

Kindness on display



BARBARA PROFFITT | LINN COUNTY NEWS

Jeff Dawson, resident of Mound City and President of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, was honored as the Kindness Citizen of the Year award recipient during the premiere of the Cultivating Kindness film at the Blue Moon Youth Center in Blue Mound on Sunday. Film producer and director Sue Vicory recognized Dawson as the source of inspiration for the Cultivating Kindness campaign in the USD 346 school District over the course of this academic year through which 90 students were recognized for being kind. Dawson's son, Reece, gave a moving speech about his dad's accomplishments in the community. Dawson's wife, also pictured, was one of the individuals featured in the film.

Cultivating Kindness film premiere held on April 27

BY BARBARA PROFFITT

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Local film producer Sue Vicory held a premier of her newest film, Cultivating Kindness, at the Blue Moon Youth Center in Blue Mound on Sunday afternoon, April 27. The film revolves around a campaign that partnered with Jayhawk USD 346 schools to recognize students for their kindness. Vicory, producer and director of the film, was joined by her colleagues; Taylor Snyder, cinematographer, Angela Holt, writer, Travis Needham, as narrator, as well as many of

the 90 students recognized through the Cultivating Kindness campaign in the schools and their families. The school campaign was made possible through a collaboration between Marsha Wunderly at F&M Bank and Vicory. The idea behind it, to cultivate kindness in our youth and show the community how being kind is not only its own reward, but is often recognized by others, came from Jeff Dawson, president of F&M Bank. Each week the students chosen to receive the award were featured in an ad campaign in the Linn County News. Following the premiere, Sue invited Reece Dawson on stage to introduce the Kindest

Citizen of the Year. Reece spoke of his fathers' early years in the community and his journey through life here in Linn County, noting, "Dad had a real encounter with his Creator along the way." "There's countless stories..." said Reece, "I've seen my dad working with people, talking with people, helping others." Vicory then called Jeff Dawson to the stage and presented him with the Kindest Citizen of the Year award. Dawson spoke to those in attendance, noting his gratitude for the award. "Listen to your heart," he said. "It might be something big, it might be something

SEE KINDNESS, A3

Fire department public hearing nets crowd

Decision tabled to discuss automatic aid with county

BY JACKIE TAYLOR

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After broaching the subject of eliminating the city fire department, the Pleasanton City Council held a public hearing Monday, April 28 at the Community Building with approximately 40 people in attendance. Council woman Angelina Randall opened the hearing explaining that Pleasanton's ISO rating - Public Protection Classification (PPC) - receives a score from 1 to 10, indicating the quality of fire protection is currently a 5, with the average in the nation being 6.5. "Mutual aid is keeping it a 5," she said. "We have a chief and three firefighters and we can't enter into mutual aid with four volunteers; that's bad faith." She continued that an ISO inspection is very detailed

and "everything needs to be 100 percent all the time - water, volunteers, equipment." Randall said that insurance companies use the ISO PPC rating for underwriting purposes and based on her medium-priced house, insurance rates could raise \$800 to \$1,100 if the city loses the good ISO rating. An ISO rating is based on a 100-point system with dispatching receiving 10 points, the fire department itself receiving 50 points based on engine companies, reserve pumpers and capacity, ladder trucks, company personnel and training. Last, water supply is looked at with the remaining 40 points. In that, supply system gets 35 points, hydrant size, type and installation two points and inspection/condition of hydrants three points. Pleasanton, as of Monday night, had nine of 17 hydrants not working and waiting on

parts. City Roads Supervisor John Harrington said a person that works on hydrants is coming to the city next week to help them through the issues. He said it may be the hydrants or the plumbing under the hydrants that is the problem. Conversely, the county does not rely on city hydrants as they have pumper trucks and can transport enough water to handle large fires. Randall said usually with ISO, 15 volunteer firefighters is on the low end of numbers with Pleasanton at four, currently. "If you give the county Pleasanton's fire department, our ISO is still a 5 as we piggy-back on the county's ISO," said Randall. "The mill levy would go up 1.6 mill, or \$19.76 per year, and cover all businesses and residences in Pleasanton." Randall continued that the county trains

SEE FIRE DEPARTMENT, A3



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Tanglewood Lake residents packed the meeting room of the Linn County Commissioners on Monday, April 28, awaiting a final decision on whether or not the county will recognize the judges ruling that their roads are public roadways.

