

Eighth-graders Recognized
 Burlington Middle School and Lebo and Waverly junior high schools name award recipients and recognize their eighth-grade classes.
Pages 8 and 9



Volume 22, Number 23

Coffey County's oldest consecutively published newspaper

Thursday, June 4, 2020

10 pages, plus supplements - \$1.00



Contact Us

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

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

ONLINE EDITION:
 www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices
 Page 2

- ☐ Vivian Eccles, 86
- ☐ Darrell Hess, 73
- ☐ Tamara Kiefer, 58
- ☐ Glenn True, 86
- ☐ Melvin Yorgensen, 90

Average Gas Prices

Week ending June 2, 2020
Kansas Nation
 \$1.68/gal. \$1.98/gal
 ▲ 0.8 cents ▲ 2.2 cents
 KansasGasPrices.com

Lake Levels

John Redmond 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 2	
Lake Elevation:	1,046.30
Normal:	1,041
Inflow (cfs):	2,700
Release (cfs):	7,410
Melvorn	
Lake Elevation:	1,038.49
Normal:	1,036
Inflow (cfs):	90
Release (cfs):	736
Pomona	
Lake Elevation:	977.12
Normal:	974
Inflow (cfs):	85
Release (cfs):	707

Public Notices
 Page 6

- ☐ Estate of Juanita M. Lankton - Notice of Final Hearing on Petition for Final Settlement.
 - ☐ Estate of Glenda K. Jones - Notice of Sale of Real Property at Public Auction.
 - ☐ Coffey County Tourism and Visitor's Board - Public Notice.
 - ☐ Coffey County Treasurer - Quarterly Report.
 - ☐ Estate of Eleanor Rae Carley - Notice of Sale of Real Estate at Public Auction.
 - ☐ City of New Strawn - Ordinance No. 2020-01, Establishing 2020 Salaries for Appointed and Elected Officials.
 - ☐ Kansas Press Association - E-notice Public Notice.
- Access public notices throughout Kansas at www.kansaspublicnotices.com

Index

Classifieds	7
Community	3,5
Courthouse News	6
Deaths	2
Devotional	3
Lions Club Page	5
Opinion	4
Public Notices	6
Record	2
School	8,9
Sports	9
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



Katie McMurray/The Republican

City of Burlington Electric Department and Street Department crews install banners to honor the Burlington High School Class of 2020 Monday morning along Fourth Street. The banner project was funded through a private effort that raised funds through GoFundMe.com and was not sponsored by the Burlington USD 244 school district. The crews hung 55 banners, one for each member of the BHS Class of 2020 and also one special banner in memory of friend and classmate Matthew Edwards, who died at the age of 13 in 2015 as a result of a tragic accidental drowning. His banner can be seen at the north end of Burlington and is followed, when driving in to town, by the rest of the seniors' banners. Burlington High School will hold a graduation ceremony 10 a.m. Saturday, June 20, at the Burlington football stadium. In the event of inclement weather, graduation will be held June 27. Plans for the graduation remain subject to change based on inclement weather or federal, state and local health agency directives related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Katie McMurray/The Republican

2020 PRIMARY ELECTION
Deadline passes for candidates to file

Mark Petterson
 Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — The field of candidates for the 2020 primary election has been set. The deadline for candidates to file was noon Monday.

Coffey County Elections Officer Angie Kirchner said a primary election will be held Aug. 4 followed by the general election on Nov. 3.

At the county level, Republicans will vote for contested primary races for county commission districts 2 and 3, county clerk, county treasurer and county sheriff. On the Republican ballot, the county treasurer's race will have four candidates and the other contested races will have two candidates.

Each party will elect one precinct committeeman and one precinct committeewoman in each precinct.

At the township level, township trustee and township treasurer positions will appear on the ballot for each township.

One candidate from each party will be elected for United States Senate, United States Representative - 2nd district, State Senate - 14th district, and

See **Election**, Page 10

COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

Board mulling over hospital budget, loan

Mark Petterson
 Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Coffey County Commissioners officially received their first 2021 budget funding request on Monday. Coffey Health System CEO Leonard Hernandez presented three funding options for Coffey County Hospital and the ambulance service, which will give commissioners something to mull over during the next week.

A full commission was present for the regular weekly meeting: Cody Had-

dock, chairman, Tom Meats and Fred Rowley. Hernandez was accompanied by CFO Juanita White and hospital board member Jodie Thomas.

"This is your hospital. This is your health system. We have a board that governs it, but ultimately, it comes here," Hernandez reminded commissioners.

In his 30-minute presentation, Hernandez reviewed where CHS stands as far as COVID-19, reviewed 2021 budget worksheets and capital equipment

budget items looking forward to 2024-2025 and addressed the outstanding \$2.9 million balance on a loan commissioners made to CHS in 2014.

Hernandez met with Chairman Haddock in March, right before COVID-19 wreaked havoc. "We had the best first week we have had in a long, long time," Hernandez said. Normally CHS averages \$115,000 a day in gross revenue and that first week of March they were at \$147,000 per day. Then the bottom fell out with COVID-19.

The past three months realized about

a 30 to 40 percent reduction in charges, primarily in outpatient services and surgery.

Hernandez said CHS went after every federal and state dollar they could find related to COVID-19. "We were successful ... that is why you didn't hear about the hospital laying off people or cutting salaries," he said.

Hernandez is wrapping up his fifth year at CHS. When he first became CEO, CHS was losing about \$4.2 or

See **County**, Page 10

COVID-19 Coffey County following governor's Ad Astra plan

Mark Petterson
 Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Governor Laura Kelly signed a new disaster declaration on May 26, which changes the Ad Astra Reopening Plan from an order to a recommendation. Coffey County Health Officer John Shell recommends that Coffey County residents and business continue to follow the recommendations in the Ad Astra Reopening Plan.

