

## Commissioners sign settlement agreement with Tanglewood Lakes

BY BARBARA PROFFITT  
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On Monday, March 23, the Linn County Commissioners made a motion to approve and sign a settlement agreement ending litigation between the Board of Linn County Commissioners and Tanglewood Lake Owners Association.

The suit was filed in Linn County District Court following an incident in which lot owners at the local lake community dismantled and removed the gate and key card system. Due to those actions several criminal cases were filed and ultimately dismissed following a court ruling that the roads within the community were public roads. What followed was the filing of the litigation by Tanglewood Lake Owners Association (TLOA) that was settled by agree-



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**Commissioners Jason Hightower, District 1, at right, and Jim Johnson, District 3, at left, signed a settlement agreement on Monday, March 23, that ended the litigation between the county and Tanglewood Lake regarding the roads within the lake community, who owned them, and whose responsibility those roads are.**

ment on Monday.

In that litigation, TLOA sought a ruling that the community is and always has been a private community and that as such the community and its board are responsible for the roads which they also wanted deemed to be part of the private community and therefore private as

well.

The resulting agreement that was signed by the TLOA Board President and five other TLOA board members on March 7, 2026, states that the county, by and through its commissioners would:

- Provide TLOA with a quit claim deed conveying any and all rights, titles

and interests in and to any of the TLOA properties, including but not limited to common properties, streets, roadways and related infrastructure.

- TLOA agrees to take responsibility of and for maintenance of all roads, roadways, streets and other properties.

SEE **AGREEMENT, A2**

## La Cygne Council awards sewer lift bid

BY BRIAN KING  
LINN COUNTY NEWS

The La Cygne City Council held its regular meeting March 18. Mayor Debra Wilson began with the mayor's comments. The town hall meeting is set for April 1, 5-7 p.m. at the library. Advertising has been posted on Facebook. The Easter Egg hunt is set for April 4 at 10 a.m. at the city Community Park. The egg hunt is sponsored by Ray of Hope. Dog Days is set for April 11, 10 a.m. - noon at the city Community Park's enclosed shelter. Sign-ups are available on Facebook and the city's website.

During public comments, Dianne Essex spoke to council in regard to her property at 610 E. Locust St. She stated she had a rent-to-own agreement for the property. That agreement was fulfilled; however, she did not get the quit claim deed

filed with the Linn County Register of Deeds. Essex stated she wanted to demolish the home, but she is unable to get a permit since the property is still in the previous owner's name. Essex stated she had met with an attorney and a title company to have the deed prepared. She stated she should receive it within the next week and file it with the county deeds office. City Attorney Dean stated since Essex has lived at the property for 16 years, it would be okay for her to proceed with applying for a demolition permit prior to the deed being filed with the county.

Chief Mathies presented a job description for the rank of police Sergeant. He explained the necessity of having a full-time officer assigned as Sergeant to serve as the primary supervisor and second in command. During any ab-

SEE **SEWER LIFT, A3**

## Legislative Update

BY STATE SENATOR CARYN TYSON  
MARCH 20, 2026

In the last week of regular session, the Senate debated too many bills to cover here. All the bills can be found at [www.KSLegislature.gov](http://www.KSLegislature.gov). Here are some of the bills that may impact you:

**Banks and other financial institutions** would be allowed to establish a trusted contact that could be contacted if there is suspected fraud.

HB 2591 would also allow suspicious transactions to be delayed for up to 10 business days when the institution has reported the suspected fraud to law enforcement or to the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). There was a serious fraud case in Linn County that involved cryptocurrency and we need this protection. It passed unanimously.

**Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)** would be required to warn users before a transaction occurs. The warning must be in bold letters, "WARNING: CONSUMER FRAUD OFTEN STARTS WITH CONTACT FROM A STRANGER..." Virtual currency kiosks, crypto ATMs, would also be limited on the transaction amount should HB 2515 become law. It passed unanimously.

**Invasion of Privacy** laws are strengthened in HB 2518 by making it clear that violations can involve any kind of image, video or digital record-

ing, including altered or AI-generated content. It significantly increases penalties when young victims are involved. It passed unanimously.

**Property tax appeals at the Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA)** would require county appraisers to use a single-property appraisal that evaluates the specific characteristics of an individual property, rather than relying on mass appraisals that assess groups of properties. It passed 38 to 2. I voted yes.

**Kansas Law Enforcement** and federal immigration authorities' cooperation would be strengthened by Senate Substitute for HB 2372. Sheriffs would be able to detain individuals based on valid ICE detainer requests or warrants. It establishes procedures for detention and release and would help detain criminals who entered the country illegally. The bill passed the Senate on a partisan vote 31 to 9. I voted yes.

**The Crush Transnational Repression in Kansas Act**, created by SB 454, would protect individuals from foreign intimidation and coercion within the state. It targets transnational repression and extortion, where foreign governments attempt to threaten, surveil or control people living in Kansas. The bill increases criminal penalties for offenses like harassment, stalking or threats when tied to these efforts and

SEE **TYSON, A2**

BY JACKIE TAYLOR  
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Many who live in the Pleasanton area may see a new addition to the Pleasanton Police Department – not a human, but a pink-nosed Pitbull named Tank that is the new partner of Officer Kartman Highley.

According to Sector K9, where Tank was acquired for the Pleasanton Police Department, "Together, this new K9 team will help remove illegal narcotics from the streets and inspire a broader message: when breed bias is replaced with belief in potential, anything is possible."

Wesley Keeling, founder and president of SectorK9, explains the program on his website, SectorK9.org, "What began as a story of heartbreak has turned into one of hope, purpose and second chances. K9 Tank was surrendered to the shelter when a volunteer noticed his special drive and potential and contacted Sector K9. This past week, Tank officially completed his transformation from an overlooked rescue dog to a certified single-purpose narcotics detection and tracking K9 in Pleasanton, Kan.— thanks to the dedication of rescuers, donors and the Sector K9 Foundation."

Tank's story continues, "After being surrendered through no fault of his own, Tank waited pa-

## K9 Tank, new addition to the Pleasanton Police Department



JACKIE TAYLOR | LINN COUNTY NEWS

**Pleasanton Police Officer Kartman Highley and his new partner, K9 Officer Tank are ready to serve and protect the community.**

tiently for adoption as his chances dwindled. When time was running out, a compassionate animal advocate recognized his exceptional potential and reached out to Sector K9 Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to transforming police K9s through its Rescue2Resource Program."

Keeling said about the program, "Lots of hard work and dedication has gone into it."

Sector K9 is located in Alvarado, Texas, about 30 minutes south of Dallas. Keeling said Pleasanton Police Chief Tristan Snyder reached out to Keeling about the program after seeing a Facebook post.

Keeling told him they had the perfect fit with K9 Tank and the two parties moved forward with the venture.

Keeling's website explains, "At Sector K9, our mission is to provide free, accurate and reliable training for Police K9s, their handlers and

SEE **K9 TANK, A2**

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



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