

**Fourth of July**  
A special news supplement in today's edition features area fireworks sales, town celebrations and public fireworks displays.  
**News Supplement**



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## Death Notices Pages 2 and 5

- Glennis Bell, 93
- Charles Brown, 86
- Linda Bukovatz, 73
- Richard Coopman, 83
- Nadine Graham, 80
- Mary Russell, 89
- Tom Russell, 91
- Ival Trimble, 89

## Average Gas Prices

Week ending June 23, 2020

Kansas	Nation
\$1.90/gal.	\$2.15/gal
▲ 2.5 cents	▲ 5.2 cents

KansasGasPrices.com

## Lake Levels

**John Redmond**

8a.m. Tuesday, June 23

Lake Elevation:	1,041.10
Normal:	1,041
Inflow (cfs):	1,800
Release (cfs):	162

**Melvorn**

Lake Elevation:	1,036.72
Normal:	1,036
Inflow (cfs):	10
Release (cfs):	20

**Pomona**

Lake Elevation:	974.16
Normal:	974
Inflow (cfs):	10
Release (cfs):	15

## Closed July 3

Due to the Independence Day holiday, The Republican will be closed on Friday, July 3.

## Public Notices Page 8

- City of LeRoy - Ordinance No. 432 Summary, Cutting of Weeds and Vegetation.
- Estate of Jerry L. Sowder - Notice of Hearing on Petition for Final Settlement.
- Coffey County Elections Officer - Notice of Primary Election.
- City of Hartford - Notice of Budget Hearing.
- Coffey County Board of Zoning Appeals - Notice of Hearing for Meyer.
- Coffey County Elections Officer - Notice of Places and Dates of Registration.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at [www.kansaspublicnotices.com](http://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



Katie McMurray/The Republican

Burlington High School graduates celebrate with a mortarboard toss at the end of commencement exercises Saturday, June 20. Tossing of mortarboards is not usually permitted for BHS graduates, but a special exception was made for the Class of 2020, due to their graduation ceremony being held outside due to the coronavirus pandemic. See story and photos on page 3.

## COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

# Board decides to waive half of CHS loan

**Mark Petterson**  
Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — A \$2.9 million loan balance owed by Coffey Health System to the Board of Coffey County Commissioners was the initial topic of discussion at Monday's county commission meeting.

Initiated in 2014, the loan was made prior to current CEO Leonard Hernandez taking the helm. More than five years later, the hospital is in much better shape, but an \$8 to \$9 million capital improve-

ment "needs" list has hospital administration trying to decide between the capital improvements or repaying the loan.

Two weeks ago, commissioners approved a request from CHS to levy taxpayer funds for the hospital and ambulance service, which amounts to \$1,019,747 each from the 2021 Coffey County budget. The funds are identical to previous years and represents about 5 percent of the CHS budget.

All commissioners were present for Monday's regular

weekly meeting: Cody Had-

dock, chairman, Tom Hudgins, Bob Saueressig, Don Meats and Fred Rowley. Representing Coffey Health System were CEO Leonard Hernandez; John Shell, MD, chief of staff; Judy Reese, former CHS board chair; and Jodi Thomas, current CHS board chair.

Dr. Shell was the interim CEO before Hernandez when he said "the perfect storm" happened. At one point CHS had \$500 available in the bank and the possibility of a larger health organization taking

over the hospital had been discussed.

"When a bigger operation takes control, you lose control," Shell said. "They can close your doors if you are not making enough money."

Support by the county commission back then and a turnaround by the administrative team led by Hernandez and the entire "CHS family" has resulted in a positive turnaround.

"I have been on the board four years ... and have seen such a change," said Thomas,

who once worked at Coffey County Hospital. "For our capital improvement, we have a long way to go ... a lot of hospitals struggle because they cannot keep up with their capital improvements."

"As a board, we look at the financials, but we also want to be able to look ahead five years ... what we can do or not do," said Reese. "Having an end in sight can really help in making a decision."

