

Wrestler Signs

BHS senior Cael Johnson has signed a letter of intent to wrestle for the Baker University Wildcats. **Page 10**



Contact Us

CALL (620) 364-5325
FAX (620) 364-2607
EMAIL
ccrepub@gmail.com

OF MAIL
THE REPUBLICAN
P.O. DRAWER A
BURLINGTON, KS 66839

ONLINE EDITION:
www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices Page 2

- Clifford Hutchinson, 72
- Harold Stubby, 71
- Jack Williams, 78



Average Gas Prices

Week ending Jan. 7, 2020

Kansas Nation

\$2.26/gal. \$2.60/gal

▼ 2.1 cents ▲ 1.9 cents
KansasGasPrices.com

Lake Levels

John Redmond

1 p.m. Tuesday, January 7
Lake Elevation: 1,044.70
Normal: 1,041
Inflow (cfs): 750
Release (cfs): 778

Council Grove

Lake Elevation: 1,274.20
Normal: 1,274
Inflow (cfs): 30
Release (cfs): 104

Marion

Lake Elevation: 1,350.30
Normal: 1,350.5
Inflow (cfs): 0
Release (cfs): 1

Melvern

Lake Elevation: 1,035.79
Normal: 1,036
Inflow (cfs): 100
Release (cfs): 1,000

Pomona

Lake Elevation: 972.73
Normal: 974
Inflow (cfs): 60
Release (cfs): 1,000

Public Notices

Pages 8 and 9

- Estate of Dana A. Gillespie - Notice of Hearing and Notice to Creditors.
- City of Gridley - Advertisement for Sewer System Improvement Bids.
- Coffey County - List of December Warrants.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at
www.kansaspublicnotices.com

Index

Chamber Page 7
Classifieds 9
Community 3,5,6
Courthouse News 9
Deaths 2
Devotional 6
Letters to the Editor 4
Opinion 4
Public Notices 8,9
Record 2
School 5
Sports 10,11
Weather 2

The official newspaper of Coffey County

Burlington, New Strawn, Lebo, Gridley, LeRoy, Waverly, and Hartford

Lebo-Waverly USD 243
Burlington USD 244
LeRoy-Gridley USD 245



Coffey County welcomes first baby of 2020



Linsey Knipp/For The Republican
Novaleigh Skye Fletcher is honored as Coffey County Hospital's first baby of the 2020.

Virginia DuBuke For The Republican

Coffey County Hospital's first baby of 2020 is Novaleigh Skye Fletcher. Novaleigh is the daughter of Savannah and Ben Fletcher, Burlington.

Novaleigh arrived at 6:32 a.m. Jan. 2 weighing 6 pounds, 2 ounces.

She has a proud sister, Paislee. Grandparents are Holly Marlin, Wellsville, and Curt and Tammy Talley, Burlington.

"On behalf of Coffey Health System, we wish baby Novaleigh and her family happiness and good health in 2020," said Michelle McVey, R.N., obstetrics department supervisor.

Sixty-nine babies were delivered at Coffey County Hospital in 2019.

"We are privileged to be entrusted with the delivery of these precious newborns and to share that moment with each family," McVey said.



Virginia DuBuke/For The Republican
Dr. John Shell, Savannah, Ben, and sister Paislee Fletcher share a moment with newborn Novaleigh Skye, Coffey County's first baby of 2020.



Mark Petterson/The Republican
Mallory Over, Hannah Sides and Audrey Daily tell a group of Burlington Elementary School students about the exhibit they put together at the Coffey County Museum. The exhibit theme is 1950s Toys.

Students create museum exhibits

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Visitors to the Coffey County Museum will be able to view seven new exhibits created by students in the Extended Learning program at Burlington Middle School and Lebo Junior High.

The exhibits are: Entertainment Then and Now, Coffey County Railroad History, Johnson's Family Pharmacy, the B-29 and the Korean War, Women of the Frontier, 1950s Toys and NFL History Highlights.

The opening day for the exhibits was Dec. 13. They will be displayed through March.

Teachers Janet Reppert and Ashley Haller coordinated the project with Coffey County Museum Director/Curator Shirley Gorge.

"In September, the kids met with Shirley and Erin (Burdick) and they talked about how to set up a display, what the components were and how to handle artifacts with care," Haller said.

Gorge also explained signage and questions to ask in order to make a good display. "It was really about how to ask a person for something to put on loan or for a donation, finding items to go with a theme and doing the research," Gorge said. She also stressed that signage should tell about the item or artifact and not an attempt to sway anyone with opinion.

Students worked all semester on what Reppert described as a collab-

orative, authentic project. "Working either individually or in small groups, students created exhibits," Reppert said. "They learned more about their assigned topic by creating, designing and building their exhibit."

"Each gallery has its own theme, so the kids were able to decide which gallery they wanted to tailor their exhibit," Gorge said.

"When we first brought the project together, the kids talked about some of the ideas they had ... and discussed some of the components needed for their display," Haller said.

The students set up their exhibits on Dec. 11. Haller said museum staff helped the students decide on layout.

"They were showing them different techniques to set up the artifacts," Haller said. "They have learned a lot as

far as how a museum comes together."

"I was impressed," Gorge said. "It is amazing, not only their hard work, but the amount of research it took and working as a team to put it together and make the display look beautiful."

On Dec. 13, the day the exhibits opened, Burlington Elementary School students went to the museum to view the exhibits. Students responsible for each exhibit also gave a brief oral presentation about their exhibit.

1950s Toys

(Created by Audrey Daily, Mallory Over and Hannah Sides)

Many of the artifacts in this exhibit are toys that belonged to their grandparents. The toys include a Martha

See **Museum**, Page 12



Mark Petterson/The Republican
Artifacts in the 1950s Toys exhibit include a doll, Teddy bear, Tinkertoys and Parcheesi game.

COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

Board claims janitorial staff

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Coffey County Commissioners on Monday decided to place the supervision of the courthouse janitorial and maintenance staff under the supervision of the board of county commissioners. For many years, the county clerk supervised the four employees.

The topic was not an item on the meeting agenda, which is prepared by County Clerk Angie Kirchner. Commissioner Tom Hugunin made the motion near the end of the meeting during what commissioners call round table, where it is possible for any topic to surface.

"As far as I am concerned, all the properties the county owns are the responsibility of the county commission," Hugunin said. He said he checked with several other counties where the janitorial and maintenance staff falls under the direction of the county commission.

"Angie has a lot on her plate, I think if we took it back to us, it would possibly help with her situation," Hugunin said.

"Have I ever said that I am unable to take care of that?" Kirchner asked.

"No," Hugunin replied.

"I would like to know where this came from?" asked Commissioner Bob Saueressig. "We haven't discussed it and all at once we are making a motion."

"We can discuss it now," Hugunin said.

"Is it not working the way it is being done?" Saueressig asked.

"It's a new year, she has a lot on her plate, and the election is coming up," Hugunin said.

"I can see where it might reduce the stress level because she does a lot of different jobs," Commissioner Fred Rowley said.

Hugunin said he read the county clerk's job description and indicated it involves many duties.

"I don't agree that we have one county commissioner tell our employees what to do and what not to do," Saueressig said. "I don't know what is going on. I don't think what has been happening is not working. As commissioner, I don't want to be the manager of a janitor."

"How many people do we pay to clean other facilities?" asked Commissioner Cody Haddock. "We have a lot of people we pay to work a couple hours a week ... maybe we need a janitorial crew ... some uniformity."

"I don't think you have to tell them what to do. They know what they have to do," Hugunin said. "It's just they would have someone to go to in case they have an issue."

"When have they not been able to come to me?" asked Kirchner. "I constantly communicate with them. I don't understand what is going on here, really ... the head janitor reports to me, the other janitors report to me and Barb reports to me."

"They all report to you individually?" asked Chairman Don Meats.

"Yeah, anytime they need to," Kirchner replied. "They have been doing their job for many, many years and it has been running fine. I am just kind of perplexed as to what is going on with this."

"I guess my concern is, if something comes up Thursday and the janitor needs to know something, who are they going to get hold of?" Saueressig asked.

County Counselor Wade Bowie II said having a commissioner as a point of contact creates its own dilemma. "You potentially need to have a separate internal department head who would have decision-making capacity as in other departments," he said. "That may be something that could be brought up during the salary study/audit ... maybe get more information from other counties."

Hugunin said he contacted two counties. One county appointed a commissioner to be a contact.

Kirchner said it is common in smaller counties, like Coffey County, for the clerk to be in charge of maintenance and janitorial.

Hugunin said the other county he contacted had public works in charge.

Meats reminded the board there was a motion on the floor. He asked for a second, which didn't come after an awkwardly long silence.

See **County**, Page 5