

# PROPERTY TAXES: KPI SHOWS LINN COUNTY HIGH

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however, in 2022 that spread jumped to 28.4 percentage points. He then showed legislators how increases differ drastically in neighboring counties, pointing out that highest difference in **Linn County** and the neighboring counties of Anderson, Allen and Bourbon. Trabert noted that according to data the Institute had tracked in the time frame between 2021 and 2024, Linn County saw a 66 percent change while Anderson saw a 55.1 percent change and Allen a 34.3 percent change; yet Bourbon showed only 19 percent change. A difference of 47 points between the high

and low end. Trabert pointed out that while variations between neighboring counties are expected, a spread of 47 points seemed very high. Trabert then spoke to the disparities being assessed values and wages, noting that the state average shows a 32 percent jump in assessed valuation but only a 19.5 per cent increase in per capita income and also noted that translates into an assessed value increase of 60 percent more than income. He then pointed out that in Wallace County, in western Kansas, the per capita income declined yet home values jumped nearly 25 percent. Trabert then spoke to the legislators regarding

the public demand for tax relief, explaining that more than 46 percent of homeowners in Kansas think their property taxes are way too high and that 66 percent of Kansans are in favor of a fixed limit on taxable assessed valuations; 46 percent of Kansans are in favor of a three percent fixed limit while 13 percent favor a four percent fixed limit and only seven percent favor a five percent limit. Of the remaining 44 percent, 17 would prefer a rolling average and 18 percent aren't sure. He then stated that 82 percent of registered voters believe those fixed limits should not be increased by local authorities without input from their voters.

## Pleasanton Police Chief disputes budget numbers

BY JACKIE TAYLOR  
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Following a moment of silence after the passing of City Council member Angelina Randall last week, the Pleasanton Council heard from department heads with Police Chief Triston Snyder reacting to numbers read at the last council meeting concerning his budget. Snyder began by telling the three remaining council members of the city that his department responded to 293 calls for service from Sept. 1 through the Sept. 27. He continued and said, "Since the last meeting on the 2024, 2025, and 2026 budget – it's very disheartening – the numbers are all wrong and I have to field calls for wrong numbers." He addressed Councilwoman Rochelle Schreckhise who asked, "How are they wrong?"

He explained her numbers were for expenditures and the 2026 budget is only increased by \$12,600. "Other cities with the same populations have roughly the same numbers and don't field as many calls," said Snyder. "\$174,000 was given back to the general fund. You can't have a city with no law enforcement." Schreckhise asked about a canine officer and Snyder told her there was no money in the budget for a dog, "insurance, training, etc. has to be approved by the council," telling her they would know about a dog if one was requested. Snyder then said the 2024 budget was \$332,000, 2025 was \$460,541 and 2026 was raised by only \$12,000 to \$473,209. "The council approved \$70,000 of stuff they moved into my budget and I have to pay for it with a \$12,000 increase," he said. He explained that the

council moved the Pleasanton Court budget and part of Animal Control into his budget explaining the large increase in money from 2024 to 2025. Schreckhise then asked Snyder why officers take cars home, questioning one officer who lives in Bourbon County. Snyder said, "Every city or county has officers or deputies that take cars home." Later Snyder told Schreckhise that the cost for officers to take a car home would be less than \$1,000 per year. Schreckhise said the Sheriff's Department can come help in the city which Snyder countered, "They can't always come over; they are not always available, which is why I get called out. We had to call for a Bourbon County dog the other day. We have to be able to help ourselves." "I'm asking for the numbers to be accurate," SEE PD BUDGET, A3

## Reaching new heights



Crash Site: View overlooking the final resting place of TWA Flight 260 from the Sandia Peak Tramway.

PHOTO BY ANGELA K. HOLT

Crew with Guides: Snyder uses her drone to capture the group on the morning of the hike up the Domingo Baca trail, which leads to the TWA Flight 260 crash site. The film crew was led by four members of the Albuquerque Mountain Council Search and Rescue Team, who volunteered their time. Left to right: Theresa Baca-Radler (guide), Monique Dodd (guide), Sue Vicory, Duke Pigott (guide), Ginny Campbell, Taylor Snyder (holding drone control), Greg Bunting (guide) and Angela Holt.

## Local all-women film crew climbs high for new project

BY ANGELA K. HOLT  
LINN COUNTY NEWS

When Sue Vicory sends you a text message, asking if you would like to be part of a new project, the only acceptable answer is to say yes. Which is exactly what I did earlier this year, with no other information other than she had a new project, and would I like to come on board. No context, subject matter, nothing. Fast forward a few weeks, and she provides the following information: the subject matter may be outside my comfort zone. I shrugged it off, and said that I would love to work with her on another project. My previous work with Vicory includes the feature film *Original Jayhawker*, a film about the heartbeat of Mound City, and the film short *Cultivating Kindness*, highlighting the Kindness Initiative at Jayhawk Linn last school year.

With positive experiences working with Sue, I wasn't too concerned about saying yes to a third project with her. Then, she gives the kicker. Would I be willing to travel to Albuquerque, N.M.? I

responded that I had never been there, but sure! I've been on a road trip with her before, and had a blast. So, why not? Ah, but wait, there's more. We would need to shoot on location on a mountain. Um...gulp...alrighty then. So begins the story of Vicory's latest project with Heartland Film Productions, LLC. Vicory, is the film's director, Dr. Ginny Campbell is executive producer, Taylor Snyder is director of photography and film editor, and myself as producer and screenwriter. Vicory, Snyder, and myself are all located in Mound City. Campbell, from Leawood, is the individual behind the film's creation. "Working with an all-female crew matters to me," Vicory stated. "After more than two decades of making films, I have been delighted to take on such a meaningful project with my all-female crew. It involves travel, adventure and heartfelt storytelling. Our crew has bonded through a shared purpose as we all learn together the power of story." Snyder, owner of Taylor'd Film Co., has also

worked with Vicory on several previous film and music video projects. "I had no idea what to expect when I agreed to this project," Snyder shared. "I just knew from previous experiences working with Sue, this would be an opportunity I wouldn't want to miss. I am so grateful for the once-in-a-lifetime experience." This project, currently in production, is tentatively titled *A Beautiful Place*, and came about when Campbell discussed with Vicory about a way to honor her (Campbell's) father and maternal grandparents, who lost their lives on Feb. 19, 1955 when their plane, TWA flight 260, crashed into the Sandia Mountains east of Albuquerque. All thirteen passengers and three crew members died. The film is more than about that tragic day, however. What begins as a tragedy ends with those family members who were impacted rising above the ashes of grief. "You have to live your life every day," Campbell said. "Life can change on a dime, through no fault of your own." SEE FILM CREWS, B6

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