



JACKIE TAYLOR | LINN COUNTY NEWS

Grinter’s Sunflower Farm, north of Lawrence, was a great attraction for those looking to see a version of the Kansas state flower, the wild sunflower. Grinter Farm’s has several large parcels of land dedicated to sunflowers, and free parking for visitors. Bees were busy visiting the blooms, and local honey was for sale at the farm store, among other wares.

Parker appoints police chief



TONY FURSE | LINN COUNTY NEWS

New Police Chief Chris Lee.

BY TONY FURSE
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More than six months after its police department was dissolved and over four months since its rein-statement, Parker now has a police chief.

At a special meeting last Thursday night, upon Mayor Jason Webber’s recommendation, the council voted 4-0 with Kandice Higgins not present to appoint Chris Lee.

Kari Brandt, council president, offered the motion, with Gary Earley, council president pro tem-pore, seconding.

Lee will be employed for 40 hours monthly at a rate of \$25 hourly.

Prior to Lee’s arrival for a 20-minute closed-door interview, the meeting’s first 10 minutes were devoted to Webber calling on Craig Haley, former police chief, to explain the department’s poten-

tial loss of certifications, including its originating agency identifier (also known as its ORI) status with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas Highway Patrol. Haley said the ORI is the department’s identifica-tion at the state level.

Haley said that, prior to his approval as chief in July 2021, the de-partment’s ORI status “had been neglected and inactive for years.” He said that only a trained police officer can maintain the ORI status, not a mayor nor a city clerk.

“It needs to be active to do anything at the state level for state labs, paper-work, and being a legiti-mate department,” said Haley, who explained that he took a year “to straight-en it up.”

Earley followed by asking Haley why the de-partment was unmanned at the time the council dissolved it on Feb. 13.

At that meeting, Earley motioned and Higgins sec-onded for the dissolution, with Joe Godfrey joining in the 3-1 vote. Brandt was the dissenting vote, and Meranda Ellison was not present.

Haley said that he was the one active part-time officer at the time of the dissolution.

“If the department were dissolved, then I would resign,” he said.

SEE **CHIEF, 2**

Paris Township voting location to move to Mound City

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
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Citing low voter turn-out at the Farlinville voting location, and cost savings, County Clerk Danielle Souza is closing the location and moving Paris Township voters to the Linn County Court-house Annex, 306 Main St., Mound City beginning with the Nov. 4 election.

Souza said, “I’m not

taking away the right to vote; I’m being financial-ly-minded. Even in a small city/school general elec-tion we’re saving \$800.”

Further, she said that the Clerk’s Office has saved money over the years to replace the voting machines that cost \$6,000 each, eliminating Farlin-ville would save that much money every five years on machine replacement.

Souza said the DS200 now in use will be re-

placed with a DS300 that is quicker in printing information, etc. She said voting tallies are saved on a USB stick and then con-nected to a computer that is only for election results – neither the stick nor the computer is connected to the internet avoiding any potential outside inter-ference.

Besides the cost of the voting machine, Souza said eliminating the Farl-inville voting location will

mean paying three less people to work the polling location, and no mileage or training fees.

Another \$1,295 in savings comes from the Clerk’s Office not having to buy a voting book.

Paris Township is re-portedly one of the lowest turnout polling places for walk-in voting. Souza said the 2023 city/school election only brought 20 in-person voters to

SEE **PARIS TOWNSHIP, 2**

USD 362 passes 2025-26 school budget

Though exceeding revenue neutral, board cuts 1.5 mills from proposal

BY TONY FURSE
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Prairie View Unified School District 362’s board of education has unanimously agreed to a 2025-26 budget that exceeds revenue neutral, but it will be 1.5 mills less than the official statutory published proposal.

At their regular month-ly meeting Aug. 26, the

board voted to set this year’s levy rate at 42.061 mills, the lowest in at least 17 years, said Chris Johnson, Ph.D., district superintendent. Overall, the rate will generate around \$167,000 more than last year’s three-line items controlled locally, hence exceeding revenue neutral.

The fourth property-tax generated line item, gen-eral fund, is set by statute at 20 mills statewide and is not part of the revenue neutral equation.

Johnson pointed out that the ad valorem tax dollars for the supplemen-tal general fund, capital

outlay fund and bond and interest fund had not in-creased in two years when the board stayed revenue neutral a year ago– “every-thing has since gone up.”

This year’s budget, as motioned by Wade Tea-garden, will see a supple-mental budget revenue increase from about \$2.92 million to just under \$3.29 million (an increase of a half-mill to 11.084) and a capital outlay increase from just over \$2.104 million to just over \$2.37 million (about another half-mill increase to the statutory maximum of 8).

SEE **USD 362, 3**

Pleasanton Chamber Business Expo Thursday, Sept. 4

Free hotdogs to attendees

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
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The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is hosting a business expo Thursday, Sept. 4 at the Pleasanton

SEE **EXPO, 2**

Local resident claims scam in Marketplace transaction

Attorney’s office says it’s a civil matter

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
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Recently, a Linn County resident filed a complaint with the Sheriff’s Office regarding what he alleged amounted to a scam on the

Facebook Marketplace.

Thomas Morgan was in search of a grain bin and found one for sale on Face-book’s marketplace by a per-son in Lamar, Mo. Morgan contacted that person and a transaction was entered into, in good faith, by Morgan for a sum of \$5,000 for the bin. Morgan then, in good

faith, even went so far as to give the seller half of the purchase price through the CashApp payment options. But then the problems began and the seller did not deliver as promised, and when he finally did it was not what had been advertised at all. At that

point, Morgan requested a refund of his money and the story goes from there.

Eventually, Morgan con-tacted the sheriff’s office and filed a report. When he subsequently contacted the county attorney’s of-fice to see what was being

SEE **SCAM, 2**

Faith in Action



ANGELA K. HOLT | LINN COUNTY NEWS

Sunday morning’s rain showers did not stop the Faith in Action teams from working around Mound City and Pleas-anton. Groups from multiple churches came together to help clean up brush, provide repairs, etc., to individuals as well as public areas, such as at the Mound City Histor-ical Park.



VISIT
US
HERE



DEATHS
George Teagarden

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