

Issue 21, Volume LIII *PVHS graduation hugs*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025



PVHS graduate Bella Stolle moves through her mom and dad, Lorenza and Jeff Stolle, to give more hugs to family. Bree Allen, back, hugs her mom Tara during the flower-giving portion of graduation held Sunday afternoon. See more photos of graduation on Pg. B6.

La Cygne okays local police firing range

BY TONY FURSE LINN COUNTY NEWS NEWSPAPERSRME@YAHOO.COM

La Cygne leaders have approved construction of a police-only firearm range near the city's sewer lagoons.

At their May 7 regular meeting, the council okayed the request on a 3-0 vote, with Tommy Capp and Ed Smith not present.

First introduced by Zachary Mathies, police chief, at the April 16 regular council meeting, the plan for the range, which will be available only to city police and other law enforcement entities, will have participants training with both rifles and pistols and shooting toward the south. Mathies said that police officers are required annually to update their firearm qualifications, and the local range would prevent his officers from traveling to ranges either near Paola or Prescott.

At the most recent meeting, Mathies presented a cost estimate for less than \$2,000, saying most of the cost will be for gravel. He said that the BNSF Railway has agreed to donate old railroad ties for the range to be located on a five-acre "rectangular field right off the lagoon road." USD 344 board hears update on MOU with FSCC

BY BARBARA PROFFITT LINN COUNTY NEWS LINNCOUNTYNEWSREPORTER@GMAIL. COM

The May 12 meeting of the USD 344 Board of Education, the board discussed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Fort Scott Community College for the STARS program. Superintendent Don Epps reported that the FSCC Board of Trustees had decided not to relinquish the STARS program; however, they still had not reached an agreement on funding. Epps noted that he would have a clearer understanding following an upcoming meeting and added that there are currently three boards, FSCC, STARS and USD 344, dealing with the issue and his goal is get them all on the same page. In other matters the board: - Approved a resolution regarding roof repairs. Epps reported the company would be coming to match paint. - Following executive session, the board agreed to accept the resignation of Sharon Adams as Title 1 aide effective the end of school year and approved hiring Billie Marlow as a 6th grade teacher.

Commissioners make official statement on Tanglewood roads

By BARBARA PROFFITT Linn County News linncountynewsreporter@ gmail.com

During the May 19 meeting, the Linn County Commissioners heard from several residents and members of Tanglewood Lakes regarding the court ruling that the roads in the lake community are public roads.

Jim Hendershot, Tanglewood Lakes, outlined several items in commissioners' minutes from the months of March and April, and then outlined the language in the original plats filed and accepted by the county commission in 1974.

Hendershot highlighted the statement from County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta that the county would not recognize the roads as public roads and then subsequently advised the commissioners not to comment on the matter. Hendershot asked when the decision was made and if it was an official decision of the board of commissioners or the opinion of the county counselor.

Hendershot then referred to minutes from April 28 regarding the court ruling that it was part of a criminal case, not a civil matter and therefore does not affect zoning. He stated that as a retired zoning official, the matter has nothing to do with zoning.

He then noted a statement by Paletta in the April 28 meeting that the county has never used or maintained the roads in the lake development and that would not change and asked again if it was an official commission statement or the opinion of the counselor.

Hendershot then referred to Paletta's advice to the commissioners on April 28 not to publicly respond to Eva Riojas-Mackey's comments until she could review the information provided to her. Hendershot asked if the response has been provided.

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Hendershot then concluded that all documents provided indicate the roads are public, including court ruling, accepted plats, etc., and asked for an official action from the commissioners by vote.

"I am not advocating for the roads to be public or private, I am simply asking for something official," stated Hendershot.

Two other residents also commented on the issue requesting an official statement. Commissioners then SEE **TANGLEWOOD**, **A5**



The American Legion Hewitt New Post 248 commemorates Memorial Day at Mound City's Soldiers Lot.

Remembering those who gave all

Before offering the motion for the range's go-ahead for construction, Jerome Mitzner asked about liability insurance for outside law enforcement agencies using the site. SEE **FIRING RANGE**, **A5**

PVHS Awards night



JACKIE TAYLOR | LINN COUNTY NEWS

On top of Baccalaureate last Wednesday evening, PVHS held their art expose from students and the Senior Awards Night. Students received over \$1.1 million in scholarships this year.

BY BARBARA PROFFITT

LINN COUNTY NEWS LINNCOUNTYNEWSREPORTER@GMAIL. COM

While many of us choose to utilize Memorial Day weekend to remember our own loved ones who have gone before us, the real purpose behind the holiday is memorializing those who gave everything to the service of their country and their fellow Americans. It's about taking time to honor those who served in the armed forces and did not make it home.

Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day and was set as a day to honor those who died while serving in the U.S. military. It was first observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate Civil War soldiers. The holiday was established by General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, and its first celebration was held at Arlington National Cemetery, where 5,000 people decorated the graves of over 20,000 soldiers.

While it is now a federal holiday recognized on the last Monday of May, it wasn't always celebrated on that date or as a nationwide holiday.

Over the years Linn County has been the birthplace or home of many who have enlisted and served in the US military branches and served in various wars. Not all of those who enlisted from our area came home without injury and some gave their all.

World War II

Boatswain's Mate 2C Clifford Lee Allman was born in 1922 in Missouri and is listed as living in La Cygne at the time of his enlistment. He died in service at sea on Feb. 18, 1945 at age 22 and is listed on the Honolulu Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii. According to records he was buried at sea.

Seaman 1C Glenn Edwin Ashley was born in 1923 in

CLARIFICATION

Pleasanton and died at sea on Dec. 28, 1944, at age 21. He is listed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Memorial at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Capital District of Manila, Philippines.

Aviation Machinists Mate 2C Walter Scott Brown was born in Nebraska in 1916. Hailing from the Pleasanton area when he enlisted, he was killed in action at Kaneohe NAS just minutes before the attack on Pearl Harbor. It is believed he and his squadron mate Daniel Griffin were the first American casualties of World War II. A Naval Destroyer was named in his honor and in recent years a portion of U.S. Highway 69 has been designated in his memory. PFC Buford Garold

Dunsworth was born in 1923. He served in 6th Marine Division during WWII and died on April 15, 1945, at age 22. He is buried in the SEE **GAVE ALL, A5**

Mound City council adopts rules for camping

BY BARBARA PROFFITT

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During the May 6 meeting, the Mound City council adopted Ordinance 607 setting out rules for the camping area at the Mound City Lake.

The ordinance that was ad-

opted set a period of 14 days per stay with at least a fiveday absence before returning to the lake. Violating this portion of the new rules would result in an Overstay penalty of \$25 per day, in addition to daily camping fees.

Further, the ordinance states that once a camper has been given an overstay notice they have 24 hours to vacate the camping area. Failure to do so will result in the removal of their camper and or items and a tow charge of \$150.

Violation of the ordinance will result in a \$100 fine for first offense, a \$250 fine and towing charges for a second offense and a \$500 fine and towing charges for a third and any subsequent offenses.

In other matters the council:

- Heard from Melinda and Matthew Knemeyer about a major water leak that occurred at their home asking the city to consider reducing their above average to city SEE **CAMPING, A3** Packets to file for seats on school boards and councils can be picked up at city halls and school locations; however, packets must be filed at the Linn County Courthouse with the Elections Officer once completed.

IN HONOR OF THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY, LINN COUNTY NEWS & LINN COUNTY PRINTING WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 26.

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