

La Cygne to change signage along Lincoln Avenue

Intersections with 5th, 6th streets are affected

BY TONY FURSE
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Traffic-flow signage at two intersections along La Cygne's Lincoln Avenue will see changes effective Oct. 1.

At its regular meeting last Wednesday, the council voted 4-0--with Ed Smith not present--to accept the recommendation by Zach Mathies, police chief, at Lincoln intersections with 5th and 6th streets.

At 5th Street, a yield sign will be replaced with a stop sign, and at 6th Street, Lincoln's east/west stop signs will be removed altogether, transforming the current four-way stop there to a two-way.

About the stop sign removals, Mathies alluded to National Traffic Safety Administration research showing that four-way

stops "with different (amounts of) traffic flows don't work well." He noted that Lincoln is a well-traveled east-west thoroughfare in La Cygne that joins East 2250 Road at the east city limits.

To alert drivers of the imminent changes, Mathies said that flags would be displayed on signage at the two intersections.

In other action, with no patrons present for either public hearing, the council passed the 2026 city budget and an amended budget for the current year.

Next year's city budget will see a \$16,588 decrease in ad valorem tax receipts to \$557,374 and a 7.641 mill rate decrease to 56.595 as La Cygne's valuation rose by \$913,340 to just under \$9.85 million.

The amended 2025 budget adds spending authorities of \$75,000 to

the gas fund and \$50,000 to the water fund, as well as \$798,999 to the pool and park special fund in response to a swimming pool bond defeasance earlier this summer.

On another action, the council agreed with information presented by Jodi Wade, city clerk, to even out estimated total payments of \$4,135.73 over the next three years to the Marais des Cygnes Water Assurance District No. 2.

Wade noted preliminary billing estimates for La Cygne from the district of \$734.08 this year, \$902.05 next year, and \$2,499.60 in 2027 for a Corps of Engineers improvement project occurring upstream, said Wade.

In other items heard by the council:

–Upon Mathies' recommendation, the council hired Tori Philpot as the

new-position community development officer effective Sept. 30. Mathies said Philpot has had codes enforcement and animal control background work at Gardner.

–As presented by Wade, the council changed the title of the current public works 'superintendent' to 'director' and created a new public works superintendent position. Noting "no change in responsibilities," Wade said the director, directly supervised by the mayor, would oversee the superintendent, who would essentially "be in training" to assume the director's role eventually.

–On a 3-1 vote with David Brenneman dissenting, the council authorized Mayor Debra Wilson to sign a consultant/client agreement with BG Con-

SEE SIGNAGE, A7

Commissioners learn of increased cost for new software program

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
LINN COUNTY NEWS
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During the Sept. 8 meeting, the Linn County Commissioners heard from Public Works Administrator Jesse Walton regarding the change from PubWorks, which the county was using for the Road and Bridge Department, to gWorks, which purchased the previously used company.

Walton explained that with the transition to gWorks there will be some changes to the program

and provided a cost sheet. Walton noted that with PubWorks the county had already paid \$3,947 for this year, but with gWorks the cost will be \$13,532 per year after the switch over. He added that after looking at several other similar programs this one was cheaper than others and has the added benefit of already having the county information due to having purchased the company the county was using. Walton noted they will be training three county employees on how to use the program with the new changes. Those

employees will then train all other employees using the program.

Joyce Hall noted that as of March 2026, the mapping portion of the PubWorks program will no longer work so migrating over to the new gWorks program is a priority.

Commissioner Jason Hightower noted that the cost sheet shows a one-time fee of \$8,000 included in the \$13,532 for the cost of migrating, or transferring the county over to the gWorks platform and Walton confirmed that, adding that there will be a signature requirement

when the training is set.

In other matters, the commissioners:

– Approved a new three-year contract with Wyandotte County at \$67.50 per day per bed as presented by Sheriff James Akes.

– Approved burial permit 2025-15 for Rural Water District 3 on County Road 1077 for a new water meter

– Opened bids for propane from three vendors. Walton will review and make a recommendation.

– Gave permission for

SEE COST, A7

USD 344 Board approves budget, exceeds RNR

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
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The regularly scheduled meeting of USD 344 was held Monday night with no audience members speaking concerning the proposed budget or intent to exceed revenue neutral.

The board approved taxation of USD 344 through a written notice read to the public and moved into the Local Option Budget that was approved at 33 percent for the 2025/26 school year.

