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ONLINE EDITION: www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices Page 3

- Judy Grounds, 64
Frederick Herrick, 82
Travis Luney, 48
Leta Meats, 85
Derold Metzler, 86
Rick Turner, 68

Public Notices Page 6

- Estate of Richard Lee Powell - Notice of Hearing.
Coffey County - Resolution No. 779-I, Adopting the Lake Region Solid Waste Management Plan.
Quest Dev. Co., Harold Dvorachek - Notice of Filing Application.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at www.kansaspublicnotices.com

Grants awarded for daycare

BURLINGTON — Burlington USD 244 received two different grants related to its daycare project. The Walter S. and Evan C. Jones Testamentary Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee in Emporia awarded \$325,000 for the daycare and \$50,000 for the playground for the daycare. Other local gifts have been made toward the daycare, which tentatively has a June 1 opening date. See Supt. Craig Marshall's column on page 3 for more information.

Lake Levels

John Redmond 8a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5
Lake Elevation: 1,041.0
Normal: 1,041.0
Inflow (cfs): 200
Release (cfs): 75

Average Gas Prices

Week ending Jan. 5, 2021
Kansas Nation
\$2.03/gal. \$2.27/gal
^ 3.4 cents ^ 0.6 cents
KansasGasPrices.com

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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

Offer for emergency management director

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Coffey County Commissioners have offered the emergency management director position to Carl Lee, upon the acceptance of an agreement on salary.

The decision came at the end of Monday's regular meeting on a 4-1 vote that followed a 30-minute executive session to discuss the position. Chairman Tom Hugunin was the lone dissenting vote. Commissioners Don Meats, Bob Saueressig, Fred Rowley and Tim Johnson all voted in favor of Lee, who works

in the Coffey County Health Department as a public health emergency preparedness coordinator. He has been a full-time Coffey County employee for 10 years and before that spent eight years as a contract employee for Coffey County.

Amber Presley has been serving as the interim emergency management director since Russel Stukeley resigned, effective Oct. 10, to take a position as Riley County emergency preparedness director.

Health Department Health Department Administrator

Lindsay Payer gave a brief update on COVID-19 numbers in the county (see related story). She expects to see another spike in numbers due to Christmas gatherings.

"COVID is endemic in our community now," Payer said. "It is just part of what we have to deal with now."

Payer referred to currently approved COVID-19 vaccines as "newer technology" and health department staff is not comfortable administering the current vaccines. Payer has not been notified when the health department will receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine only has been distributed to the

hospital in Coffey County. Once the health department receives the vaccine, Payer said they may have to contract with someone to administer the "newer technology" vaccine.

Payer and commissioners had a short discussion regarding liability issues in administering the COVID-19 vaccine.

"I think there would be a liability if (someone) comes in and gives the vaccine," Meats said.

"I think there is a huge liability in giving a vaccine that has not been

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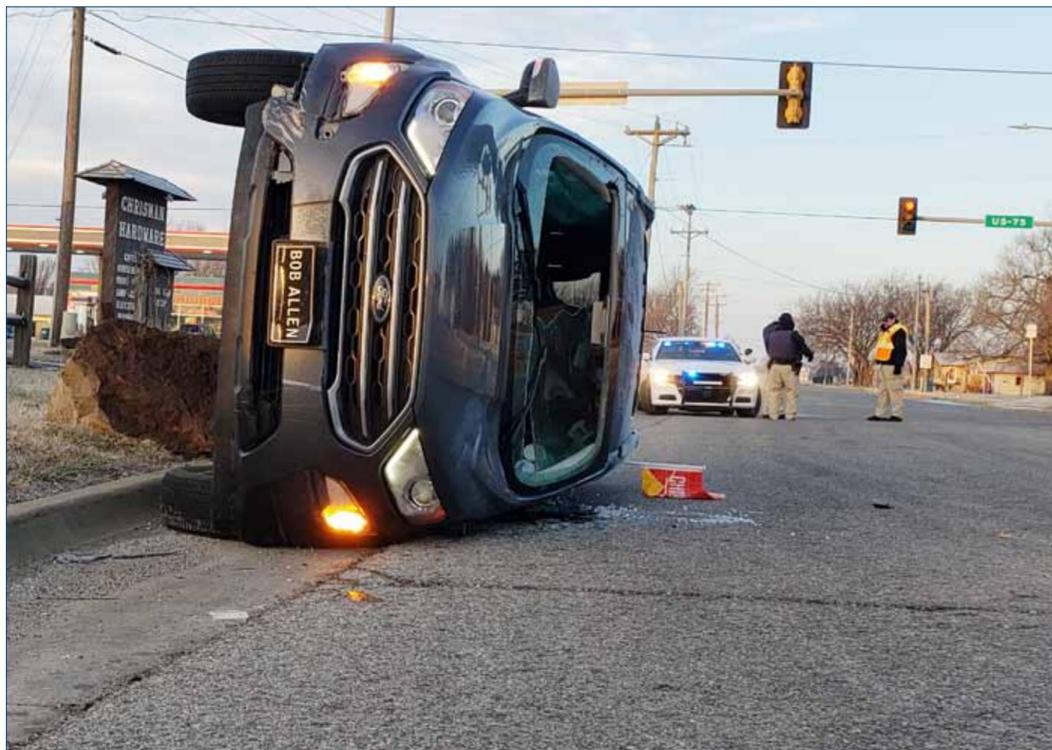
Total COVID-19 cases top 500

