



Tonganoxie Middle School boys basketball gets in gym for summer camp

Candidate forum



Shawn F. Linenberger/Staff

STATE REP. JIM KARLESKINT, R-TONGANOXIE, speaks at the podium during a candidate forum Saturday morning at VFW Park in Tonganoxie. Also pictured are Democrat Sheri Grogan, left, and Republican Tim Johnson, middle, who are running for the 38th District seat in the Kansas House. Karleskint, the incumbent in the 42nd District is running against challenger Lance Neely in the August primary. Neely also was in attendance on the candidate stage for the weekend forum. The primary is Aug. 4, while the general election is Nov. 3. To watch Saturday's forum, visit The Mirror's Facebook page. The newspaper was at the forum and recorded the roughly 90-minute forum on Facebook Live.

THS project requiring extra ground testing as construction work progresses

By Shawn F. Linenberger
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The Tonganoxie school district will look to have a groundbreaking ceremony in October when workers begin construction of the new high school learning center, but officials first may have an issue to address near the site of the future section of the renovated high school.

Erin Merrill with Eskie and Associates gave a project update Monday during the Tonganoxie USD 464 school board's regular July meeting at the Tonganoxie Elementary School library.

Merrill said an odor was detected just west of what was the district office parking lot near U.S. Highway 24-40. Officials are working on additional research deeper in the soil in that area.

Merrill asked for any information on additional history of the property. School Board member Drew Overmiller said he had been looking into more of the property's history and said the Leavenworth County GIS Department had resources that could assist. Crews already have removed the former district office and the building south of the district office where the IT department and some classrooms previously were housed. The underground fuel tanks near the former office already have been removed, so the smell is unrelated to those former tanks.

Otherwise, the timeline has earmarked work on the two-story learning center on the Tonganoxie High School campus getting started in October.

Special meetings

The school board will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday for a special meeting to hear additional project updates for the Tonganoxie High School project.

Another special meeting is planned for July 27 to discuss how the district plans to move forward with the new school year in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion and planning mirrors nationwide discussion among educators and administrators on different scenarios for the new school year as the country continues to deal with the pandemic.

Bothwell, Gratton to continue as president, vice president

The board approved Jim Bothwell as president for 2020-21 and Chris Gratton as vice president.

They already were serving in those positions.

Contract/work agreements, resignations approved

The board approved hires and resignations during the meeting.

Contracts and work agreements were approved for Kirstie Cox, TES second-grade teacher; Angela Trowbridge, THS student council sponsor; and Amy Hoffsett, regular route bus driver.

Resignations were approved for Jordan Welch, TES fourth-grade teacher; Christina Jeannin, THS special education paraprofessional, THS assistant girls basketball coach and THS assistant track coach; and Jacob Miller, TES special education para.

City, district to discuss proposed transportation building

Superintendent Loren Feldkamp said Bothwell has contacted city officials to discuss a proposed transportation building to be constructed near the elementary and middle schools.

Governor to announce fall plan for Kansas schools today

By Conner Mitchell
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The details of the fall semester for K-12 schools in Kansas will become clearer Wednesday, as Gov. Laura Kelly will announce her administration's plan for how the state's children will be

educated amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Lee Norman, secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Randy Watson, the Kansas commissioner of education, will join Kelly at 3 p.m. today to discuss the details of

the plan, the governor's office said.

On March 17, Kelly became the first governor in the country to shutter K-12 schools with the hope of slowing the spread of COVID-19.

As of the most current data, released Friday, Kan-

sas has confirmed more than 18,600 cases of the potentially deadly respiratory virus, and cases have been on a sharp uptick in the state in recent weeks as community restrictions loosened. For more about the plan, visit tonganoxiemirror.com.

Tonganoxie has 5 new COVID-19 cases

By Shawn F. Linenberger
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Tonganoxie has five new COVID-19 cases since Wednesday, July 8, according to Monday reports from the Leavenworth County Health Department.

Tonganoxie had been at 17 confirmed cases, but was

up to 22 as of Monday.

The county was at 17 new positive community cases, an additional community record and one hospital release between the July 8 report and Friday's numbers two days later.

Between Friday and Monday, there were 14 new positive community cases and five additional commu-

nity recoveries. There also were 224 negative results between Friday and Monday; there were 392 negative cases between July 8 and Friday.

LCHD currently is monitoring 72 active cases in the county.

Basehor Field of Dreams canceled activities after two COVID-19 cases were

traced to events there late last month. Field of Dreams is resuming baseball and softball league play today, according to the complex's website.

LCHD now releases COVID-19 statistics Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the same schedule the Kansas Department of Health and Environment uses.

Kansas' guidance for reopening schools includes handwashing, masks, classroom spacing

The Associated Press
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WICHITA — Draft safety guidelines for school this fall from the Kansas State Department of Education say students, teachers and staff should wear masks, but that students up to fifth or sixth grade shouldn't be required to wear them unless local officials mandate it, the Kansas City Star and Wichita Eagle are report-

ing. The draft guidelines about how to reopen schools amid the COVID-19 pandemic were shared with superintendents this past week and are expected to be presented to the State Board of Education this week.

The guidelines say everyone should wash their hands when arriving at school and every hour afterward. Space should be made in classrooms to al-

low social distancing. Locker use is discouraged and staggered transition time between classes is recommended for those schools that choose to use them.

If someone in a school tests positive for COVID-19, school officials could close buildings for several days or close rooms where the infected person studies or works for thorough cleanings.

In communities that have moderate to high

levels of restrictions outside of the school system, the draft suggests districts should consider staggered attendance.

Some districts have begun public discussions about reopening.

The Shawnee Mission school district is considering three scenarios for reopening on Aug. 17: students returning to in-person classes, students staying home and learning online, or a mix of the two.

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FYI

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