

Linn County News

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Pleasanton contracts with engineer for water plant roof

Begins exploration for new back-up water source

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
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After a preliminary walk-through by engineers from BG Consulting, engineer Jason Hoskinson brought a comprehensive plan to the Pleasanton City Council last Tuesday night concerning options to reroof the water plant, build new and seek alternative water sources in the future.

After meeting with the council last week, Hoskinson brought an agreement for professional services to the council and went

through the scope of services, compensation and other matters involved in helping the city deal with the dangerous building now housing the water plant.

The scope of services to repair or replace the roof included design plans of the roof for the entire expanse of the structure, design bids that would go out to contractors, assist the city through the bid phase and deal with KDHE paperwork.

He quoted \$25,000 for the outlined portion of services, giving the city access to engineering services as

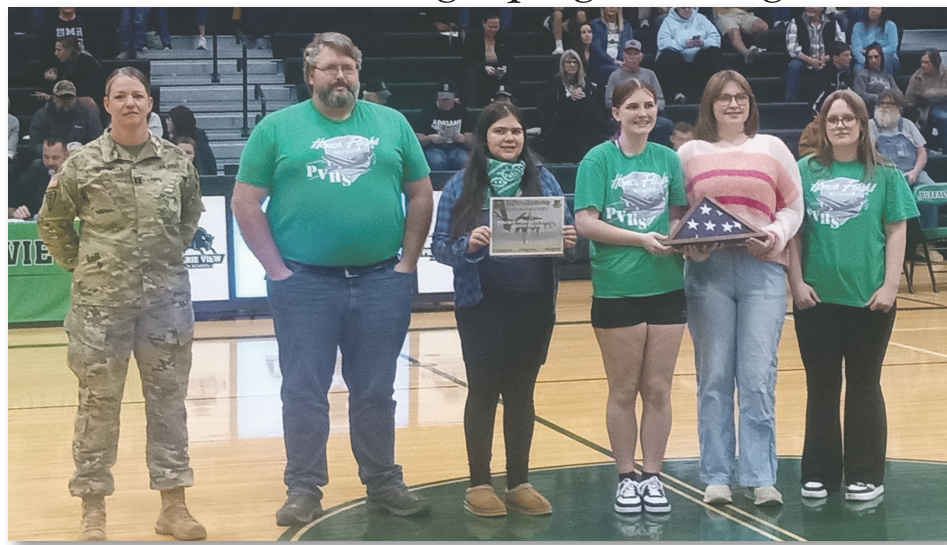
the process proceeds.

Also quoted was \$5,000 to provide the city with a “path to a backup water source,” totaling \$30,000.

Hoskinson gave an alternative of building a new water plant building that would come in around \$5 million and require a 40-year loan. With this option, water customers would look at approximately \$75 to \$88 per month in water bills to help pay-off the loan.

Besides the high cost to replace the building, the city was looking at three years before they could potentially start construction

PVHS Honor Flight program recognized



ADAM HOLT | LINN COUNTY NEWS

The Prairie View Honor Flight accepts a United States flag from U.S. Army Reserve Captain Laura Steenburgen during the Buffalos’ basketball games against Adrian on Feb. 17. Accepting the donated U.S. flag are PV Honor Flight sponsors Corissa Uphoff and Aaron Law along with this year’s Honor Flight Guardians.

“with a roof that is highly compromised.”

In replacing the roof, Hoskinson suggested they

could place structural supports inside the building to hold up the bent, separating center pole of the roof.

Councilman Kenny Stark said, “For the benefit of the city, we don’t have SEE **CONTRACT, A3**

Local Working Group Meeting set

The Linn County Conservation District will be hosting a Local Working Group (LWG) meeting on Monday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m., in conjunction with their regular board meeting, at the Linn County USDA Conference Room, located at 431 Spruce Street, Mound City, KS 66056.

The purpose of this meeting is to gather and make recommendations to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist, as well as other state and local leaders, related to addressing natural resource concerns identified at local level. The recommendations gathered locally, as well as a consolidated report for the entire state of Kansas, will be shared with all interested parties.

“LWGs are important because they provide

recommendations on local and state natural resource priorities and criteria for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation activities and programs. It is critical that the ‘boots on the ground’ have a voice in the process,” said Dan Meyerhoff, Executive Director for the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.

Topics to be covered at the LWG meeting will include:

A review of a resource assessment completed by each Conservation District in the Management Unit.

Identification of local priority resource concerns

Training Needs in the Management Unit

Outreach Opportunities in the Management Unit

Other issues raised by meeting attendees

According to Meyerhoff, the LWG should be diverse SEE **LWG MEETING, A3**

BY BRIAN KING
LINN COUNTY NEWS

The La Cygne City Council held its second regular meeting of the month on Feb. 18. Mayor Debra Wilson began by asking City Clerk Jodi Wade to discuss recent contact with KMGa (Kansas municipal gas agency).

