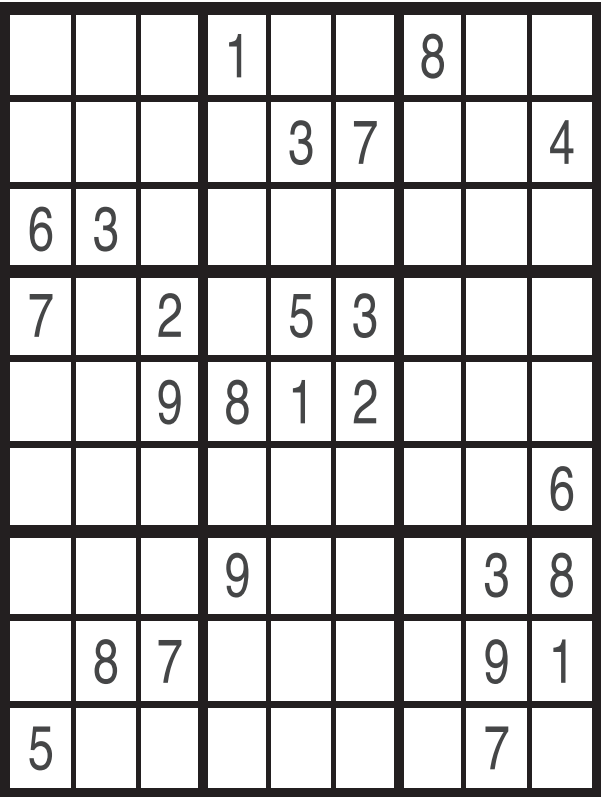
WORDS

- ASTIGMATISM
- AXIS
- CASE
- CORNEA
- CURVE
- CYLINDER
- DAILY
- DIAMETER
- DIOPTER
- DISINFECTANT
- DRYNESS
- EXTENDED
- HYDRATION
- HYDROGEL
- HYPOXIA
- MULTIFOCAL
- PERMEABILITY
- PRESBYOPIA
- RIGID
- SALINE
- SCLERAL
- SOLUTION
- TORIC
- WETTABILITY

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 IN B SECTION



Coloring Fun

FIRE PREVENTION DAY

OCTOBER 9TH





The effects of cancer on the body

The World Health Organization reports that breast cancer was the most common form of the disease among women in 164 of 186 countries in 2024. The footprint of breast cancer is significant, and millions of women and their families confront that impact each year.

Breast cancer affects women in different ways. While each woman’s experience will be different, the following are some of the ways breast cancer can affect the body.

- Increased feelings of tiredness: Fatigue is a side effect of breast cancer and the treatments for it. WebMD notes that the fatigue women may feel while battling breast cancer can last for months after treatment, and sometimes even longer than that. But women may not be helpless against breast cancer-related fatigue. In fact, WebMD notes that eating a well-balanced diet, getting sufficient sleep and staying as physically active as possible are some ways women may be

able to alleviate the tiredness that can appear during and even after treatment.

- Changes to the skin: According to Breast Cancer Trials, which is an organization made up of breast cancer doctors and researchers devoted to finding better treatments for the disease, the underlying tumor can affect the skin, blood vessels and the lymphatic system. That can lead to an assortment of skin changes, including some that might be the first sign of breast cancer. Redness, dimpling, thickening of the skin on the breast or underarm, scaliness, and persistent itching are some of the skin changes women may experience while battling breast cancer.
- Swelling in the upper body: WebMD notes that the lymph nodes from the arm near the breast containing the tumor are sometimes removed during surgical treatments. That removal may be vital, but it also can contribute to a buildup of fluid that leads to swelling in

the arm, chest, and even abdominal region. Stiffness and soreness in these areas also may develop. Chemotherapy drugs also can lead to the buildup of fluid that eventually can contribute to swelling in the arms and legs.

- Bone loss and vulnerability to fractures: The Endocrine Society notes that hormonal therapy for breast cancer can make patients vulnerable to fractures. Fracture rates may be as high as 20 percent, and post-menopausal women may be particularly vulnerable to broken bones after hormonal therapy for breast cancer. Bone loss also may occur because treatments for breast cancer can decrease estrogen. Lower levels of a type of estrogen hormone known as estradiol has been linked to osteoporosis.

No two women experience breast cancer in the same way. But the disease and treatments for it can produce some similar side effects that women can work to address with their health care teams.

Breast cancer screening FAQ



Preventive health care emphasizes healthy lifestyle choices like eating a nutritious, well-balanced diet and avoiding a sedentary lifestyle. Screening for various diseases, including cancer, is another important component of preventive health care that encourages individuals to be proactive in relation to their overall health.

