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ONLINE EDITION:
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Death Notices
Page 3

- ❑ Reta Hampton, 91
- ❑ Karla Jordan, 60
- ❑ Daryl Knight, 94



Photos from Burlington, Lebo, Southern Coffey County and Waverly proms are printed inside. Watch for Hartford prom photos next week, if space allows.

Pages 6 and 7

Tragedy

Eight people were killed in a head-on collision Sunday in neighboring Franklin County.

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History Read

Interesting bits of history are featured weekly in a "This Week in History" column compiled by staff at the Coffey County Historical Museum.

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Public Notices

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- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Coffey 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.
- ❑ Burlington USD 244 - Request for Food Services Proposal.
- ❑ Hayden Tower - Lebo Tower.
- ❑ Hayden Tower - Gridley Tower.

Access public notices
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



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Matthew Dekat
Burlington High School



Lilah Wilkinson
Hartford High School



Caleb Durst
Lebo High School



Kennedy Gunlock
Southern Coffey County H.S.



Zoe McNabb
Waverly High School

Area students recognized as Governor's Scholars

TOPEKA — Area seniors were recognized Sunday, May 4, at the 42nd Annual Kansas Governor's Scholars Award Program at Washburn University's White Concert Hall. This prestigious event honored the top 1% of graduating high school seniors from accredited public and private schools

across Kansas, recognizing their exceptional academic achievements and leadership qualities. Recognized at the ceremony were Matthew Dekat, Burlington High School; Lilah Wilkinson, Hartford High School; and Zoe McNabb, Waverly High School. Caleb Durst, Lebo, was

unable to attend the program, due to being away on Lebo's senior trip. Kennedy Gunlock, Southern Coffey County High School, also was unable to attend. Governor Laura Kelly, along with Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson and 2025 Kansas Teacher of

the Year Elizabeth Anstine, addressed the scholars during the ceremony. The event featured a performance by student musicians from Olathe East High School, the 2024 KSHSAA Performing Arts School of Excellence Award winner. The program is coordinated by the Confidence in

Kansas Public Education Task Force and is funded by donations from private sector businesses in Kansas. It aims to strengthen public confidence in education and has been recognizing outstanding students for over four decades. A full recording of the ceremony is available for viewing on YouTube.

Election Results
Unofficial - May 6, 2025

Shall USD No. 244 (Burlington) issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$45,000,000 to pay the costs to construct, furnish, and equip: (a) a new Burlington Elementary School facility; (b) make all other necessary improvements related thereto; and pay costs of issuance and interest on the Bonds during construction?

YES305
NO793

Voter turnout was approximately 36.31%
The election will be canvassed May 12.

Inside —

Graduation Keepsake

Inside this edition of The Coffey County Republican, you'll find a 24-page commemorative section celebrating the graduating seniors of Burlington, Hartford, Lebo, Southern Coffey County, and Waverly high schools. Class photos of local eighth graders are also featured. This special section is proudly sponsored by advertising from local businesses.

Graduation times, dates

High School Commencement

Sunday, May 11
Waverly: 2 p.m., Waverly Gym
Lebo: 4 p.m., Lebo Gym

Saturday, May 17
Burlington: 11 a.m., BHS Gym
Hartford: 11 a.m., Hartford Gym
Southern Coffey County: 4 p.m., SCC Gym (LeRoy)

Eighth Grade Promotion

Friday, May 9
Waverly: 2 p.m., Waverly Gym

Saturday, May 10
Lebo: 1 p.m., Lebo Gym

Monday, May 19
Hartford: 6 p.m., Hartford Gym

Tuesday, May 20
Burlington: 6:30 p.m., BMS Gym
Southern Coffey County: 6:30 p.m., SCC Gym (LeRoy).

COFFEY COUNTY

Commission hears requests, updates

BURLINGTON — The Coffey County Commission covered a wide-ranging agenda during its April 28 meeting, including hearing from local students traveling to national competitions, the sale of surplus law enforcement vehicles, landfill fee changes, and updates on the new Law Enforcement Center.

All five commissioners were present: Chairman Wayne Thomsen, Michael Abendroth, Mark Petterson, Todd Barker, and Steve McCurry. Also attending were County Clerk Angie Kirchner, County Counselor Wade Bowie

II, and a host of department heads and guests.

National Competitions

The commission heard presentations from Burlington High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and KidWind teams. FBLA sponsor Gerardo Felipe accompanied national qualifiers Korryn Bolen, Jaycee Belcher, Alonna Rodgers, Emma Bohannan, Mackenzie Krueger, and Brandon Hazlett in requesting support for their June trip to Anaheim, California. The trip's estimated cost is \$18,945 for seven

students and two chaperones.

Bryan Bruening, sponsor, and Burlington's KidWind team, which includes Tate Sowder, Eli Grow, Logan Ferrara, Camren Davis, Isaac Rinker, and Gavin Jenkins, requested support for their trip to Phoenix, Arizona, for KidWind Worlds 2025. They requested \$3,600 toward the \$6,125 trip cost.

Lebo-Waverly FBLA members who qualified for the national competition also made a request at the previous meeting. Rather than using taxpayer funds, the county

See **County**, Page 4

Drug Take Back —

Team effort keeps meds off the streets

Becky Petterson
For The Republican

BURLINGTON — The Burlington Police Department, in partnership with the Coffey County Sheriff's Office, continues its commitment to public safety and environmental stewardship through the National Prescription Drug Take Back Program. On Wednesday, April 30, Police Officer Richard Messerly transported approximately 164 pounds of unused and expired medications — collected from residents across the county over the past year — to Topeka for safe disposal through the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) initiative.

"This program gives residents a safe and responsible way to dispose of medications they no longer need," said Chief Roney. "It's about keeping our homes safe and our water clean. We're proud to play a role in that."

The Drug Take-Back Program is a national effort designed to prevent medication misuse, accidental poisoning, and environmental contamination. It offers a secure way to dispose of prescription and non-prescription medications, including pet prescriptions and



Burlington Police Chief Mike Roney, center, Sergeant Randy Stuart, right, and Police Officer Richard Messerly load more than 160 pounds of drugs, which were collected from local residents over the past year.

Photo submitted