

# Linn County News

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## Heritage Days a blast



JACKIE TAYLOR | LINN COUNTY NEWS

Cannon blasts supply plenty of excitement for the crowd visiting Mine Creek Battlefield Heritage Day Saturday. Besides cannon blasts, attendees saw a skirmish between Union and Confederate forces, vendors that explained the trades of the day and more.

## Commissioners discuss suggestion to leave EDA position vacant

BY BARBARA PROFFITT  
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During the Sept. 22 meeting, the commissioners discussed a suggestion made by Linn County Commissioner Jason Hightower to not fill the position of Economic Development Association (EDA) Director and review things next year at budget time to see if they wanted to fill it at that time. Hightower began the discussion by asking that his fellow commissioners discuss the possibility of doing away with the EDA position for the time being. Commissioner Jim Johnson asked if he was suggesting doing away with the whole budget for the Economic Development department and Hightower replied that as far as the remainder of this year, if there were extra funds, that money could be transferred to

special equipment like they normally would. “Eliminating the position for the time being,” said Hightower, “and addressing it at budget time next year, whether we’re going to fill it or not, I just don’t think we’ve been getting a lot of bang for our buck.” Hightower continued by stating that the “...actions of the commission have been such that we haven’t followed through on a lot of stuff, so I think it’s just been kind of wasting money.” Hightower then explained that the position seems to have been working in circles and assigned other tasks, so the department head is not truly doing what they are supposed to be doing. Commissioner Alison Hamilton then commented, “Let’s just go back to the job description; first off, I’m not even against what you’re saying about

SEE **EDA, A3**

## USD 362 board hears positive results from spring state tests

*Students score higher than state averages in high-level new-test math quadrants*

BY TONY FURSE  
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Prairie View Unified School District 362’s board of education heard positive results from scoring on last spring’s new state assessment testing at their Sept. 16 monthly meeting. Joseph Hornback, Ed.D., assistant superintendent, presented Sept. 9 available notification results from the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE). He explained that student scores for reading, mathematics and science tests were separated into four categories, similar to the most recent round of assessments. He said those “established performance sub-categories” are limited (lowest scores), basic, proficient (in the previous cycle labeled ‘post-secondary readiness’), and advanced (highest scores). Hornback reported that the district had a higher percentage of students than the state-average for ‘advanced’ math at the third through eighth grade levels and had a higher percentage than the state-average in ‘proficient’ level at the third through eighth grade math, fourth through eighth grade and 10th grade reading, and fifth and eighth grade science. He said that the ‘proficiency’ sub-category serves as the KSDE and district

SEE **USD 362, A2**

## Linn County P&Z Appeals Board denies subdivision appeal

BY JACKIE TAYLOR  
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Following the filing of an appeal on the approval of Sunshine Meadows housing development, the Linn County Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals met Tuesday night and denied the appeal. Appeals Board Chair David Fisher read case number ZA25-01 to the audience and seven other members of the Appeals Board. After going through a chronological listing of actions taken by the Planning and Zoning Commission, and community members who fought the intended subdivision, Fisher called for public comment with Nathan Howard, who owns land across from the intended

property near 1700 Road and 1077 Hwy., speaking for the appeal of three building permits granted by the commissioners. Howard told the Appeals Board that such lots as appealed can’t be built and the building permit should be revoked. He continued that revoking the permits preserves the rural character of the land and the less-than 10-acre ground parcels undermines the comprehensive plan approved by the county. Howard contended that the provisions of land use in the comp plan was “crystal clear” and smaller-than 10-acre lots are a mis-use of the minor plat process. “The shortcut to create less-than 10-acre lots is defective and a dangerous procedure,” said Howard.

He continued that making small land units such as 10-acre parcels will result in a fragmentation of Linn County farm ground and result in more disputes between homeowners and ranchers. He asked that the building permits be revoked. Following Howard, Leo Oppenheimer, attorney for subdivision developer M&M Ventures, Mike Page, asked, “Was this done right? Mike Page has been in the community a long time; serving the community collectively 85 years – it was done right.” He told the board that the comp plan is there to promote the betterment of Linn County; not a strict set of rules. Oppenheimer then addressed the “SNAFU” of

SEE **APPEAL, A2**

## P&Z Director terminated

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At the end of the Sept. 22 meeting the Linn County Commissioners

learned from Public Works Administrator Jesse Walton that he had ended the employment of Planning and Zoning Director Ben Souza effective that date. Following the notifi-

cation from Walton, no further action was taken by the commissioners and no discussion was held regarding the now open position or the termination.

## Parker Days



BARBARA PROFFITT | LINN COUNTY NEWS

Attendees have fun on the bull ride at Parker Days that was held last weekend. See more photos on Pg. A8.

## General Pleasanton Days set for Oct 4-5

BY BARBARA PROFFITT  
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The annual General Pleasanton Days celebration is set for Oct 4-5 this year with activities ranging from Main Street to Dunlap Park. The weekend event will

begin with a fundraiser breakfast for Linn County Rural Fire Station 920 at the Community Center from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Parade lineup begins at 10 a.m. on 6<sup>th</sup> Street near First Christian Church followed by the parade itself at 11 a.m. Registration for the car, truck and tractor show on

Park Street starts immediately following the parade. Registration for the baby contest begins at 12 p.m. in Dunlap Park. Old Fashioned Kids Games begin in the park at 12 p.m., and will rotate every 15 minutes and the Baby Contest starts at

SEE **GDP, A2**

## Sunrise



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DAVID FISHER

Sunrise brings beautiful colors over Centerville last week.

To contact our staff, see our listing at [www.linncountynews.net](http://www.linncountynews.net)



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### DEATHS

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