

County

Continued from Page 1

"If we were to be in agreement on this issue, I would be more in favor of it being an independent department," Rowley said.

"To me that would be the best direction to go," Meats agreed. Saueressig didn't understand why commissioners planned to spend money on a salary study and audit, yet they want to make this change. "If we are spending all of this money, why don't we wait on the recommendation of the audit," he said. "I am not in favor of jumping into this just because someone wants to do it."

"I was going to recommend we put a freeze on things, even cost of living, until we get this salary study done," Hugunin said, acknowledging the study process has dragged on for eight months. "I don't see anything wrong with making a decision and move. It can be its own department, whatever ... we are in charge of properties belonging to the county."

"I don't think Tom's suggestion was an indication that things are not working now," Rowley said. "I think the motivation we need to relieve the clerk of extra duties. But, that is up to all of us."

"If I felt like I was overwhelmed and I came to you, I would understand, but no one has even talked to me about this," Kirchner said. "I don't understand."

Once again, Meats asked for a second to the motion. After a long silence he said he had visited with some employees. "... based on some discussion I have had, I will second the motion," he said.

Saueressig recalled he had made a motion earlier in the year for an appointment to the hospital board. "There was no second and it died," he said. "On this motion, you have been begging for a second to the motion."

On a 4-1 vote, the motion passed to vote the supervision of the janitorial and maintenance staff under the supervision of the commission.

Meats directed Hugunin to meet with the four individuals about the decision.

Kirchner asked about who should handle the courthouse general fund for janitorial and maintenance, which she would typically sign off on. There was no immediate answer.

"We should have worked all of this out before we jumped in and made a decision," Saueressig said.

Chamber Director

Commissioners invited Coffey County Chamber of Commerce Director JoAnn Harritos to talk about the Chamber, economic development and ideas she has to promote Coffey County.

Harritos has been the Chamber director for over a year, coming to Coffey County from Ohio. "I followed my grandsons here and fell in love with the area," she said. "Coming here as an outsider I think is a good thing."

Harritos has 35 years of marketing experience. She admits most of her ideas are marketing ideas.

She has been listening to what people are saying. "We are never going to be an Emporia," she said. "We are Coffey County. We need to focus on what we have, first ... (people) are not coming here for Walmart, they are coming here to get away from the big city."

Harritos said fishing is big in Coffey County and Burlington has the Catfish Capital designation. On the Chamber's website, Harritos wants to focus more on tourism.

As far as business, Harritos said a lot of people think you need a Wolf Creek. "I think you need more small businesses," she said.

Harritos presented commissioners a copy of the Chamber's 2019 Year in Review, which is printed on the Chamber Page on page 7.

With the county's economic development director position open, an idea surfaced about possibly having the Chamber director be involved in economic development.

Harritos said she really doesn't have an economic development background.

"A big part of economic development is selling the county ... you can do that," Meats said. "My first impression of you is very positive."

Interim Economic Development Director Ronda Truelove said a previous E.D. director thought it would be a good idea to direct all tourism issues to the Chamber of Commerce.

Harritos had no problem with that thought. "Tourism

is going to help my Chamber members," she said.

No matter the outcome, commissioners believed the county's economic development director and Chamber of Commerce director needs to continue working together.

Courthouse Security

Undersheriff Mike Roney confirmed ALICE Training for county employees will take place Wednesday, Jan. 15. ALICE is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. The Coffey County Courthouse will close at noon that day for the training, which will also involve highway department and noxious weed staff. The county treasurer's office will close at 11:30 a.m.

Commissioners met in a 10-minute executive session to discuss security measures related to the courthouse, which is a public building. Also present for the executive session were County Counselor Wade Bowie II, Undersheriff Mike Roney and Emergency Management Manager Russel Stuke. No action was taken upon return to open session.

Emergency Plan

County Engineer Wayne Blackburn, Wolf Creek representative Matt Dekat and Coffey County Emergency Management Director Russel Stuke provided additional information regarding the county's responsibility to provide manpower for Wolf Creek's emergency plan.

