

# The Coffey County Republican

Volume 22, Number 35

Coffey County's oldest consecutively published newspaper

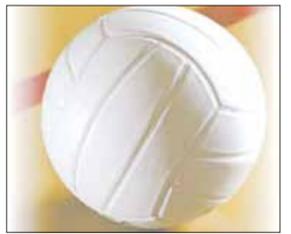
Thursday, August 27, 2020

12 pages, plus supplement - \$1.00

## Season Openers

Area high school volleyball and cross country teams, as well as middle school fall sports teams, will begin their 2020 seasons during the next week.

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ONLINE EDITION:  
www.coffeycountyonline.com

## Death Notices

Page 2

- Bryson Byerley, 22
- Tammy Jensen, 56
- Jerry Kelley, 89
- Marcella Skidmore, 83

## Average Gas Prices

Week ending August 25, 2020

### Kansas Nation

\$1.95/gal. \$2.21/gal

▲ 0.2 cents ▲ 3.5 cents  
KansasGasPrices.com

## Lake Levels

**John Redmond**  
8 a.m. Tuesday, August 25  
Lake Elevation: ..... 1,041.3  
Normal: ..... 1,041  
Inflow (cfs): ..... 0  
Release (cfs): ..... 162

**Melvorn**  
Lake Elevation: ..... 1,036.25  
Normal: ..... 1,036  
Inflow (cfs): ..... 5  
Release (cfs): ..... 20

## Public Notices

Pages 8, 9 and 11

- Coffey County Treasurer - Notice of 2019 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes.
- Coffey County - Invitation to Bid Culvert Pipes.
- Coffey County Transportation - Notice to Bidders.
- City of LeRoy - Ordinance No. 433 Summary, Uniform Public Offense Code.
- Pleasant View Cemetery - Notice of Budget Hearing.
- Bowman Adgate Cemetery - Notice of Budget Hearing.
- Key West Township - Notice of Budget Hearing.
- Halls Summit Cemetery - Notice of Budget Hearing.
- Estate of Beverly A. O'Leary - Notice of Hearing.
- Estate of Dorman O'Leary - Notice of Hearing.
- Pleasant Township Cemetery - Notice of Budget Hearing.

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



# Johnson to fill county commission seat

**Mark Petterson**  
Managing Editor

WAVERLY — Coffey County Republican precinct committeemen and committeewomen representing the five townships in District 4 selected a 26-year Coffey County resident to fill a vacant Coffey County Commission seat.

The precinct committeemen and committeewomen met Tuesday, Aug. 18, and Thursday, Aug. 20, for a convention at the Waverly Branch Library. They interviewed four candidates Tuesday night and Thursday night selected Tim Johnson to succeed Cody Haddock, who resigned the District 4 county commission seat on July 24 due to new employment.

The convention selected

Johnson over former commissioner Tim Sipe, Danny Hawkins and Bill Fry. Johnson's selection has been sent to Governor Kelly who must officially appoint Johnson to the seat. If the governor fails to act, Johnson's appointment will become official after seven days, or by Friday, Aug. 28.

Johnson is employed at Midwest Cabinets, Ottawa, where he has worked for 26 years. He also runs a small cattle operation. The past seven years he has resided in the Agricola area, northeast of Waverly.

Johnson has four adult children, two boys and two girls, and two grandchildren with another on the way.

Johnson has served as a precinct committeeman for

See **Johnson**, Page 12



Mark Petterson/The Republican

Coffey County Clerk Angie Kirchner administers an oath to Tim Johnson, Waverly, who fills the vacant county commission seat in District 4.

## COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

# Board OKs task force recommendations

**Mark Petterson**  
Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Coffey County's newest commissioner, Tim Johnson, Waverly, attended the Aug. 24 regular meeting of the Board of Coffey County Commissioners. A convention of Republican precinct committeemen and committeewomen in District

4 selected Johnson to fill a vacant seat created by the resignation last month of Cody Haddock.

Coffey County Clerk Angie Kirchner administered the oath of office to Johnson; however, he cannot take any official action until receiving an official appointment from Governor Kelly or an automatic appointment if the

governor does not make the appointment before Aug. 28.

Johnson participated in the meeting, but could not participate in any official votes or participate in any executive sessions.

Commissioners present Monday were Tom Huginin, chairman, Don Meats, Bob Saueressig and Fred Rowley.

## County Engineer

County Engineer Wayne Blackburn highlighted highway department activity throughout the county, including landfill construction, drainage, culvert and erosion repair; mowing and boom mowing, and sign maintenance.

Commissioners approved Change Order No. 2 for Proj-

ect No. B19-1308M with PbX Corporation for approach pavement repair on Bridge 24 for \$2,257.50. The contract price before this change order was \$261,016 with approved change order No. 1 and incorporating Change Order No. 2 the net contract price will be \$263,273.50. Bridge 24 is the

See **County**, Page 10

# Football contest to begin next week

In a 5-4 decision made July 28 by the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) executive board, fall sports were allowed to continue as planned, amid continued safety concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. School district officials throughout the state were given the decision-making power to then decide to proceed, call off, suspend or shorten the fall sports seasons of their students.

