

## BHS STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Photo submitted

Raven Allen, a junior, receives congratulations from Burlington High School Principal Stacy Reed after being named November BHS Student of the Month. Raven was nominated by Sandy Loucks, English and journalism instructor. Loucks said, "Raven is often the first to volunteer for a difficult task in yearbook. She sticks with it until it is finished and does a good job. She is also willing to help new staff members." The Student of the Month program is the school's incentive to recognize students who stand out among their peers. Certified staff nominate deserving individuals and one student is randomly chosen from all nominees each month, to determine the winner.

## A look at learning models for USD 244

We are in November and still in school on-site. I am sure many people thought we wouldn't make it this far. The credit goes out to many different people too numerous to mention. A big thank you goes out to everyone that has played a part in USD 244 being as normal as possible so far this 2020-21 school year.

I thought I would share with you the three different learning models that are being used or may be used this school year. The On-Site model is the one that almost all of our students are using now. This model looks like school in past years. The Remote model is being used by a few of our students. They use a laptop or iPad to remote into the classroom to join the teacher and students for daily instruction. We feel this is the best method for the kids to continue their learning and, hopefully, be ready sometime in the future to return to school in person. Both of these models have been successful in USD 244 so far this year.

The Hybrid model is something that we are finalizing plans on with administrators, directors, staff, board members, and our community advisory committee and serves as the "just in case" model. This model would have kids divided into two groups. They would attend school one day in person then the next day remotely with the laptop or iPad. They would alternate days like this for as long as necessary. This model would be put in place if we are given orders from the Coffey County Health Department or the State of Kansas. This is a model we hope we never have to use.

What are the things we are doing in schools now to ensure we have on-site

learning? Here is a partial list: Masks are required inside the building for staff, students, and visitors. We do take "mask breaks" throughout the day. We have hired additional daytime custodial staff to help with cleaning throughout the day. We have adjusted lunch groups at all three buildings to limit the number of people in the cafeteria and spread out the kids. We take temperatures of all students before they get on a bus or enter the school. We are trying to social distance as much as possible in our buildings. We are changing out HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) filters more frequently. There are many other things we are doing that are too numerous to mention.

Some people have asked if we will have "snow days" with our ability to have the remote model for students. The answer is yes. If we have remote learning on a snow day, legally we have to feed kids since this is a day of school. This could be dangerous for cars and buses. Some of our staff may need to get to school for internet connection and materials. It might not be safe for them to travel. There are other considerations that make this a dangerous proposition. For now, we would not have school remotely on snow days.

I am very proud of the fact we have been able to do almost everything we normally do, with some adjustments, in USD 244 so far this school year. A reminder to keep washing hands, use masks, socially distance when possible, monitor your own personal health for yourself and the safety of others, and use any other health safety measures you can think of.

Please contact me at your convenience if you have any questions. I can be reached at [cmarshall@usd244ks.org](mailto:cmarshall@usd244ks.org) or (620) 364-8478, Ext. 3040.

GO CATS!  
#Bton244OnTheGrow

## TFI launches new adoption website

TOPEKA — In Kansas, there are approximately 900 children in foster care available for adoption. Most children waiting for adoptive families are age 10 and above or part of a sibling group needing to be adopted together. To recognize the importance of achieving timely permanency for all children and highlight November as National Adoption Month, TFI announces a new adoption website that highlights children waiting for their forever families.

This new adoption website, [adoption.tfifamily.org](http://adoption.tfifamily.org), will increase exposure to the TFI youth available for adoption, and hopefully find adoptive families for these children through the website. If the children are

in a sibling group, you will be able to view the entire group together. You can also easily express interest in a child(ren) through the website.

TFI's Adoption Website also features in-depth knowledge about the adoption process, adoption success stories and adoptive resources.

This year, National Adoption Month's theme is "Engage Youth: Listen and Learn." This theme, which focuses on teenagers, is vitally important because older youth in foster care face a future without stable and caring families to guide them into adulthood, yet studies show that having a close relationship with a caring adult is critical at every age.

## LEROY-GRIDLEY USD 245, LENO-WAVERLY USD 243

### Local schools to host remote learning trial run

As the number of COVID-19 cases in Coffey County and across the state increases, Lebo-Waverly USD 243 and LeRoy-Gridley USD 245 are taking steps to be prepared for a transition to remote learning. While neither district plans to go to remote learning at this time, both are aiming to be as prepared as possible in case the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates the transition in the future.

The LeRoy-Gridley USD 245 Board of Education, due to the likelihood of going to remote learning being high, has decided to run a two-day trial of remote learning Monday, Nov. 30, and Tuesday, Dec. 1. This will give staff, students, parents and community

members an opportunity to see how the transition to remote learning would look. It will also allow time to do troubleshooting and look for ways to improve the remote learning environment and give students the best opportunity to be successful in such an environment.