"I have said I am not willing

See **County**, Page 11

## New coronavirus case confirmed

The Coffey County Health Department (CCHD) has confirmed one new case of COVID-19 in a resident of Coffey County. Additionally, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has updated the travel quarantine list. Although Governor Laura Kelly has recommended Kansas stay in Phase 3 of the "Ad Astra" plan, Coffey County has moved to the final phase out part of the plan.

Phase out states all businesses and activities should still maintain social distance and institute public health measures where applicable; individuals should adhere to personal hygiene guidelines (wash hands, clean and disinfect surfaces, masks may be worn, avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth, cover coughs and sneezes, stay home if

sick); high-risk individuals should still exercise caution; travel is unrestricted.

### New case

The new case of COVID-19 was confirmed Monday, June 22. The case involves a male between the ages of 31 and 40. It is the third case confirmed in June, the 53rd case overall and the only active case. Of the three cases confirmed in June, the source of infection for two of them remains unknown, while the third is a case connected to another case or source.

CCHD will continue to identify close contacts of the individuals of each positive case. Close contact remains defined as being within six feet for a prolonged period (10 minutes

See **COVID-19**, Page 12

## NRC to discuss Wolf Creek performance

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will discuss the 2019 safety performance of 12 nuclear power plants in the western U.S., including Wolf Creek Generating Station, during a June 30 virtual meeting.

The session will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Online registration is required to participate. Following registration, a confirmation email will be sent with details on how to join

the video webinar. To hear the audio presentation, those interested must call 888-994-3819 and enter passcode 5144346#. The meeting will be recorded and available on the NRC website.

NRC staff responsible for plant inspection and oversight will participate, including the resident inspectors based full-time at each of the sites. NRC

See **NRC**, Page 10



Annabelle Payton/The Republican

Hartford High School Class of 2020 Vice President Lindsay Torrens adds blue and silver ribbon to the class cane held by fellow officers, from left, Tyler Skirvin, secretary, and Gabriel Metcalfe, treasurer. Passing the class cane from one class to the next has been a tradition at Hartford High School since 1927, when that class received a cane from C.A. Johnson, a former county treasurer and honorary speaker at Hartford High School for many years. The Class of 2020 received the cane from the Class of 2019 last May and presented it to the Class of 2021 during commencement exercises Saturday, June 20. Principal Douglas Hes accepted the cane on behalf of the Class of 2021. See story and photos on page 7.



Photo submitted

Clinton Sowder cuts wheat last week on the south edge of Burlington with his 9-year-old son, Easton. The field yielded 52 bushels to the acre with 11.6 moisture and 61.3 test weight. Wheat harvest moved at a quicker pace over the weekend when rains missed the area.

## Coffey County Fair plans 'normal' schedule

**Mark Petterson**  
Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — The Coffey County Fair Board is moving forward to have as normal of a fair as possible. The 2020 edition of the Coffey County Fair will be held Wednesday, July 22, through Sunday, July 26, at the fairgrounds at Kelley Park.

This will be the 140th consecutive year for the Coffey County Fair, which is the longest running fair in Kansas.

"From Pioneer Days to Modern Ways" is the theme for the fair and the fair parade that will be held 6 p.m. Friday.

This year's COVID-19 pandemic put the fate of the fair up in the air until several weeks ago when the decision was made to move forward. A number of sanitizing precautions will be taken and fair-goers will be encouraged to observe social distancing.

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation donated extra cleaning supplies, gloves, disinfectant and masks to help make the fair as safe as possible.

There have been a number of changes made to the fair schedule since it was printed in fair books and posters distributed last week throughout the county. An updated fair schedule is printed in the Fourth of July special section included in today's edition.

The fair board learned Toby's Carnival will not be at this year's fair; in fact, they have parked their carnival equipment for the entire 2020 fair season due to issues caused by the pandemic.

Evening entertainment will go on as planned with an effort being made to sanitize bleachers and gates before each event. Additional sanitizer stations will be located throughout the fairgrounds.

Grandstand entertainment will include a horse pull at 8 p.m. Wednesday; Rock of Ages (community theater) at 7 p.m. Thursday; music concert with Nick Walsh and Tyler Chambers at 8 p.m. Friday;

See **Fair**, Page 12