



See Pages 6 and 7



Contact Us

CALL (620) 364-5325 FAX (620) 364-2607 EMAIL ccrepub@gmail.com

or MAIL THE REPUBLICAN P.O. DRAWER A BURLINGTON, KS 66839

ONLINE EDITION: www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices Page 2

- Joyce Billings, 78 Ifajean Knapp, 102

Public Notices Page 8

- Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2008 Chevrolet 2500 Truck. City of Lebo - Ordinance No. 589, Regarding Outdoor and Open Burning. Estate of David P. Noonan - Notice of Hearing. Estate of Patricia A. Beasley - Notice of Hearing. Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2005 Ford Ranger Truck. Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2007 Chevy Colorado Truck. City of LeRoy - Ordinance No. 434 - 2020 City Code.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at www.kansaspublicnotices.com



Active COVID-19 cases at 45

The Coffey County Health Department, in its weekly COVID-19 update released Friday, Dec. 11, confirmed 30 new cases of the disease and 17 recoveries. The active cases include 22 males and 23 females and range in age from 11 to 80. As of the update, the county has 45 active cases and has had 348 total positive cases, 10 deaths and 293 recoveries. As of the most recent update on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment COVID-19 page, posted 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 14, Coffey County has had 401 total positive cases, 39 hospitalizations and 1,372 negative tests.

Index

- Classifieds9 Community3,5 Courthouse News9 Deaths2 Devotional5 Holiday Gift Guide.....6,7 Opinion4 Public Notices8 Record2 School10 Sports11 Weather2

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



Waverly man wins big at first National Finals Rodeo

Ted Harbin Twistedrodeo.com

ARLINGTON, TEXAS — Jess Pope just picked up the biggest paycheck of his life, earning \$170,417 for 10 days work at the National Finals Rodeo and winning the bareback riding average title.

Don't look for him to settle for anything. He was raised around hard work, and that's going to continue. He left Arlington on Sunday en route to his Waverly, Kansas, home, where he will do some day work for people in his part of the Sunflower State.

He'll also go back to work at the local sale barn every Wednesday during his Christmas break from Missouri Valley College, where he is a senior.

"My goal was to win the average," said Pope, who rode Pickett Pro Rodeo's Uncapped for 89.5 points to finish second in the 10th round of the NFR; that was worth \$20,731. "It's a marathon, not a sprint. I just went in there and did it. It's like what they say, 'Dream it, do it, own it.' I dreamed it up and ran with it."

It was a dream come true for the 22-year-old cowboy. He finished the season with \$220,029 and capped his incredible campaign third in the world standings.

"It shows that I was the guy at the NFR this year," he said. "It doesn't matter what he got on, he rode them all the same. He rode the buckers the same way he rode the 'hoppers.' (Saturday) night when I went



James Phifer

Above, Jess Pope, 22, Waverly, scores an 89.5 in his 10th round ride of the National Finals Rodeo last week in Arlington, Texas. He had an incredible ending to his rodeo season, earning a big paycheck in a national arena and finishing third in the world standings.

to bed, I thought about all 10 horses I got on. There's not one thing different I'd want to do on all of them. I was really strong on everything. I feel like I had a great finish."

He did. He was second in NFR earnings, finishing about \$12,000 behind world champion Kaycee Feild, who earned his fifth gold buckle. Pope leaves Globe Life Field with life-changing money and a boatload of confidence.

"To show up at the NFR and beat the top 15 guys when they're supposed to be on top of their game is amazing, and it helps my

confidence a lot," Pope said. Those are the best horses you get on all year long and do it in 10 days in a row. I went in there and realized I can do it.

"It's just the beginning for me."

Until his next rodeo, though, he'll still build on his work ethic. When he's not doing day work or helping at the sale barn, he'll be working out and dreaming about bucking horses.

"There's a lot more to my life than just rodeo," he said. "I don't even know the next rodeo I'm going to go to. I'm going to go home and do the stuff I love. I'm



Photo submitted

Jess Pope

not the kind of guy to just sit at the house. I'm going to go about my life like I did before."

COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

Architects propose two sites for judicial center

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Sickness prevented Chairman Tom Hugunin and Vice Chairman Don Meats from attending the regular weekly meeting of the Coffey County Commission Monday. Commissioner Bob Saueressig conducted the meeting with Commissioners Fred Rowley and Tim Johnson also present. Because of the unusual situation, commissioners decided to reschedule two emergency management director interviews planned for the afternoon.

Representatives of Goldberg Architects met remotely with Coffey County Commissioners to discuss two projects. The first project is COVID-related and involves improvements to the courthouse ventilation system intended to mitigate any microbacterial pathogens. The estimated cost is \$250,000 to \$350,000.

The other project involves improvements to the sheriff's office, jail and district court. Goldberg is leaning toward constructing a new 35,000 square foot judicial center that would have the sheriff's office, jail, county attorney and judicial services under one roof.

Goldberg identified two preferred sites, both in Burlington. One site was referred to as the Wise-Moddie property at 10th Place and Fourth Street. The other site was referred to as the Joseph Rohr site north of Sanders Street and Second Street. Goldberg favored the Rohr site for future expansion. The jail is being designed for 70 to 80 beds, but could be expanded to 160 beds if necessary in the future. By having smaller pods the jail will be able to separate co-defendants, males/females, mental health, etc.

At one time, the Coffey County Airport was being considered for a judicial center; however, Burlington has more plusses than the airport.

Goldberg looked at renovating and expanding current facilities at the courthouse, but difficulty in retrofitting the current jail makes a new judicial center a more cost effective option.

The judicial center will be discussed further in future meetings.

County Appraiser Connie Lawrence presented two disposal notices for used vehicles and two bids for new mid-size pickups for the appraiser's department. Commissioners approved a

\$25,429 bid submitted by Crow-Moddie Ford for a 2021 Ford Ranger crew cab pickup less \$2,500 trade-in value of a 2005 Ford Ranger pickup for a total purchase amount of \$23,429.

Commissioners approved a \$27,450 bid submitted by Crow-Moddie Chevrolet for a 2021 Chevrolet Colorado extended cab pickup less \$2,500 trade-in value of a 2007 Chevrolet Colorado pickup for a total purchase amount of \$24,950.

Commissioners approved a recommendation by Interim Emergency Management Director Amber Presley to waive the county's purchasing policy, as to competitive bidding, and to purchase 16 Hon tables per a state contract from Navrat's in the total amount of \$12,853.32. The new tables will replace existing tables in the Emergency Operations Center.

County Clerk Angie Kirchner thanked Wolf Creek Generating Station for allowing a list of Coffey County phone numbers to be distributed with the calendars and emergency response information.

Trustpoint Insurance representatives Angela Trimble and Bobbi Gellhaus presented detailed information regarding Coffey County's insurance cover-

age through EMC. Commissioners approved renewing the county's 2021 insurance coverage through Trust-Point Insurance. The annual premium is \$349,275 for 2021.

Coffey Health System CEO Jeremy Clingenpeel visited for a few minutes with commissioners. He said the hospital and clinics are working with state agencies to make sure they have the most current information on vaccines.

County Engineer Wayne Blackburn received permission to close the Coffey County Landfill on Saturday, Jan. 2. The landfill is typically open the first and third Saturday of each month.

Due to a vacant position created by retirement, commissioners granted Blackburn permission to advertise for a full-time survey party chief.

Blackburn said the retiring employee is also KDHE certified as a wastewater operator, which is required for the county-maintained Jacobs Creek sewer system, which consists of two pumps and a lagoon. Blackburn proposed contracting the employee for up to six months for the sewer duties, until another person becomes certified.

Local churches plan Christmas services

Area churches have planned special church services to celebrate Christmas. The following summary was compiled from information requested by The Republican and submitted by area churches. If a certain area church is not listed, feel free to check with that local church for more information. Many churches have made the difficult decision not to gather for special programs due to COVID-19 this year.

