



Jackie Taylor | Linn County News
An eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly gathers nectar from mid-August plants on a Roaring River, Mo. fishing shore.

Canvass completed during Aug. 19 meeting

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
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During the beginning portion of the meeting of Aug. 19, the Linn County Commissioners recessed the board of commissioners and reconvened as the Linn County Board of Canvass. County Clerk and Election Officer David Lamb provided information from the county audit, and noted that following the hand count of the precincts chosen for the audit by the state, the audit matched the unofficial tally and had been approved by the state and the post election audit results were approved by the board. From there they proceeded with the canvass of the

election with Lamb recommending the board count 39 of 52 provisional ballots from that election, with 13 not being counted at all, six of which were due to party changes being made on election days, which cannot be done even by provisional vote. The board then moved to the election office for a short time to open those ballots and run them through the scanner. Upon returning 20 minutes later, Lamb noted the provisional ballots did not change the results enough to affect the outcome of any race and the board moved to accept the canvass of provisional ballots and adjourned the Board of Canvass and reconvened the commissioners meeting.

Linn County Planning Commission prohibits commercial solar, defines zoning findings

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
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In one of the potentially final actions the Linn County Planning and Zoning Commission will take concerning commercial solar, the board voted 7-0 Tuesday, Aug. 13 to prohibit commercial solar and send zoning findings to the commissioners. This, despite a letter from County Attorney Burton Harding recommending the Zoning Commission take no action following receipt of a letter from an attorney representing Clearway Energy and partici-

pating property owners. Harding outlined that the commission had already enacted a moratorium that is in place until December “so no immediate imperative to make changes or recommendations. It is my advice that Planning and Zoning, at least for now, not take any action and risk exacerbating any issues that might exist.” His letter continued, “This can be revisited in the near future, but since there is still plenty of time before December, it would not prejudice the county to refrain from action at this time.” Harding asked that the

Planning Commission refrain from further action after a letter to the commission from Alan Claus Anderson from Polsinelli Law Firm, Kansas City, Mo., was received referencing an article written by Roger Sims, published by the Linn County Journal online paper, stating “Commission Members May Have Violated Open Meetings Act.” Anderson’s letter outlines allegations made in the Kansas Open Records Act request the Journal filed outlining an alleged texting group comprised of Commission Chair Danny McCullough, Commissioner Jim Johnson, and Dis-

trict 2 Commission candidate Rod Earnest texting about county business outside of open meetings. Johnson’s texts were deleted or encrypted according to Anderson’s letter. The article stated extensive allegations of commissioners communicating with individuals during meetings, a request for Johnson, McCullough and Commissioner Jason Hightower’s phones to be turned over to the Sheriff’s Department in compliance with a KORA request for texting chains. Anderson stated McCullough never turned in SEE P&Z, A3

Commissioners approve new regulations banning commercial solar in county

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At the weekly meeting on Monday, Aug. 19, the Linn County Commissioners heard from Linn County Planning and Zoning Administrator Darin Wilson that the Planning Commission had approved Article 14 of the zoning regulations with a ban on commercial solar. Wilson presented the findings of Planning Commission noting the consensus of the commission was to give priority to the county’s

Comprehensive Plan and its goals and objectives. Upon doing so they found they could not reconcile allowing commercial solar to the Comprehensive Plan. Wilson also noted that in regards to the two public meetings, one a forum and one a hearing, held on the matter, those attending made it clear they did not want commercial solar in the county. Wilson then noted that several counties across the state have already taken measures to prohibit commercial solar, which include Butler, Coffey, Douglas, Franklin, Harvey, McPher-

son, Sedgwick and Johnson counties. Wilson then provided a copy of Resolution 2024-24 prohibiting utility and commercial solar energy conversion systems (SECS) in Linn County and recommended the commissioners seek legal counsel prior to approval. After reviewing the findings and the resolution, Commissioner Danny McCullough moved to accept the findings and approve Resolution 2024-24 and Commissioner Jim Johnson seconded that motion. The motion subsequently carried on a 2-1 vote with Commis-

sioner Jason Hightower voting against. In other matters, the commissioners: - Completed the canvass of the election held Tuesday, Aug. 6. (See related article in this edition.) - Learned from Public Works Administrator Shaun West that the job descriptions requested are completed and have been sent to commissioners for review and/or future discussion. - Learned from West that he had received two applications for burial permits; one for Rural Water District 2 boring across Nickell Road just south of 1150 Road for



Submitted Photo
Site where Aron Coleman will rebuild a bridge for his Eagle Scout badge.

Coleman on quest for Eagle Scout badge

SUBMITTED BY
ARON J. COLEMAN

Hello my name is Aron J. Coleman, I am 14 years old and a Life Scout from Troop 101 in Louisburg, Kan. and I am going to do my Eagle Scout Project at the Mine Creek Battlefield because my community has done a lot for me; like let me do Cub and Boy Scouts, let us

camp on the battlefield and do service hours on it. I want to repay my community by rebuilding the Benteen Memorial Bridge that sadly got taken by high water from a powerful storm several years ago. By rebuilding the Benteen Memorial Bridge, the Mine Creek Battlefield Association can reopen a previously closed trail.

Pleasanton adopts public comment policy

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
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After asking those that would like to comment at Pleasanton City Council meetings to sign up one week in advance of a meeting, the council moved to signing up just prior to the meeting Monday night. With that, they set in policy the public comment procedure after City Attorney Jacklyn Paletta researched what neighboring communities are doing to provide citizens’ access to their councils and adhere to Kansas Open Record Act requirements. She said, “Folks will be allowed to comment within reason; they must conduct themselves in a civil manner.” Paletta continued that residents who comment may not comment on personnel matters and may not use a disrupting voice when speaking. SEE PUBLIC COMMENT, A3



Angela K. Holt | Linn County News
Upperclassmen at Jayhawk Linn greet fellow students on the first day back to school last Thursday, Aug. 15.

Linn Valley Council holds meeting

BY GEORGE NUNNEMACHER

The Linn Valley City Council held its bi-monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2024, with Mayor Lew Donelson presiding and all council members present. The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the July 8th and July 15th meetings, followed by a five-minute executive session on legal contract matters. The council then received an update on the city’s wastewater project by Wesley Weishaar

of BG Consultants, the city’s engineer. Weishaar reported that three-cell wetland design of the system is complete, and that the new lift station will be located just northwest of the city’s existing lagoons. On a motion by Council President Robert Suppenbach, the council approved the award of a contract in the amount not-to-exceed \$9,500 to BG Consultants for a feasibility study to establish a location for the new City Hall, with council members Richard Gravelle and Michael

Hemphill voting no. Also, on a motion by Suppenbach, the council voted to approve payment of Caldwell Tank’s invoice in the amount of \$53,200. City Clerk Mendi Cyr presented the July 2024 Financial Report which included General Fund income of \$60,590 and total expenses of \$125,318. The council voted to approve the payment of expense vouchers totaling \$124,783 for the month of SEE LINN VALLEY, A3

To contact our staff, see our listing at www.linncountynews.net



DEATHS
Walda Baker
Joan Cox
Lena Dick
Pastor John T. Kellum
Judith Ann Siebert
Dale Sprague

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