## The Coffey County

# Jublican Volume 27, Number 18 Thursday, May 1, 2025

Coffey County's oldest consecutively published newspaper

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# BHS COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

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**ONLINE EDITION:** www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices Page 3 Paul Brogan, 73

Irma Griffin, 98 Waverly

### finalizes property sales, hires new officers

Ida Wilson Reporter

WAVERLY — The Waverly City Council met in regular session April 9 to finalize two property sales, approve departmental updates, and hire two part-time police officers.

Mayor Jake Marsh presided over the meeting with council members Tammy White, Kevin McMillen, Nichole Ras-mussen, Tanner Sipe, Nathan Steward and

See Waverly, Page 9

### **Public Notices** Page 8

🗋 Hayden Tower - Le-Roy Tower.

Coffey County - Resolution No. 2025-945a, Special Use to Establish an Animal Clinic or Hospital with Outside Runs/ Pens.





All Burlington High School students participated in a Community Service Day on Thursday, April 24. Students split up in groups and worked on projects from 9 a.m. to noon throughout the community. These photos are of students working on projects at the Wolf Creek Environmental Education Area and National Honor Society members picking up trash along U.S. 75 between Burlington and New Strawn.

## **USD 243** Board **OKs trips**, calendar, personnel moves

Ida Wilson Reporter

WAVERLY — The Lebo-Waverly USD 243 Board of Education met April 14 for a 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-hour session, addressing student travel, district policies, personnel decisions, and administrator reports.

Board President Todd Wallace presided over the full board, which included Vice President Denise McNabb, Jim Davies, Ashley Edwards, Katelyn Haddock, Matt Hopkins, and Caroline McWilliams. Superintendent Duane Ford, Deputy Board Clerk Kathy Holmes, three building principals, and several Waverly High School students also attended.

The board approved minutes from the March 10 regular meeting and special meetings held March 26, April 7, 8, and 9, which focused largely on the superintendent and teacher hiring process. Superintendent Ford's

See **USD 243**, Page 2

## COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION Board welcomes Abendroth, approves health remodel completion

BURLINGTON — At its April 21 meeting, the Coffey County Commission swore in newly appointed District 1 Commissioner Michael Abendroth, officially filling the vacancy left by Tom Hugunin's March 24 resignation. County Clerk Angie Kirchner administered the oath of office shortly after the meeting's 8:30 a.m. start. The board recognized Maddox Cheever as the recipient of the 2025 Coffey County Flight Training Scholarship. The scholarship program supports aspiring aviators and is coordinated through the Coffey County Airport Board (see related story). Commissioners approved a series of administrative items, including updated job descriptions for budgetary and tax levy clerk positions within the county clerk's office. They also adopted Resolution No. 772-Q, which estab-

lishes the county's employee classification and pay scale, and an updated CP-4U chart.

The board toured the recently completed Coffey County Health Department remodel following an invitation from Health Department Administrator Amilia Marchant. Commissioners also approved a certificate of project completion with BG Consultants for the remodel project. Marchant announced an upcoming Employee Health Fair in the courthouse basement. Road and Bridge Superintendent Ryan Durst presented a signage plan for the installation of stop signs on roads intersecting Eighth Road between Wayside and Shetland roads. It is part of an incounty detour route while the state replaces Crooked Creek Bridge on K-58 Hwy. east of LeRoy. Commissioners passed Resolution No. 2025-946 to formalize

the signage plan. Durst also discussed visibility concerns for nighttime travel and presented a road-use permit issued to A-1 Pump and Jet Services, Inc., addressing dust control and maintenance rock on Iris Road, from Old Highway 50 to 24th Road, then east to a field tank entrance. Commissioners are also considering resurfacing the northeast courthouse parking lot along Sixth Street. A public hearing was held for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requested by USD 243 to support the Early Development Center project. No public objections were raised. Representatives from the district's FBLA chapter also presented a funding request to attend the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. After accounting for donations, the group

## Lebo approves sports park grant application

#### Ida Wilson Reporter

LEBO — The Lebo City Council met in regular session April 8 to discuss city equipment condichased in 2020, and its tractor and mowers in 2000. Parts for the 2006 Mustang skid steer may become difficult to find due to its age.

