

County

Continued from Page 1

tested,” Payer said stating that if the drug company cannot be held liable then would the person administering the vaccine be held liable? “This is new technology ... I think we would be silly not to question it.”

Payer has asked the county counselor to check into possible liability issues the county might have.

Payer also questioned if there is a greater liability for not offering the vaccine. “Before we move forward with anything, I want to make sure everything is OK for me and my staff,” she said.

“Can a person get the vaccine in another county?” asked Rowley.

“As far as I know, yes,” Payer said. “Right now, the vaccine is not available to the general public; it is available only to health care and front-line workers.”

“I believe we are one of the few counties around that has been 24/7 contact with positive cases,” Saueressig said. “Do we need to continue?”

Payer said that would be one of the topics she planned to talk about with Coffey County Health Officer Jeff Sloyer, M.D.

Coffey Health System

Coffey Health System CEO Jeremy Clingenpeel updated commissioners about COVID-19 vaccinations given to CHS employees. On Dec. 16, CHS received its first shipment of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine earmarked for health-care workers. He said they were able to administer 95 doses from the shipment. All employees getting the vaccine voluntarily did so.

Clingenpeel said CHS just received 100 doses of the Moderna vaccine, which was slated to be given to health-care workers this week. After this week, Clingenpeel said about two-thirds of the hospital staff will have taken the vaccine. He said CVS administered the vaccine to all but one resident at Sunset Manor.

Clingenpeel said about a one-day notice is given before receiving the vaccine. The vaccines are all given voluntarily and recipients must sign a consent form. He doesn't anticipate vaccines being available for the general public until about March or April.

Regardless if a person gets the vaccine, or not, the same PPE precautions are being observed.

Regarding CHS's budget, Clingenpeel said 2020 revenues were \$2.8 million under budget. He said October and November were good months. They are working to increase the number of days of cash on hand.

County Engineer

County Engineer Wayne Blackbourn said the county has been offered a gun safe from John Deere, which was a promotional offering for



Mark Petterson/The Republican

Commissioner Fred Rowley, left, receives a certificate of retirement and plaque from Tom Hugunin, chairman of the Board of Coffey County Commissioners. Rowley chose not to run for re-election in district 3, which represents the northwest part of Coffey County, including Lebo. He will conclude 20 years of service to the citizens of Coffey County on Monday morning, Jan. 11. Former Commissioner Tim Sipe attended a portion of the meeting to congratulate Rowley for his service.

having a John Deere blade rebuilt. Blackbourn contacted the sheriff's office to see if it is something they could use. Commissioners planned to consult County Counselor Wade Bowie II to see if it would be appropriate to refuse the gun safe or if it could be accepted and given to the sheriff's office.

Blackbourn said well over 24 individuals accepted the call to come in and work the snow storm Friday and Saturday; blade operators were on standby. They worked two shifts on Friday starting at 4:30 a.m. Blackbourn said seven trucks were running and one truck broke down. Four trucks were used Saturday.

Blackbourn indicated crews will be doing a lot of work on gravel roads, not only blading, but adding rock in some places. This week, crews planned to install a new entrance at Old Hwy. 50 and Dobbin Road. Countywide activity includes brush control and sign maintenance.

Commissioners and Blackbourn talked about county landfill rates, which are lower than any area landfill. The county charges \$24 per ton for out-of-county waste and \$15 per ton for in-county waste. Commissioners learned an adjacent county plans to haul their solid waste to Coffey County because it is cheaper than taking it to a transfer station.

Expressing concern for the life expectancy of the landfill, commissioners plan to review landfill rates to see if any adjustments should be made.

Miscellaneous

Commissioners appointed Dawn Moody as the interim 911 director. By state statute, the appointment needed to be made; however, Sheriff-elect Tom Johnson will not take office until Jan. 11. Sheriff Randy Rogers said former 911 director Tasha Rogers has been working with Moody.

Rogers informed commissioners the City of Burlington owns approximately 20 acres of land in Industrial Park No. 4, south of Burlington Veterinary Clinic that could be used for a proposed judicial center

for Coffey County. Water and electricity is readily available. Rogers said the area could offer more flexibility. He also said the land is out of the flood plain.

