

Kindness wins!



Left, Taylor Snyder and Angela Holt, right, hold statuettes with Sue Vicory after winning The Telly Award for their 2025 Cultivating Kindness project.

Cultivating Kindness film crew win Telly Awards

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
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On April 27, local filmmaker and producer, Sue Vicory held a premier for her newest film, Cultivating Kindness, at the Blue Moon Youth Center in Blue Mound. At that time, several community members involved in creating the film, along with all of the USD 346 students who were recognized over the course of this past school year through the Cultivating Kindness initiative in the district, were invited to the premier.

In early June, Vicory received word that the film, along with several crew members had been selected to receive a Telly Award for their

contribution to the creating of the film.

Telly Awards, founded in 1979, recognize excellence in video and television in multiple categories, celebrating the achievements of film makers.

With more than 13,000 entries each year, worldwide, to be selected as a winner is an honor and a privilege.

“This is the 7th Telly Award I’ve received,” said Sue, adding that crew members who also received Telly Awards were Taylor Snyder, Photography, and Angela Holt, Screenwriter.

“This was Taylor’s second Telly and Angela’s first,” continued Vicory, and noted that the film had also been nominated for an Emmy.

Vicory explained that the first film she did was while

living in San Diego, Calif., for a 48-hour film festival.

“That meant we had to write the screenplay, cast it, film it, edit it and submit it – all within 48 hours,” she explained, “that was 10 years ago.”

She added that her third film, created while living in Kansas City, explored the jazz and blues history in the KC area.

“That was my first long film,” she added, “and it took five years to make.”

Since then, she’s relocated to Mound City, but the film-making continues.

“Just when I think I’m done, here comes another subject and the adventure continues,” she said with a laugh.

SEE TELLY AWARDS, B2

Visit our website at www.linncountynews.net for live video links to the Pleasanton Council and Linn County Commissioners meetings!

Commissioners discuss courthouse roof repair bids

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
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During the June 16 meeting, Interim Public Works Administrator Jessie Walton opened a discussion on the bids recently received for the repairs to the roof of the courthouse. The roof was damaged in the May 2024 storms that resulted in flooding across the county and repairs have not yet been undertaken.

In Monday’s discussion, Walton noted that DHI Roofing had sent a bid of \$582,101.99 while Stanfield Roofing came in at \$35,248.78.

Walton added the bid from Stanfield was to be paid with half upon acceptance and the remainder within five days of completion.

Walton noted one bid that referenced the \$10,000 deductible and then going through the insurance and the county for the remaining payment.

Walton asked for direction or comment from the commissioners adding he felt they were pretty even.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton noted that in her opinion, if the county were to go with the bid for the deductible plus whatever the insurance agreed to pay, the

county would net \$4,000 on the project.

Commissioner Jason Hightower basically concurred with that assessment.

Hamilton then voiced concerns regarding the stipulations in the bids matching the insurance adjustments and then noted that she reads it as if the bid was made to repair everything the insurance made adjustments on, including the courthouse roof, the gazebo, the fairgrounds and the annex, for the \$10,000 deductible and the payment from the insurance company.

Hightower asked Walton if that was how he read it and Walton noted he was under the understanding that the bids were only for the courthouse roof.

“I do know there was more damaged, but I thought we were just doing the courthouse roof,” stated Walton.

County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta noted the insurance had made adjustments for the repair or replacement of 35 tiles on the courthouse roof, as well as, 11 hours of preparation work.

Hamilton then read the request for bids as it was published and sent out.

“That’s what was put out there so this bid only includes the courthouse and this bid includes everything that was on this particular insurance

SEE COURTHOUSE ROOF, A3

New fireworks laws in effect in Kansas

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
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With the passage of SB 199 and Governor Laura Kelly signing it into law on April 8, 2025 the laws governing how, where and when fireworks can be sold in Kansas have changed.

The new law allows for seasonal sellers to begin their sales as early as June 20 and concluding on July 7. That change gives seasonal sellers an extra week of sales and the revenue that comes with it.

In addition, the new law allows those businesses that operate from a permanent structure rather than a tent the ability to sell year-round. That said, those retailers with a permanent base of operations that choose to sell year-round must register with the state Fire Marshal’s Office as such.

Bottle rockets and M80s are still prohibited in Kansas. All local rules and regulations according to the county or city of residency apply.

Parker mayor seeks affidavits to file charges

Webber cites lake ruts video footage, loose dogs chasing people indoors

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To assure a method for citing and prosecuting wrongdoings against city ordinance and codes, Parker Mayor Jason Webber is choosing to utilize legal affidavits.

At last Thursday’s monthly council meeting, Webber pointed to Parker’s current lack of a police officer, codes officer or dog catcher to explain that the mayor thus becomes the city’s chief law enforcement official.

He cited video evidence of destruction at the City Lake, along with complaints of loose dogs chasing people back into their homes, as areas where he will ask the city’s legal counsel, Lauber Municipal Law, LLC, Lee’s Summit, Mo., to draw up affidavits.

About vandalism at the lake, specifically the creation of ruts by vehicles on the

property, Webber said the city “has had neighbors there help in getting video footage of trucks.” The mayor said he had spent two hours with James Hazelet, maintenance, looking at the footage.

“All the ruts have doubled our mowing time there,” said Webber about the damage, first broached at last month’s monthly meeting.

Webber said the Linn County Sheriff’s Office has increased patrols at the lake and spoken with suspected perpetrators.

“We told the sheriff’s office we want it fixed to its pre-damage state, and it will be expensive,” said Webber about potential restitution.

He said he has also directed Lauber to check about city ordinances concerning illegal driving through lake property.

“If we don’t have one, they’re going to write one,” Webber said.

Notwithstanding the damage, Webber did mention about “people talking about how nice” Hazelet is main-

SEE FILE CHARGES, A3

Senator Marshall: We Will Strengthen and Preserve Medicaid

Senator Marshall Joins Squawk Box to Discuss the ‘One Big, Beautiful Bill’

Washington – On Wednesday, U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. (R-Kansas), joined Joe Kern and Becky Quick on Squawk Box to discuss President Trump’s ‘One Big, Beautiful Bill (OB BB),’ the preservation of Medicaid for those who need it most, and the ongoing negotiations in the House and Senate.

On how the OB BB presents the largest tax increase in American history:

“...The greatest challenge that America faces is our national debt. But the purpose of this bill is to prevent the largest tax

SEE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL, B2

Linn Valley water line coming



Contractors unload water line and place it near the new water tower on Ullery Road constructed for Linn Valley. Water lines will be connected to transmission lines behind Stainbrook’s in La Cygne to bring La Cygne water to the water tower.

USD 346 board learns of overpayments

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During the June 9 meeting of the USD 346 Board of Education, the board learned the district had been notified of overpayments they received between fiscal years 2016 and 2023.

The overpayments were discovered when Public Consulting Group (PCG) was

reviewing the cost reporting for fiscal year 2023. PCG is involved in the management and claiming of Medicaid reimbursements for school districts related to special education services.

USD 346 Superintendent Shawn Thomas reported to the board that PCG identified that there was an error in the calculation of Medicaid school-based billing reconciliation and upon the review of the previous seven years of

reconciliation data, had found that six of the seven years had errors in the ratio numerators.

According to information provided to the board, those errors affected the USD 346 school district as well as several others in Kansas.

The following summary was given to the board regarding just how the overpayments impacted the district’s reimbursement for fiscal year

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