

Douglas County Farm Bureau foundation academic scholarships awarded

Makenna Green of Arthur and Will Little of Tuscola were selected to receive a \$1,500 academic scholarship by the Douglas County Farm Bureau Foundation. The given award is based on merit, demonstrated commitment to rural life and college enrollment in an ag related field of study.

Makenna is a sophomore at Lakeland College studying as an Ag Transfer student. Makenna is an active member of Lakeland's livestock judging team, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Ag Transfer Club, and Student Ambassadors. Currently, she is still deciding where she will be attending in the fall to study agronomy and judge livestock. Makenna is the daughter of Justin and Monica Green of Arthur.

Will is a sophomore at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is



Makenna Green

in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences. Will's plans include obtaining a

Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness Markets and Management. Grain marketing or seed/fertilizer



Will Little

distribution are possible career opportunities Will would like to consider in the future. Will is the son

of Lance and Julie Little of Tuscola.

The Douglas County Farm Bureau Foundation,

established in 2012, is a charitable foundation committed to promoting educational opportunities for the youth of Douglas County. "We are thrilled to award scholarships to Makenna Green and Will Little. They were selected among an outstanding group of young people to represent our Foundation," said Executive Director, Tyler Harvey. "The Foundation aims to assist students with high potential for success and a strong desire to return to a rural community upon graduation."

For more information about the Douglas County Farm Bureau Foundation and how to apply for next year's scholarship please contact our office at 217-253-4442 or douglasmgr@douglascfb.com.

Plat and Planning subcommittee discusses potential wind ordinance

By Jim Allen

The Plat and Planning Committee met at 9:00 April 9, 2021 at the County Courthouse with Chair Tom Hettinger, and board members Dick Hein, and Gary Luth. Jim Mikeworth was not able to attend. Supervisor of Assessments Cindy Baer updated the committee on pending building permits. The Supervisor of Assessments helps with research on flood plain issues as well as setback requirements and building requirements.

Aaron Patrick from the Douglas County Health Department was present to clarify issues presented last month regarding animal waste from dog kennels. The Illinois Department of Public Health has no jurisdiction over the handling of animal waste unless such waste is disposed through a septic system or other underground means. The waste from dog kennels may be disposed of as any other animal waste by spreading over agricultural

land. As there was no other business, the Chair asked those in attendance if they had any comments or questions. I asked the committee if they were aware of any contact to their constituents by a company seeking wind and solar leases. The company is Cordelio Power or Real Energy Service of Canada. No committee member was aware of any contact nor were they aware of the company referenced. I found information

showing that an area from I-57 to the west county line and from Rte 36 to the north county line was being considered for development by Cordelio Power. A letter has been sent to some "select Douglas County residents" (wording in the letter) regarding the possibility of leases. The letter also states that representatives from Cordelio Power and Real Energy Service will be in the area in the coming weeks to further the groundwork.

Concern was raised that the county could be constrained by the present ordinance that was written when tip heights were 300'. Wind turbines are now reaching a tip height of 750'.

If no changes are made in a timely fashion, a company could claim that they were proceeding in good faith on what is in the ordinance at this time. Because of this, it is vitally important that the existing WECS ordinance from 2009 be updated.

After discussion, Chair Tom Hettinger stated that a committee will be established within two weeks to address changes that need to be made to the existing ordinance. The county board has previously stated that citizens from the different districts will be included in the ordinance committee. The two weeks will allow the full board to meet and determine the makeup. The Plat and Planning committee agreed that time was of the essence.

Personnel, Legal, and Management Committee held meeting April 6

By Jim Allen

The Douglas County Personnel, Legal, and Management Committee met on April 6, 2021 at 9:00 with board members Don Munson, Tom Hettinger, and Dick Hein present. Chairman Jim Mikeworth was not able to attend.

Jim Crane was present to inform the committee that he would need to hire another technician. Gary Doud will be retiring in March of 2022 after 36 years of service to the county and his replacement

will need to be trained in various aspects of the job including bridge inspection. The County Highway Department makes between 135-140 bridge inspections a year and if the work were contracted outside of the department the cost would be over \$70,000.00 per year. As work progresses on Cronus, there may be a need for another employee. The County Highway Department has historically had two people to assist the County Engineer, but since 2009 there has been only

one. Although Chastain and Associates will be supervising the roadwork in the footprint of the Industrial Wind Turbine Complex, the county will still have oversight which is an additional responsibility to the standard work. The committee recommended to the full board to hire an engineer or technician to train with Gary Doud.