Women may hear about breast cancer screening as early as adolescence. Despite that, it’s not uncommon for women of all ages to have questions about breast cancer screening.

When should breast cancer screening begin?

This is not a one-size-fits-all answer. The American Cancer Society advises women at average breast cancer risk to begin screening between the ages of 40 and 44. Women are considered at average risk if they have no personal history or strong family history of breast cancer. Women also are considered at average risk if they do not have gene mutations linked to breast cancer or a history of chest radiation therapy prior to age 30. While the ACS notes women at average risk have the option to begin screening prior to age 44, the organization advises women to schedule

annual mammograms beginning at age 45 and to continue getting them through age 54. If screenings do not show anything by age 54, women can then choose to get a mammogram every other year beginning at age 55.

What if I am at elevated risk for breast cancer?

Women who do not meet the criteria for average risk due to personal or family history will need to begin screening much earlier. The ACS recommends women at high risk for breast cancer get a breast MRI and a mammogram every year beginning at age 30. But the ACS also advises women to make this decision after careful discussion with their health care team. It’s also notable that the ACS indicates an MRI should never be substituted for a mammogram, as it’s possible an MRI will miss cancers a mammogram will find.

What is a 3D mammogram?

3D mammography is a relatively new screening option that has piqued many women’s curiosity in recent years. Brown University Health reports that a 3D mammogram rotates in an arc and takes X-rays of the breast at different angles, ultimately producing a more detailed

view of the breast for radiologists to examine. By contrast, a 2D mammogram takes single X-rays at two different angles. But the ACS notes many breast imaging centers do not have 3D mammography. If given the choice between a 2D mammogram or none at all, women should always get the 2D mammogram. If 3D imaging is available, then that might be the way to go, as Brown University Health notes 3D mammography tends to detect more cancers and produce fewer false positives.

Are mammograms foolproof?

While mammograms are highly effective at detecting breast cancer, they are not perfect. The O’Neal Cancer Center notes that dense breast tissue can make breast cancer detection more difficult. Because no screening is perfect, it’s imperative that women adhere to screening guidelines even if results are consistently negative and they do not feel anything unusual during self-examinations.

Screening for cancer is an integral component of preventive health care. Women are urged to make breast cancer screening part of their preventive health care routine.

Illinois Wheat Development board to elect three new members October 28th

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) announced today an election will be held on October 28, 2026, for two (2) board members in the following Illinois Wheat Development Board Districts (IWDB) three (3) and six (6) as well as one (1) statewide At-Large Board Member. As no formal petitions were filed for these vacant board positions, producers of Illinois wheat residing in these Districts may participate in the October 28, 2026, election as a write-in candidate. Producers must be of legal voting age, reside in the district for which they are running and be

a qualified producer of wheat. At-large write-in candidates may reside in any of the IWDB Districts. Absentee ballots are available to those not available to vote in person by contacting IDOA at 217-524-1083 or by email at agr.marketnews@illinois.gov. In-person voting will take place at the county Farm Bureau offices in Illinois during normal business hours. For more information, call IDOA at (217) 524-1083 or the Illinois Wheat Association at (309) 557-3619. Illinois Wheat Development Board Representative Districts: District I: Adams, Boone, Brown, Bureau, Carroll, Cass, Christian, Cook, DeKalb, DeWitt, DuPage, Ford, Fulton, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Knox, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, McHenry, McLean, Menard, Mercer, Morgan, Ogle, Peoria, Piatt, Pike, Putnam, Rock Island, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Warren, Whiteside, Will, Winnebago, Woodford Counties District II: Bond, Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, St. Clair Counties District III: Champaign, Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Lawrence, Marion, Moultrie, Richland, Shelby, Vermilion Counties District IV: Clinton, Jefferson, Washington Counties District V: Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph Counties District VI: Alexander, Clay, Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White, Williamson Counties

IL farmers work through the fall harvest

Fall is one of the busiest and most important seasons for Illinois farmers. Across the state, fields turn golden as farmers work long hours harvesting corn and soybeans, two of Illinois' leading agricultural crops. Harvest typically begins in September and continues through October and sometimes into November, depending on weather conditions and crop maturity. Farmers operate combines, grain carts and trucks to bring in their crops before winter arrives. Dry weather helps keep harvest moving,

while rain and wet field conditions can delay equipment and create challenges. Illinois agriculture plays a major role in the state's economy, providing jobs and supporting grain elevators, transportation companies, agricultural suppliers and food production businesses. Much of the corn and soybeans harvested in Illinois is used for livestock feed, food products, renewable fuels and export markets. Fall is also an important time for preparing farmland for the next growing

season. Some farmers complete fall tillage, apply nutrients when appropriate and maintain equipment before winter. Others plant cover crops to help protect soil, reduce erosion and improve soil health. As autumn progresses, rural communities across Illinois recognize the hard work and dedication of their agricultural producers. A successful fall harvest helps support farm families, strengthens local economies and provides essential crops for consumers at home and around the world.

