

Winter Sports

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, area high schools started the winter sports season last week. Area basketball teams and wrestling squads are featured in a special section.



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ONLINE EDITION: www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices Page 3

- John Elliott Jr., 43 Sandra Garrett, 63 Ronald Hess, 76 Rosann Osborn, 75

Public Notices Pages 8 and 10

- Adoption of Baby Boy Sims - Notice of Hearing. Coffey County - List of November Warrants. City of Burlington - Resolution No. 2020-06 Summary, Condemned Structure. City of Lebo - Ordinance No. 585, Regulating Public Offenses. City of Lebo - Ordinance No. 586, Standard Traffic Ordinance. Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2008 Chevrolet 2500 Truck.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at www.kansaspublicnotices.com

County up to 32 active cases

The Coffey County Health Department, in its weekly COVID-19 update released Friday, Dec. 4, confirmed 43 new cases of the disease and 39 recoveries. Active cases include 11 males and 21 females and range in age from 0 to 90. As of the update, the county has 32 active cases and has had 318 total positive cases, 10 deaths and 276 recoveries.

Lake Levels

Table with 2 columns: Location (John Redmond, Melvern) and Lake Elevation/Normal/Inflow/Release (cfs) values.

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The official newspaper of Coffey County

Burlington, New Strawn, Lebo, Gridley, LeRoy, Waverly, and Harford. Lebo-Waverly USD 243 Burlington USD 244 LeRoy-Gridley USD 245



Sloyer appointed Coffey County health officer

BURLINGTON — Local family physician Jeff Sloyer, M.D., will serve as Coffey County health officer and as medical consultant to Coffey County Health Department.

Coffey County Commissioners, meeting as the board of health for Coffey County, unanimously approved Sloyer's appointments during a Dec. 2 special meeting. The special meeting was called specifically to discuss the positions, which have been vacant since Nov. 23.

In recent years, the local health officer has been an unpaid position. Sloyer is not asking for compensation; however, commissioners plan to check with surrounding counties to see how they compensate their local health officer.

Sloyer has been associated with Coffey Health System as a family physician since 2004 and has been actively involved in the community.

"We have a great working relation-

ship with Dr. Sloyer," said Coffey County Health Department Administrator Lindsay Payer. "He is a natural choice for this position."

"I want to thank Dr. Sloyer for wanting to take on this role," said Commission Chairman Tom Hugunin.

Coffey County Health Department will be able to resume seeing patients since Sloyer will assume responsibilities as medical consultant for the health department. State statute requires a medical consultant be licensed to practice medicine and surgery.

The county health officer works to assure the public's health. Responsibilities include compliance with pertinent local and state statutes; reporting diseases; establishing an active surveillance program for communicable diseases and other health concerns; establishing health policy and issue

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Coffey County Clerk Angie Kirchner administers an oath to Dr. Jeff Sloyer, who accepted the position of Coffey County health officer during a Dec. 2 special meeting of the Coffey County Board of Commissioners.

Dr. Herder retires from optometry practice

BURLINGTON — After 48 years of practicing optometry, Dr. Dale Herder has regretfully made the decision to retire, due to his health.

Dr. Herder is actively looking for an optometrist to purchase the practice to continue serving the community. The office will officially close Dec. 23. Until then, the office is open for optical services, repairs, eye health vitamins and other ophthalmic products. The office is open 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Patients may call or drop in to request records and/or receive recommendations of optometrists to continue with their eye care.

Dr. Herder began his practice in Burlington Aug. 1, 1972, after graduating from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tenn. He went into partnership with Dr. E.J. Kluender of Yates Center. The Burlington practice was originally a satellite office in the rear room at Burlington Tax, originally Audit Tax.

After a few years, a stone building near Rock Creek on North Sixth Street was renovated and became the new location for The Optometric Center. Dr. Kluender later sold his share of the practice to Dr. Herder. Dr. Herder added on to the building at 316 N. Sixth and continued practicing there until about 15 years ago. The Optometric Center relocated to its present



Dr. Dale Herder, O.D., pictured with his wife, Denise, is retiring after 48 years. The office at 225 Cross Street will officially close Dec. 23.



location at 225 Cross St.

"I have been blessed with outstanding staff members throughout the years," Dr. Herder said. "Most deserving of special recognition, dedication, and loyalty is Julie Schneider, who has been with me for 34 years. Her skills have been instrumental to the success of my practice." Schneider jokingly refers to herself as Dr. Herder's "work wife."

Herder continued, "Stephanie Baker has blessed the practice for the past nine years with her friendliness and optometric skills. We also appreciate our office custodian, Marilyn Bentley, for keeping our office clean."