Kelly Lockhart, Executive Director of the Coles County Regional Planning Commission, was present to discuss an IDOT grant to

study ways to increase ridership on the public transportation. Mr. Lockhart was recently informed that a \$75,000 grant was awarded five to six years ago. There was no explanation by the state as to why the grant was not received earlier. The County Board will be the recipient of the grant but it will be administered by the Coles County Regional Planning Commission. The grant is a planning grant only to educate the public on the services of the public transportation which could

include advertisements, survey mailings, or community meetings. The PLM committee was concerned about ongoing costs that might come from the information, but it was mentioned that although the information gained might show need, it could also show that the need was not evident.

In other business, the committee recommended to the full board to pass an ordinance allowing for direct sales of baked goods from home kitchen operations. The state grants the individ-

ual counties the authority to allow Home Kitchen Operations. Not all foods are permitted for home kitchens and people are urged to check with the County Health Department to see which baked goods are allowed. Home Kitchen Operations are limited to gross sales of \$1,000 per month.

Those who want to sell goods from their home kitchens must register with the Health Department.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10

Don't let spring rains and flooding ruin your future; consider insurance

As Illinoisans welcome April showers and May flowers, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Illinois Department of Insurance (IDOI), Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and local emergency management agencies throughout Illinois are reminding Illinoisans to invest in flood insurance to protect their homes and businesses from flooding emergencies.

Wet spring weather can bring an increased chance of spring flooding, regardless of whether homes and businesses are located near bodies of water. With this in mind, state officials are encouraging Illinois residents to consider flood insurance before the next flood occurs.

"Just one inch of water in a mid-sized home can cause up to \$25,000 in damages," said IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. "Flood insurance is one of the most important ways for people to financially protect their homes and belongings, allowing them to recover more quickly. But it also is important to act quickly - flooding insurance policies typically take up to 30 days to go into full effect."

Flood insurance, if you have it, can provide immediate



financial assistance regardless of whether a major disaster is declared by the President of the United States. In 2019, devastating river flooding occurred in more than 33 counties and impacted 2.1 million residents. Throughout the 2019 flood season, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provided more than \$19.7 million to Illinois homeowners who submitted flood insurance claims.

"Illinoisans need only think back to 2019 to recall flooding along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers for a reminder that the threat of flooding in Illinois is always present. Still, less than 1 percent of Illinois residents have flood insurance," said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan. "The IDNR administers the NFIP in Illinois to help mitigate some of the risk associated with flooding. The program not only protect homes

and businesses in the event of a flood, but also helps mitigate perennially flooded areas, reducing the risk of flooding in the future. It really is a win-win for both the community and policy holders."

Managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the NFIP enables homeowners, business owners and renters in communities that participate in the program and adopt lo-

cal floodplain regulations to purchase federally backed flood insurance. Although nearly 90 percent of communities in Illinois participate in the NFIP, a few communities in Illinois have not adopted local floodplain regulations and have not enrolled in NFIP.

"Homeowners should purchase flood insurance through the private insurance market if their communities do not participate in the

NFIP. An insurer or licensed agent can offer private flood insurance to help protect property and personal belongings," said IDOI Acting Director Dana Popish Severinghaus. "Flooding is the most frequent and costly disaster in the U.S., and private flood policies may provide higher amounts of coverage than the NFIP. Still, homeowners should first find out if they're eligible to purchase a preferred risk policy (PRP) through NFIP which may be available even they do not live in a floodplain. Our IDOI insurance analysts can help answer questions about purchasing private flood insurance.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) can help you determine whether your property is located in a high-risk or a moderate- to low-risk area. These maps can be found online at <http://msc.fema.gov/portal/search>. Additional questions can be directed to a FEMA mapping specialist toll free at 1-877-336-2627. To find out if your community is enrolled in NFIP, visit <https://www.fema.gov/cis/IL.html>. For additional information about flood insurance, visit https://www.insureonline.org/insureu_special_flood.htm.



Family Practice Physician Kimberly Whitaker, MD, and the medical team at SBL Tuscola Clinic, are people you can count on for medical expertise and compassionate care.

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