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UP FOR GRABS

These Ernie Banks baseball cards will be one of the items auctioned at the Illinois State Fair on Aug. 22. The cards are seen during a preview event on Aug. 3 in Springfield. THOMAS J. TURNEY/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Rare baseball cards, jewelry among items for sale at state fair auction

Janis Reeser
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

People can bid on sports memorabilia, collectible coins and jewelry during a live Illinois State Fair auction on Aug. 22 featuring 250 lots of unclaimed property recovered by the Illinois State Treasurer's Office.

Items that will be offered during the auction were previewed Aug. 3 at the Illinois State Treasurer's Office in Springfield, according to a community announcement. The live auction is scheduled for 11 a.m. Aug. 22 at the Lincoln Stage on the Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., with Treasurer Michael Frerichs expected to serve as a guest auctioneer for several items near the start of the event.

Among the featured items are baseball cards of Chicago Cubs Hall of Famer Ernie Banks and New York Yankees legend Mickey Mantle, Morgan silver dol-

Inside

\$5 Illinois State Fair tickets are on sale now. **Page 2A**

lars from multiple years and a 14-karat white gold ring set with a 10-carat blue sapphire and 14 diamonds.

The auction includes 250 lots, some of which contain multiple items.

Other featured items include:

- A vintage Alton woman's

See AUCTION, Page 2A

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING

Illinois to offer reduced sales tax

Tom Ackerman
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Planning to do some back-to-school shopping in Illinois, or maybe just looking for a good deal?

For 10 days, Illinoisans can get certain items with reduced sales tax.

Included in Illinois' budget is a "State sales tax holiday" for items that are defined back to school necessities.

The sales tax holiday spans from Aug. 7 through Aug. 16.

Here's what to know.

Items with reduced sales tax

During the state sales tax holiday, the state's portion of sales tax due is reduced by 5% — from 6.25% to 1.25%.

Clothing and footwear is included in the sales tax holiday, but the retail price needs to be \$125 or less to qualify.

Clothing

Here are qualifying clothing items:

- Household and shop aprons
- Athletic supporters
- Bathing suits and caps
- Belts and suspenders
- Coats and jackets
- Gloves and mittens
- Hats, caps, and ear muffs
- Lab coats
- Neckties
- Rainwear
- Rubber pants (covers for cloth diapers)
- Scarves
- Underwear
- School uniforms

See TAX, Page 2A

Chickens are shown at the Morrison Family Farm, which has partnered with The Witty Farmer, to open an indoors farmers market at 6136 Basse Road, New Berlin. PROVIDED BY MACY MORRISON

Indoor farmers market opening in New Berlin

Claire Grant
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW BERLIN – An indoor farmers market in New Berlin selling fresh local produce and meats is coming to town in late August.

The Witty Farmer, which has two stores already in Waverly and Riggston, believes fresh food should be grown local and be available for purchase from anyone in the community. A new member of the family, Witty Farmer New Berlin is licensing with the original owners to provide their own local version.

Owners Macy and Nick Morrison announced their generational family farm at 6136 Basse Road in New Berlin will be host to the Witty Farmer Indoor Farmers Market at a newly constructed market building which will include shade and refrigeration for produce.

"After months of building on our

farm, we're excited to bring The Witty Farmer to New Berlin," said Macy Morrison. "We're looking forward to supporting local farmers and giving our community easy access to fresh, high-quality food every day."

The market will act as a hub for farmers, so to say, with local farms using the building as a grocery store to sell to, directly cutting out middlemen between farmers and savings.

The Morrison Family Farm serves central Illinois selling butchering hogs, as well as showing sheep, chickens and pigs.

Following the grand opening, which is expected to open in mid to late-August, the building will be open daily from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. with a self-service checkout kiosk.

The Morrison Family Farms Facebook will continue to publish updated about the market.

About The Witty Farmer

Founded by lifetime farmer Jenny Sauer-Schmidgall of Sauer Farms in Winchester, IL in 2022 with the Grab'N-Grow Greenhouse to help sell produce in her self-checkout greenhouse.

The business page online lists six different small central Illinois businesses in partnership with the farmers market program.

The New Berlin location supplies seven local farms produce and six local product vendors.

The New Berlin farms represented at the market are Whalen Farms, Sauer & Schmidgall Farms, Irish Road Flower Farm, Brooks Honey Farm, Itty Bitty Microgreens, PopKing Popcorn and This Dudes Farm.

The small businesses featured in the

See MARKET, Page 2A

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