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Open House

Burlington USD 244 will host an open house Wednesday, Sept. 30, for the first-grade wing renovation and the new district office.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the first-grade wing will be held 5:30 p.m. at Burlington Elementary School and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new district office will take place 6 p.m. at 301 Neosho St.

Death Notices

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- Donna Byerley, 66
- Rosalie Yoho, 85

Public Notices

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- Estate of Richard Allen Welhoelter - Notice of Hearing.
- Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2005 Bomag Landfill Compactor.
- Coffey County - Advertisement For Bids For Milling, Grinding and Leveling Shoulders.
- Coffey County - Notice of Places and Dates of Registration.
- Coffey County Planning Board - Notice of Zoning Hearing.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at www.kansaspublicnotices.com



Average Gas Prices

Week ending Sept. 21, 2020

Kansas Nation
\$1.96/gal. \$2.16/gal

Unchanged from last week

KansasGasPrices.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



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Airport reopens after new runway project

Mark Petterson
Managing Editor

NEW STRAWN — The Coffey County Airport has reopened after being closed for five months to replace the 5,500' by 75' runway and to install new LED runway lights.

Coffey County Airport Administrator Darren Isch said the \$4 million project involved a complete tear out and replacement of the existing runway. The runway had to be torn out due to ASR (Alkali Silica Reactivity) due to alkali in the aggregates used on the original runway concrete mix.

"This is a common problem for concrete from 30 years

ago," Isch said. "It made the concrete spider crack and fail."

The concrete was removed and crushed then reused as the base for the new runway. Six inches of new concrete was poured for the new runway.

Ideker, Inc., St. Joseph, Mo., was awarded the job for their \$3,642,000 bid. The project engineer was Lochner, of Lenexa, at a cost of \$424,000.

Isch said the runway was funded by a 90/10 federal grant. Coffey County funded the 10 percent, which amounted to \$406,000.

Coffey County Airport is located at 19th Road and U.S. 75, which is two miles north of New Strawn.

COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

Board meets community planning staff

Katie McMurray
Reporter

BURLINGTON — The Coffey County Board of Commissioners, in their weekly meeting Monday, met two engineers from Cook, Flatt and Stroble Engineers (CFSE), the firm hired to oversee the county's community planning project. Present were Senior Vice President Sabin Yanez and Marketing and Business Development Director Jim Schuessler.

"We are very excited to work with the six different cities and you, the county, to understand what your needs are for the next 10 years," Schuessler said. "This plan that we're going to embark on is a lot of listening - what are the needs of the community, the citizens, the county residents and how can we plan for the future? That's the exciting part of this - under-

standing, listening and trying to put it back in a document that is livable and usable for many years."

Schuessler said different tools will be used to quantify and qualitatively evaluate the needs, meaning there will be math and subjective ideas used to come up with the 10-year plan.

The process will start with a kickoff meeting that will likely be with just the county and whoever the county thinks is important, such as mayors and a representative from each of the cities. There will be an additional 21 meetings scheduled beyond the kickoff meeting, including three meetings with the county, two with each of the six city councils and one public meeting within each of the six cities. CFSE will take the communities through a

See Planning, Page 4

LOFTY LOUVERS



Above, Heinen Custom Operations, Inc., Valley Falls, has removed existing wood louvers on the church steeple at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Burlington, and Tuesday afternoon were installing new aluminum powder-coated louvers, at right. The men are repairing rotted brick molding on the building's exterior and will install a water shield. The church's cornerstone was laid in June 1871 and the building will be 150 years old in 2021. Work began in August and will continue as weather permits. Catherine Falmon/The Republican



Homecoming Win

The Burlington Wildcats earned a big shutout victory over the Osawatomie Trojans in their fall homecoming game Friday, Sept. 18. Page 12



PIGSKIN PICKS

Tiebreaker forced in three-way win

Competition was stiffer in week three of the Pigskin Picks contest and for the first time in the 2020 season, the tiebreaker had to be utilized to determine the winner.