Burlington

First Assembly of God, 514 S. 9th St., Christmas Eve service 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, in-person service with music and communion. Drive-thru prayer with communion in front of the church, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Traditional Christmas candy bags for kids (while supplies last). Christian Church of Burlington,

1401 Cross St., Christmas Eve service 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, face masks are encouraged. Live streaming through their Facebook page and YouTube channel available through the link found on their website at cc-burl.org.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 214 Juniatta St., Christmas Eve mass 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24.

Emerald

St. Patrick Catholic Church, Christmas Eve mass 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24; Solemnity of Mary mass 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

Gridley

Gridley Christian Church, 617 Henry St., in-person Christmas Sunday church service 10:15 a.m., Dec. 20. Sunday services are currently in-person and live-streamed each week.

Christmas Eve, in-person candlelight service, 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24. Live streaming available via their Facebook page www.facebook.com/GridleyChristianChurchKS/.

New Strawn

Radiant Life Church, 139 1st Terrace, in-person Christmas Eve candlelight service 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, with cookies and cocoa served afterwards. Online services available at Radiantkts.com.

Waverly

St. Joseph Catholic Church, 107 Senior St., Christmas Day mass 8 a.m. Friday, Dec. 25.

Westphalia

St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church, 404 Garrison Ave., Christmas Day mass 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 25.

Illness rates prompt remote learning at BHS

Katie McMurray Reporter

BURLINGTON — Burlington High School is in remote learning for the final week of the first semester of the 2020-21 school year, with activities suspended until Jan. 4, and the decision to go remote with activities suspended was a topic of discussion at two different points in the regular monthly meeting of the Burlington USD 244 Board of Education Monday, Dec. 14.

Superintendent Craig Marshall announced the change Dec. 10. He cited student and staff health issues as the reason for BHS going into remote learning. BHS staff had work days Dec. 11 and Dec. 14, for final preparations to start the remote learning Dec. 15.

Initially, all activities at BHS were suspended through Dec. 13, except the ACT testing Dec. 12. However, on Dec. 11, Marshall announced that, due to student and staff health issues, all activities for BHS are suspended Dec. 11 to Jan. 3, including all practices. Activities will resume Jan. 4.

At the school board meeting Dec. 14, patron Beth Sloyer, who has a son on the boys' basketball team, addressed the board about the suspension of activities. She said how, after the team was quarantined Dec. 4, her son attended classes, and she commended the teachers and technology staff for making that possible, as her son did feel like he was part of the classroom the best he could at the time.

"I'm sure it was a nightmare for the teachers to juggle both remote learners as well as tending to the needs within the classroom, and I understood, as it went along, why the need to consider going to remote learning became an option. Academically, I'm not as concerned about Braden as I am his social and emotional health. The concern I'm bringing before the board is the decision by administrators to suspend all BHS activities, in particular the boys' basketball practices and games, without consideration of every single program or activity's circumstances."

Sloyer said she was notified by administration that everyone involved in the decision was in complete agreement, but the board would ultimately decide, and may not agree with the decision and could make changes.

"My concern was you can learn remotely, but I don't feel like activities and athletics can be done remotely," Sloyer said. "I'm here tonight in hopes that moving forward, consideration to a plan to consider activities, even though remote learning is taking place, would be reviewed."

She pointed out the boys' basketball team was quarantined until 7 a.m. Dec. 14, had been cleared by local health professionals, and according to guidelines, are potentially the safest kids to be practicing. She also said that kids are going to gather and that by allowing school-sponsored activities, games and practices to resume, the school can set the guidelines and precautions, ensuring the kids will be in the safest possible setting.

"For years, we've had the belief keeping kids engaged and involved in activities is the best thing for them, and I am curious why that has been disregarded," Sloyer said. "An argument can be made now more than ever that high school students need to be included and involved in structured school activities in a responsible way. So, tonight I am respectfully urging the board to

See Remote, Page 10

Schmidt joins lawsuit against Facebook

TOPEKA — Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt joined a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general in filing a lawsuit against Facebook Inc., alleging the company is engaging in business activities that stifle competition to protect its monopoly while at the same time reducing user privacy and online options.

Schmidt joined a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia alleging that Facebook violated section two of

See Lawsuit, Page 8