Dr. Herder and his wife, Denise, are appreciative of the thousands of wonderful, loyal patients they have had the privilege to care for and serve over the years. "You have become

our patient family and friends. We have the most loyal and wonderful patients, ever!" Herder said. "Thank you so very much for the amazing career you made possible for my family and me. Thank you mostly, for your trust in me to care for you and your families' eye care. Thank you, especially for your prayers and uplifting cards. God bless you all. We will truly miss you."

COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

No changes to county's COVID-19 resolution

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Coffey County Commissioners on Monday unanimously decided no changes were necessary to a resolution passed Nov. 24 that exempts the county from the governor's mask mandate.

Resolution 2020-863 addresses many points in Governor Kelly's Executive Order 20-68, however, instead of "mandating," Coffey County is "highly recommended" to observe precautions related to the spread and mitigation

of the spread of COVID-19 in Coffey County.

Precautions include social distancing at least six feet from other individuals and avoiding mass gatherings, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, covering coughs and sneezes into your elbow, regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces and avoid shaking hands, and wear a mask or face covering when inside public spaces, when standing in line or when you cannot social distance.

Coffey County's local health officer,

Dr. Jeff Sloyer, did not recommend any changes to the resolution.

Although all five commissioners were present for the meeting — Tom Hugunin, chairman, Don Meats, Bob Saueressig, Fred Rowley and Tim Johnson — Meats led the meeting. Hugunin was present via StarLeaf video conferencing. While in isolation, Hugunin on Saturday tested positive for COVID-19.

Commissioners did adopt the health officer's recommendation to change quarantine guidelines adopted by Kansas Department of Health and Environment (see story). Coffey County Health

Department Administrator Lindsay Payer said the changes have nothing to do with the resolution.

Legislative Update

Lobbyist Whitney Damron, who has represented Coffey County for many years, offered his insight regarding the 2021 Kansas Legislative session, which starts Jan. 11.

Republicans will hold a 29-11 majority in the Senate and an 86-39 majority in the House of Representatives, where

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County adopts shortened quarantine guidance

In conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention plan to reduce the quarantine period for those exposed to COVID-19, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has issued similar guidance in Kansas. Coffey County will follow the guidance KDHE has recommended, detailed below.

There are two options to the shortened quarantine period, one with testing and one without. Both will require the exposed individual to remain symptom-free during the shortened quarantine period. Due to high risk situations,

those residents in long-term care and assisted facilities as well as offender populations in Kansas Department of Corrections prisons, are not eligible for shortened quarantine periods in any county.

The 14-day quarantine is still recommended per KDHE. "The guidance for quarantine has been changed at the federal level to encourage more people to get tested and encourage better compliance with quarantines," said Dr. Lee Norman, KDHE secretary. Seven-day quarantine Testing and no symptoms

• After exposure, individual must monitor symptoms daily for seven days.

• If there are not symptoms during this time frame, on or after day five, the individual may get a PCR test (rapid antigen and antibody tests are not allowed for this purpose).

• If the test is negative and the individual remains symptom-free, the individual can be removed from quarantine on or after day seven.

• If testing results are pending on day seven, the individual must not leave quarantine until results are received.

10-day quarantine

No testing and no symptoms • After exposure, the individual must monitor themselves daily for symptoms.

• If the individual has no symptoms during the 10 days, they may be released from quarantine without a test.

This new guidance went into effect Dec. 3, and according to KDHE, it is not retroactive, so anyone already under a quarantine order must finish their original quarantine time.

For more information, visit www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov.

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Bids sought to raze, clean up property

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Following a public hearing at the start of the Dec. 2 Burlington City Council meeting, the city council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2020-06, declaring the structure at 216 Hudson Street to be condemned and demolished and for the bid process to begin for the demolition and cleanup of the property. All bids are required to be submitted no later than 10 a.m. Monday Feb. 1, when the bids will be opened at city hall.

All members of the govern-

ing body were present for the first regular meeting in

December: Mayor Stan Luke

and council members Jerilyn Curtiss, Dallas Scothorn, J.J. Jasper, Lewis Lenard, Thomas

Tschantz and Sharon Hall.

No one appeared in person regarding the public hearing. The house sustained heavy fire damage on Aug. 16, 2019. Three people died in the fire and the owner, Richard Powell, died several weeks later from injuries related to the fire.

City Attorney Philip Wright said the property is still owned by the decedent. Wright has contacted the attorney for the decedent's brother, who apparently is trying to file a determination of descent in district court; however, that process



Mark Petterson/The Republican

The Burlington City Council is one step closer to razing this structure at 216 Hudson Street.

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