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SECTION

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March 29, 2023

BRIEFS

Farm to Fork seminar

Mark your calendars. The Douglas County Health Department is hosting a Farm to Fork food seminar on April 14 at the Arthur Community Room, 120 East Progress Street, Arthur. Doors open at 8 a.m. and presentations run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for this free event to help you safely prepare and legally market your homegrown foods, baked goods, and value-added farm foods.

Reap the benefits of time-tested advice from seasoned cottage food vendors and food safety experts. Learn about farm family wellness and gather valuable information from several support agencies. Mingle with other farmers, bakers, gardeners, and local food lovers while enjoying refreshments and prizes at this fun, food-focused event. As an added bonus -- CEU's are available in food safety. Registration is encouraged by calling 217-253-4137 ext. 1210 or email kross@dchealthil.org.

Weather forecast

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 52. Southwest wind 10 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. North wind 11 to 13 mph becoming east after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 18 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61.

Thursday Night: Rain likely after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday: Rain likely, then rain and possibly a thunderstorm after 1 p.m. High near 68. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Friday Night: Rain likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. Breezy.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 50. Breezy.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 58.

Upcoming dates

April 1 — April Fool's Day

April 2 — Palm Sunday

April 5 — Passover

April 7 — Good Friday

April 9 — Easter



AUCTIONEERS at the Tri-County Toy Auction sell a tractor on March 24. The auction sold over 1,000 lots. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

A look into the the Tri-County Toy Auction

By Dominik Stallings

The Tri-County Spring Toy Auction held March 24 offered over 1,000 lots of collectible toy tractors, airplanes, toy accessories and memorabilia.

The auction was held on Vernon Yoder's property northwest of Arcola and gathered people from all over the country. Cars with license plates from Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois and other states packed the green space of the farm. Where there wasn't a car, there were general auction items for Saturday, March 25. You could find all sorts of furniture, appliances and farm equipment.

Walking into the warehouse, you can see old signs, collectibles and keepsakes lining the walls. A table of all the lots, available for closer inspection, sat at the back of the warehouse and dozens of chairs and tables were set up in front of the auctioneer. The first thing you hear is an auctioneer chanting numbers and words rhythmically with a quick cadence, selling lots at breakneck speeds.

Auction Owner Vernon Yoder said he's held the Tri-County auc-

tion for the last 20 years, but has held auctions for 26 years.

"It's just a dream that I wanted to do," said Yoder.

The auctioneers work together to make the show run smoothly. They take turns selling lots to ensure their voices get a break from the near-constant chanting.

"This is a weekend I really look forward to," said auctioneer Calvin Miller.

Calvin has been working as an auctioneer since 2011. Auctions have been a constant in Calvin's life since he was young. He was always interested in them, as was his father, who got his license in 2008. Calvin helped his father with the auctions and eventually decided that he also wanted to start auctioneering. A "family auction" was held for Calvin to see if he'd be up to the task. Afterward, his father agreed with Calvin and sent him to auction school, where he learned his trade.

"You mainly go there to get the laws straight," said Calvin. "Chant is kind of your own thing."

The first year he started work as an auctioneer, he started as a bid



VERNON MILLER STANDS next to the Allis-Chalmers combine with pull tie he hoped to bid on during the Tri-County Toy Auction March 24. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

spotter. He helped the auctioneer spot bidders in the large crowds to keep bidding running smoothly.

"They're a third hand to the auctioneer," said Calvin.

What makes a good auction is the variety of people there. Calvin

said some bidders are dealers who purchase lots for resale. Some people purchase them for museums and others purchase the toys for their private collections.

See TOY AUCTION on page 8

**ANNUAL
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Annual Quilt Show to be held April 27-29 at the Otto Center

A variety of quilts will be displayed at the 32nd Annual Arthur Amish Country Quilt Show Thursday through Saturday, April 27-29, at the Otto Center (2056 County Road 1800 East) just one-half mile south of Arthur.

The show will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and

Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. There is a small admission charge.

In addition to the quilts in the exhibit, another 100 pieces will be sold during the annual auction on Saturday, April 29, starting at 12 noon.

See QUILT SHOW on page 8