



The Coffey County
Republican

Published by
Faimon Publications, LLC
324 Hudson, P.O. Box A,
Burlington, KS 66839-0218
(ISSN 145-700)

Published Thursdays.
Periodicals postage paid at
Burlington, Kansas. Phone
(620) 364-5325; Fax (620)
364-2607.

Postmaster: Send change of
address forms to P.O. Box A,
Burlington, KS 66839-0218.

Official newspaper for
Coffey County, the cities of
Burlington, New Strawn,
LeRoy, Gridley, Lebo,
Hartford and Waverly;
Lebo-Waverly USD 243,
Burlington USD 244,
LeRoy-Gridley USD 245.

Member of the Kansas
Press Association, National
Federation of Independent
Businesses, Coffey County
Chamber of Commerce.

STAFF

Publishers

Chris and Catherine Faimon

Managing Editor

Mark Petterson

Sports Reporter

Katie McMurray

Reporter

Ida Wilson

Advertising Consultant

Christina Stohs

Ad Design

Bradley Rice

Circulation Mgr./Classifieds

Denise Sibley

Katherine Austin

Distribution

John Knachel

Brenda Futrell

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Subscriptions will be paid
in advance. Rates include
applicable taxes.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

Mail Delivery: Coffey
County, Westphalia and
Hartford, \$36/1 year;

Elsewhere in Kansas,
\$39/1 year;

Outside Kansas (in U.S.),
\$50/1 year.

Online subscription,
\$30/1 year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Coffey County Republican encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to:
Coffey County Republican,
Drawer A,
Burlington, KS 66839;

or by email to
ccrepub@gmail.com

• We do not publish
anonymous letters.

• We do not publish
form letters or letters
about topics which do
not pertain to our area.
Thank-yous from this
area should be submitted
to the classifieds
desk.

• Letters will not be
censored, but will be
read and edited for
form and style and
legality. We will not
publish attacks on
individuals or businesses
which do not pertain
to public issues.

Please limit the length
to 300 words.

**Contact
The Republican**

Phone: (620) 364-5325
Fax: (620) 364-2607

Email:
ccrepub@gmail.com

Mail letters to:
Coffey County Republican
Drawer A,
Burlington, KS 66839



Letters to the Editor

Former county clerk supports Kirchner

Dear Editor:

This is a letter in support of Angie Kirchner for Coffey County clerk. Angie worked for me for almost four years and when I retired, I encouraged Angie to run for county clerk. I saw in her a person capable of getting the job done. The Clerk's job is responsible for numerous duties for the county and I knew Angie would be quite efficient at seeing that they were completed and done right.

Angie has done an outstanding job for the past 16 years. She has taken great care of the courthouse, managed many projects to their completion, implemented two new voting equipment systems by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and many other clerk's duties. She also has an excellent group of employees that do a wonderful job and are always willing to help any citizen. Angie remains current on the ever changing laws and duties of the county clerk's office and is a hard worker and follows the policies of Coffey County. We are proud of her accomplish-

ments and hope you also see the value and investment the county has in Angie Kirchner.

We ask you to join us in supporting Angie Kirchner for County Clerk.
**Vernon (Retired County Clerk)
and Beverly Birk, Gridley**

Voting on judges

Dear Editor:

With the General Election coming up in a matter of weeks, it will be a decision for every voter - are you pro-life or pro-choice?

The Kansas Supreme Court issued a ruling last year stating that Kansas' Constitution allows abortion using "All men are possessed of equal and inalienable natural rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

All of the work done by previous legislatures to protect life was erased

POLITICAL LETTERS

The Republican does not publish Letters to the Editor pertaining to political issues in the edition before an election (Oct. 29). The deadline for letters to be considered for the Thursday, Oct. 22 issue is 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19. Please plan ahead.

with that ruling, essentially allowing thousands of babies to be killed from the time of conception to before full-term birth.

Since the Constitutional Amendment that would have reversed the ruling failed to pass the House, the next way voters themselves can take control of the Kansas Supreme Court is by voting to not retain the out-of-control judges who vote for abortion.

Save The Babies, a pro-life Kansas group, has put together the list of overreaching judges that voters need to vote NO on. That list includes for the Kansas Supreme Court Judge Rosen; for the Kansas Court of Appeals Judges Atcheson, Arnold-Burger and Warner.

A yes vote will save the pro-life judges on the Kansas Court of Appeals Judges Bruns and Gardner.

A message from Kansas voters needs to be sent to the Kansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals that we are watching and their rulings need to match what Kansans value - and that is life.

Make your voice heard Nov. 3 - vote no on out-of-control judges and help save thousands of babies' lives in the future.