"We don't have a specific number for road and bridge in our plan ... it is more about functions," Dekat said. "If you can perform the functions with less than 52 people, that is fine ... if there is a problem, we will have a problem with FEMA."

Blackburn said each one of our 52 employees is assigned to a task with several performing more than one task. Even with 52 employees, he said it doesn't take into account vacations and other absences, which amounts to about a 10 percent absence on any given day.

"There is no magic number," Stuke said. "I like the number 52."

"You have proven it at 52 through several FEMA evaluations," Dekat said.

Saueressig believes the county can fulfill its requirements with less than 52 employees. Although he said, "I want to do whatever we need to do for Wolf Creek."

Stuke said two tasks performed by road and bridge employees during an emergency would be notifying people with special needs who live in the county and decontaminating emergency workers throughout the event. The county has just over 100 volunteer firefighters who are tasked with notifying people with special needs within the cities.

"We reduced (our workforce) from 61 down to 52 and that seems to be the number where we need to be," Blackburn said.

Later in the meeting, Stuke

returned with a list of Wolf Creek related tasks to be performed by road and bridge.

County Engineer

Blackburn recommended commissioners approve the 2020 Construction Project Plan, which he presented at the Dec. 30 regular meeting. After some discussion, commissioners approved the plan.

Also carried over from the last regular meeting, commissioners approved Blackburn's request to advertise and hire a full-time truck driver, which will fill a vacant position due to retirement. The position first will be advertised in-house.

Blackburn said county crews are still mowing back rights of way and they are working to finish the guardrail on 22nd Road, from Juneberry to Kafir roads. He said this week it is possible county crews may move the storage containers from Wolf Creek to the New Strawn Fire Station.

Blackburn told commissioners all the communities in Coffey County support the idea of community planning. He said it was a tie as to which engineer consultant they preferred, either Cook Platt Strobel (CFS) or BG Consultants.

Commissioners chose CFS to be the engineering firm for the Community Planning Program. Blackburn will contact CFS and a contract will be drafted for commission approval. Blackburn expects it will take a year before documentation from community meetings will be compiled. Communities choosing to move forward with any project will be able to choose any engineering firm they wish for the project.

Coffey County Landfill totals were presented for the month of December as well as totals for 2019. For December, the following totals were reported at the landfill: solid waste - 436.29 tons, construction debris - 206.84 tons, special waste - 32.54 tons, metal - 3.11 tons, tree limbs - 0.12 tons, appliances - 5 items, car tires 36, truck tires - 7, equipment tires - 18.

The following totals were reported at the landfill for 2019: solid waste - 7,133.20 tons, construction debris - 4,881.74 tons, special waste - 980.78 tons, metal - 101.28 tons, tree limbs - 130.66 tons, appliances - 109 items, car tires 872, truck tires - 164, equipment tires - 39, out-of-county processed tires - 313.25 tons. The total to cell was 8,113.98 tons, which was just over 1,200 tons more than the 6,911.59 tons recorded in 2018.

Ongoing Litigation

Commissioners entered into two 15-minute executive sessions using the attorney-client relationship exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act for consultation with County Counselor Bowie, Insurance Attorney David Seely by phone, and Coffey County Treasurer Karen Maley to discuss ongoing county litigation.

Miscellaneous

Commissioners approved an

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Pieces & Patches Quilt Guild

Terrie Gifford
Club secretary

The Pieces & Patches Quilt Guild was called to order 9:30 a.m. Dec. 19 by President Mary Parrott at the Anderson County Extension office. Roll call was answered by 27 members and Barb Merry was our guest.

The meeting was adjourned so the club could hold its Christmas brunch. Judy Stuke read "The Quilter's Blessings" and said grace.

The meeting reconvened at 10:05. Lynda Feuerborn gave the treasurer's report.

Jackie Gardner reminded everyone that Vicky Beasley, The Scrappy Farmer, will present her program "The Beauty of Scrap Quilting" at the Jan. 23 meeting.

Shirley Allen, Terrie Gifford, Donna Sutton, Ruth Theis and Lynn Wawrzewski showed their December "All Wrapped Up" and/or "Peppermint Spin Runners" for block of the month. Ruth and Lynn won the prize drawing.