Superintendent Don

Epps explained that the district's assessed valuation went from \$24 million to \$30 million making one mill increase in value to \$30,000; with that increase, the board approved exceeding revenue neutral.

Epps also said the district now has 55 virtual students, up from 45, and the increase may cause the budget to be republished; but he said they are waiting for concrete information from the audit recently performed on the district.

Principal Sarah Conley reported there have been

few issues with the new cell phone policy enacted. She said there have been 14 violations, four of them from the same person who is now on a plan with the office.

She said kids are being trained how to actually turn off their phones rather than place them on silent.

She said high school teachers are taking staff training and learning how to teach students to read. She said high school teachers are not trained in that area like elementary teachers.

Elementary Principal Nathan Meik reported reading strategies are in process.

Epps said on that subject that USD 344 was one of four districts with North-east Arma, Chetopa and St. Paul to earn a literacy coach grant from Pitt State University to help develop teachers and kids.

He said Jocelyn Epps is teaching strategy to teachers under the program.

Epps said the roof installer and manufacturer are arguing about warran-

SEE BUDGET, A7

WEEK AT A GLANCE

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 10**
HELPING HANDS & HEARTS FOOD PANTRY: 9-11 a.m., Parker United Methodist Church
PRESCOTT LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: 5 p.m., Prescott Library
LA CYGNE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION: 6 p.m., Community Building
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: 7-8 p.m., Methodist Church, 751 Main St. Pleasanton. Call to inquire, 620-215-4670

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 11**
GYM/REC ROOM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 6 a.m. – 9 p.m., Faith Chapel - Pleasanton
CHILDREN'S COALITION: 1 p.m., Courthouse Annex, Mound City
FAITH CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD FOOD PANTRY: 3-6 p.m., at church in Pleasanton
PARKER CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 7 p.m., Senior Center

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 12**
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – LILO & STITCH: 6 p.m., Pleasanton's HIVE Library

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 13**
REACH OUT FOOD PANTRY: 9-11 a.m., south door, Prescott City Hall
BLEEDING KANSAS: THE FACTIONS THAT KILLED: 1 p.m., Miami County Historical Museum, Paola
MOVIE NIGHT – HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: 6:30 p.m., La Cygne Library

**MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 15**
PLEASANTON MOMS IN TOUCH PRAYER GROUP: 8:30 a.m., First Christian Church
REACH OUT FOOD PANTRY: 9-11 a.m., Prescott City Hall
LINN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING: 9 a.m., Courthouse Annex, Mound City
MOUND CITY MUNICIPAL COURT: 9 a.m., City Hall
BLUE MOUND CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 6 p.m., City Hall
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA): 7 p.m., Mound City Methodist Church

**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 16**
UPPER ROOM STUDY GROUP: 10 a.m., Mound City United Methodist

Church, Third and Main
PLEASANTON FARMER'S MARKET: 4:30 – 6 p.m., Main Street across from Food Fair
LA CYGNE MUNICIPAL COURT: 6 p.m., Community Building
PWWSD 13 MEETING: 8 p.m. conference room at plant, Jennison Road, Mound City
USD 362 BOARD MEETING: 7 p.m., board office, Prairie View

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 17**
HELPING HANDS & HEARTS FOOD PANTRY: 9-11 a.m., Parker United Methodist Church
HIVE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING: 5:15 p.m., Pleasanton
LA CYGNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 6 p.m., Community Building
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: 7-8 p.m., Methodist Church, 751 Main St. Pleasanton. Call to inquire, 620-215-4670

**SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 4**
HOG ROAST: 5-7 p.m., at Pleasanton Christian Church (in conjunction with Gen. Pleasanton Days)

COMMUNITY CONCERN: Open for food and utility assistance from 9 a.m.- noon, Monday-Saturday, 516 Main St., Mound City.
CATHOLIC CHARITIES ASSISTANCE: Call for an appointment at 913-433-2039

LIBRARIES
Please call your local library for a schedule of daily events or check out their websites at the following:
MOUND CITY LIBRARY: check library website at <http://www.moundcitylibrary.org> for daily events.
PLEASANTON HIVE LIBRARY: check library website at <http://www.pleasantonkslibrary.org> for daily events.
LA CYGNE LIBRARY: check library website at <http://www.lacygnelibrary.org> for daily events.

MUSEUMS
LA CYGNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 | *Hours:* Wed and Sat.: 1 - 5 p.m. Add'l times available when staff are working or by appt.: Call 913-757-4478



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