

2020

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Burlington to purchase a diesel generator to be located at the city's water plant. Commissioners also approved hiring McGrath Human Resources Group to conduct a compensation study, HR audit and provide job description updates. By doing all three together, the cost will be \$43,970, which is \$1,750 less than having the compensation study and HR audit done separately.



The Floyd Lewis Foundation announced Jeff True as their 2019 Citizen of the Year recipient. True has been a teacher and coach at Southern Coffey County Middle School and High School for the past 28 years. He teaches American History, World History, American Government, Economics, Sociology, and Current Events. He also coaches volleyball, girls basketball, and boys and girls track at SCCHS. True is the coordinator of the LeRoy-Gridley USD 245 Honor Flight program that takes veterans to Washington, D.C., to observe the memorials built on their behalf. Prior to COVID-19, the program had grown to two flights a year. Each trip includes round trip air fare for 24 veterans, 24 SCC student guardians, seven SCC staff members, and medical staff from Coffey Health System. There is no cost to any of the veterans.

Norman Bowers, of Bowers Civil Engineering, summarized the progress of a City of Burlington street plan implemented in 2011. In 2011, only 32 percent of the city's 34.6 miles of streets were in good condition and 22 percent were in excellent condition. Nine years later, the condition of the city's streets is substantially better with 69 percent in good condition and 28 percent in excellent condition.

Casey's General Store, plans new store, with headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa, had plans to demolish the Quick Stop building on the north end of Lebo, and build on the same location. Casey's had obtained the permits needed from the City of Lebo.

Lebo High School celebrated Queen of Courts and crowned Queen Adelyn Tackitt and King Kaden Ott.

Waverly High School celebrated Queen of Courts and crowned Queen Lanie Patterson and King Jolon Lacey.



February 20

The Burlington Lady Wildcat girls' wrestling team competed in the inaugural girls' East Regional Tournament at Paola. Three BHS team members - M.J. Huff, Bryleigh Isch and E'owynn Codney - qualified for the state tournament and will be part of the very first KSHSAA-sanctioned Girls' State Wrestling Championship.

The annual economic impact of the healthcare sector in Coffey is estimated to be \$43.4 million. Each of Coffey Health System's 273 employees supports another 1.51 jobs within the county, which is a total employment impact of 412 jobs.

Southern Coffey County High School crowned Bryli Copeland as queen and Derek Ratzlaff as king during winter homecoming.

Hartford High School crowned Queen Lindsay Torrens and King Tyler Skirvin during Queen of Courts.

The Burlington Wildcat and Lady Wildcat wrestling teams made their marks in the history books, becoming the first pair of wrestling teams representing one school to make a clean sweep of the team Pioneer League Championship titles.



February 27

Cael Johnson earned his 150th career win while competing in the Class 4A Regional tournament at Garnett. Five Wildcat wrestlers qualified for the state tournament: Johnson, Tucker Williams, TT Totty, Caedon Berkenmeier and Damon Hoback.

EMP Shield and The Sweet Granada, two businesses with Coffey County ties, were chosen for regional business awards. EMP Shield, LLC,



Burlington, received the Emerging Business of the year for the Emporia State University area, which represents 11 counties. The Sweet Granada received the Existing Business of the Year for the ESU area. Kim Redeker, formerly of Burlington, owns the business.

National FFA Week was celebrated Feb. 22-29 by FFA chapters at Burlington, Lebo and Southern Coffey County high schools.



March 5

Coffey Health System was a finalist for American Hospital Association (AHA) Rural Hospital Leadership Award

Lebo High School senior Jordan Ford signed a letter of intent to cheer at Allen Community College.

Waverly High School senior Ty Pope signed a letter of intent to participate in rodeo at Missouri Valley College.

Cael Johnson capped his high school wrestling career with a third-place state medal.



March 12

Burlington USD 244 was seriously looking at moving its administrative office to the old Burlington City Hall building at Third and Neosho streets. The plan is to use the school district's current administrative offices for a community-based daycare facility. The Burlington City Council authorized Mayor Stan Luke to lead negotiations between the city and USD 244. The city's intent is to donate the 301 Neosho building and adjoining building to USD 244 for administrative offices. The Burlington USD 244 Board of Education unanimously voted to allow Superintendent Craig Marshall to enter into discussion with the City of Burlington to accept the gift of the old city hall building to USD 244.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) confirmed its first presumptive-positive case of COVID-19 in Kansas. The possible case was identified March 7 with testing sent to KDHE's Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories (KHEL).

