



Coffey County youngsters make good use of slippery conditions last Saturday sliding down the south side of John Redmond Dam. The dam offered long, icy slopes for plenty of winter fun. About three inches of snow fell in the Burlington area on top of a wintry mix that began early Friday morning. By Monday, evidence of the snow had disappeared.



Randall VanValkenburg/The Republican

## AuBurn Pharmacy buys Medicine Shoppe

BURLINGTON — AuBurn Pharmacy will soon be offering services to Burlington and the surrounding area with the purchase of The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy. AuBurn Pharmacy, based in Garnett, owns a small group of community pharmacies in Kansas and Missouri that focus on providing quality healthcare at affordable prices. AuBurn Pharmacy will officially begin offering pharmacy services in Burlington on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

"While this was a difficult decision, after finding a trusted and successful independent pharmacy, it became the perfect fit and perfect time to proceed," said James Higgins, owner of The Medicine Shoppe. "My wife Valorie and I would like to thank the customers that have supported us over the years as we started the pharmacy from the ground up. We could only consider selling the pharmacy if we could be assured of the same customer service we have been known for with our great staff would continue."

"We are excited to add the Burlington Medicine Shoppe to our AuBurn family of community pharmacies," said Michael Burns, RPh., owner of AuBurn Pharmacy. "Together, we can offer more services than either could offer

alone. In a world where both healthcare costs and access must be considered, this partnership provides just that. We are honored that James and Valorie Higgins entrusted AuBurn to care for their staff and patients. The fact we are local and family owned made this the perfect fit.

"While we have already been serving Coffey County from Garnett and Lebo, adding Burlington gives our patients greater access to much needed services," Burns said. "We hope this provides added confidence that we are fulfilling our mission of being 'everywhere you need us to be.' It is like having your own community pharmacy wherever you go where we care for the health of our patients and our communities. We will be expanding hours of service as well as much needed offerings such as vaccines (travel, influenza, COVID-19 and others), testing (including COVID antigen and antibody), diabetes care and management, medication compliance packaging/adherence programs and more. All with the same personal service that the Burlington area has come to know and expect with Medicine Shoppe," Burns added.

See AuBurn, Page 8

## Q & A includes remote learning, daycare grant

Question and answer articles have received very positive reviews in the past. So, I thought I would start out the year with one.



Craig Marshall  
USD 244  
Superintendent

**Why did we decide to go to remote learning at BHS the last six days of the first semester?**

Our student absence rate was increasing the week of Dec. 7. The week before, BHS student attendance was excellent. We noticed some other illnesses popping up like strep throat, etc. We had a number of COVID-19 tests pending. On Wednesday, Dec. 9, we had 22 students gone due to a variety of illnesses. This didn't include all of our quarantine students which totaled close to 70. Again, a reminder that quarantine kids aren't necessarily sick. They are just close contacts. Based on all of our information, our leadership felt like it was important to go Remote at BHS. BES and BMS absence rates were very low, and that is why we stayed on-site with these buildings.

**USD 244 decided to suspend activities at BHS from Dec. 10-22 until the state-wide KSHSAA moratorium from Dec. 23-Jan. 3. Why did we do this?**

Our leadership discussed this issue thoroughly. We considered many things. Do we allow activities to continue while we are in remote learning? Do we allow the BHS boys' basketball team to continue, since they were in quarantine the week before we went to remote learning? Do we suspend all activities? Ultimately, we decided it was in the best interests for the health safety for everyone to not have activities and try to get our health trend going in the right direction for the second semester and the start of practice on Jan. 4. There were many people involved in the decisions, and they were taken very seriously.

Will USD 244 open back up on-site in all three buildings

## No dinners

BURLINGTON — There will be no pot luck dinners held at the Burlington Senior center during January or February. The next pot luck will be March 11. Please call (785) 231-4446 for more information.

**after winter break?**

The answer is an emphatic yes. Thank you all in advance for everything you are doing to help our health safety in the county. Remember do "All of the Above" and a little bit more. Social distance, cover coughs, wear masks, sanitize, and anything else you can think of to help with health safety for you and others.

**I heard USD 244 received the grant for the daycare. Is this true?**

Yes. We received two different grants from the Walter S. and Evan C. Jones Testamentary Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee in Emporia for \$325,000 for the daycare and \$50,000 for the playground for the daycare. We are so fortunate for their generosity. We also have wonderful gifts from Wolf Creek (\$25,000), Coffey County Economic Development (\$10,000), TrustPoint (\$1,000 a year for five years), and the Burlington Rotary Club (\$100). These gifts and grants will allow us to renovate the old district office and have money for start-up costs associated with the daycare. We will look to hire a director in January to start the process of creating a wonderful environment for our little kids. We look forward to working with our local daycare providers to help support all of the daycare needs in our county. A tentative date for opening is June 1, 2021. More information later on how to sign up for slots if you have kids.

**How is the baseball/softball concession stand project coming along?**

Great. It is about 75 percent finished. We have had a few delays in materials due to COVID-19 issues. It will be ready for the spring sports season, and it will be a wonderful asset for us in the spring and summer months with Burlington Recreation games. This project has had no change orders, and it is slated right now to come in at or under budget. A big thank you goes out the Walter S. and Evan C. Jones Testamentary Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee grant of \$100,000 and the Burlington Recreation Center for their \$100,000 donation (\$20,000 a year over five years). This facility will enhance our excellent softball and baseball fields for our students, athletes, and fans. Restroom facilities in close proximity is so important for our fans.

**What are you thankful for during the holiday season?**

Everything. In this difficult time, we all have to remember the numerous positives that are all around us. I am constantly reminded of our wonderful students and staff. Their resilience is on display each day. I am so thankful for our board of education and our administrators and directors that help me with leadership in our school district. I am very thankful and proud of the many improvements we have made in our district over the past 4½ years. It is truly amazing what we can accomplish when people work together, communicate, and dream. I am thankful for my personal family, my work fam-

ily, and my home community of Burlington. I could go on and on, but I will stop here and challenge you all to remember the positives each day.

Please contact me at your convenience if you have any questions. I can be reached at cmarshall@usd244ks.org or (620) 364-8478 EXT. 3040.

I want to wish you all wonderful things in 2021! May you all be blessed with happiness and excellent health. GO CATS!  
#Bton244OnTheGrow

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## LAND AUCTION!

Highway 75 and 325th St. • Olivet, KS

This property will be offered via online auction with dynamic closing of bids on January 20, 2021 at 2 p.m. Phone bidding available if desired. Call Cameron Roth at (785) 917-0867 or visit VaughnRoth.com for details.

Located just south of Melvern Lake, this parcel totals 204 acres more or less and features a mix of cropland and fescue meadow. Tillable acreage totals 156.11 and the meadow is approximately 25 acres mowable. Location is an attractive attribute with easy access to Hwy 75 and I-35, not far from multiple grain markets at Lebo, Melvern, Waverly or Emporia. Whether you're expanding your ag operation or diversifying your investments, this is a quality farm to consider.

SELLER: Terry Coil

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