They made contact to review the gas supply agreement and pricing; she also referenced the cold spell in January as pricing is set for the next month in the last four days of the current month. The January

cold spell occurred during this period; however, since the extreme cold spell in 2021 La Cygne has joined Wood River Energy which helps manage energy costs. Prices are locked in so as not to have any unexpected price hikes as before.

Chief Zachary Mathies reported that the Tahoe purchased from Colorado State University was in town and waiting on the new radio so as to be completely outfitted. He reported that unit 302, the 2016 Dodge Ram with 124,000 miles, is at New

Century Dodge (Paola) and has been diagnosed with a failed lifter, resulting in metal debris in the oil. New Century recommended a remanufactured engine with a total cost, labor included, of \$10,643.

The council discussed and directed the chief to have the dealership put the engine back together, as some components had to be removed for inspection and bring the truck back to La Cygne. The diagnosis will be \$900 and the cost to put the engine back together has yet to be finalized. Once back, the

chief will get quotes from local shops for engines and front-end work that is needed on the Ram. After that, the council will decide what to do from there.

Mathies also reported he had received a few applications including interest from one of the current part-time officers, for the open officer position. He will interview Friday and Monday. A community member, Tammy Wheatman, approached the city about a volunteer cleanup day at Oak Lawn Ceme-

SEE **PURCHASE, A2**

La Cygne Council approves property purchase

USD 362 discuss many topics at meeting

BY BRIAN KING
LINN COUNTY NEWS

USD 362 School Board met Feb. 17. After approv-

al of the agenda, minutes and financial statements, a public presentation about after-prom was given.

Lorenza Stolle reported that the plan for after prom was to attend Main Event (Olathe) leaving at 10:30 p.m. and returning at 3:30 a.m. Stolle reported last year that 109 students attended. Stolle then asked the board to cover the cost of buses and drivers for the event.

Later, during general discussion, the board voted unanimously to pay for the buses and drivers. Prom for Prairie View is set for April 11.

Recognition was given to Trevor Smedley, high school agricultural teacher, for receiving the KASE (Kansas Association of Agriculture Education) Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award for 2026. Smedley is in his sixth year of teaching.

In the athletic director report, two students were recognized for sports achievements. Wrestler Shawna Case, class of

2026, acquired 100 career wins. Peyton Hopper scored his 500th career point in basketball. It was also mentioned that seven lady wrestlers qualified for state competition.

In the maintenance report, a leak at the La Cygne Elementary School was discussed. A plan to have roofers recoat a 40’x40’ portion of the roof is in place for this week. The roof will be monitored after, as the exact location of the leak was undeterminable.

A presentation by Shawn Gordon of Gordon CPA (Lawrence) was given concerning the 24-25 financial audit findings. Gordon discussed the audit, stating that no issues were found.

Superintendent Dr. Christine Johnson commended Business Manager/Board Clerk Kylee Capp for the months of work dedicated to submitting all documentation requested by Gordon CPA. The board approved the 24-25 financial audit unanimously. The 26-27 PVMS and

PVHS course description book was presented. Principals from each school presented new proposed electives. PVMS offerings include creative writing, survival skills, and sports officiating and leadership. These would not replace any existing electives, rather adding more opportunities for students. Survival skills will be the same as what life skills is; only more structured.

PVHS offered five new electives, with three falling under career pathways which are in community learning opportunities. Those offerings include work experience in manufacturing, work experience in human services, and work experience in early childhood development. The other two new elective offerings are business law and team sports. The board discussed and unanimously approved all of the new elective requests from both schools.

Superintendent Johnson gave an informative pre- SEE **TOPICS, A3**

Commissioners discuss future of economic development

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
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During the meeting on Monday, Feb. 23, the Linn County Commissioners discussed various aspects of the Economic Development program; County Clerk Chasity Ware noted she had received several queries regarding grant programs previously available through the county.

County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta commented that the county had agreed to continue the grants and loans as long as the county had an Economic Development board and dissolu-

tion of the board would eliminate their grant and loan programs.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton asked if that meant the businesses who are currently using those loans and grants would lose them and asked if there was a list of businesses using them and noted it would be an issue for her if businesses lost their loan or grant. Commissioner Jason Hightower noted he had an issue with that, as well.

Paletta noted, “If the long-term plan is to no longer have an economic development board, it would be reasonable to come up with a long-term

plan.”

“It seems a little unreasonable to sort of abruptly dissolve and leave businesses hanging,” Paletta added.

She further explained that one idea would be to take the chairman up on the recommendation to do a stipend or interim economic development director to tie up loose ends, if the commissioners did not want to continue to have an Economic Development position; with the idea being to either work them selves into a job or out of a job.

“Either the goal is to sort of tie everything up into SEE **FUTURE, A3**

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DEATHS

Joy Dean Young
Larry Wayne Snyder

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Classifieds B5 Public Notices A6-7 Sports B1-2, 4
Opinion A4 Obituaries A5 Week at a Glance A5