The Equipment Reserve Fund currently holds

Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2008 Kawasaki ATV.

Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2020 Chevy Silverado 4x4 with 109,500 miles.

Coffev County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2020 Dodge Durango 4x4 with 109,500 miles.

Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 2020 Dodge Durango 4x4 with 178,570 miles.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at www.kansaspublicnotices.com

See County, Page 4

tions, dam repair options, KwiKom construction issues, and the future of Jones Sports Park, among other business.

Mayor Eric Ferguson presided over the meeting, with council members Amanda Hopkins, Will Baker, Troy Friend, and Jim Jones present. Councilman Nick Sanchez was absent.

#### **Equipment Needs**

Matthew Reheis, a sales representative from Vermeer, presented options for a vacuum excavator machine to assist with locating utility lines, cleaning culverts, and maintaining curbs. The machines range from \$35,000 to \$71,600, depending on size and configuration. No action was taken.

Council also discussed aging city equipment. The <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-ton truck dates to 1995, the 1-ton pickup to 2005, and two <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-ton Dodge pickups from 2007 and 2013 were repurposed from the police department. The city's backhoe was pur\$85,964, with another \$30,000 budgeted for transfer this year. Clerk Carrie Sloan suggested additional replenishment in 2026 using approximately \$250,000 from the Gas Fund.

#### **KwiKom Issues and Dam Discussion**

Joe Shoemaker addressed ongoing concerns with KwiKom, the highspeed internet provider that recently installed service citywide. Shoemaker said he billed KwiKom for sewer line repairs after damage at David Shunk's property. The council authorized its attorney to contact KwiKom regarding unpaid invoices and unfinished restoration work. including dirt piles and holes.

Shoemaker also proposed draining Lebo Lake as a potential cost-saving measure for dam repairs.

#### Jones Sports Park Plan

Garrett Nordstrom, of Government Assistance

See Lebo, Page 9

### **USD 244 voters to decide** \$45 million bond issue

BURLINGTON - Voters in Unified School District No. 244 will decide May 6 whether to approve a \$45 million bond issue to fund a new Burlington Elementary School.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. Voters will cast ballots at either Kelley Hall or the New Strawn Community Center, depending on their precinct.

Voters in the following precincts will vote at Kelley Hall, 625 S. 3rd St., Burlington:

- Avon Township
- \* Burlington City Wards
- 1.2 and 3
- \* Liberty Township
- \* Neosho Township
- \* Pleasant Township
- Star Township

Voters in the following precincts will vote at the

See Bond, Page 3

## Index

Beef Month6,7
Classifieds 9
Community2,5
Courthouse 8
Deaths 3
Devotional5
Letters to Editor 4
Opinion4
Public Notices 8
Record 3
School2
Sports 10,11,12
Weather 3

### *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



## Cheever earns flight training scholarship

BURLINGTON - Maddux Cheever, a junior at Burlington High School, has been awarded a Coffey County Flight Training Scholarship, allowing him to begin flight lessons at Coffey County Airport and pursue a private pilot's license.

A proclamation read on behalf of the Coffey County Commission during an April 21 reception highlighted the importance of job training and career development for the county's students. It noted that aviation careers are made more accessible through the airport's flight training program.

Recognizing that the cost

prohibitive, the commission and the Coffey County Airport Board annually

See Flight, Page 3



Mark Petterson/The Republican

Maddux Cheever receives the Coffey County Flight Training Scholarship from Coffey County Commissioner Mike Abendroth during a reception held April 21 at the Coffey County Courthouse. Cheever is a junior at Burlington High School.

### of flight training can be provide scholarships covering 80 percent of the

### **Mark Petterson** Managing Editor