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ONLINE EDITION:
www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices

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- Barbara Newman, 84
- John Wayne Norman, 87



Average Gas Prices

Week ending Jan. 14, 2020

Kansas	Nation
\$2.28/gal.	\$2.58/gal

▼ 0.2 cents ▼ 2.7 cents
KansasGasPrices.com

Lake Levels

John Redmond

10a.m. Tuesday, January 14
Lake Elevation: 1044.07
Normal: 1041
Inflow (cfs): 2,097
Release (cfs): 3,957

Public Notices

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- Coffey County - Resolution 847-A, Authorizing Participation in ROZ Student Loan Repayment Program.
- Estate of Glenda K. Jones - Notice to Creditors.
- RJ Energy LLC - Notice of Filing Application
- City of New Strawn - Treasurer's Annual Report.
- U.S. Cellular Corporation - Legal Notice.
- City of Gridley - Ordinance 330, Approving Sewer System Cost Estimates.
- Upper Verdigris Watershed Joint District No. 24 - Notice of Annual Meeting.
- Coffey County - Resolution 731-Oa, Transferring Funds to the Coffey County Equipment Reserve Fund.
- Coffey County - Resolution 816-Fa, Transferring Funds to the Risk Management Reserve Fund.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at www.kansaspublicnotices.com

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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



Winter Storm Isaiah brings ice, snow

Katie McMurray
Reporter

The end of the first full week of January brought a round of winter weather that left the area covered in snow after the first winter storm of 2020 moved through.

The storm, called Winter Storm Isaiah, was brewing for several days before it impacted Kansas. Ice and snow, as well as rain, were in the forecast well ahead of the storm. A winter storm watch was issued Thursday and in the early hours of Friday morning, it was upgraded to a winter storm warning due to the expectation of accumulating snow.

Isaiah impacted the area in two rounds. Rain and thunderstorms began overnight Thursday and the rainy weather continued through much of the day Friday, transitioning in the afternoon and evening hours to freezing rain, which coated the area in a thin sheet of ice. In the later evening hours Friday, precipitation tapered off and there was a lull in the storm. However, Isaiah wasn't finished.

Early Saturday morning, the storm's second punch arrived in the form of snow. By the time the snowfall ended, multiple inches of snow were covering the ground and multiple school activities had been affected.

The likelihood of the wintry weather Friday evening began to impact ac-



Frost painted this wintry landscape on the Old Mill Road in Burlington, which was captured in a photograph by Burlington resident Gene Merry Monday morning. Much of the snow had melted by Monday afternoon as temperatures reached around 50 degrees.

tivities well ahead of the arrival of the precipitation, as Burlington and Lebo high schools took action on Thursday to move up high school basketball game times for Friday night and BHS scheduled its Thespian students to return early from the State Thespian Confer-

ence in Wichita in order to avoid the threat of icy roads. However, icing began to occur earlier than expected Friday and more than just the BHS Thespians' return and the BHS and LHS basketball game times were affected as a result. High school basketball games

for all five area high schools were postponed and Lebo-Waverly USD 243 dismissed classes early on Friday. With the winter weather continuing into Saturday, the Burlington Invitational

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COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

County attorney requests private space, more help Board rescinds motion

Mark Petterson
Managing Editor

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Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Coffey County Commissioners faced a full agenda Monday morning, highlighted by a request to consider more staffing and a private victim area for the county attorney's office and employee concerns related to a commission decision last week to remove janitorial and maintenance oversight from the county clerk.

First, commissioners reorganized for the new year by approving Cody Haddock as the chairman and Tom Huginin as vice chairman. Commissioner Don Meats, who served as chairman during 2019, thought the commission accomplished a lot during the year. He thanked everyone for their support while he was chairman. Commissioners Bob Saueressig and Fred Rowley were also present.

On a typical Monday morning, Wade Bowie II serves as county counselor for the Board of Coffey County Commissioners, which is an appointed position. He also serves Coffey County as the elected county attorney, prosecuting criminal cases in district court.

In his role as county attorney, Bowie asked commissioners to consider several requests supported by his staff, Anita Kirchner and Lori Breshears.

One request is for a private room within the county attorney's office and the other request is for an additional part-time or full-time employee to help with the additional workload.

In support of the private room, Bowie used an example of meeting with a sexual assault victim. "Anybody giving a victim impact statement, to have them have to sit exposed to the public is a disservice to that victim," Bowie said. "They need to have a space where they feel safe."

