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Death Notices  
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☐ Kenny Woods, 74

Lake Levels	
John Redmond	
4p.m. Tuesday, June 3	
Lake Elevation:	1,057.3
Normal:	1,041
Inflow (cfs):	60,000
Release (cfs):	5,676
Melvern	
Lake Elevation:	1,037.62
Normal:	1,036
Inflow (cfs):	525
Release (cfs):	1,000
Pomona	
Lake Elevation:	976.79
Normal:	974
Inflow (cfs):	115
Release (cfs):	500

## ELECTION 2025 Deadline passes for city, school board races

A flurry of candidates filed for city and school board positions with expiring terms in the week prior to the deadline at noon Monday, June 2.

In city races, Ty Skillman and Deb Stukey filed for New Strawn City Council; Will Baker filed for Lebo City Council Position 1; Kevin McMillen filed for Waverly City Council, Position 4; Shawn Metcalfe and Taylor Jackson filed for

See **Election**, Page 4

## Public Notices Page 10

- ☐ Burlington USD 244 - Request for Food Services Proposal.
  - ☐ Coffey County Tourism and Visitor's Board - Notice of Meeting.
  - ☐ Coffey County Election Officer - Notice of School and City Elections in Coffey County.
- 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



# Anderson, Hoback break meet records at competitive KSHSAA State Championship

WICHITA — Rarely is any state-level competition not filled with quality competitors, but the 2025 KSHSAA State Championship track and field meet will go down as one of the more spectacularly competitive, both for Burlington High School and overall.

Burlington athletes captured five gold medals over the course of the two-day meet, and two runners, seniors Brody Anderson and Keely Hoback, set new meet records in the process.

Anderson is the 2025 state champion in the Class 3A boys' 100- and 200-meter dashes, and he placed first in both the preliminaries and the finals of both events. In the 100-meter dash, the meet record, previously held by Riley County's Jordyn Nelson with a time of 10.63 seconds, was broken in the first heat of the preliminaries by Wichita-Collegiate's Timmy Ritchie with a time of 10.58 seconds, before Anderson broke it again with a time of 10.52 seconds in heat two. In the finals, Anderson lowered the record again with a time of 10.49 seconds, with second-place finisher Ritchie finishing in 10.50 seconds.

Per KSHSAA records, the only state 100-meter dash state meet record lower than Anderson's 10.49 seconds is the Class 6A record of 10.36 seconds, set by Wichita Southeast's Mario Ponds in 1996.

In the 200-meter dash,



Brody Anderson set state track meet records in Class 3A in both the 100-meter dash (10.49 seconds) and 200-meter dash (21.18 seconds).

Anderson obliterated the previous record of 21.43 seconds, which was set by Topeka-Hayden's Finn Dunshee in 2024, in the preliminaries with a time of 21.27 seconds and then lowered the record to 21.18 seconds in the finals.

Ritchie, who was again the second-place finisher, finished in 21.46 seconds. Per KSHSAA records, Anderson's time of 21.18 seconds is not only a Class 3A state meet record but also a record across all classes. The next lowest 200-meter



Keely Hoback set a state track meet record in Class 3A in the 100-meter hurdles (14.18 seconds). The previous record had been held by Burlington's Katie Guevel since 2007.

dash state meet record time is the Class 6A record of 21.29 seconds, set by Kansas City-Washington's Wendell Gaskin in 1991.

Hoback won the 2025 state championship in the Class 3A girls' 100-meter hurdles. In defending her

2024 state title in the event, she broke the meet record in the preliminaries with a time of 14.22 seconds and then lowered her time to 14.18 seconds in the finals. The previous record-

See **Records**, Page 10

## Wyatt updates board on semiconductor project

BURLINGTON — Despite a setback from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Dr. Karl Wyatt told Coffey County Commissioners on Monday that momentum remains strong for the Trusted Electronics Manufacturing (TEM) initiative—a proposal to build a 100% U.S.-owned gallium nitride semiconductor facility in Coffey County.

Wyatt, Chairman/CEO of SNEAS, Inc., presented a detailed status update during the June 2 commission meeting. He outlined the project's original goal: to construct a facility producing gallium nitride (GaN) chips, which are vital to military radar and next-generation telecom systems such as 5G and 6G. The effort aimed to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign

semiconductor suppliers, notably in Taiwan and China.

