

Honoring their sacrifice



ANGELA K. HOLT | LINN COUNTY NEWS

▲ Honorees for 2025 included, left to right: Ed Cantwell, Larry Bloomfield, Darrel Bloomfield, Russell Bloomfield, Rolland Grigsby, Lawrence Spencer, and Harold Smith. Others recognized were: Bill Adams, Rodney Springer, and Fred Thomas. The city of Prescott honored 10 veterans during their annual Memorial Day service, including all of the men who graduated in the Prescott class of 1970 and served in the Armed Services.

◀ 100-year-old WWII veteran Roy Wade carries a retired United States flag to what will be a burn barrel. La Cygne's Memorial Day ceremony was moved to Calvary Baptist Church from Oaklawn Cemetery due to rain that covered the county most of the weekend. The ceremony was followed by a community dinner held at the La Cygne Christian Church. See more Memorial Day photos on Pg. A6.

Despite Chamber loss, Blast in the Park fireworks will go off

Council actions include split vote on deed conveyance

BY TONY FURSE
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Hearing of the disbandment of its local Chamber of Commerce, La Cygne leaders have verbally concurred that the city's part in the annual Blast in the Park festivities will go on.

Following that Chamber notification at last Wednesday's regular council meeting by Jodi Wade, city clerk, the consensus is that the city will continue to support the budgeted fireworks show, portable toilet rentals and handle parking and trash this July 12.

Wade said possible volunteers could take up the slack this year for food, entertainment and vendors, previously part of the Chamber's co-sponsorship purvey. Whether the city assumes those roles next year would depend on if they are included in next year's city budget.

Said Tommy Capp, council president, "If the fireworks go on and others don't, it's still an event."

In answer to Capp, Wade said the fireworks last year cost around \$5,300. Mayor Debra Wilson also pointed out that city employees are paid to work the Blast, one of two city-sponsored events.

Asked by Councilman Jerome Mitzner as to "who did the majority of legwork" during last year's Blast, Wade listed City Hall employees and police force, along with volunteer firefighters and Rick James, R-La Cygne, Kansas 4th District state representative.

Zach Mathies, police chief, confirmed that Blast in the Park, a Saturday, will be a mandatory workday for his force.

Formal actions last week included a split 4-1 vote, with David Brenneman dissenting, on a resolution to allow Wilson to sign a deed conveyance for seven lots at 402 S. Broadway St. Brenneman has previously voiced his overall objection of the city accepting real property, his concerns dating back to a similar arrangement on property at 602 N. 5th St.

Participating via Zoom videoconference, Jeff Deane, city attorney, said that grantor Sue Duncan "is happy with the language" of the agreement.

He said Wilson's signature to the agreement conveys the deed to the city upon its execution. In turn, Deane said La Cygne will satisfy back taxes and penalties to the Linn County Treasurer for 2022-SEE BLAST, A2

Linn Valley discusses city hall funding sources

BY GEORGE NUNNEMACHER

The Linn Valley City Council held its bi-monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2025, with Mayor Lew Donelson presiding and all council members present.

Donelson informed the council of two potential opportunities for funding a new City Hall building. Donelson reported that the Chamber of Commerce could potentially provide a building valued at up to \$1.5 million. The Chamber, which does this for municipalities of 2,500 population or less, would dictate the design and features of the building. Funding would likely be accomplished by a grant for 50 percent of the total cost, with the balance

provided through a loan. The other opportunity would be to apply for funding through USDA Rural Development, and it could possibly include grant money, as well.

City Clerk Mendi Cyr presented the April 2025 Financial Report which included total income of \$31,360 and total expenses of \$17,287. The vouchers were approved on a motion by Council President Robert Suppenbach.

Codes Enforcement Officer Steve German's report included 20 building permits issued in April, including one for a new residence. Violations on the Nuisance Codes Report included a citation issued for trash in a yard. Certified letters regarding a fence

complaint, an RV parked in a driveway and another for two RVs on one lot.

Public Safety Director Corey Murrison reported on police department activity during the past month, including three reports of damage from the front gate being struck, one motor vehicle accident, two separate arrests for a Protection from Abuse Order and two arrests for Possession of a Controlled Substance and a stolen handgun. Murrison also reported that he is seeking replacements for two of the department's body cameras which have stopped working. He believes the cameras should be replaced under the manufacturer's warranty.

Elder to represent Kansas at Global Entrepreneurship Congress

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
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Frankie Elder-Reedy, a local entrepreneur and longtime Linn County resident, has been selected to represent the state of Kansas as a delegate at the 2025 Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC), which will take place in Indianapolis this June.

Elder-Reedy is the founder of Wrax, a company that's reimagining women's athletic support with a patented solution designed to eliminate bounce during physical activity. Her innovation, now gaining national attention, was born right here in Kansas—and it's helping women across the country move more comfortably and confidently.

"I'm incredibly proud to be representing our state—and especially our small towns—on a global stage," said Elder-Reedy. "This community shaped me, supported me and gave me the grit it takes to build something meaningful. I'm honored to bring that spirit to Indianapolis."

According to Elder-Reedy, the idea for her products is

something she's worked on for several years.

"I couldn't find any sports bras anywhere that could control upward movement, so I decided to make one," she said.

Wrax products are hand-sewn in Pleasanton and have become a go-to solution for runners, athletes and active women who have long struggled with sports bras that don't actually provide support.

I have four products and I just got my first patent and have two more pending," she explained, adding, "and we're getting ready to launch the fourth product."

"It's going to revolutionize women's and girl's wrestling," she hinted.

The Global Entrepreneurship Congress is an international event that brings together innovators, founders and thought leaders from more than 200 countries. Elder-Reedy will participate in workshops, networking and strategic discussions aimed at accelerating entrepreneurship around the world.

"I am very excited to represent our state and our area at this event," said Elder-Reedy.

Wet Farmers Market



JACKIE TAYLOR | LINN COUNTY NEWS

Linn Valley held their weekly Saturday farmers market as their annual Memorial Day ceremony was held across the street.

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USD 362 board rejects adding bus A/C

Amended budget, kitchen exhausts, new position are passed

BY TONY FURSE

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Prairie View Unified School District 362's board of education has rejected adding air conditioning (A/C) to current route buses.

Voted on at the May 20 monthly meeting, the 4-2 decision turns down a pared-down request of \$109,440 to

retrofit the district fleet's nine current A/C-less buses with less than 150,000 miles.

In response to Brian Uphoff's motion and Rita Boydston's second, board members Brad Heide, Brian Lueker, Russell Pope and Wade Teagarden all voted against the measure. George Nunnemacher was not present.

Laurie McCarthy, district transportation director, provided a district vehicle

replacement schedule and also reported that the average afternoon ridership is 503 students. Chris Johnson, Ph.D., district superintendent, alluded to a proposed \$300,000 capital outlay transportation budget for fiscal year 2026 (FY26), a practice she said "went by the wayside during COVID."

The two had proposed that \$65,000 be designated to replace a Suburban sports

utility vehicle and \$85,000 be spent for a wheelchair-accessible mini-bus to replace two current route buses, leaving space for the A/C request.

Boydston contended that the district might need to buy a new bus "if an older driver has a medical condition (caused by overheating) and wrecks a bus," but dissenting board members had expressed financial concerns previously at the April 15 monthly meeting and at an

April 24 special meeting.

Other votes, all 6-0, amend the current budget, replace required exhaust systems for the two elementary school kitchens, and create a new classified position at the middle school.

Primary in the budget amendment was a \$100,400 increase in spending authority for the food service line item to \$841,150. During a preliminary required open budget hearing, Johnson said SEE A/C, A2

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