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USD 245 to host
groundbreaking
ceremony for
bond projects

LeROY — The LeRoy-Gridley USD 245 school district will celebrate a major milestone Monday, April 21, with a groundbreaking ceremony marking the start of construction on several voter-approved bond projects. The event will take place at 10 a.m. west of the middle school in LeRoy.

“This exciting milestone represents countless hours of collaboration, planning, and dedication throughout the bond election process,” said Superintendent Matt Thomsen. “We are incredibly grateful to everyone who played a role in bringing this vision to life — from passionate community members to the committed leadership of the USD 245 Board of Education.”

District students, staff, board members, families, alumni, and community members are invited to attend the ceremony. Thomsen said community support has been

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Public Notices
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City of LeRoy - Ordinance No. 451, Appointing an Enforcing Officer.

Owens Oil Company, LLC
- Notice of Filing Application, Bahr Lease.

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throughout Kansas at
www.kansaspublicnotices.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



Mark Petterson/The Republican

Tim Austin speaks to Republican precinct committee members Jamie Humlicek, Denise Humlicek and Brad Jones, who were tasked to fill a vacant county commission seat created by the resignation of Tom Hugunin. Also pictured are Bob Strawder, convention chair, and Tom Johnson, convention secretary.

Abendroth chosen to fill District 1
county commission seat

Mark Petterson
Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Michael Abendroth has been nominated to succeed Tom Hugunin as Coffey County Commissioner for District 1, which includes Burlington Wards 2 and 3.

Hugunin, a Republican in his second term, announced his resignation March 24 after relocating outside the district.

Republican precinct committeemen and committeewomen from the two wards convened April 10 to nominate his replacement. Ward 2 is represented by Brad Jones and Jamie Humlicek; Ward 3 has Denise Humlicek serving as committeewoman, while the committeeman seat is vacant.

Three individuals—Abendroth, Tim Austin, and Nathan Strawder—submitted letters of interest. Abendroth and Austin made brief statements during the meeting; Strawder was un-

able to attend. After private deliberations, the voting committee selected Abendroth. The nomination was certified, and paperwork was sent Friday to Governor Laura Kelly, who is expected to formally appoint him within seven days.

Abendroth, a local homebuilder and 38-year Coffey County resident, currently serves as chairman of the Coffey County Planning and Zoning Board. He is also a 23-year firefighter and captain with Burlington Station 3.

Abendroth said the county is facing a shortage of “quality built, affordable housing,” an issue he hopes to address. “I have added millions of dollars in new home construction to the county tax roll and plan to continue building homes,” he said.

He identified additional challenges facing Coffey County, including workforce shortages, limited business growth, and declining civic involvement.

“I am a firm believer that if we support each other, we can overcome challenges and celebrate successes that will make Coffey County a desirable place for people to call home for many generations to come,” Abendroth said.

“Our county has the potential to become an even better place for people to call home,” he added. “We should always be seeking ways to expand and improve our quality of life for today and the future.”

Abendroth also noted, “I have no agendas or issues with any individuals or business ties which would financially benefit me from my decisions.”

Bob Strawder served as chair for the April 10 nominating convention, with Sheriff Tom Johnson acting as secretary. Bill Otto and Ida Wilson tallied the votes.

◆ The District 1 seat will appear on the 2026 general election ballot, along with Districts 4 and 5.



Mark Petterson/The Republican

Mike Abendroth, a local homebuilder, speaks during a Republican convention to fill a vacant county commission seat.

COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

Contracts, Fair Housing Proclamation OK'd

BURLINGTON — The Coffey County Commission approved multiple contracts and appointments, proclaimed April as Fair Housing Month, and held a public hearing for a special-use zoning request during its April 7 meeting.

Commissioners present for the meeting were Chairman Wayde Thom-

sen, Tom Hugunin, Mark Petterson, Todd Barker and Steve McCurry. Also present during the meeting were County Clerk Angie Kirchner and County Counselor Wade H. Bowie II.

Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution canceling outstanding county checks issued before Jan. 1, 2023, and

appointed Economic Development Director Jenny Tatman to both the Coffey County Tourism and Visitor's Board and as the county's representative to the Southeast Regional Planning Commission.

