



IN RECOGNITION of March being National Agriculture Month, the Douglas County Farm Bureau recently donated two books to area and school libraries.

“The Pig War” was written by Emma Band Smith and illustrated by Alison Jay. This picture book tells the story of the boundary dispute in the Pacific Northwest that was ignited because of a wayward pig in a neighbor’s potato field.

“Winged Wonders Solving the Monarch Migration Mystery” written by Meeg Pincus and illustrated by Yas Imamura. This book explains the vast number of people involved in finding the migration route of monarch butterflies from Canada to Mexico. It highlights the fact that citizen scientists can have an impact.

Pictured are Jackie Wells, Camargo Township District Library Director and Ericka Crist, Douglas County Ag Literacy Coordinator. Submitted photo.

County Board appoints Health Board member

New appointments for Ag board and Hayes Branch Drainage District

By Dominik Stallings

The Douglas County Board appointed Dr. Richard Davidson to the Public Health Board during the April 19 Board meeting. Dr. Davidson will replace Dr. Erin Parsons on the Public Health Board.

The Board also made several other appointments in the short monthly meeting.

Board member Gary Luth was appointed to the Douglas County Agriculture Board, replacing Board member Bibby Appleby.

The Board appointed Matthew Wesch to the Hayes Branch Drainage District No. 66-L-96. The appointment term will last until Sept. 1.

The Board reappointed Dustin Ingram as the Arcola Fire Department Trustee for a three-year term, starting July 1.

The Board approved an agreement for Animal Control Administrator Charles M. Knox.

The agreement states that Knox will oversee the shelter and any work that needs to be done for the shelter. Knox will

be paid \$3,500 per year and compensated with three trips to the animal control facility per week. The term for the agreement starts May 1 and ends on Dec. 31, 2024.

Board member Bibby Appleby said that Knox is doing a fine job. She added that there were 13 dogs at animal control available for fostering or adoption.

The Board approved the amendment of a lease agreement for office spaces at the Douglas County Annex. The amendments changed the effective dates of the two-year lease from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2025.

The Board approved renewed liquor licenses for Aikman Wildlife, LLC, Kaskaskia County Club, and Tri-City Country Club

The Board approved the concrete crushing award for section 22-00142-00-MS to Ezell Excavation at \$9.25 per ton for crushing and screening organic material for a total contract price of \$185,000.

Kelly Lockheart held a

Watson was appointed as circuit judge

Former State’s Attorney Katherine Demira Watson was appointed as resident circuit judge for Douglas County following the retirement of Judge Richard Broch.

Watson’s appointment will be effective May 2 and will end on Dec. 2, 2024, after which, an election will determine who will serve Douglas County for six years.

The Douglas County Board will meet on May 1 regarding the appointment of a new state’s attorney, which



Watson will be recommended by the Chairman of the republican party.

meeting after the Board meeting regarding a comprehensive study for Dial-A-Ride, which will go out to residents in May.

The Board recognized Kate Watson, who was appointed to serve as a judge for Douglas County following Judge Broch’s retirement.

The Board will have a special

meeting on May 1st at 8:35 a.m. regarding the appointment of a new state’s attorney. The meeting will also cover resolution 23-R-8, which is an amendment to the county recording fee schedule for a state increase to the rental housing support program surcharge.

EARTH DAY

Cabot sponsors Earth Day tree plantings at Fox Ridge park

Cabot Corporation’s Tuscola location was the sponsor for Fox Ridge State Park’s Earth Day 2023. They purchased the 50 trees that were planted at the park. The trees are Swamp White Oaks, Bur Oaks, and Mossycup Oaks.

The Park hosted Earth Day in the Parks by planting the trees with 3rd grade students from Arcola Grade School located in Arcola. The students planted the trees through the park as well as spread milkweed seeds.

The trees were much needed to replace Ash Trees that were killed by Emerald Ash Borer.

Trees contribute to the environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, improving climate, conserving water, preserving soil, providing food, protecting us from disease, easing our mind during stressful times, and supporting wildlife.

Karey Lynch was able to plant a Swamp White Oak for

Earth Day. The 3rd graders enjoyed digging in the soil, finding worms, banging on the bridge to get turtles and fish to surface, and of course putting the trees in the ground to grow.

Cabot said, “We are committed to delivering contributions that make a positive difference in the local community. The planting of trees helps with advancing Cabot’s sustainability pillars of caring for our people and communities as well as acting responsibly for the Planet.”

Karey Lynch, human resources generalist; and Kim Murphy, North American FMO technical manager, represented Cabot at the event.

Employees of Fox Ridge State Park are Duane Snow, superintendent; Nick Bumgarner, ranger; Steven Beals, site tech; Lisa Hugg, office coordinator.

John Loohy from the Fox Ridge Foundation was also on site to assist with the event.



Annual SBL golf benefit set for June

Plans are well underway for the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Foundation’s 34th annual Golf Benefit to be held Friday, June 9, at Meadowview Golf Course. Net proceeds from this year’s event will benefit SBL’s Behavioral Health Services (BHS).

In recent years, SBL has experienced an unprecedented rise in demand for mental health services. Proceeds from the 2023 Golf Benefit will assist BHS staff to better meet these demands by helping provide emergent needs for uninsured patients, resources for providers to use in therapy and assist with addressing the substance abuse crisis in the communities SBL serves.

“Our Behavioral Health Services staff recognizes the surge of patients who seek mental health support, and

are ready to help those who need that specialized care,” SBL Special Events Officer Kim Lockart said. “Support from the Golf Benefit will assist our BHS team to provide both adults and children with the care they need.”

Even if you’re not a golfer, you can still support SBL Behavioral Health Services by making a general donation or by purchasing raffle tickets for one of two amazing prizes: 1) A bottle of Old Rip Van Winkle bourbon, and/or 2) a week-long vacation package to the destination of your choice. The bottle of Old Rip Van Winkle bourbon was donated by Niemann Foods in Mattoon. The Van Winkle family of bourbons, made by Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort, Kentucky, are some of the

most highly-coveted bourbons in the world. Distribution is extremely limited, with most liquor stores in the area receiving only a single bottle of a particular label in a year. This bottle of Old Rip Van Winkle, aged 10 years, has received numerous industry awards. You must be at least 21 years old to win.

The week-long vacation package to the destination of your choice also includes 40,000 Southwest sky miles and \$1,000 cash for expenses. The Resort Vacation Certificates program offers a world of vacation options in desirable locations across six continents. Some of the most popular locations include Orlando, FL; Branson, MO; Myrtle Beach, SC; Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; and the Canadian

Rockies in Canada. Reservations must be made by December 31, 2023, and travel must be completed by December 31, 2024. The package is courtesy of KC Summers of Mattoon.

This year’s event offers both morning and afternoon flights, teeing off at 7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. respectively. To register, make a donation or purchase raffle tickets visit sarahbush.org/golf or call 217-258-2511.



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