



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

- Wayne Bolen, 87
Doreen Metzger, 77
Gladys Newkirk, 92

Public Notices Pages 6,7

- Estate of David Patrick Noonan - Notice of Hearing on Petition for Final Settlement.
Estate of Patricia A. Beasley - Notice of Hearing.
Hartford City - Ordinance No. 159 - Penalties.
Coffey County Planning Board - Hearing, Case No. SU-2021-01.
Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2005 Ford Ranger Truck.
Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2007 Chevy Colorado Truck.
Estate of Richard Lee Powell - Notice of Hearing.



News office holiday hours

BURLINGTON — The Coffey County Republican office, 324 Hudson St., Burlington, will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25 for Christmas, and Friday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

The Coffey County Republican will be published on Thursdays, as usual, through the holidays. Subscribers who normally receive their newspapers on Thursdays in the mail should receive normal service. Newsstand copies are available at all regular locations throughout the county.

The news and advertising deadline remains 5 p.m. Monday each week.

Index

- Christmas Greetings 8-16
Classifieds ..... 6
Community/School ..... 3,5
Courthouse News ..... 2
Deaths ..... 2
Devotional ..... 5
Real Estate/Ag News.... 4
Public Notices ..... 6,7
Record ..... 2
Sports ..... 7
Weather..... 2

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

COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

County continues mask recommendation

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Coffey County Commissioners continue to highly recommend wearing of masks, washing hands and maintaining at least six feet distance from other people in social settings.

Commissioners did not make any changes to Resolution No. 863, which they originally passed Nov. 23 to opt out of the governor's mask mandate. Commissioners review it every two

weeks. In the absence of Coffey County Health Department Administrator Lindsay Payer, Carl Lee briefly discussed COVID-19 figures in Coffey. As of Friday, Coffey had 58 active cases, up from 45 the prior week. While total cases are up, hospitalizations are down. The hospital received its first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine (see story), which will be distributed according to a priority list. Lee said it could be early spring before the vaccine will be available to the general public.

Chairman Tom Hugunin presided at the regular weekly meeting with

commissioners Bob Saueressig, Fred Rowley and Tim Johnson present. Commissioner Don Meats was absent.

County Engineer

County Engineer Wayne Blackburn said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment conducted a semiannual groundwater inspection at the Coffey County Landfill, which came back good.

Commissioners approved Change Order No. 1 for Asphalt Project A2006-C, for milling, grinding and leveling shoulders on Old Hwy. 50, from U.S. 75 to Fauna Road, for an additional 19.74 tons of AB-3 rock, which was

needed for additional material for fill and leveling shoulders for a total net increase of \$789.60 to Killough Construction. Blackburn said the construction signs and 45 mph speed limit signs will remain in place, even though Killough Construction has finished its work.

Blackburn said crews continue to work on ditching on the Mathias Lake project.

Blackburn referenced the 2021 construction projects presented several weeks ago. He will ask for a meeting next week to accept the 2021 projects.

See County, Page 7

CHS frontline caregivers receive COVID-19 vaccine

Tracy Campell, CHS For The Republican

BURLINGTON — Coffey Health System received 80 doses of the nation's first COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday, Dec. 16. The limited national distribution of Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine was earmarked specifically for healthcare workers.

According to the Kansas Department of Health & Environment, the state received 24,000 doses. Kansas hospitals employ more than 100,000 people, so shipments were allocated based on facility size and immediate need. First priority is given to front-line staff who have a higher potential for exposure: doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, emergency personnel, laboratory staff, etc.

All CHS employees have the option of receiving the vaccine as dosages become available. Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), CHS did not issue a vaccine mandate.

"This is new to everyone," said Chief Executive Officer Jeremy Clingenpeel. "As healthcare workers become more comfortable with the idea of taking the vaccination and see that others aren't having any immediate side effects, we may see more team members add themselves to the list to receive one as well. The hope is to get as many of our healthcare workers vaccinated as possible — the sooner the better. But if spreading it out is what it takes, we are willing to help people and be there with the vaccine when they are comfortable."

Timing is also crucial in administering the Pfizer vaccine, which must be kept at minus 70 degrees Celsius. Once a vial is opened, it must be used within six hours. To meet the time limit, CHS employees who choose to vaccinate must report to the hospital at specified times. Groups of five are vaccinated during each interval.