County counselor issues statement on Tanglewood roads

BY BARBARA PROFFITT

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During the meeting on April 28 the Linn County Commissioners heard from County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta in regards to a recent request from the lake community that the county issue a resolution stating whether or not the county would recognize the roads as public or private. Paletta, attending via telephone, stated, "I've had the opportunity to speak with the attorney for Tanglewood, and also review the history of Tanglewood, as well as, the county." She added, "Tanglewood has been private and it is the decision it is going to remain private at this time." "There's no resolution that commissioners will sign today because nothing is changing, it is going to be the way that it has always been," she continued. Commissioner Jim Johnson summarized Paletta's statement for those in the audience who could not hear everything Paletta stated. One resident asked how the decision or guidance being given to commissioners plays into the recent judge's ruling stating the roads were public, and Paletta replied, "The bot-

tom line is that the hearing that occurred in the courts was a separate criminal matter... what was pending in the courts was not a civil matter pertaining to any type of zoning or anything like that, so that order from that court is not inconsistent with what I'm saying; she didn't rule that the county has to say the roads be public or the county has undertaken to perform any duties that they weren't previously undertaking."

"That has to do with a legal cause of action for which those defendants were charged," Paletta stated. The gentleman then mentioned the original plats filed with the register of deeds office in 1974, which he said stated the roads were public roads and Paletta noted that "the county has never taken any action to use and/or maintain those roads so that's how things are going to stay."

SEE TANGLEWOOD, A2

Linn Valley City Council ends discussion with SEKMHC on building

BY GEORGE NUNNEMACHER

The Linn Valley City Council held its bi-monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2025, with Mayor Lew Donelson presiding and all council members present. The meeting began with a roll call of council members, followed by recital of the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Council Member John Weers. The minutes for the April 14, 2025 regular council meeting were then approved on the motion of Council President Robert Suppenbach. Donelson gave a brief update on the city's water project, reporting that an inspection of the new water tower was completed on April 24. Donelson noted the city is holding about \$80,000 in retention funds from Caldwell Tank pending resolution of some paint issues and the need for certain documentation which has not been submitted to date. Additionally, Donelson and City Clerk

Mendi Cyr attended an April 24 pre-construction meeting with the distribution system contractor Hettinger Excavating and BG Consultants, the city's engineer, to review project requirements and the project schedule. Donelson informed the Council that a bid package for the Lagoon Expansion Project should be available in August. At this juncture, the council went into a five-minute executive session concerning legal matters, returning with no action taken. Upon returning, the council voted to table discussion on the permitting moratorium until the May 12 council meeting. Donelson announced that the public is invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting on the water and sewer projects at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 21 at City Hall. In a unanimous vote on a motion by Suppenbach, the council voted to return to a one meeting per-month schedule. The regular council meeting will be held at 6

p.m. on the second Monday of each month beginning in May, with special meetings to be scheduled as necessary. The next discussion concerned changes to the city's Employee Handbook. City Attorney James Brun discussed the addition of a new section in the handbook governing political activities by city employees. Brun noted that employees have First Amendment rights, including participation on social media, which cannot be violated. According to the new policy, however, employees cannot speak on behalf of the city or use knowledge or influence gained as city employees to make political speech. Brun used the example of an employee displaying political signs at their residence as acceptable but displaying a political bumper sticker on city property as a violation of the city's policy. Brun stressed the importance of having such a policy but acknowledged that there

SEE SEKMHC, A2

Celebrating John Enright's life



PHOTOS BY DARLA SUPPENBACH

A celebration of life was held for John Enright, Linn Valley volunteer firefighter, last weekend, April 19. The gathering was held at the Linn Valley Community Center.

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



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HOW TO REACH US

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