On the two days of the trial run, all staff will be providing instruction to students through live video feeds, recorded instruction and hard copies of homework. The district is aware some families will have issues with the internet and connectivity and will work directly with those families who need assistance. Meals will be delivered to all families both days.

For those involved in sports, SCCHS will have basketball practices on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. SCCMS will continue to have their practices at their normal time and will play Waverly on Nov. 30. Shuttle buses will be provided to athletes as needed.

The district encourages all to follow county-wide COVID-19 mitigation strategies such as social distancing, properly wearing a mask, washing hands frequently, staying home when feeling unwell and taking responsibility by avoiding large and small gatherings.

Lebo-Waverly USD 243 will have planning and preparation days for students in grades 6-12 on Monday, Nov.

30, and Tuesday, Dec. 1. Students will attend class from home, via their school-issued device, for every class period. Students or families who do not have internet access should contact their building principal or Doug Piper as soon as possible.

Students in daycare, pre-K, kindergarten and grades 1-5 will attend classes as normal on both Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. At this time, there are no plans to go online for grades 5 and below. In the future, if the district decides to go online for elementary students' instruction, there will be time set aside to organize that process. More information will be provided if and when the time comes.

## Southern Lyon County BOE approves staffing changes, renews contracts

HARTFORD — President Kevin Flott called the regular meeting of the Southern Lyon County USD 252 Board of Education to order 7 p.m. Nov. 10, at the Board of Education office in Hartford.

Board members present were Kevin Flott, Gene Windle, Jon Breshears, Emily Darbyshire. Board members present via ZOOM were Steve Redeker, Charles Steffes and Rich Sleezer. Also in attendance were Superintendent Michael Argabright and Clerk Cassie Dieker. Others attending via ZOOM included Shane Clark, Douglas Hes, Annabelle Peyton and Dana Kistner.

Three resignations were accepted: Heather Finnerly as Hartford Junior High girls assistant basketball coach, Hartford Junior High assistant volleyball coach, and Hartford High assistant volleyball coach; Schyler Schmidt as an early childhood para; and Larry Bolz as a bus route driver.

The following were recommended and approved for positions in the 2020-21 school year: Casey Scheller, Hartford High assistant girls basketball coach; Lindsey Stuck, Hartford Junior High assistant girls basketball coach; Aliyah Shetler, part-time early childhood para with no benefits.

The board approved Argabright's recommendation to renew contracts for Principals Shane Clark and Douglas Hes and Early Childhood Coordinator Laura Evins for the 2021-22 school year.

The wage review committee is gathering dates for a future meeting of wage/salary review for 2020-21 school year. The positions under review will be for board clerk/business manager, deputy clerk/accounts manager, administrative assistant/KSDE/KIDS input supervisor/food service representative, secondary secretary, elementary secretary, KSDE/KIDS input supervisor if held by a classified staff member, and superintendent.

Argabright presented changes to the back to school plan. District administration has been continuing to meet with Lyon County Public Health. Principals gave updates on current building remote learners and staffing. Staffing has become the main focus in the matter of keeping the students in the building.

Lyon County Public Health has asked county school districts to help with close contact tracing and sending letters in terms of quarantines.

The Lyon County League has asked all LCL schools to limit the amount of participants at events. Right now the recommendation is four tickets per home athlete and two per visiting athlete. Spacing inside gymnasiums is a concern at this time. Decisions to alter attendance will be made as seasons and caseloads progress.

New iPads and MacBooks have been ordered. They should arrive, be configured, and distributed by Christmas. The Pixelot system has been installed in both large gyms and football fields. Because of the district's updates to internet bandwidth speeds, USD 252 currently has had no issues streaming classes to remote learners. Supt. Ar-

gabright also presented an updated list of grants the district has received this year.

Argabright presented several facility needs. Hartford High School has an area in the laundry/locker room area where piping has collapsed. Relocating the laundry area to the old cafeteria will be examined.

Argabright said Honor

Flight plans are under way but a Spring trip is not looking well at this time. He thanked Lynn Redeker and Susan Menke for all of their work on the Southern Lyon County Education Fund Advisory Board. The district is looking for a NRE/HHS representative to fill a vacancy on the SLCEF Board.

Items approved on the con-

sent agenda includes: regular bills paid in the amount of \$230,024.47; payroll for Oct. 23 of \$162,119.75 and Nov. 6 of \$164,535.9; pledged securities, journal entries, board goals, SLCEF account balances; petty cash and activity account reports; Courtney Ward as a board member on the Southern Lyon County Education Fund Advisory Board.

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