The proposal received broad support from local, state and international partners. However, the federal government declined to advance Kansas's application for CHIPS Act funding. Wyatt said the Department of Commerce cited uncertainty over national security benefits, the proj-

ect's commercial viability, and financial backing at the scale required for wafer manufacturing.

Wyatt pushed back on those concerns, noting that the initiative had secured a Department of Defense partner with established GaN experience and was backed by a plan to utilize \$65 billion in unused federal Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs).

These contracts, he said, could be applied to modernize federal IT and energy infrastructure using the chips proposed for production in Coffey County.

Wyatt continues to seek high-level federal engagement to ensure Kansas's opportunity isn't lost. He believes rural America deserves a seat at the global

See **Update**, Page 10

## Hospital CEO requests additional county support

BURLINGTON — Coffey Health System CEO Stacy Augustyn presented the hospital's 2026 budget request and provided key updates to the Coffey County Commission during its meeting May 27.

Augustyn expressed appreciation for the county's continued support, highlighting its recent funding of a new HVAC unit and

lab equipment. She noted Coffey County's healthcare advocacy is recognized statewide.

Augustyn confirmed the hospital will discontinue labor and delivery services June 30, citing a \$1.3 million annual loss and declining deliveries. Prenatal and postnatal care will continue through local providers with collabor-

ative regional support, while emergency staff are receiving additional training for potential labor emergencies.

The hospital's current year budget includes total expenditures of approximately \$27.8 million with a projected net loss of \$1.07 million. The hospital received \$2,039,494 in county support in 2025; a 52.5%

increase amounting to \$3,111,025 is requested for 2026.

The ambulance service 2025 budget is \$1.87 million, with a projected net loss of \$95,459 in 2025. The ambulance received \$1,021,747 in county support in 2025; an 8.15% increase amounting to \$1,104,994 is requested for 2026.

Augustyn said major

capital projects needed in the near future include purchasing a new ambulance (\$320,000), replacing a hot water heater (\$85,000), and repairing a sewer line under the hospital (\$65,000).

Augustyn said closing the labor and delivery unit will improve cash flow by

See **Hospital**, Page 11

## VEHICLE HITS POLE



Emergency responders work the scene of a one-vehicle, non-injury accident that occurred at 9:16 a.m. Friday, May 30, on Kennebec Street, 300 feet east of Sixth Street in Burlington. Blaze Whitfield Riley, 18, Burlington, was eastbound on Kennebec Street in a 1998 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup, which is registered to Mark Whitfield Riley, Burlington. According to the driver, he was driving east at an estimated speed of 25-30 mph when he believed he was having mechanical issues with his truck. He veered off to the right and came to rest in the south ditch. His truck struck a city utility pole, an MT Networks utility box and fiber optic lines and Brightspeed infrastructure. A Brightspeed phone line was pulled out to a neighboring residence, damaging the siding on the house. Riley was not injured but property damage exceeded \$1,000.

## Strawnfest 2025: Fishing, food and festivities

NEW STRAWN — The annual Strawnfest celebration will bring a day full of family-friendly activities, competitions, and entertainment to New Strawn on Saturday, June 7. Events will run from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with activities spread across various community locations, including the City Park, New Strawn City Lake, and the Jones Park Pavilion.

The day will kick off with a pancake feed at the Community Building from 7 to 9 a.m., sponsored by the Coffey County Cancer Support Group. Participants are encouraged to make a free-will donation. At 8 a.m., the Strawnfest Stroll 2K/5K run/walk will start

at the City Park Pavilion, with a \$20 registration fee.

Families can enjoy catch-and-release fishing at New Strawn City Lake throughout the day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and a youth fishing derby for children 12 and under will take place from 9:30 to 11 a.m. An antique tractor parade is scheduled to roll through town around 10 a.m., with tractors on display afterward.

For sports enthusiasts, a disc golf tournament at the Disc Golf Course begins at 10:30 a.m. with a \$10 entry fee. Bingo games will be held at the Community Building from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., sponsored by the

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