**Jackie Taylor
Chair, Save The Babies PAC
Pleasanton**

County

Continued from Page 1

Hospital, Crosswinds Counseling & Wellness, Silver Threads & Golden Needles, Amy Atchison (Amy Lynn Portraits), Erin A. Pitt (The She Shed), Futari Salon & Day Spa, SCORE, Rock Creek Dental, Jill Milota (The Heidi Inn), Robert Splawn (Buddies, LLC) and Terry's, LLC. Presley expects to present additional agreements at the next county commission meeting.

Emergency Management

Commissioners will compensate Interim Emergency Management Director Amber Presley \$500 CSA pay monthly while serving in the position. The CSA pay is effective Oct. 10.

Regarding a contract for Coffey County to provide emergency management services to Woodson County, Presley said Courtney Bartley and Chelsea Sowder are handling the Woodson County duties.

Presley is working to get several people certified to be CPR instructors.

Commissioners approved posting the position of emergency management director with applications accepted until Friday, Oct. 30.

CEO Introduction

Judy Reese, representing the Coffey County Hospital Board of Trustees, introduced Jeremy Clingenpeel, the new chief executive officer of Coffey Health System.

Clingenpeel, who has 17 years of healthcare administration experience, officially began his CEO duties on Sept. 28. He and his wife, Doris, have three children.

"I think they are going to be a wonderful asset not only for the hospital, but for the county," Reese said.

"I am going to try to get involved in the community as much as I can," Clingenpeel said. "My family is excited to head this way soon."

Clingenpeel succeeds Leonard Hernandez, who resigned to become president and CEO of Susan B. Allen Hospital in El Dorado.

County Engineer

County Engineer Wayne Blackburn gave his weekly report. During the past week, three zoning permits

were issued, all in areas zoned A-1 Agricultural: Mark and Ruth Sloyer to construct a 40' by 30' house at 1284 Shetland; Corrina J. Cooper to move a 14' by 32' garage and three outbuildings to be used as a Swiss cabin at 20 Willow Bend, Burlington; and Michael, Sherry and Edna Yetter to construct a 20' by 26' sunroom addition and a 12' by 8' front porch at 2224 Wayside Road.

September landfill totals were: solid waste - 518.59 tons, construction debris - 341.60 tons, special waste - 16.20 tons, metal - 8.53 tons, tree limbs 1.74 tons, appliances - 4 items, car tires - 122, truck tires - 38, equipment tires - 13, in-county processed tires - 4.01 tons.

Commissioners unanimously approved Blackburn's recommendation to accept a \$57,216.40 bid submitted by Killough Construction, Inc., Ottawa, for asphalt project A2006-C which includes milling, grinding and leveling shoulders on Old Highway 50, from U.S. 75 to Fauna Road. Killough will be able to start the project on Nov. 23 and complete it within 10 days. Three companies submitted bids. The project includes 4 inches of milling and one ton of shoulder rock.

Huginin said he is in favor of having asphalt shoulders on Old Highway 50. The condition of the road has come up repeatedly in the past several months. "In hind sight, if we are going to do asphalt shoulders, you are almost wasting \$57,000," he said.

Other commissioners also favored asphalt shoulder.

"What is safety worth?" asked Saueressig. "Safety has been a big thing with this road."

Throughout the winter, channelizers will be in place and the speed limit will be reduced on Old Highway 50, from U.S. 75 to Fauna Road. In the meantime, commissioners will decide how to proceed with that section of county road.

"To me, it is almost a no-win situation," Meats said while discussing whether to mill the shoulders or leave it until spring.

Blackburn said crews are about half done laying filter rock for the new landfill cell. Crews are patching roads, as well as boom mowing, mowing and maintaining signs countywide. He said fog sealing should wrap up this week and road striping will start. Blade crews are working on several ditch cleaning projects and rock is be-

ing hauled for gravel projects.

Blackburn said Coffey County has been accepted for an off-system bridge on Old Highway 50, between Planter and Quail roads. The bridge will replace an old wood bridge. Blackburn said construction of the new bridge will probably start about the spring of 2022. Coffey County will be responsible for paying 20 percent of the cost, or about \$73,000, and the state will pay about \$292,000.

Dark Fiber

Commissioners approved a master service agreement with Kansas Fiber Network, which will include a \$1,200 initial setup fee and the county paying \$800 per month for a 24-month period. During discussion, it was learned that this agreement is necessary to upgrade the county's 911 system.

The county will be able to connect to Kansas Fiber Network's dark fiber, which Coffey County Information Technology Director Brad Scheibmeir said is 10 times faster than the county's current T1 connection, which the county is paying about \$600 a month. Once the dark fiber is being used, the county can discontinue the T1 line.