Bonnie Deiter reported that she gave five of the club's HALOS quilts to the Modlin family who lost their home to a fire. She is requesting more quilts to restore her stash for future needs. They should be at least 4' x 6' with pillowcase.

Last year's secret sisters were revealed with Christmas cards during the brunch. Bonnie Deiter conducted the new drawing for secret sisters

For show and tell, 13 members showed 20 items, with show and tell door prizes won by Jeanette Gadelman, Shirley Allen and Kathy Zimm-

erman.

Before adjourning the meeting, Mary Parrott gave away three door prizes she bought at "Sticks & Weeds" craft shop in LeRoy. Jeanette Gadelman won a trio of wooden Christmas trees and Shirley Allen and Kathy Zimmerman each won crafted snowman hats.

Vickie Hurt read a story where each time she read the word "left" or "right" members passed their fat quarter to the corresponding person. She had everyone in stitches.

Blue Ribbon 4-H

Zane Edelman
Club reporter

The December monthly meeting of the Blue Ribbon 4-H Club was called to order by President Sarah Sergeant Dec. 8 at the Lebo United Methodist Church. Kohlton and Maggie Shoemaker led the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge. Members present answered the roll call by naming their favorite Christmas songs.

Secretary DeeAnna Freund read the November meeting minutes. Treasurer Lauren Williams presented a report. Leader Karen Sergeant handed out program books. Song leaders were Isaac, Jesse and Caleb Durst who led the club in singing "Jingle Bells."

For recreation, the club played Candy Cane Relay Race, led by Evan Combes and Marshall Pendlay.

The meeting was adjourned with Jesse Durst and refreshments were provided by the Darbyshire and Williams families. Members made Santa and Mrs. Claus crafts after the meeting.

agreement between ComplianceOne, Inc. and Coffey County for drug and alcohol testing and/or Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Clearinghouse Services. This agreement will run for a two-year primary term beginning Jan. 1. Administrative Assistant Donna Berland explained some changes regarding CDL.

Interim Economic Development Director Ronda Truelove presented Resolution No. 847A for approval, which authorizes participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone student loan repayment program. The county has finished its previous obligation to the program; however, they approved the resolution to make it possible for Coffey County businesses to participate in the program. Truelove also passed out packets to commissioners containing economic development director applications.

Hugunin reminded commissioners that state statutes give commissioners the power to contract for the protection and promotion of public health and welfare. "I know a lot of people don't agree with this, but I go back to helping the housing authority clean up properties for health and welfare as well as economic development. I wish you would keep an open mind on that," he said.

Hugunin also raised a concern about signing a voucher last week for an individual shorted \$1 on a pay voucher to eat lunch at the Olive Garden. Hugunin suggested commissioners consider adopting a maximum amount the county will pay for meals and possibly lodging. He suggested that the money saved by establishing a maximum amount could be used by the housing authority to clean up properties.

Commissioners will attend a Legislative discussion Friday morning in the basement meeting room. The next regular meeting will be 9 a.m. Monday in Room 201 of the Coffey County Courthouse. The agenda includes (9:05) county attorney - staffing, (9:20) emergency management - monthly report, (9:40) county engineer - weekly report, and (10) Amanda Cunningham - Crosswinds year-end review.

BHS Class of 2019 scores above state, nation on ACT

BURLINGTON — Burlington High School recently received ACT testing results for the 2019 graduating class. The results show that BHS seniors performed, on average, better than Kansas as a whole and better than the nation.

A total of 64 BHS students in the Class of 2019 took the ACT test. BHS scored higher than the state and national averages in English, math, reading, science and the overall composite score.

"These scores are a reflection on our staff and students throughout the entire school district," said Craig Marshall, Burlington USD 244 Superintendent. "The strong educational foundation at BES and BMS for our students helps them prepare for

success at BHS. Even though we don't focus specifically on test scores in our district, our students perform well on many different assessments."

"USD 244 continues to be an exemplary school district due to the collective efforts of everyone involved," said Stacy Reed, Burlington High School Principal. "Congratulations to all staff and students on a job well done."

