

The end!



ADAM HOLT | LINN COUNTY NEWS

Jayhawk Linn graduates throw their caps in the air following graduation that was held Saturday at 10 a.m. Also graduating that day was Pleasanton High School. See photos of both graduations on Pgs. A8 and B8.

Commissioners hire Economic Development Services Director

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
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During the meeting held on Monday, May 11, the Linn County Commissioners entered into a 15-minute executive session for personnel matters for the purposes of interviewing for the Economic Development Services position. Following the session a motion was made to hire Ashlee Allen on a part-time basis as the Economic Development Services Director at a rate of \$2,000. The motion was approved on a 3-0 vote with payment of \$1,000 on the next pay period and the other \$1,000 upon

completion.

Allen, who was a member of the Economic Development Board, will need to resign from that position if she accepts the position of Director.

In other matters, the commissioners:

Heard from interim Linn County Rural Fire Chief Brian Shroyer that following last week's discussion in the meeting regarding ISO ratings he had reached out to ISO and former Chief Randy Hegwald and is in the process of compiling reports and notifications. Shroyer also noted that the department has and does use the porta-tanks and he has reports that shows that.

Heard from Linda Si-

mons, interim Emergency Management Coordinator who noted the presentation by Jacob Lanier with Fox 4 Weather on Monday, May 4 was well attended. She added that he spoke regarding the conditions that led to the tornado outbreak on April 13.

Simons reported she had met with Shroyer, the Linn County Health Department and a representative from Red Cross regarding the Supported Community Readiness program, which is done after a disaster and helps set up the community for the future events. Due to that meeting they are planning to do a Red Cross Sheltering Class in SEE EDA, A3

Mound City hears from McLiney on bond probability

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
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Joey McLiney, McLiney and Co., spoke with the Mound City council during the May 5 meeting about financing options for the proposed utility building at 302 S. 7th Street. It was noted that a utility building can be constructed without a public vote, unlike other municipal facilities. McLiney also noted that multiple financing options are available including leasing, bonding, and restructuring. A proposal was discussed to extend the current General Obligation Bond and incorporate the new building into existing debt. The council will continue additional review and consideration of financing options.

In other matters, the council:
- Tabled the discussion on the 2026 Calendar of Events.
- Tabled the discussion on the acquisition of real property.
- Reviewed two bids received for the renovation of the ballfield concession stand. Council member Shayna Lamb made a motion to accept the bid submitted by Carlos Neuro in the amount of \$4,000, including materials; the motion was seconded and carried on a 5-0 vote. City Clerk, Shelby Murray, will coordinate with Carlos Neuro regarding the city purchasing the materials

due to the city's tax-exempt status.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 608 regarding the 2025 STO and UPOC.
- Approved a credit for water services of \$111.30 for Christine Honn reducing her above average bill to city costs due to a water leak at her home.
- Entered into executive session for personnel matters for 10 minutes. The session was extended by five minutes on a 5-0 vote. Following the sessions, the council approved hiring Thomas McCarty as a summer employee for the Public Works Department at a rate of \$12 per hour.

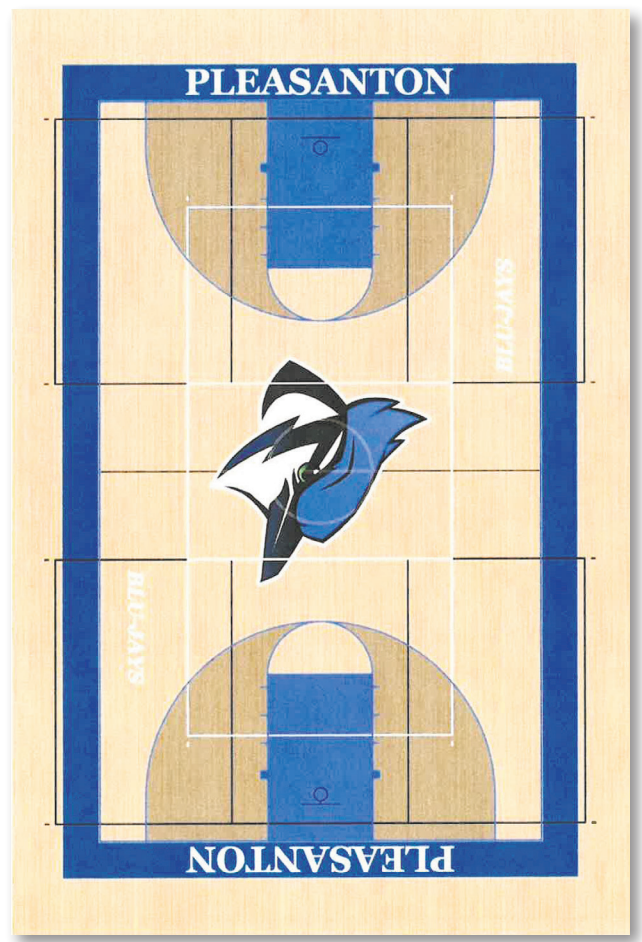
The board of USD 344 met Monday night and saw new renderings of artwork that will adorn the high school gymnasium. Superintendent Don Epps shared drawings and said that namely, there will be one color of blue, rather than five like currently colors the gym.
He said the bleachers, padding, scoreboard and court are all different – his goal is to get all of them the same. The large blue-jay mascot will be central on the court and made of vinyl. Epps said with vinyl, the detail of the mascot will be able to come out making it a truly iconic gym.
The new floor will be sanded and painted for a

total of \$42,990 by Four State Maintenance Supply.

Epps said there was a large crowd to watch the kindergarten graduation; he went on to compliment the senior class on how kind and hard-working they are, and an asset to the community.

He has been involved in an Education Policy Leadership Program for one year and recently returned from a trip to Washington D.C. where they could advocate for local districts through state and federal representatives.

The Pleasanton Elementary School Reading Program was approved 7-0 and will be held in June, four hours per day for three weeks. Students will be picked that may need more help on reading; two teachers will be recruited-SEE GYM FLOOR, A3



Debbie Grigsby-Lynch: Art, Music, and Faith

BY ERIN BOWLEY
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If you walk into Stonetree Coffee & Pottery, you'll see canvases lining the walls; fluid pours, pumpkins, flowers, and



sweeping landscapes. They're beautiful, and you might find yourself wondering who created them. Well, I've got the answer.
Most of the artwork that fills Stonetree comes from Debbie Grigsby-Lynch, an artist with 54 years of on-and-off experience. But she isn't just an artist.
Grisby-Lynch was born in Alabama and raised in Tennessee, where she crossed paths with Johnny Cash, as he was her friend's father. She didn't know then that he was Johnny Cash, the singer/songwriter icon we know

as the "Man in Black."
She first discovered her love for art in the third grade, when she drew a rabbit in art class. She immediately fell in love. It became an escape for her, along with singing. "It's a peaceful, mind-quieting time for myself," she said, describing the feeling she experiences doing both tasks. She later moved to Kansas in 1972 to begin her freshman year at Jayhawk-Linn.
Her talent for art runs in the Grigsby-Lynch family, on both her parent's sides. SEE GRIGSBY-LYNCH, A2

Happy retirement!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

USD 344 held a retirement party for teachers Julie Laver and Hazel Byington last week.

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