KSHSAA's executive director said if the fall season is cancelled because of a severe coronavirus spike in Kansas just weeks after the season has begun, it is possible to reschedule the season to the spring. KSHSAA will continue to look at alternate postseason seeding models under the assumption that not all teams will be able to complete a full regular season schedule this year.

See **Contest**, Page 12



Photo submitted

Coffey Health System Environmental Services Supervisor Toby Paige accepts the organization's Health Care Worker of the Year Award. Chief Executive Officer Leonard Hernandez presented the award on Aug. 24 and thanked Paige for his outstanding attention to detail and commitment to safety, especially through the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Paige named CHS Health Care Worker of the Year

**Tracy Campbell**  
For The Republican

Toby Paige has been a fixture at Coffey Health System for nearly 30 years. He took care of countless Coffey Countians in his 22 years as an EMT, then spent five years in the facilities department. In 2018, Paige was called upon to lead the environmental services team. His two decades in EMS brought a clinical perspective that elevated every aspect of cleaning and infection control throughout the organization.

Recognizing Paige's leader-

ship and commitment through the COVID-19 pandemic, the CHS staff elected him Coffey Health System Health Care Worker of the Year.

He now represents CHS at the state level. While the Kansas Hospital Association Annual Conference has been cancelled due to COVID, nominees receive media recognition. KHA will honor statewide recipients at their respective hospitals.

Paige's clinical background and meticulous nature made him an integral part of the Infection Control/COVID-19

team. He led all CHS facilities in proper procedures to prevent the spread and cross-contamination. He voluntarily assumed the responsibility of front-line duties to clean the rooms of positive COVID-19 patients so other staff members would not be unnecessarily exposed — even if it meant coming in at night, on a weekend, or during a holiday.

"Toby's extraordinary work through the pandemic reached everyone throughout the organization," said Chief

See **Paige**, Page 12

# County has four active COVID-19 cases

As of Monday, Aug. 24, Coffey County has four active cases of COVID-19. The Coffey County Health Department has announced five recoveries and five new cases since Wednesday, Aug. 19. Two new cases, both female, were announced Aug. 19. Two more new cases, one male and one female, were announced Friday, Aug. 21,

along with two recoveries. Three additional recoveries and one new case, a female, were announced Aug. 24. Of the five cases announced since Aug. 19, three are connected cases and two have an unknown source of infection. The county has a total of 76 positive cases of COVID-19, with eight deaths and 64 recoveries.

# Resurfacing projects to start on two sections of U.S. 75

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) expects to begin resurfacing projects on two sections of U.S. 75 the week of Aug. 31.

Project activity includes a 1½-inch mill and 1½-inch asphalt overlay on the following sections: from the Wilson-Woodson county line, north for 11 miles to the city limits of Yates Center; and from the north K-58 junction, north for six miles to the Burlington city limits.

Flaggers and a pilot car will direct one-lane traffic through the work zone during daylight

hours; expect delays of 15 minutes or less.

The resurfacing work should be finished by late October, weather permitting. Bettis Asphalt & Construction, Inc., of Topeka is contractor on the projects, which have a combined construction cost of \$2.2 million.

Drivers are reminded to obey the signs and flaggers, and to slow down. Persons with questions may contact KDOT Area Engineer Darrin Petrowsky, (620) 901-6557, or Public Affairs Manager Priscilla Petersen, (620) 902-6433.

# Neosho Rapids, SCC schools welcome new teachers

Students in LeRoy-Gridley USD 245 had their first day of school Monday, Aug. 24, and Southern Lyon County USD 252 students went back to school Tuesday, Aug. 25. At Southern Coffey County Elementary School in USD 245 and Neosho Rapids Elementary School in USD 252, there were a few new teachers among the many staff members there to greet the students. Following is an introduction of the new teachers.

## USD 245

### Martyna Roush

Martyna Rae Roush is teaching fifth grade at Southern Coffey County Elementary School this year, after having taught Title I classes during

her first year in the district last year. In addition to teaching, she will also be the middle school cheerleading coach and will be assisting with high school cheerleading.

Roush earned a bachelor's degree from Emporia State University in 2018. She hopes to eventually pursue and earn a master's degree.

Roush has set three main goals for this year.

"My goals are to have fun, have a routine as normal as possible and grow as an educator," Roush said.

Roush is married to Zachary Scott Roush, who works in security at Wolf Creek. The couple lives in LeRoy and is expecting their first child, a boy named Hudson Ray Roush. Hudson

is due to be born in December. In her free time, Roush enjoys spending time with family and friends, hunting and fishing and watching the KC

Chiefs and KC Royals.

See **Teachers**, Page 10



Photo submitted

Martyna Roush



Photo submitted

Alice Preeo



Photo submitted

Madeline Volkman