

State Tourney

The Lebo Wolves and Burlington Wildcats represented Coffey County at the Class 1A and Class 3A State Basketball Tournaments. Pages 11,13,14



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ONLINE EDITION: www.coffeycountyonline.com

Average Gas Prices

Week ending March 17, 2020 Kansas Nation \$1.96/gal. \$2.18/gal

Lake Levels

John Redmond 10a.m. Tuesday, March 17 Lake Elevation: 1,043.8 Normal: 1,041 Inflow (cfs): 960 Release (cfs): 2,363 Melvern Lake Elevation: 1,035.57 Normal: 1,036 Inflow (cfs): 330 Release (cfs): 20

Public Notices

Pages 8 and 9

- Coffey County - Invitation to Bid Self-Propelled Road Sweeper. Coffey County - Invitation to Bid Mowing Four Parcels. Estate of Daniel J. Salava - Notice to Creditors. Coffey County - Advertisement for Bids, Landfill Flexible Membrane Liner. Coffey County - Advertisement for Bids, Filter Rock for Landfill Cell #4. Coffey County - Advertisement for Bids, Hot Mix Asphalt Project A2001-C. Coffey County - Advertisement for Bids, Hot Mix Asphalt Project A2002-C. Coffey County - Advertisement for Bids, Hot Mix Asphalt Project A2003-C. Coffey County - Advertisement for Bids, Hot Mix Asphalt Project A2004-C. Coffey County - Advertisement for Bids, Hot Mix Asphalt Project A2005-C. The Money Source vs. Anna Marie Steinert, et al. - Notice of Suit. Coffey County - General Notice to Treat Noxious Weeds. Coffey County - COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Resolution.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at www.kansaspublicnotices.com

Index

- Agriculture Page..... 7 Classifieds 10 Community 3 Courthouse News 9 Devotional 6 Letters to the Editor 4 Opinion 4 Public Notices 8,9 Record 2 School 6 Sports 11,12,13,14 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

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Governor closes K-12 schools for remainder of school year

TOPEKA — Tuesday afternoon Governor Laura Kelly announced two additional measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and in her opinion better position Kansas to combat the pandemic in the months to come.

First, Kelly officially extended the closure of K-12 schools for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year by Executive Order # 20-07.

Kelly emphasized the need for students to continue to receive high-quality education during this closure. On Sunday, March 15, Governor Kelly tasked the Department of Education to convene a group of experts to develop a comprehensive education plan for students for the remainder of the year.

Additionally, effective Monday, March 23, Kelly directed state employees to stay home on administrative leave to minimize additional risk of exposure to the virus for two weeks. This directive only applies to executive branch agencies under jurisdiction of the governor. This does not include agencies such as the Office of the Attorney General, the Insurance Department, the State Treasurer or the Secretary of State's office.

Additionally, the order does not apply to legislative or judicial branch employees. Those branches will issue their own, separate, guidance to employees. Kelly has directed Cabinet agencies, boards and commissions to develop an internal plan that will ensure a seamless transition. They will each identify which employees can work remotely, which will need to be placed on administrative leave, and how to best ramp operations back up at the appropriate time.

"The steps we are announcing today will create the space we need at the state level to develop a more strategic, resilient infrastructure so that we can get ahead of this threat and limit its long-term impact to Kansans," Kelly said.

Coffey County

Superintendents Comments

Burlington USD 244 Superintendent Craig Marshall said USD 244 administrators and directors will be working with school staff from March 23-27 to prepare Continuous Learning environments for USD 244 students. Con-



Governor Laura Kelly announces the closure of K-12 schools at a news conference Tuesday afternoon.

tinuous Learning examples could be on-line learning, small group learning under 10 total people in areas of the school buildings, or student-centered packets that can be facilitated by staff through e-mail or on-line instruction.

"While this situation is unfortunate, this is an opportunity for our community to shine in difficult times," Marshall said. "Our staff and community will rise to the occasion to make sure our students get the education they need to wrap up the 2019-20 school year."

Marshall continued, "This is not a time to panic. This is a time to be our best, support each other, and rise to the challenge."

LeRoy-Gridley USD 245 Superintendent Russ Mildward prepared a message for families in USD 245 that announced the closure of school facilities for the remainder of the school year. "This will place tremendous hardship on our families and staff, and impact the social and emotional well-being of our students," he said.

"We have been working on contingency plans since mid-March, including how we can meet the ongoing learning needs of our students and provide breakfast and lunch for our students," Mildward continued. "Our staff and

board of education are also working on other critical issues, such as what this means for our seniors, how this will affect next school year and what impact this will have on our employees. We will provide updates on these issues as soon as the information is available. We are committed to working together as a community to support one another throughout these unprecedented times and communication will remain a top priority."

Lebo-Waverly USD 243 Technology Director Doug Piper sent a message to USD 243 students, staff, and community patrons on behalf of Superintendent Corey Reese.

"... the school year is not over, but rather will continue in a format and delivery that is likely unprecedented and new for several of our students and families," he said.

USD 243 faculty and staff will be meeting to decide upon the best ways to deliver instruction for the remainder of the school year. Information regarding how instruction and learning will occur throughout the rest of the school year will be distributed once staff have had time to finalize those plans. More information will be distributed to the entire school community as soon as it becomes available.

State, county updates for coronavirus pandemic

Kansas Department of Health and Environment continues to closely monitor an outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus named coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The outbreak first started in Wuhan, China, but cases have been identified around the world including in the United States. The first case in the United States was announced Jan. 21.

In Kansas, on March 17, KDHE reported 16 positive COVID-19 tests, which includes one death. KDHE also reports 417 negative tests. Ten of the positive tests came from residents of Johnson County. Wyandotte County had three positive tests while Butler, Douglas and Franklin counties each had one. In addition, one Oregon resident and one Missouri resident tested positive in Ford and Miami counties.

