



2020 in the rearview mirror

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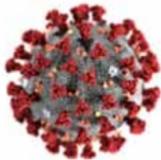
or MAIL
THE REPUBLICAN
P.O. DRAWER A
BURLINGTON, KS 66839
ONLINE EDITION:
www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices Page 3

- ☐ Lloyd Isch, 75
- ☐ Florence Madden, 97
- ☐ Raymond Pittman, 76

Public Notices Page 6

- ☐ Estate of David Patrick Noonan - Notice of Hearing on Petition for Final Settlement.
 - ☐ Estate of Patricia A. Beasley - Notice of Hearing.
 - ☐ Estate of Richard Lee Powell - Notice of Hearing.
- Access public notices throughout Kansas at www.kansaspublicnotices.com



Active COVID-19 cases drop to 28

The Coffey County Health Department reported Monday 28 active COVID-19 cases in Coffey County. That is a decrease from 58 active cases reported Dec. 18, which was the last update.

Since Dec. 18, Coffey County recorded 61 new cases and 91 recoveries. The active cases included 19 males and nine females ranging in age from under 10 years old to over 91 years old.

Since March, Coffey County has recorded 468 positive cases of COVID-19, 430 recoveries and 10 deaths.

Average Gas Prices

Week ending Dec. 29, 2020

Kansas	Nation
\$2.01/gal.	\$2.25/gal
▲ 2.2 cents	▼ 0.8 cents

KansasGasPrices.com

Index

Classifieds	8
Community	2,5
Courthouse News	6
Deaths	3
Devotional	5
Opinion	4
Public Notices	6
Record	3
School	7
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

There's no question COVID-19 dominated the news in 2020. The first case showed up in Coffey County near the end of March. Since that time the governor shut down schools, shut down businesses and issued stay-at-home orders.

People have been told repeatedly to wear masks, wash hands and observe social distancing by staying six feet away from people. Many activities involving crowds were canceled. A number of meetings were held remotely by video conferencing.

Coffey County Commissioners opted out of the governor's mask orders while encouraging people to voluntarily wear masks and maintain social distance. Local businesses have been innovative in finding ways to serve the public while observing safety precautions. And schools implemented a number of policies in order to allow teachers to have face-to-face learning with students.

Throughout the year, a number of newsworthy events occurred. Following is a sampling of the stories that appeared on pages of The Coffey County Republican.



January 9
Coffey County Hospital's first baby of 2020 is Novaleigh Skye Fletcher. Novaleigh was the daughter of Savannah and Ben Fletcher, Burlington.

Novaleigh arrived at 6:32 a.m. Jan. 2 weighing 6 pounds, 2 ounces. Dr. John School delivered Novaleigh.

Visitors to the Coffey County Museum were able to view seven new exhibits created by students in the Extended Learning program at Burlington Middle School and Lebo Junior High. The exhibits, on display through March, were: Entertainment Then and Now, Coffey County Railroad History, Johnson's Family Pharmacy, the B-29 and the Korean War, Women of the Frontier, 1950s Toys and NFL History Highlights.

Burlington High School senior Cael Johnson signed a letter of intent to wrestle for the Baker University Wildcats. Johnson was only the third BHS wrestler to earn 100 career wins, among many other impressive stats.



January 16
The end of the first full week of January brought a round of winter weather that left the area covered in snow after the first winter storm of 2020 moved through. The storm, called Winter Storm Isaiah, was brewing for several days before it impacted Kansas. Isaiah impacted the area in two rounds. Rain and thunderstorms began overnight Thursday and the rainy weather continued through much of the day Friday, transitioning in the afternoon and evening hours to freezing rain, which coated the area in a thin sheet of ice. In the later evening hours Friday, precipitation tapered off and there was a lull in the storm. Early Saturday morning, the storm's second punch arrived in the form of snow. By the time the snowfall ended, multiple inches of snow were covering the ground and multiple school activities had been affected.