Three players, Larry Curtiss and Becky Richwine, both of Burlington, and Dwight Decker, Waverly, correctly selected the winners of 13 of the 15 contest games. One game, Kapaun Mt. Carmel vs. Emporia, won 56-13 by Kapaun Mt. Carmel, was thrown out due to the game being held Thursday. In the tie-breaker, Richwine guessed 950 points, Decker 963 and Curtiss 975. The actual total points scored

See Pigskin, Page 8



Photo submitted

An aerial view of the new runway, completed at Coffey County Airport. The airport is open for business after being closed five months.

LEROY HOMECOMING



Photo submitted

LeRoy celebrated its town Homecoming Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a variety of activities. See more photos on page 3.

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

City dam bid, 'First Impressions' OK'd

Mark Petterson
Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Work to repair the Burlington City Dam retaining wall is anticipated to begin during the winter months. The Burlington City Council awarded a bid for the work at its Sept. 16 meeting.

Governing body present were Mayor Stan Luke and council members Jerilyn Curtiss, Lewis Lenard, Thomas Tschantz and Sharon Hall. Council member Dallas Scothorn was absent.

Parks Superintendent Kevin Boyce said four companies bid on the project. The bids were opened Tuesday, Sept. 15, and the council accepted all bids as bona fide.

Boyce recommended accepting the \$322,216.79 bid submitted by B & B Bridge Co., LLC., St. Paul. The bid was more than \$32,000 under the estimate provided by Schwab Eaton, the project engineer.

Other bidders on the project were: A.M. Cohron & Son, Atlantic, Iowa, \$406,560.05; Pfefferkorn & Drury Construction, Olathe, \$484,820; and Smoky Hill, LLC, Salina, \$537,910.

B & B indicated they could start the project around Dec. 15 and estimated 90 days for completion.

Boyce said fogging for mosquitoes continues.

First Impressions

Carie Collins, representing the Community Development PDC of the Coffey County Extension Council, sought the city council's support for participating in the First Impressions program. Coffey County Extension Agents Jill Barnhardt and Darl Henson were also present.

K-State Research and Extension's Community Vitality program developed First Impressions for community assessment and improvement.

Collins explained that the program allows you to see your community through the eyes of a first time visitor. Burlington will be paired with a sister community - Girard. A volunteer visitation team from Girard will visit Burlington and a volunteer visitation team from Burlington will visit Girard. Each team will consist of three to four volunteer community members.

The visiting team will explore Burlington's residential, retail and industrial areas; local government entities; schools; and other points of interest. Teams are trained and follow clear

guidelines as they evaluate appearances, access to services, friendliness and other community attributes.

Collins said there is no cost to the city. First Impressions increases awareness of a community's strengths and highlights areas of concerns.

The council approved a motion to participate in the First Impressions program.

Collins said the team volunteers will be trained in October and visits will likely be made in November. Results from the visiting team will be presented at a community meeting after the holidays and can be used for community planning and improvement.

Department Reports

Electric: Superintendent Alan Schneider said crews continue to replace utility poles and anchors. They received a new load of 40-foot poles, as well as two Class 1 70-foot poles that could be used for Kelley Park. Maintenance runs were completed on Generators 1 and 6.

Water/Wastewater: Superintendent Danny Hawkins reported a water leak had been repaired on the east side of Fifth and LaMoille streets. Material has been ordered for the Alleghany water line project, from Ninth to 12th streets, slated to begin the first part of October. Hawkins said this year's budget contains funds to update the SCADA system; however, April will be the soonest the update can be done.

Streets: Superintendent Mark Davidson said crews spent a majority of their time crack sealing, especially in the downtown area. Bids were opened Sept. 14 for two bridges (B1 and B2) on Kennebec Street. All five bidders - A.M. Cohron & Son, B & B Bridge Co., Dondlinger Construction, Reece Construction Co. and Wildcat Concrete Services - were over the engineer's estimate. The council accepted the bids as bona fide bids, however, they will delay awarding a bid until a Sept. 21 meeting Mayor Luke has with the Coffey County Board of Commissioners.

Police: Police Chief Doug Jones said their activity was highlighted last Thursday when a vehicle was stolen from Bahr Tire. A chase ensued with the suspect eventually being apprehended just west of U.S. 75 and K-58 Hwy. Felony charges were filed against the suspect. Jones also said 78 cases were on the Sept. 10 municipal court

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