Rogers said he personally would like to continue working on restoring Neosho City Cemetery, which includes approximately eight graves south of Burlington. He said a lot of overgrowth is in the cemetery, which is located on private land south of Burlington and west of LeRoy. Rogers has been in contact with the state archeologist, who has offered guidance. Once overgrowth is cut back, Rogers plans to clean and document the headstones.

Commissioners reviewed their resolution exempting Coffey County from the governor's mask order. No recommendations were received from Dr. Sloyer or the health department for any changes, so the exemption remains effective for at least another two weeks.

Bowie recognized Sheriff Rogers for 32 years of public service in law enforcement. He will be retiring, effective Monday.

Bowie said a number of policy and procedure changes will result from the McGrath wage and study report. Bowie suggested commissioners think about making any necessary changes to rates for obtaining public records. The last rate change was made 11 or 12 years ago, before a variety of electronic options were available for public records.

Commissioners met in a 10-minute executive session with Bowie to discuss the county counselor's contract. No action was taken upon return to open session.

Commissioners also approved Resolution No. 779-I, a resolution adopting the Lake Region Solid Waste Management Plan. The resolution is printed on page 7.

Commissioners approved minutes from a 50-minute year-end meeting on Thursday, Dec. 31, where they approved eight resolutions transferring various funds to reserve funds. They also approved the revised Capital Improvement

Plan for Coffey County.

Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Monday to approve minutes then Judge Wine will swear in officials elected in the 2020 General Election. Officials will take an oath outside at the flag pole to accommodate social distancing. The regular meeting will resume at 9 a.m. in the basement meeting room of the Coffey County Courthouse.

Model T Ford Club meeting

BURLINGTON — The East Central Kansas Model T Ford Club, the ECKT'S, will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, in the conference room at the Burlington Branch of the Coffey County Library, located at U.S. 75 and Juniatta Street. Members are asked to bring a side dish to share before the meeting.

The ECKT'S is a family organization and a chapter of the not-for-profit National Model T Ford Club of America. Owning a Model T is not a requirement for membership. All meetings are open to the public, so feel free to visit. For more information, call Bud Redding (785) 733-2124.

Christian's CORNER

STATS FROM DEC. 28 - JAN. 3



Game this past week:

Jan. 2: 59-84 loss against Texas

28 minutes, 4 points, 2-10 FGs (0-5 on 3s), 0-0 FTs, 6 rebounds, 0 assists, 2 steals, 0 blocks, 2 fouls, and 4 turnovers

Watch for updates each week.

Season averages:

29.8 MIN, 11.1 PT, 40% FGs, 39% 3s, 68% FTs, 5.9 REB, 2.1 AST, 4 BLK, 1.4 STL, 2.0 PF, & 2.1 TO

AuBurn

Continued from Page 3

AuBurn Pharmacy plans on offering their full line of programs as well as local Long Term Care services to their new Burlington location. These services include:

- ✓ AdvantaCare Medication Management and Refill Synchronization.
- ✓ EZMed medication packaging system so you get the right medication at the right time every time.
- ✓ Vaccination Station,

through which walk-in flu shots and shingles and other vaccinations are available every day.

✓ AuBurn RXpress, a mobile refill app with patient profile access.

✓ AuBurn Advantage online and automatic refills with email and text pick up notifications.

✓ Free local delivery and more.

As the business transitions to AuBurn Pharmacy, you can expect the same customer service with the same staff. Hours include 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

MEETINGS

USD 244 Recreation Commission

BURLINGTON — The regular meeting of USD 244 Recreation Commission will convene noon Friday, Jan. 8, at the Recreation Center, 110 Shea Street. The meeting will begin with approval of minutes from the Dec. 11 meeting. Approval of financial statements, the director's report, and other concerns will follow.

USD 244 Board of Education

BURLINGTON — The USD 244 Board of Education will meet 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11 at the board office, 301 and 303 Neosho Street. Items to be covered during the regular meeting include election of president and vice president, administrative reports, board member reports, KASB policy updates, personnel contracts, and approve consent agenda.

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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.