January 23
Neosho Lodge #27 wrapped up its most successful Veterans Honor

Flight fundraiser to date. With raffle sales of \$24,971 and other contributions of \$59,204, the Masons raised a total of \$84,175, as of Dec. 26. Proceeds were presented to Honor Flight Coordinator Jeff True, who is a teacher and coach at Southern Coffey County High School. So far, SCC has sponsored 18 Honor Flights with 478 veterans making the two-day trip to visit memorials and other meaningful sites.



January 30
The Waverly City Council met Wednesday, Jan. 8, with Jake Marsh taking the oath of office as the new mayor for the City of Waverly. Others taking the oath of office were re-elected council members Jerry Collins, Nicole Rasmussen and Tammy White.

February 6
Coffey County Commissioners approved spending \$2.1 million to purchase new 800 MHz Motorola radios and related equipment. The new radio system will replace the current system put in place in 2009. The proposal includes three consoles and 300 radios (portable and dash mounted) that would be used by emergency management, sheriff's department, Burlington police, Coffey County EMS, Coffey County firefighters, Waverly police, LeRoy police, Lebo police and county highway department.

Three Coffey County landowners received conservation awards and one landowner was recognized with a continuing conservation award Wednesday night, Feb. 12, at the Coffey County Conservation District's 79th annual meeting and banquet. Glen and Debbie Isch received the Bankers Award for soil conservation.

Gene Snider received the Grassland Award. Mike and LaVina Dalby received the Buffer Award. Oscar and Lynda Kistner were recognized with a Continuing Conservation Award.

Burlington High School celebrated Winter Homecoming with the crowning of Queen Carlee Broyles and King Trevr Bahr.

Both the Lebo boys and girls basketball teams played in the championship games at the Lyon County League Basketball Tournament. The Wolves lost a 37-36 heartbreaker to Madison in the championship boys' game. The Lady Wolves lost to undefeated Olpe, 61-27, in the championship girls' game.



February 13
Waverly eighth-grader Calvin McMillen won the Coffey County Spelling Bee. Runner-up was Corey Reese, an eighth-grader from Lebo who went head to head with Calvin four rounds before tripping up on the word "pamphlet." Calvin then correctly spelled "depot" for the win. Earning a third place finish was Kaylen Simmons, a sixth-grader from Southern Coffey County. Waverly hosted the spelling bee on Feb. 6. McMillen earned a trip to the Sunflower State Spelling Bee March 21 at Newman University, Wichita.

Coffey County Commissioners approved a \$61,500 grant to the City of

See **2020**, Page 10

COFFEY COUNTY

Commission OKs 2021 construction plan

Mark Petterson
Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Commissioners worked through a short agenda and signed December vouchers and warrants when they met Monday.

Commissioners present for the regular weekly meeting were Tom Huginin, chairman, Bob Saueressig, Fred Rowley and Tim Johnson. Don Meats was absent.

County Engineer

County Engineer Wayne Blackburn recommended, and commissioners approved, his request to approve the 2021 Construction Project Plan. Several weeks ago, Blackburn presented the plan at a county commission meeting, complete with detailed maps of work slated for 2021.

Commissioners waived the county's purchasing policy, as to advertising, due to informal quotes from all local active rock quarries, and to approve the purchase of rock as needed for 2021, from the following quarries: Mid-

States Materials, LLC, Nelson, Harshman, APAC-Kansas Shears Division and Harshman-Knight Land, LLC, depending on the location the rock is to be used.

Blackbourn briefly discussed construction activity countywide.

Zoning Administrator Heidi Harris issued one zoning permit to Larry and Joanna Clark to build a 30' by 34' shop/garage at 1022 11th Road, which is zoned A-1 Agricultural.

Health Department

Kerri Huginin and Carl Lee, representing Coffey County Health Department, answered several questions from commissioners regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. A story in the Dec. 24 edition of The Republican explained that 80 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech were provided to Coffey Health System on Dec. 16 and earmarked specifically for healthcare workers.

