

Sheriff Kevin Friend resigns position



Sheriff Kevin Friend

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
LINN COUNTY NEWS
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Word was received Thursday, Sept. 5 from Linn County Clerk David Lamb that he had received the resignation of Linn County Sheriff Kevin

Friend that morning effective Sunday, Sept. 22.

Friend wrote in his letter of resignation,

“To: Governor Laura Kelly
Citizens of Linn County
Linn County Clerk and
Election Officer

“Re: Resignation

I would like to thank the citizens of Linn County, Kan. and the supporters of the Linn County Sheriff’s Office for the unwavering support over the past four years and eleven months. I have enjoyed serving Linn County as your Sheriff since my appointment on October 2, 2019. I have accepted another position and my final day as Sheriff of Linn County will be September 22, 2024.

“I appreciate and admire the staff of the Linn County Sheriff’s Office, and I am

proud of their achievements. I thank you for the opportunity to serve and I pray for God’s blessings on our county.

Thank you,
Kevin J. Friend, Sheriff
Linn County Sheriff’s
Office”

Lamb outlined a brief scenario of how the replacement of Friend would occur with notice first going to the Linn County Republican Central Committee who will nominate a replacement.

Friend complied with state statutes when he sent his resignation to the governor, Linn County Clerk and chair of the Linn County Republican Central Committee Becky Johnson.

Lamb said that in the interim Undersheriff Bobby Johnson will take over day-to-day duties.

Friend said that he’s had Sheriff Elect James Akes working administratively for the past several weeks and felt that Akes is ready to assume the position at this point.

Lamb explained that the Sheriff’s appointment is handled by the governor in the same manner as a member of the House of Representatives, should one of them resign.

Johnson will call a convention of countywide precinct people to convene; those people will appoint a person to hold the office of Sheriff during Friend’s last day and the day Akes takes office in January. The recommendation by the precinct officers will go to Governor Kelly for approval before that person assumes the position of interim Sheriff.

Pleasanton to sell lot at 9th & Main

Sets Stars & Stripes date

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
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After a request from a citizen to purchase the lot located on the northeast corner of 9th and Main Street in Pleasanton, the council voted 4-1 to accept sealed bids on the lot.

A notice in this week’s Linn County News explains that the city will accept sealed bids until Friday, Oct. 11 at 4:30 p.m.

In discussion to sell the lot, Councilwoman Kimberly Herring said, “I don’t want to sell the lot; we use it for events.”

Councilman Aaron Portmann countered that if the city sells the lot, it will once again go on the tax rolls of the
SEE LOT, A3

Calling all veterans: Fontana Legion post to host meet and greet on Saturday, Sept. 14

The Harry M. McDill American Legion Post 381 at Fontana, Kan., will host an informational meet and greet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Cadmus Grange Hall, 21981 Kansas 7 Highway, La Cygne.

Please come learn how an American Legion membership can benefit you and your family; what the Legion has done and continues to do for veterans across the nation.

Light refreshments will be served.

Commission adopts 2025 county budget

In theory, budget is revenue neutral except for 3 attached cemetery districts

BY TONY FURSE
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Commissioners unanimously passed Linn County’s 2025 budget at their Sept. 3 weekly meeting, delayed a day because of last week’s federal Labor Day holiday.

In theory, the county budget remains revenue neutral from 2024, with ad valorem revenue of \$13.625 million equaling that received for 2024. The county tax levy will decrease by 2.751 mills to 38.241 because of the county’s valuation increase of almost \$24 million to \$356.3 million.

However, the Commission’s unanimous voice vote on Resolution 2024-25 to exceed revenue neutral status comes because of budgets submitted by three cemetery districts (1, 4 and 5), entities that are attached to the county budget rather than to a township.

“They’re not governed by the Commission but by a cemetery board,” Lamb explained. “They’re slightly over revenue neutral because mowing costs have gone up a lot in recent years.”

Most of the public comment came during the revenue neutral exceedance hearing, with increased valuations the primary topic.

Harriet Bogan, rural Prescott, said the assessments she had received “were up \$120,000. It’s not acceptable. Who assesses? What can we do about it?”

Alluding to assessments coming from the county appraiser’s office, Bogan said, “I know it’s not your (Commission’s) fault, but we’ve got to do something. It’s wrong.”

Asking for the Commission to lower taxes, Marjorie
SEE BUDGET, A3

New grief/friendship group to begin meeting at Pleasanton Senior Center

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
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A new group, Nuway, spear-headed by local resident Jack Emerson will begin meeting at the Pleasanton Senior Center each Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. following the lunch service. The group is aimed at helping others deal with the loss of a loved one and overcoming loneliness and depression.

“We were down at the church for lunch one day and I was thinking that there are just so many people who have lost a spouse or a loved one and just feel so alone,” said Emerson.

“If we could all get together to talk and share and have people to contact or reach out to - just to get together - it would help,” he added.

“Just having someone to listen to you sometimes is enough,” he concluded.

Emerson added that he hopes, eventually, that the group could go on outings together to take in a movie or such sometimes.

“The hope is to build friendships,” he stated, adding, “it’s a give and take - you have to be ready to open yourself up to receive and to share.”

For more information on the group, drop by the senior center at 6th and Main in Pleasanton on Wednesdays or call Emerson at (913) 352-8188.

www.linncountynews.net

SEPTEMBER 11
PATRIOT DAY
WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Do you remember where you were
On that Tuesday, back in ‘01?
Perhaps you were at work,
When the boss said we’ve been attacked.
Or were you at a school desk,
Your teacher announced the news.
Were you safe at home that day,
Or were you at ground zero?
That day of chaos lives in memory,
Not knowing what was to come.
Panic, confusion, denial, anger,
So many emotions in our hearts.
Watching the footage, the carnage unfold,
Made us weep, made us groan.
In the unfolding hours, days, and weeks,
Our nation came together--united.
Sent our husbands, wives, sons,
daughters,
To far away desert sands to fight.
They fought for those who lost their lives,
On that long-ago September day.
They fought for home and country,
For their families’ freedoms and rights.
Some gave some, and some gave all,
To right that Nine-Eleven wrong.
Teach your children of that day,
E’en though it breaks your heart.
For we mustn’t ev’r forget
September, 11, ‘01.

--AKH, 2024

Remembering those
who lost their lives on
September 11, and the
years that followed.