



Schooler takes 6th at AAU Nationals in Iowa, becomes All-American in process

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PROUDLY SERVING LEAVENWORTH COUNTY | \$1

County lifts moratorium on data center

By Shawn F. Linenberger
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A push to extend a moratorium on data centers in unincorporated areas of Leavenworth County failed Wednesday, Aug. 5, paving the way for a massive data center to be built south of Tonganoxie.

The 90-day moratorium was set to end last week and Commissioners Mike

Stieben proposed an extension of the moratorium on applications through Jan. 31 with a resolution that Mike Smith seconded.

But fellow Commissioners Vanessa Reid, Willie Dove and Jeff Culbertson voted against the measure and it failed, 3-2.

Both Stieben and Smith will be leaving the board in January, as neither sought re-election. Smith instead pursued a run for Lieuten-

ant Governor as running mate with gubernatorial candidate Stacy Rogers, but the team lost in last week's primary as Ty Masterson and Jeff Klemp won the Republican primary for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, respectively. Stieben trailed Lance Neelly by 26 in the Kansas House 42nd race heading into canvassing today.

Culbertson also did not seek re-election, so his term

will end in January.

Stieben and Smith favored extending the moratorium due to three new commissioners joining the governing body in a few months, but the other commissioners opted to let the moratorium expire before the new members join the commission in mid-January.

The next commission meeting is set for 9 a.m. today at the Leavenworth County Courthouse.

Neelly leads Stieben by 26 votes heading into canvass

Reynolds makes history with commission victory

By Shawn F. Linenberger
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Just 26 votes separated incumbent Lance Neelly and challenger Mike Stieben after the Aug. 4 Republican primary for the Kansas House's 42nd District.



Neelly had 1,628 votes and Stieben 1,602 after all precincts had reported. The unofficial results don't include provisional ballots, which will be counted during canvassing by the county commission. That takes place during today's commission meeting, which is set to start at 9 a.m. at the Leavenworth County Courthouse.

Neelly, who has been in office since 2021, defeated Stieben in the 2022 primary by 37 votes (1,237-1,200).

Reynolds wins county commission race, becomes youngest in state to hold that office

Cody Reynolds will be the next Leavenworth County Commissioner for the Fifth District.

Reynolds led the three-person primary with 1,037 votes or 47% of the vote. Tim Kates had 670 (30%) and David Todd 506 (23%).

He reportedly has become the youngest person to be elected commissioner. Reynolds is 26, and with no opponent in the general election, will be the next Fifth District commissioner.

Joining Reynolds will be Sarah George in the Fourth District and Janet Klasinski in the First District. George had 796 votes (58%) to Tony McNeil's 588 (42%). In the First District Klasinski had 665 votes (47%), Robert Owens had 447 (31%) and Lynn Looney 317 (22%).

Leavenworth County will have three women on the board of commissioners for the first time, as George and Klasinski, who have no opponents in the general election will join Vanessa Reid in January.

Reynolds will replace Stieben, who opted not to run again for county commission so he could run for state representative. George will replace Mike Smith, who did not seek re-election so he could run for lieutenant governor alongside Stacy Rogers for Governor in the Republican primary. The bid was unsuccessful, as Ty Masterson and Jeffrey Klemp won the Republican primary for governor and lieutenant governor.

In the Fifth District, Jeff Culbertson also did not seek re-election.

'No' vote wins constitutional amendment question

Kansas will continue its system of selecting Supreme Court judges.

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Welcome, freshmen



Shawn F. Linenberger/Staff

TONGANOXIE HIGH SCHOOL BAND DRUMLINE and cheer squad members welcome ninth-graders Tuesday morning at the THS main entrance. Select grades started classes Tuesday with a half-day. The first full day of classes are today for district students. Kindergarten will have half-days initially, but will move to full days.

USD 464 proposes 1-mill increase

By Shawn F. Linenberger
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Tonganoxie USD 464's proposed budget includes a mill levy increase of about 1 mill.

Superintendent Shawn Poyser announced at Monday's regular meeting that the proposed mill levy is 61.981 for 2026-27. That's up from 60.955 for 2025-26.

The proposed budget is being published twice in The Mirror per state statute. The first publishing is in today's edition on Page 6A. A public hearing will take place at 6:10 p.m. Sept. 14 during the September school board meeting at the USD 464 Administrative Center. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. that day. The proposed budget and other detailed budget information

is available on the district website, tong464.org and at the district office in the Administrative Center.

HVAC project ready to go at TES

Maintenance director Mitch Loomis said the HVAC project at Tonganoxie Elementary School is finished.

The \$5.2 million overhaul took place throughout the summer.

He commended teachers for their work in the quick turnaround, as they were able to get back into their rooms this past Thursday to prepare for the new year, which started Tuesday with portions of the student body beginning the year with a half-day. The first full day of school is today in Tonganoxie.

"For the most part it went

off without a hitch," Loomis said about the project.

SPED director gives update heading into 2026-27 year

Chris Cullnan with the Tonganoxie Basehor-Linwood Special Education Cooperative gave a presentation to the school board about special education goals for the 2026-27 school year

The cooperative has three new teachers in Tonganoxie, an EC teacher and IR teacher at Tonganoxie Elementary School and a CBR teacher at Tonganoxie High School.

Cullnan discussed 2026-27 goals for paraprofessional development and certified staff paraprofessional development.

There will be six monthly para educator emails that

will include a short video and one-page resource guide. Those items will be provided to administrators and special education teachers before they go to the paraprofessionals. The emails are designed for paraprofessional learning and to facilitate additional collaboration between teachers and paras on those topics. There also is beginning of year training and there will be monthly special education teacher paraprofessional collaboration. Cullnan said it would be building driven, but TBLSEC will provide resources to assist in making the most of that collaboration time.

The focus for certified staff professional development will be independence at TES, study skills classes

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Twitter: @Tonganoxie

FYI

Harvesters mobile drop-off is Thursday in Tonganoxie.
BRIEFS, 2A

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