Lee explained that federal and state officials determine the priority in administering the vaccine starting with healthcare workers, long-term fac-

ility staff, long-term facility residents, other responders then the public. The vaccine likely will not be available to the general public until late February or March.

Once additional vaccine is received, more healthcare workers and nursing homes will be vaccinated.

Miscellaneous

Commissioners authorized the chairman to sign one tax abatement in the amount of \$248.16.

They approved payment of the Goldberg Group Architects (GGA) invoice in the total amount of \$24,475.07 for the Coffey County Courthouse/new Justice Center study. The invoice included \$15,000 for COVID Assessment at the Courthouse, \$4,500 for a courthouse master plan, \$4,500 related to a new justice center, and \$475.07 for GGA expenses.

While looking over vouchers, Saueressig noticed a number of \$30 Amazon gift cards were purchased for the wellness program. "Why can't we purchase Chamber Bucks instead?" he asked.

LEBO-WAVERLY USD 243

Board approves remote learning policy amendment

Ida Wilson
Reporter

Montgomery execution vacated

Lisa Montgomery, formally of Melvern, no longer has a set execution date. Montgomery was convicted by a jury of kidnapping resulting in death in 2007.

Her original execution date was set for Dec. 8 and later delayed to Jan. 12 due to two Tennessee-based public defenders contracting severe cases of COVID-19. The delay was meant to allow her attorneys to recover from the virus and file a clemency petition on her behalf. A federal judge ruled the January execution date was unlawfully rescheduled because a stay order was still in effect.

The delay may likely mean the execution date would be set after Joe Biden, president elect, has taken office. Biden has decied the death penalty, leaving



Photo submitted
Lisa Montgomery

LEBO — The Lebo-Waverly USD 243 Board of Education met in regular session Monday evening, Dec. 14, and made plans for a day care at Lebo, began discussion about teacher negotiations, and discussed various issues created by COVID 19 concerning education and school events.

President Jerry Riley presided over the board, which included Jim Davies, Jeff Holmes, Caroline McWilliams, Perry Ott and Todd Wallace. Denise McNabb arrived at 7:35 p.m. Also present were Superintendent Corey Reese, Clerk Patty Medina, Lebo principal Duane Ford, Waverly principal Susan Wildeman and educator Jessica Gad-dis.

The board approved a remote learning policy amendment, which allows principals in the district to decide when remote learning is provided to students and to decide when face-to-face learning should be required. The decision is to be based on student

health concerns, student growth, academic development, attendance, as well as other potential considerations too numerous to list. Any parent who disagrees with the principal's decision related to remote learning may appeal to the USD 243 Board of Education. This policy amendment will take effect Jan. 1, 2021.

The board had a total of 25 minutes of executive session for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel, including the board, Supt. Reese, and Principals Ford and Wildeman. Upon returning to open session, the board hired Bobbi Staley as the Waverly sophomore class sponsor. They accepted the resignation of Theresa Baker, effective Nov. 24, as the USD 243 Childhood Coordinator, and hired Jamie Penland to fill the position.

The board went into executive session for a total of 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, including the board and Supt. Reese as needed. Upon returning to open session, the board accepted Supt. Reese's evaluation as presented.

The board approved a letter to begin negotiations with teachers for the 2021-22 school year. Among the items to be negotiated will be salary, fringe benefits and the calendar.

The board approved a draft calendar for the 2021-22 school year. Board members Ott and McNabb will serve on the calendar negotiation committee.

The board learned about plans and costs to have a daycare at Lebo. The daycare is to start as soon as possible. It is to be located in the north end of the east elementary wing in order to meet the state requirement to have the program. Much of the work will be done over the winter break.

Both principals shared information about sports in their schools. The board, Supt. Reese, and both principals discussed issues related to the Kansas State High School Activities Association and Lyon County League with regard to attendance at sporting events.

Principal Wildeman told of plans being made to help struggling readers at

See **USD 243**, Page 7