Lori Breshears, the victim witness coordinator, said she does not have an office or a space to meet with victims. "We are sitting out in the open ... no privacy in speaking with victims," she said. "We need a place to have a confidential talk."

Bowie read excerpts from established victim's rights. "It is important for the victim to be treated throughout the criminal justice process with fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy," he said. "Second, is the reasonable protection from the accused, including having a waiting area separate from the defendant and defendant's relatives and witnesses."

"I don't know what the answer is," Bowie said. "I know the office in its

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BURLINGTON — Coffey County Commissioners on Monday reversed direction on a 4-1 decision that took away the county clerk's supervision of courthouse janitorial and maintenance staff.

The decision was made after statements from County Clerk Angie Kirchner's staff and lengthy discussion initiated by Coffey County Sheriff Randy Rogers about the lack of thought that went into last week's decision. However, commissioners plan to further discuss the issue at their next regular meeting.

Specifically, Commissioner Don Meats moved, seconded by Commissioner Bob Saueressig, to rescind the Jan. 6 motion to put the supervision of janitorial and the maintenance staff under the direct supervision of the commission and to place the topic on the meeting agenda for discussion on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Saueressig was the only commissioner to oppose the motion last week. On Monday, all commissioners favored rescinding the motion.

During the first half of the meeting Monday, Kirchner's staff asked to address commissioners. The county clerk's staff is made up of Chief Deputy Jackie Hawley, Payroll Benefits Coordinator Denise Humlicek, Budgetary Accounting Coordinator Jessica Hammond and Tax Levy Clerk Teri Seaton.

"I did not ask them to do this. They wanted to speak with you," Kirchner said.

"We work with Angie every single day," Humlicek said. "We know what she does and we know she has been available to this county 24/7 365 days a year. If you guys don't think we support her, you're wrong. She is a good county clerk. What happened to her last week was awful. She has kept this building and these grounds immaculate. She has (run) the elections with integrity. She has kept the budget done precisely. What was done to her was wrong. To say we don't support her is wrong. We are behind her and we work hard every day for her."

Humlicek told commissioners the county clerk's office received many phone calls after their decision last week. "They are not upset with us, they are upset with you," she said. "They are mad."

"I agree entirely with Denise. I have worked with Angie for many, many years," Hawley said. "She has done some wonderful things for this county. She has saved the county a tremendous amount of money with the elections. She programs (the machines). We have an excellent county clerk."

"I am very proud how she handled this," Seaton said.

"If you go back and look at that tape, she handled what you did to her with

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Elected officials met Friday morning at the Coffey County Courthouse to discuss state and federal issues that could affect constituents in 2020. At left, State Representative Eric Smith (76th District) and State Senator Bruce Givens (14th District) discuss issues that included Medicaid expansion, transportation, judicial appointments, life amendment, red flag laws, legalization of marijuana, prison bed space, mental health, eliminating the grocery tax and workers compensation cap. At right, Alex Richard represented U.S. Senator Jerry Moran and Whitney Tempel represented Congressman Steve Watkins in discussing federal issues. Those attending the legislative update were locally elected city and county officials, county department heads, school and hospital officials. Coffey County hosts the event annually.

Mark Petterson/The Republican

BURLINGTON USD 244

New officers, administrator contracts renewed

Katie McMurray
Reporter

BURLINGTON — Matters relating to administration and board leadership headlined the regular monthly meeting of the Burlington USD 244 Board of Education Monday night. The board elected board officers and also handled renewals of seven administrators.

The board officers include a president and vice president. Board mem-

ber Michael Thorp nominated board member Monique Hart for president and board member James Higgins for vice president. With no other nominations, the board approved the two. Previously, board member Shane Fejfar was president and Hart was vice president.

The board held one 10-minute executive session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation with only the board present. Later in the meeting, a motion

was approved that renews Craig Marshall's contract as superintendent for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. In two more motions, the board approved contracts with Stacy Reed as BHS principal, Dave Watkins as BHS assistant principal/activities director, Matthew Spring as BMS principal and Darla Long as BES principal and with Lindsey Graf as special education director, Doug Vander Linden as technology director and Craig Kuhlmann

as assistant technology director, all for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. All three motions were approved by unanimous votes.

Six board members were present, Hart, Higgins, Thorp, Selena King, Lucas Allen and Stacy Augustyn. This was Augustyn's first meeting on the board following her election to position one in November, and she said she

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