Health Department Administrator Lindsay Payer told Coffey County Commissioners Monday that the governor's actions basically leave it up to each county how they address reopening businesses, public places and mass gatherings.

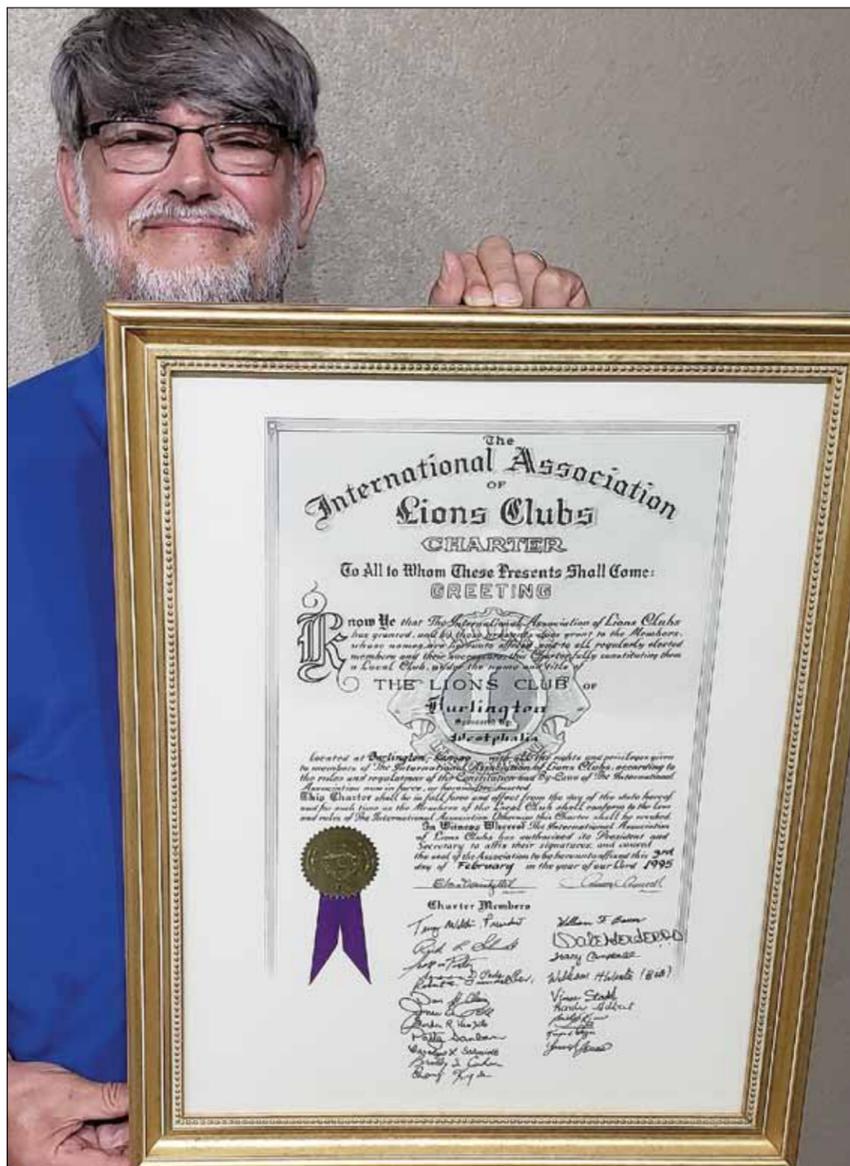
"At this time there is no legal order, just recommendations," Payer said.

As of Monday, Payer said Coffey County has no active cases of COVID-19.

Coffey County will be in Phase 2 through June 7. The plan can be found at <https://covid.ks.gov/ad-astra-a-plan-to-reopen-kansas/>.

Payer explained that the reference to groups of 15 do not mean a total of 15 people. Multiple groups of 15 are allowed as long as each group is separated

25TH ANNIVERSARY FOR LIONS CLUB



Mark Petterson/The Republican

Burlington Lions Club President Terry Weldin holds the club charter signed Feb. 3, 1995, which lists charter members. The Westphalia Lions Club is listed as the sponsoring club. A story commemorating the 25-year milestone is printed on page 5 along with congratulatory messages from local businesses.

Annual community events a go for 2020

Katie McMurray
 Reporter

Every year, a number of popular community events are held during the summer, including Strawnfest, Independence Day celebrations in Gridley, Lebo and Burlington, Waverly's Ohio Days celebration, the Coffey County Fair and LeRoy Homecoming. The COVID-19 pandemic put holding those events this summer in question. However, if the curve continues to flatten and the restrictions continue to be eased, plans are for the show to go on in 2020, with no cancellations and only one event postponed.

Strawnfest, held annually in June in New Strawn, has been postponed. The New Strawn City Council plans to re-evaluate and decide a future date for the event, which is celebrating 50 years this year.

Planning is underway for annual Independence Day celebrations in Burlington, Gridley and Lebo. Burlington's Freedom Festival will be held Saturday, July 4, at Kelley Park and will again include musical entertainment, fireworks and more. Burlington Mayor Stan Luke, who organizes the event, said social distancing will be stressed for the event, but it will otherwise go on as normal.

The Gridley Independence Day Celebration is being planned for Friday and Saturday, July 3 and 4. This year's theme is "Celebrating Plenty in 2020." Event coordinators

See **Events**, Page 10