Payroll notices were approved for Rialely Majors, new hire, Jail - Corrections I, classification 30-2, wage \$20.11, effective

April 1, and Hunter Reiling, summer-time temp, seasonal light equipment operator, road and bridge, classification 20-1, wage \$17.93, effective April 7, number of hours not to exceed 1,000. Commissioners also approved the hourly difference of Step 21 to Step 22 for any employee who is topped out in their category.

Landfill fees were waived for a structure owned by Brian and Tami Hanson, located at 517 Alleghany, Burlington. Commissioners proclaimed April 2025 as Fair Housing Month and authorized the chairman to sign an updated CDBG disclosure report for the SSM access road.

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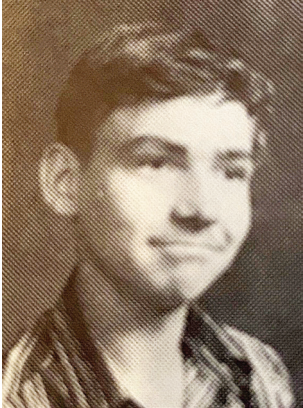
Identified after 52 years lost,
Kansas lawmen will now look
for Jimmy Dollison's killer

Dane Hicks
Kansas Informer

KANSAS CITY — Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents say they have positively identified the remains of a young man buried anonymously in Garnett in 1973, but the details about who murdered him and why remain a mystery.

The remains of 16-year-old Jimmy Allen Dollison were discovered April 18, 1973, three miles southeast of Garnett off what is now 1550 Road. The KBI said Dollison had been living in Kansas City, Kansas, when he went missing sometime in October or November of 1972. Family members told investigators he was reported missing by his parents but the family never learned what happened to him.

At some point between that fall of 1972 and the spring of 1973, investi-



gators say Dollison was murdered and his body dumped near Garnett. Scavengers had partially scattered his remains prior to them being found, but investigators recovered bone, hair, tissue and clothing items. He was found wearing a brown corduroy jacket, a green long sleeve button shirt, jeans, a black leather belt with a large belt buckle, brown hiking boots and a navy blue stocking cap. He also wore two gold

rings with crosses, a ring with a number 78 and a silver chain with a large cross.

The early 1970s were big times in Kansas City. Arrowhead Stadium opened in 1972, Worlds of Fun in 1973. The Civella Family ran Kansas City organized crime with heavy involvement not just locally but also in Las Vegas casinos. KCMO was the test lab for a “Preventative Patrol Experiment” in 1972 and 1973, a national law enforcement project testing the theory that increased patrols and visibility of marked police cars and officers could reduce crime in urban areas and reduce fear of crime among the local populations. The experiment had to be stopped and restarted a number of times because some police officers believed the lack of

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New Strawn City Council
approves road project

Mark Petterson
Managing Editor

NEW STRAWN — The New Strawn City Council approved a \$206,090 road asphalt bid and discussed a variety of infrastructure and community issues during its regular meeting April 10 at City Hall.

Council members unanimously accepted a bid from Killough Construction for the 2025 road project, which will cover improvements to Arrowhead Drive and Main Street to Lake Road, as well as a pipe crossing on Fourth Street. Funding will come from the city's infrastructure fund.

In other action, the council approved payment of \$1,374.05 from the sewer fund to Vernon Hess Plumbing for reimbursement related to a property at 430 W. Decker.

Code Enforcement Officer Ray Wards reported progress on nuisance properties. The Myers property on Third Street has improved, and letters will be sent regarding six junk vehicles. Wards is monitor-

ing animal violations and conditions on the north side of the former golf course.

Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight said the city has received one application for summer help and reported that 30 mph speed limit signs have been installed. The city will follow up with Midland Fence Company regarding an existing contract and explore options for installing flagpoles at the city park.

The council also discussed lead and copper water meter responsibilities, utility pedestal regulations, and updates to the city's equipment insurance list. City Attorney Philip Wright will look into legal issues limiting the number and/or placement of utility pedestals.

Clerk Lana Johnson reminded council members to use the city cell phone for official communication outside business hours. She shared updates on Community Center rentals and noted QuickBooks support will end May 31. She

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