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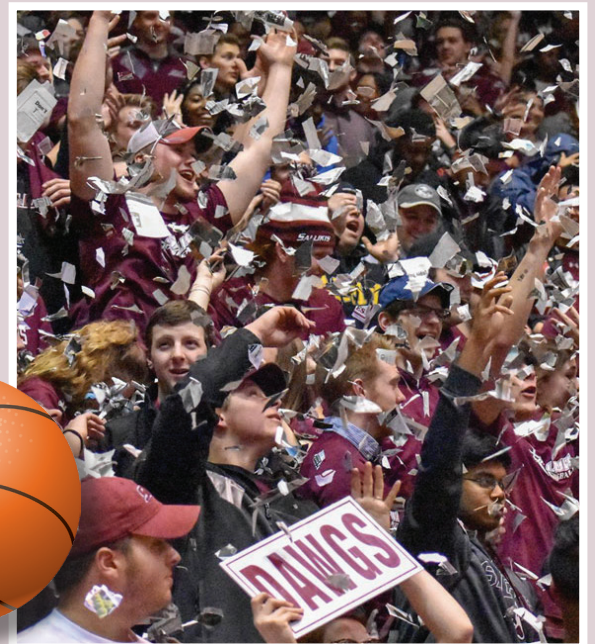
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Date	Time	At	Opponent	Location	Tournament
Oct 20 (Tue)	6 PM	Home	Lindenwood	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)	Exhibition
Oct 25 (Sun)	3 PM	Home	Tennessee Tech	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)	Exhibition
Nov 2 (Mon)	7 PM	Home	Maryville	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)	
Nov 6 (Fri)		Away	Kansas City	Kansas City, MO (Municipal Aud)	
Nov 12 (Thu)	7 PM	Home	Richmond	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)	
Nov 17 (Tue)	5 PM (CST)	Neutral	Liberty	Charlotte, NC	
Nov 20 (Fri)	5:30 PM (CST)	Neutral	UT Martin	U.S. Virgin Islands	Paradise Jam
Nov 28 (Sat)		Home	Portland State	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)	
Dec 3 (Thu)	7 PM	Home	Washington St	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)	
Dec 9 (Wed)	7 PM	Home	SEMO	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)	
Dec 12 (Sat)	7 PM	Away	Little Rock	Little Rock, AR (Jack Stephens Center)	
Dec 18 (Fri)		Home	Northern Iowa	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)	
Dec 22 (Tue)		Away	Drake	Des Moines, IA (Knapp Center)	
Dec 29 (Tue)	8 PM (CST)	Away	Arizona State	Tempe, AZ (Desert Financial Arena)	
Jan 2 (Sat)		Away	Valparaiso	Valparaiso, IN (Athletics-Recreation Center)	

Jan 5 (Tue)	Away	UIC	Chicago, IL
Jan 9 (Sat)	Home	Bradley	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)
Jan 12 (Tue)	Home	Murray State	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)
Jan 16 (Sat)	Away	Belmont	Nashville, TN (Curb Event Center)
Jan 18 (Mon)	Home	Evansville	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)
Jan 21 (Thu)	Away	Indiana State	Terre Haute, IN (Hulman Center)
Jan 24 (Sun)	Home	Valparaiso	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)
Jan 27 (Wed)	Away	Illinois State	Normal, IL (CEFCU Arena)
Jan 30 (Sat)	Home	Belmont	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)
Feb 3 (Wed)	Home	Indiana State	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)
Feb 6 (Sat)	Away	Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls, IA (McLeod Center)
Feb 9 (Tue)	Home	Drake	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)
Feb 15 (Mon)	Away	Murray State	Murray, KY (CFSB Center)
Feb 18 (Thu)	Home	Illinois State	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)
Feb 21 (Sun)	Away	Bradley	Peoria, IL (Carver Arena)
Feb 24 (Wed)	Home	UIC	Carbondale, IL (Banterra Center)
Feb 28 (Sun)	Away	Evansville	Evansville, IN (Ford Center)



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