Communications Director Tasha Rogers said it will take Motorola 30 to 45 days to complete the 911 system upgrade.

Executive Sessions

Commissioners granted a request by County Counselor Wade Bowie II to have a 10-minute executive session to discuss county policy regarding matters deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship.

Rowley requested a 15-minute executive session with Bowie to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel regarding legal advice.

No action resulted from either executive session.

Miscellaneous

Commissioners approved the agreement to modify the promissory note with Coffey Health System, which includes a revised payment schedule, deferring payments for two years and authorizing the chairman to execute the agreement.

Johnson asked if commissioners could pass a proclamation to recognize election workers around the time of the general election. Commissioners agreed.

COVID-19 timeline

On Dec. 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) country office in China transmitted to the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office the first recognition of a "pneumonia of unknown cause" in

Wuhan, China. The cases were likewise confirmed by a report on ProMED (a programme of the International Society for Infectious Diseases) that day. Pneumonia is a symptom with many causes, from influenza to bacteria to other causes, but here the cause was unknown.

Also at the end of December of 2019, Dr. Li Wenliang, age 34, an ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital, suspected these cases resembled the 2003 SARS outbreak. He tried to alert fellow medical workers. Three days later, the police visited and told him to stop what they considered "crying wolf." He returned to work and caught the virus from a patient. He died three weeks later and is considered a national hero in China today.

Chinese health authorities and WHO announced the discovery of a novel coronavirus on Jan. 9, 2020 and confirmed it as the agent responsible for the pneumonia cases.

By the weekend of Jan. 11-12, Chinese researchers released the full genome sequence of the coronavirus, based on samples from the first patients. This research done in record time allowed accurate diagnostic tests to be developed as well as guidance on treatment options and potential vaccines.

By Friday, Jan. 24, the virus was detected in France in patients arriving from Wuhan, China.

By Jan. 29, the Institute Pasteur sequenced the genome of the coronavirus on behalf of WHO. Additional genome sequencing has revealed that the coronavirus has one or two small mutations each month as it spreads through different populations. Our New York pandemic would be traced back to visitors from Europe.

Viruses are named by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses and on Feb. 11, ICTV announced its name was "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), chosen because the virus is genetically related to the 2003 SARS coronavirus—related but different.

The same day, WHO announced "COVID-19" as the name for the new disease, based on guidelines developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The disease name COVID-19 (CoronavirusDisease-2019) shows it was discovered in 2019.

Serious coronaviruses such as SARS and MERS originate in bats and transfer through other animals to humans. It was therefore thought the origin of this new virus came from the Huanan Seafood market where wild animals were sold. That market was disinfected. In January, it was assumed that only those persons who came in contact with sick and infected animals and people could catch the virus. It was also assumed that people without symptoms were healthy and you were contagious only when you were sick. Due to perceived incompetence by city and provincial officials, by Feb. 14, Ying Yong, the mayor of Shanghai replaced Hubei party chief Jiang Chaoliang, and the head of Jinan, capital of Shandong province replaced Wuhan party chief Ma Guoqiang. Lesson: don't ignore science!

Realizing the severity of COVID-19, China imposed severe internal travel restrictions on Jan. 20. Critics realize that there was not enough evidence before Jan. 14 to have begun such a shutdown. Therefore this six days is the basis for any accusation that China did not act fast enough to quarantine. It is a position held by political folks looking for a scapegoat. But not by the scientist community.

So far, there have been more than 35,000 scientific research papers published or in pre-print dealing with this pandemic. During the months of February, March and April, nearly all of these papers were by Chinese researchers and they still dominate the citations due to their early work. After April, the research switches to Europe and the U.S. because there are too few cases in China today (all imported) but the pandemic continues surging in the West.

By far the most alarming discovery was that individuals could be completely healthy (asymptomatic) and still be infectious, usually day 3 or 4 after having become infected. This allowed much transmission by world travelers who never ran a fever or showed other symptoms. As soon as this highly unusual situation was realized, it became apparent that the infection could have been circulating, away from any meat market. And as its aerosol spread has become more recognized, it is now obvious that, similar to influenza, you could never have kept this epidemic from spreading worldwide.

Because China faced the first cases, they are also ahead in vaccine development. Three of their four major vaccines are "attenuated" or weakened coronaviruses. Their CoronaVac was the first to go to Phase 3 field research in Brazil, two weeks before our "warp drive" vaccines reached that stage and one week before the Oxford vaccine. And while China has made arrangements with Brazil and other test nations to provide them a successful vaccine if it works, China has also joined the Covax system to distribute their vaccine worldwide. America has not.

Because as long as COVID-19 exists anywhere, no one remains safe.



John Schrock
Educator