On Dec. 18, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration granted emergency use authorization to a second COVID-19 vaccine by Moderna, with shipments beginning early this week. National distribution will continue as Pfizer and Moderna accelerate production. By distributing shipments as they become available, front-line workers can be vaccinated sooner and health systems aren't overwhelmed with vaccinating all employees at once.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two shots, with the second dose administered 21 to 28 days after the first dose.

Vaccinations are the latest in a long list of precautionary measures throughout Coffey Health System: visitors are not allowed at the hospital, family members are restricted for clinic appointments, and all staff must conduct temperature screens at the beginning of each shift. Additional logistics are in place to separate potential or confirmed COVID-19 patients from others. One wing of the hospital now serves as a quarantine unit and only essential staff wearing full personal protective equipment may enter.

"On top of coordinating all of these protective measures (and more), our infection control (IC) team dropped everything when we found out the vaccine was coming," Clingenpeel said. "We were supposed to receive at least one



Photo submitted Nurse Practitioner Ashely Beying is among the first Coffey Health System frontline caregivers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

day's notice before we would receive the vaccines; however, this time, we were able to get set up and organize which staff would receive the vaccine. Kudos to the IC team for their ongoing work to keep us safe amid this pandemic."

While vaccine distribution is not officially broken into phases with deadlines, Clingenpeel explains his expectations.

"I am calling this Phase 1 for healthcare workers," he said. "Phase II would be those in nursing homes or immunocompromised. Phase III would be the public. We have no real idea on the dates, but I am hearing the goal is to have Phase II started between February and March. Then Phase III would hopefully start sometime in the early spring. We will see how it plays out though. If we can say anything positive has come out of this, we have all learned to be more flexible and adaptable in this pandemic."

As of December 18, 58 Coffey County residents had a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. Since March, the county has logged more than 400 cases with 10 deaths.

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Luke presented KPP Distinguished Service Award

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Burlington Mayor Stan Luke received the Kansas Power Pool Distinguished Service Award at the start of the Dec. 16 Burlington City Council meeting.

Kansas Power Pool CEO/General Manager Mark Chesney made the presentation in front of council members Jerilyn Curtiss, Dallas Scothorn, J.J. Jasper, Thomas Tschantz and Sharon Hall, various department heads and visitors. Council member Lewis Leonard was absent.

Chesney said Luke completed 10 years of service as a member of the KPP Board of Directors, which was formed in 2010. Prior to 2010, Luke served on KPP's executive committee. Luke served as president of the KPP Board of Directors in 2016.

"KPP has made a lot of monumental decision the past 10 years," Chesney said. "Stan has given more in the way



Becky Richwine/For The Republican Kansas Power Pool CEO/General Manager Mark Chesney, left, presents Burlington Mayor Stan Luke with the KPP Distinguished Service Award.

of advocacy for the interest of KPP and public power generally, not only for the state of Kansas but throughout the United States."

Luke is a member of the American Public Power Association Policy Makers Council, which is a group of elected officials. Luke will serve as chairman of that council beginning June 2021.

Chesney said the KPP Board of Directors created the KPP Distinguished Service Award and made it clear to be selective in presenting the award. "We just don't give this award to anybody," he said.

Rob McDonald, operations manager for MT Networks, briefly discussed a proposal for MT Networks to lease space on the blue water tower in order to provide high-speed wireless internet to more than 160 people in the area. MT Networks built fiber to that tower about three years ago. Placing equipment on the tower would allow

See City, Page 7

Trout, bonuses OK'd by New Strawn City Council

NEW STRAWN — The New Strawn City Council met Thursday, Dec. 10 and approved ordering trout for the city lake and approved Christmas bonuses for employees.

Council President Rhonda Taylor presided at the meeting in the absence of Mayor Mark Petterson. Other council members present were Richard Croll, Jeanne Haas, Gary

Haehn and Jim Weeks. Others present were Zoning Administrator Martha Newkirk, Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, City Clerk Lana Johnson and City Attorney Philip Wright.

At the request of Zoning Administrator Newkirk, the city council reviewed eight proposed changes to the city's fee schedule and application for building/zoning permit. City Attor-

ney Wright will look into the zoning regulations to ensure the proposed changes are acceptable.

Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight submitted a written report that included a CARES update and getting bids for a post frame building to cover the salt bin.

The council approved purchasing materials, not to exceed \$3,000, re-

quired to upgrade the water meter at 244 N. Industrial Drive, contingent on the property owner paying in advance for materials.

Haas thanked Dwight for hanging the outside Christmas lights. Dwight thanked Taylor and her husband's help in hanging the veterans banners

See New Strawn, Page 7