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) awarded the City of Lebo up to \$950,480 for its Downtown

Streetscape and pedestrian access and safety improvements.

The Burlington Wildcats captured a 3A Substate championship title, to earn a berth in the state basketball tournament.

The Lebo Wolves won their second straight substate championship to earn a berth in the Class 1A State Tournament.



March 19

Governor Laura Kelly extended the closure of K-12 schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, by Executive Order #20-07. Kelly tasked the Department of Education to convene a group of experts to develop a comprehensive education plan for students for the remainder of the year.

The Coffey County Courthouse and other county buildings started closing early to allow employees extra time to disinfect and clean in all offices. County buildings started closing at 4 p.m. daily for up to 60 days, or May 16.



The Electric Four team - Daniel Rausch, Jesse Durst, Caleb Durst and Garrison Knight - along with Mike Tweedy, their coach, won first place at the KidWind Challenge's Southeast Regionals March 6 in Burlington.

The Lebo Wolves and Burlington Wildcats both lost quarterfinal games at their respective state tournaments. The Wolves lost to South Central, 41-38, at the Class 1A tournament. The Wildcats lost to Galena, 61-54, in the Class 3A tournament.



March 26

Health officials confirmed March 24 that a Woodson County resident tested positive for the novel coronavirus COVID-19. Two positive cases were reported earlier in Lyon County and one positive case in Franklin County.

Utilities to continue to waive late fees

TOPEKA — The Kansas Corporation Commission has extended an order that requires utilities to offer 12-month payment plans and waive late fees to help residential and small business customers avoid disconnection. The original order, issued in May, is set to expire on December 31. Today's action ensures it remains in effect until the COVID-19 pandemic has officially ended. The order applies to all electric, natural gas and water utilities under the KCC's jurisdiction.

A report filed by Commission staff last week shows that payment plans and waiver of late fees appear to be working

as intended. With the exception of one utility (Liberty-Empire), customer arrearage balances are falling with roughly 90 percent of customers keeping up with payment plans. That report can be found on the Commission's website at <https://estar.kcc.ks.gov>.

The Commission acknowledged that some members of the public are advocating for an order reinstating the suspension of utility disconnections. As a result, Commission staff was directed to file a report and recommendation on whether an additional suspension on disconnects is warranted. That report is due Jan. 8.

Death

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indicates that between 2:45 p.m. and 3:10 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, 42-year old James R. Allen, of Parker, was driving in his pickup truck when he struck his mother, 70-year old Charlotte L. Grimes, of Garnett, who was driving in a passenger car one-half mile south of 1800 Rd. on Keitel Rd. in Parker. It is believed Allen turned his pickup truck around and intentionally

struck the car Grimes was driving a second time.

Allen left the scene on foot, and later returned to the area in a second vehicle. By this time, EMS had responded. Grimes was pronounced dead at the scene.

Allen was transported by EMS to the Overland Park Regional Medical Center where he was treated for minor injuries. At approximately 6:15 p.m., KBI agents arrested Allen for second-degree murder. He was then booked into the Bourbon County Jail. Formal charges are pending. The investigation is ongoing.

A HUGE and grateful "thank you" to Chelsea, Dylan, Kate, and Megan Evans for the Retirement Reception they planned for me on my last day at Coffey County Land Title. So many of our friends and clients stopped by or called. It was a fun and memorable day.

The many clients we served for my 33 years in the title business have become a big part of my life. The flower arrangements were beautiful! And we enjoyed all the other gifts, especially the ones we drank! Hope to see most of you around the county as I begin a new chapter in my life.

May you always consider Coffey County Land Title as your "home" for land and title needs, and may God bless you all.

- Polly Epting

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Happy BLUE Year!

Go blue for your healthcare HEROES



Please join us in showing appreciation to our amazing frontline healthcare workers throughout Coffey County. You don't even have to leave your home! Simply display blue ribbon, lights, flags, signs—or even this advertisement—at your home or business in support of our local healthcare heroes!

Create your own sign or download one at www.coffeyhealth.org.

For information, call (620) 364-2121 Ext. 4174.

Coffey Health Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization.