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B SECTION

MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Better Newspapers, Inc. *Connecting our communities* May 24, 2023

TUSCOLA FIREMAN AJ COADY sprays water on kids during a fun "field day" Friday at North Ward Elementary School. *Photo by Jennie Porter.*

Douglas County Board designates remaining $1.7M ARPA funds for Springfield Road Project

By Dominik Stallings

The Douglas County Board designated the remaining non-earmarked $1,702,000 American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the "Springfield Road Project."

Douglas County Engineer Jim Crane said the funds could have been used to fund a new building for the highway department, but he preferred the money go to the Springfield Road Project to ensure a safer roadway. The County Board remarked that the road is currently in bad shape.

"The county is paying itself those funds. I'd rather do this instead of a new building," said Crane.

The road has a historical context as well. Crane said that Abraham Lincoln used the trail, which spans from Paris to Springfield.

In other news, The Board approved the University of Illinois extension agreement, which dedicates $61,800 for the University to be used for a variety of programs that helps Douglas County residents.

Jessie McClusky, county director for five central Illinois counties, said they have four main programs in the area.

Family Life includes 12 programs that can help people in any stage of life, whether that be raising toddlers or caring for aging parents. They provide a "Mental Health First Aid" program which helps people recognize others going through harder times in rural areas. They currently have over 100 participants in their programs.

The 4-H Youth Program provides seven workshops for youth, such as the etiquette workshop, visual arts, Ag/Farm Safety Days and the annual 4-H Fair. The fair will take place July 5-6, with an auction on July 7. 4-H Youth Development currently has over 430 school program attendees.

McClusky said that Morgan Jones will be starting full-time this week as coordinator for 4-H.

Environmental programs can provide opportunities for people to learn more about the environment, gardening and horticulture. The programs currently include six master gardeners and a horticulture hotline.

SNAP education helps families learn more about food and cuisine in order to make healthier choices. They have provided 8,375 pounds of fresh produce to nine local food pantries. A new deer donation program allows hunters to donate venison to pantries as well. So far, 797 pounds of ground venison have been donated

The University of Illinois Extension has served the entire state for over 100 years, teaching farmers and rural families new agricultural and food preservation techniques.

The Board approved $35,565 in ARPA funds for the Camargo Countryside Fire Protection District for masks, gloves, disinfectants and a 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe. The amount reflects costs incurred from March 2020 to June 2021. The department handled 49 Covid-19-related cases in that time period. The request was submitted several years ago and "got lost," but the Board decided to approve the request now.

The Board approved a $9,500 bid from Miller Custom Concrete for driveway repair for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. The bid includes labor and materials for 600 square feet of reinforced concrete.

The Board approved ordinance 23-O-8, which authorizes an intergovernmental agreement for participation in the mutual aid box alarm system (MABAS). The mutual aid box alarm system helps facilitate all levels of mutual aid, including day-to-day aid responses and major incidents. The system has grown into a multi-state organization since 1968.

The Board approved ordinance 23-O-6, which authorizes $1,000 in ARPA funds for mental health crisis intervention services. RISE, located in Tuscola, will use its medical team to serve on after-hours calls, which can be contacted on the 24-Hour Crisis Line at 217-253-3511.

The Board approved ordinance 23-O-7, which memorializes an intergovernmental agreement between Rise Behavioral Health and Wellness for Crisis Intervention Services.

The Board approved resolution 23-R-9 for the cancellation of certificates of purchase for parcel number 07-06-31-211-004.

The Board reappointed Cathy Means and Martha Jones to the Douglas County Board of Review.

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BRIEFS

Seek donations for fireworks

The Arthur Rotary Fireworks has become one of the biggest, and literally brightest, events in the region, and they are looking for sponsors to help pay for the display. There are several different levels of giving from as little as $50 to more than $5,000.

The event this year starts off at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 1, with an evening of entertainment featuring Captain Rat and the Blind Rivets, food vendors, kids activities and, around 9:30 p.m., a moving display of fireworks including hundreds of shells, the Ultimate Fireball, Vesuvius and the Wall of Fire complete with the Rural Patriot. Sponsors will be featured in advertising and will receive VIP seating on the west side of the Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond football field. Donations can be made at The State Bank of Arthur.

John Adams once said, of the significance of Independence Day: "It will be celebrated with pomp and parade, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other," and Arthur plans on doing its part. The Arthur Rotary Fireworks promises a spectacular celebration with the best and biggest display in the area.

Free RC flying lessons

The Champaign County RC Club (CCRCC) is offering free flying lessons and you don't need a plane. Lessons are every Thursday evening, from 5:30 p.m. until dusk and you'll use the Club's planes and equipment. You will need to bring sunglasses and a hat. Lessons are not held when it's raining or winds exceed 12 MPH. Reservations are not needed; simply visit the Club's field on any or all Thursday evenings. Bring a friend and share the thrill of RC flying. The Champaign County Radio Control Club field is located at 3616 W. Bloomington Rd., Champaign, 2.2 miles West of Champaign's Mattis Avenue on Route 150. Look for the RC sign and visit www.ccrcc.club/documents for more information.

Forecast

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 86. North northeast wind 5 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51. East northeast wind 14 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 75.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 81.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

Memorial Day is May 29