The Coffey County Health Department, in its weekly COVID-19 update released Tuesday, Jan. 5, reported the county has passed 500 total positive cases of the disease. CCHD also confirmed 33 new cases of the disease, 29 recoveries and one death since Dec. 28. Active cases include 17 males and 14 females and range in age from 0 to 90. As of the update, the county has 31 active cases and has had 501 total positive cases, 11 deaths and 459 recoveries. As of the most recent update on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's COVID-19 page, posted 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4, Coffey County has also had 40 hospitalizations and 1,558 negative tests.

Execution date reinstated

Lisa Montgomery once again is scheduled to be executed Jan. 12. In late December, a federal judge vacated the Melvern woman's execution date. On Friday, a federal appeals court judge reinstated the Jan. 12 execution date.

In December 2004, Montgomery drove to Missouri and strangled Bobbie Jo Stinnett, who was eight months pregnant. Montgomery removed the fetus with a kitchen knife and tried to pass the baby off as her own before confessing to the crime.



Mark Petterson/The Republican

The driver of this car received minor injuries in an accident that occurred 7:22 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31. Debra Jean Dowell, 55, Burlington, was driving north on Fourth Street and turned east onto Cross Street. Her 2018 Ford Ecosport went up on the curb, struck a boulder and rolled onto the driver's side. Dowell was extricated, transported by ambulance to Coffey County Hospital with minor injuries and was later released.

2020 in the rearview mirror

Following is a continuation of our review of 2020 stories printed in The Coffey County Republican. The first part of the review was printed in the Thursday, Dec. 31 issue.

April 2

The Coffey County Health Department (CCHD) confirmed 16 cases of COVID-19 in residents of the county, as of March 31. The cases included individuals who were asymptomatic, patients who were symptomatic but don't require any medical attention and hospitalized patients and were all connected to Life Care Center of Burlington. The county's first case was identified March 26, a 65-year-old male Coffey County resident. An additional four cases were confirmed March 27, 90- and 88-year-old females and 71- and 75-year-old males, and three more were confirmed March 28, 20- and 67-year-old females and an 86-year-old male. On March 30, six more cases were confirmed in an 84-year-old male and 39-, 82-, 86-, 90- and 77-year-old females. Late Tuesday afternoon, March 31, the CCHD confirmed two more cases in an 86-year-old female and 70-year-old male.



Firefighters battled a fire Tuesday night, March 24, at 509 N. First, Burlington. Residents were able to escape the house.

The state of Kansas has been put under a stay home order by Governor Laura Kelly in order to help limit the spread of COVID-19. Kelly issued the order in executive order 20-16 Saturday, March 28. The order went into effect 12:01 a.m. Monday, March 30, and will remain in effect until rescinded, until April 19 or until the statewide State of Disaster Emergency pro-

claimed March 23 relating to COVID-19 expires, whichever occurs first.