In English, the BHS Class of 2019 averaged a score of 21.3, while the state average was 20.5 and the national average 20.1. BHS students averaged a 21.7 in math, in which the state average was 20.7 and the national average 20.4. In reading, BHS students averaged a 22.0 and the state and national averages were 21.8 and 21.2, respectively. For the overall composite score, BHS students averaged a 21.9, while the state average came in at 21.2 and the national average at 20.7.

Named to Washburn academic lists

TOPEKA — Washburn University has announced its president's list and dean's list honorees for the fall 2019 semester. To qualify for the president's list, a student must complete at least 12 hours of graded credits and earn a semester grade point average of 4.0. To qualify for the dean's list, a student must be enrolled in 12 hours of graded credits and earn a semester grade point average of 3.4 to 3.99.

Students from the Coffey County area being named to the president's list are Laura Cheever, Gridley, and Marissa Luney, LeRoy.

Students being named to the dean's list are Jessica Siebenaler, Waverly, and Kirsten Oswald, Lebo.

Washburn University is proud of these students and their commitment to excellence.

Continued from Page 4

of the Chinese government toward their Five Principles today:

"In the new era today, the spirit of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, instead of being outdated, remains as relevant as ever; its significance, rather than diminishing, remains as important as ever; and its role, rather than being weakened, has continued to grow."

This recent research showing that a country must evolve its own cultural values and move toward its own version of better government based on its own unique history confirms the Chinese policy of helping other countries economically and not interfering otherwise. This new research does not support the American policy of trying to impose democracy by military might.

COFFEY COUNTY

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

REACH OVER 3,000 HOMES A WEEK! - CALL (620) 364-5325, EXT. 106

<h3 style="margin: 0;">AUTOMOTIVE</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">THOMSON BRAKE AND ALIGNMENT LLC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2104 W. 6th Ave. • Emporia (620) 342-3823</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">(620) 366-3430 (620) 366-3436 Chris Britain Don Britain</p> </div>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">EDUCATION</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Allen COMMUNITY COLLEGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.allenc.edu</p> </div>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">HOME IMPROVEMENT</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">MILLER Excavating</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Septic Systems Lagoons Building Pads Water Lines/Repairs Top Soil Available! Final Grade Dirt Work Commercial/Residential</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Grant Miller 785-433-1315</p> </div>
<h3 style="margin: 0;">CELL PHONES</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">U.S. Cellular</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">AUTHORIZED AGENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">401 Garretton St. • Burlington (620) 364-1905</p> </div>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">FURNITURE</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">BAUMAN'S CARPET & FURNITURE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FREE Delivery w/ purchase of \$599 & up! (within 100 mile radius) 805 N Maple, Garnett • (785) 448-3216</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Promote your business to over 6,700 potential customers!</p> </div>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!</h3>
<h3 style="margin: 0;">CONCRETE</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Shawn Stoltzfus</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Specializing in concrete flatwork</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">LS FLATWORK, LLC</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">GARNETT, KANSAS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Stamped & colored concrete lsflatwork09@gmail.com 717-666-9444 f LS Flatwork LLC</p> </div>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">HEALTH</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Life Care Center of Burlington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memory Care Unit - Skilled Nursing - Accepts most insurances <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">601 Cross St. • Burlington (620) 364-2117 www.lifecarecenterofburlington.com</p> </div>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">INSURANCE</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">CALL TODAY TO LEARN HOW I CAN MAKE IT EASY TO PROTECT YOUR HOME, FAMILY, FARM AND FUTURE.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Larry R. Gleue LUTCF (620) 364-5341</p> </div>
<h3 style="margin: 0;">THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS!</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Contact Lacey at The Coffey County Republican (620) 364-5325 ext. 106</p> </div>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Service with a smile!</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New patients welcome • Preventive Dentistry <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Rick D. Smith, D.D.S. 402 Main St. • Gridley, KS (620) 836-2015</p> </div>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">STORAGE</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">ROCKY ACRE BUILDINGS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">FOR SALE OR RENT-TO-OWN</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">MANY OPTIONS AVAILABLE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">CALL (785) 806-3037 FOR DETAILS</p> </div>