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SECTION



Better Newspapers, Inc.

Connecting our communities

February 1, 2023

BRIEFS

Weather forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 33. South southeast wind 6 to 9 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21. South southwest wind around 8 mph.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 40.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 30.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.
Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 37.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26.
Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 41.

Correction

We had an inaccuracy in the "Douglas County tables decision on removing ARPA designation for RISE," story.
The Illinois Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) does not provide substance use disorder counseling. ROSC is a co-ordinated network of community-based services that supports the strengths and resiliencies of individuals, families and communities. They aim to achieve recovery and improved health and wellness for those with or at risk of substance use disorders.
In Douglas County, they connect a wide array of organizations that support recovery. They helped connect the Douglas County Sheriff's Office with the Charleston-based Hour House.
Those two organizations collaborated to provide a recovery navigator for the Douglas County Jail, who may provide inmates or those leaving the facility with substance use education and resources.



SPELLING BEE — Ten students from grades 4th-8th qualified to compete in the Atwood-Hammond Grade School Spelling Bee last Thursday, Jan. 26. Pictured are grade level winners, front row: Jayse Franklin and Carter Fleming, 4th grade; Lyndon Cowgill and Ethan Johnson, 5th grade. Back row: Ava Jacot and Kelsey Lust, 6th grade; Sophia Johnson and Bella Romine, 7th grade; Layla Skeeters and Embrey Rear-don, 8th grade. Each grade winner will advance to the Piatt County Spelling Bee to be held Thursday, Feb. 16 in Atwood.

Dial-A-Ride awarded \$1.1 million grant for new building

By Dominik Stallings
The Illinois Department of Transportation awarded Dial-A-Ride a \$1.1 million grant to construct a new storage building for their vehicle fleet.
"It's something that is exciting that we're doing as a program,"

said Kaycie Sanders, Dial-A-Ride administrative director.
The Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan invested \$44.8 billion in infrastructure, \$33.2 billion of which went to transportation.
Sanders said the organization plans on constructing the building

in Tuscola across from the high school at 200 S. Prairie St.
Sanders said Dial-A-Ride worked with Douglas County to secure the funding for the building and with the Douglas County engineer for the location.
Sanders said Dial-A-Ride current-

ly does not have a timeline for the project as they are waiting for an executed agreement with the state and county. "As soon as things get rolling with the state, we will get rolling with the project," said Sanders.

See RIDE on page 2

ROSC offers educational recovery group meetings

The Douglas County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Recovery Navigator (a person with lived experience), Dalene Smith, is hosting educational recovery groups in the community starting in February. The purpose of the recovery educational group sessions is to provide those in recovery, community members, and professionals with education and resources to help them or someone they know with their recovery journey and provide community members with education about recovery and addiction. The sessions are open to the public.
The educational recovery groups will be at the Arthur Public District Library, Arcola Carnegie Public Library, and Camargo Township District Library. The recovery topics for the group sessions are different each month, and the

topics will be on the "Recovery is Possible-East Central Illinois ROSC" Facebook page. For more information, contact Darlene Smith at 217-549-7481.
The Douglas County ROSC Council is partnering with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office to provide the jail population with substance use disorder education and community resource linkage opportunities. The Douglas County ROSC

Council will utilize the unique peer support from the Recovery Navigator to provide the education groups.
The education groups will be similar to the ones open to the public. ROSC hopes for this pilot program to decrease the recidivism rates in the community and to partner with local resource and treatment agencies to enhance one's

See ROSC on page 2



KERKHOFF NON-FINALIST AWARD WINNER. 2022 Miss Moultrie-Douglas Julia Kerkhoff competed at the 2023 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant held Jan. 19-22. Kerkhoff won Best Stage Presence and is pictured receiving her plaque from Kristi Jones, deputy director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Seventy-two contestants competed in the pageant held during the 112th Illinois Association of Agriculture Fairs Convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Paige Van Dyke of Lewisville was crowned the 63rd Miss Illinois County Fair Queen. She represented Clay County and is their first recipient as state queen.

tacarbon
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Valentine's Couples Dinner

On the Menu February 14:
House Salad / Homemade Dressings
8oz Roast Prime Rib or Seared Salmon
3 Cheese Au Gratin Potatoes
Roasted Winter Vegetables
Deep Dark Chocolate Ganache Bundt Cake with Vanilla Sauce
\$59.95
Ask about special drinks!

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