April 9

The county's number of positive cases of coronavirus stood at 35 Tuesday, April 7. A 90-year-old female was the first known death of COVID-19 in Coffey County on March 31. She tested positive on March 30. The Coffey County Health Department (CCHD) announced five cases recovered from the coronavirus.

Coffey County Commissioners approved spending \$3,006.20 on six projects that will temporarily expand wireless coverage throughout the county. Doug Vander Linden presented the infrastructure proposal on behalf of the CoffeyCAN Fiber Optic Board. Vander Linden said approximately 25 percent of the students in Coffey County do not have access to either the internet or to a device. The fiber board's goal is to expand wireless coverage throughout the county to better serve students and residents during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coffey Health System officials and employees going to work April 1 at the Coffey County Hospital were greeted with inspirational words and colorful art drawn in sidewalk chalk on various sidewalks around the hospital.

April 16

Sewers from across the area and beyond have seen the need for more masks and have pulled out their sewing machines and needles in order to help fill that need. Just as the coronavirus knows no boundary in its spread, this growing network of people seeking to lend a helping hand to the effort to provide masks where they are needed most also knows no bias, encompassing individuals and groups, young and old and all manner of skill levels while providing masks to hospitals and nursing facilities, as well as to businesses, loved ones and neighbors.

April 23

The LeRoy-Gridley USD 245 Board of Education unanimously approved moving the middle school students from Gridley to the building currently known as the LeRoy Elementary. All elementary students, including preschool and fifth grade, will attend Gridley Elementary School. All changes will be effective the 2020-21 school year. The Lebo-Waverly USD 243 Board



Coffey Health System employees teamed up to form a collage with a "Stay Home" message to help stop the spread of COVID-19

of Education cancelled senior trips. Lebo seniors had plans to go to Florida, which is currently "a hot spot" and Waverly seniors had plans to go to Branson, Mo.

The Coffey County Health Department confirmed six more cases of COVID-19, bringing the total number of cases to 45 and deaths to six, while the number of recoveries were 13.

The Waverly City Council authorized the sale of \$445,000 in General Obligation bonds to finance the water project completed last summer.

April 30

Five area seniors were recognized as Governor's Scholars: Jalyn Griffith, Burlington High School; Bailey Darbyshire, Hartford High School; Cali Doudna, Lebo High School; Caitlin Patterson, Southern Coffey County High School; and Logan Pyle, Waverly High School. The Governor's Scholars program honors the top academic one percent of Kansas high school seniors.

Coffey County Commissioners decided to cut their own salaries 5.3 percent, effective May 1, citing the coronavirus pandemic. Their monthly salary decreased to \$2,502.04. The reopening of Coffey County Lake was on hold, due to the pandemic.

The New Strawn City Council put plans for Strawnfest 2020 on hold, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Strawnfest had been planned for June 20 to celebrate the town's 50th anniversary. Strawnfest was eventually cancelled with plans to hold the celebration in 2021.

May 7

Coffey County rescinded its local stay-at-home order at 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 4. The order had been in place since March 26. Lifting the order coincides with Governor Laura Kelly's decision to lift a statewide stay-home

order and to reopen the state in four phases. Coffey County will observe the guidance in the Governor's plan "Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas."

Most business at the Coffey County Courthouse continued to be by appointment only, even as Coffey County and much of the state of Kansas began to reopen in phases following the easing of stay-at-home orders put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Public access to the courthouse had been restricted since March 24.

The work week opened with a bang for central and northern Coffey County as severe thunderstorms tracked through the area Monday morning, May 4, pummeling multiple locations with large hail and damaging winds. Baseball size hail fell near Neosho Rapids. In Coffey County, severe storm damage was largely concentrated in the area between 22nd and 23rd roads and Trefoil and Underwood roads.

May 14

In the May 8 update from CCHD, one additional recovery was announced, bringing the totals to 50 positive cases, eight deaths and 39 recoveries. There were three active cases of COVID-19 in the county as of May 11.



Lights illuminated the Burlington High School track, baseball field and softball field last month as a way to recognize high school seniors who missed the last two months of high school due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other Coffey County schools also illuminated their ball fields during a designated time every Friday night.

May 21

While some county offices continued to do business by appointment, Coffey County Commissioners decided to lift general access restrictions and to return to regular courthouse hours. However, district court continued to be closed to the public.

Severe thunderstorms moved

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