In the United States as a whole, the Centers for Disease Control reported 5,702 total cases and 94 deaths as of March 17.

Following are coronavirus-related notices and updates The Republican was aware of Tuesday.

The Coffey County Health Depart-



ment recommends anyone 60 years old or older and/or with an underlying health condition that makes it hard to fight infection: 1. Avoid large gatherings; 2. Practice social distancing (six feet in public); 3. Avoid being near someone who is sick or has traveled to areas with community trans-

mission. Several signs displayed at the Coffey County Courthouse tell people to not enter the building if sick or have a fever. Phone numbers were listed for the Coffey County Appraiser, (620) 364-8426; Coffey County Treasurer (620) 364-5532; Coffey County Clerk, (620) 364-2192; Coffey County Health Department, (620) 364-8631; and Coffey county Clerk of the District Court, (620) 364-8628. Another sign tells people in the courtroom to maintain at least a six foot distance from others.

Many people are encouraged to do business through email or visiting websites. Drop boxes are also provided at some businesses for payments or for the deposit of materials.

People can sign up for local COVID-19 text message updates by texting covid19coco to 888777.

The Coffey County Health Department has been passing on recommendations made by Coffey County Health Officer Dr. John Shell, including the public limiting gatherings to less than 10 people and limiting restaurants to

See Updates, Page 5

KDHE issues new recommendations for quarantine, isolation of travelers, close contacts, those being tested

TOPEKA — The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) issued new guidance Sunday surrounding COVID-19, including travelers, close contacts of confirmed cases and those being tested.

KDHE is now recommending 14-day home quarantine for Kansans who have:

- Traveled to a state with known widespread community transmission (currently California, New York and Washington state) on or after March 15.
- Visited Eagle, Summit, Pitkin and Gunnison counties in Colorado within the past week.
- Traveled on a cruise ship on or after March 15. (People who have previously been told by Public Health to quarantine because of their cruise ship travel should finish out their quarantine.)

Traveled internationally on or after March 15. (People who have previously been told by Public Health to quarantine because of their international travel should finish out their quarantine.)

Received notification from public health officials (state or local) that you are a close contact of a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19. You should quarantine at home for 14 days since your last contact with the case. (A close contact is defined as someone who has been closer than 6 feet for more than 10 minutes while the patient is symptomatic.)

"We know there are a lot of questions and concerns from people," Dr. Lee Norman, KDHE Secretary, said. "One thing we want to stress is that having contact with someone who may have been exposed to someone who may be a

COVID-19 case is not a reason to worry or quarantine yourself. Public health officials will notify you if you are a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19."

There is no need for returning travelers to notify KDHE about their return. Information on COVID-19 cases in the U.S. and states with community transmission can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

Home Quarantine Guidelines

Those who are under home quarantine should not attend school, work or any other setting where they are not able to maintain about a 6-foot distance from other people.

If a person under quarantine develops symptoms of COVID-19 during

See KDHE, Page 5

COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

County buildings closing earlier

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — The Coffey County Courthouse and other county buildings are closing early to allow employees extra time to disinfect and clean in all offices. A motion passed Monday by the Board of Coffey County Commissioners directs county buildings to be closed at 4 p.m. daily for up to 60 days, or May 16.

Present for the regular weekly meeting were Commissioners Cody Haddock, chairman, Bob Saueressig and Don Meats, County Clerk Angie Kirchner and Administrative Assistant Donna Berland. Commissioners Fred Rowley and Tom Hugunin were absent. County Treasurer Karen Maley observed the meeting.

The decision to close early to the public came following a request from Coffey County Treasurer Karen Maley to close her office a half hour earlier, in order to allow equipment and counters to be disinfected and wiped clean. The treasurer's office already closed to the public at 4:30 p.m. in order to wrap up business.

Commissioners planned to send a memo to employees clarifying that the 4 p.m. closure is to allow for office cleaning and is not an invitation for employees to go home early. They are still expected to work until 5 p.m.

The decision to close early is also tied to a resolution passed Monday - Resolution No. 852, COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Resolution - that declares a state of local public health emergency in Coffey County, Kansas, resulting in potential or occurring Pandemic known as COVID-19. As of Tuesday, there were no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Coffey County, however, the resolution gives county officials the latitude to make decisions in response to the public health, safety and welfare of persons in Coffey County. The resolution is in effect for up to 60 days.

Coffey County Health Administrator Lindsay Payer updated commissioners on information and recommendations related to COVID-19. Many of the items discussed are included in other COVID-19 related stories in today's edition.

Payer recommended county offices observe "time and distance" recommendations. The "social distancing" recommendation is to maintain six feet between other people and to spend no more than 10 minutes with any one person. She recommended spacing chairs so waiting customers do not sit next

See County, Page 5

Area men charged in Vermillion man's murder

MARSHALL COUNTY — Two Coffey County area men were charged Thursday, March 12, with first degree murder and associated charges connected to the death of a Vermillion man.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), the Marshall County Sheriff's Office, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal investigated after the Jan. 24 death of 83-year-old Donald E. McLaughlin, at his home. Also assisting in the investigation were the Osage County Sheriff's Office, the Coffey County Sheriff's Office, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

The Marshall County Attorney filed criminal charges against 18-year-old Jeremy M. Penix II, of Melvern, and 47-year-old Jefferson S. Goad, of Waverly, connected to McLaughlin's death. Both men are charged with first degree murder, conspiracy, aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary, arson, and interference with a law enforcement officer.

They were both in custody prior to Thursday's charges. Penix is being held at the Washington County Jail, and Goad is jailed in Marshall County.

Criminal charges are merely accusations. Individuals are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The KBI would not release any further information.

