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ONLINE EDITION:
www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices
Page 3

- ☐ Carl Findley, 68
- ☐ Mike Hill, 77

Lake Levels

John Redmond
3p.m. Tuesday, June 17
Lake Elevation: . 1,062.79
Normal:1,041
Inflow (cfs):3,875
Release (cfs):11,854
GATE CHANGE: 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 17 — 7 tainter
gates open 0.75 feet; 7 tainter
gates open 0.5 feet; 2 low flow
gates open 100%. Total release:
8,484 cfs.

Melvorn
4p.m. Tuesday, June 17
Lake Elevation: . 1,039.18
Normal:1,036
Inflow (cfs):70
Release (cfs):1,247

Pomona
Lake Elevation:978.38
Normal:974
Inflow (cfs):40
Release (cfs):800

Public Notices
Pages 9 and 10

- ☐ Estate of Donald E. Wilcox - Notice of Hearing.
- ☐ Lila O'Bannion Van Horn vs. Martin J. Mader, et. al - Notice of Suit to Quiet Title.
- ☐ Central National Bank vs. Edward Williams, et. al - Notice of Suit.
- ☐ Christopher D. Walford, et. al vs. Carrie Finnerty, et. al - Notice of Suit.
- ☐ LeRoy-Gridley USD 245 - Notice of Invitation for Bids.
- ☐ Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. vs. The Steven W. Barnes Living Trust - Notice of Suit.
- ☐ Coffey County - Resolution No. 2025-949, Commencing Proceeding to Vacate Certain Portions of 5th Road.
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The official newspaper
of Coffey County

Burlington, New Strawn, Lebo,
Gridley, LeRoy, Waverly,
and Harford
Lebo-Waverly USD 243
Burlington USD 244
LeRoy-Gridley USD 245



Coffey County's
oldest consecutively
published newspaper

Community input sought for comprehensive plan

COFFEY COUNTY — The Coffey County Planning Board and Board of County Commissioners have officially launched the process of developing the county's first-ever comprehensive plan—a strategic document that will guide growth and development for years to come.
To support the planning effort, the county has contracted with

Marvin Planning Consultants. Coffey County Zoning Administrator Heidi Harris is leading the initiative, in coordination with other county offices, including the economic development department.
The comprehensive plan will serve as a long-range vision and policy guide, helping the county assess current conditions, iden-

tify future needs, and establish goals and strategies for land use, infrastructure, housing, economic development, and other key priorities. Community involvement is a central component of the planning process.
Over the next year, the Coffey County Planning Board will incorporate plan-related discussions into its regular meetings,

held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Burlington Branch of the Coffey County Library, 410 Juniatta Street.
A dedicated project website has been created to provide information and host an online survey for all residents to share their thoughts and priorities.

See **Plan**, Page 3

STATE CHAMPS!

The Southern Coffey County Titan trapshooting team had a very successful outing at the Kansas State High School Clay Target Championships in Kechi, Kan., Saturday, June 14. With teams competing in the novice, junior varsity and varsity divisions, the Titans captured two team state titles and a team state runner-up title, as well as several individual accolades. Pictured are, from left, front row – Tyler Rolf, Cyrus Nickel, John Rolf, Hank Newton, Nyla Kraft; middle row – Larry Gleue, Jagger Jacobs, Charlie Nickel, Seth Gleue, Dale True; back row – Jim Hills and Alan Newton. See page 11 for more coverage.

Photo submitted



Lee Baldwin

Baldwin
hired as BHS
principal

Katie McMurray
Reporter

BURLINGTON — The Burlington USD 244 Board of Education, at its regular monthly meeting Monday, June 9, approved the hire of Lee Baldwin as Burlington High School principal, and Baldwin is aiming to be a leader with whom other will enjoy working. His first day on the job will be July 1.
Baldwin's full name is Lee David Baldwin. He has served one year as a K-12 principal but just completed his 16th year in education.
“I have taught areas such as special education, physical education and business education,”

See **Baldwin**, Page 3

County Commissioners approve
hospital request, disaster declaration

BURLINGTON — The Coffey County Commission met June 9 to address a range of issues, including budget requests, flooding concerns, infrastructure contracts, and change orders on the Law Enforcement Center project.
Commission Chairman Wayde Thomsen called the meeting to order with all commissioners present: Steve McCurry, Michael Abendroth, Mark Petterson and Todd Barker.

Hospital Budget
Coffey Health System (CHS) leadership, including CEO Stacy Augustyn, CFO Ray Leadbetter and Chief Medical Officer Dr. John Shell, met with commissioner to further discuss the hospital and ambulance service county support requests for 2026.
CHS requested \$3,111,025 for the hospital—an increase of \$1,171,541 over the current year—and \$1,114,994 for ambulance

services, up \$83,247 from the previous year. The total increase sought is approximately \$1.1 million, which CHS leaders said is necessary to help “make the system whole” following years of budget shortfalls.
Leadbetter said the requested funds would help address projected losses, allow for modest cost-of-living raises (about \$400,000

See **County**, Page 6



Photo submitted
Coffey County 4-H'ers Morgan Vogts, left, and Alonna Rodgers were recognized at the state level for their achievements during the Emerald Circle Awards Banquet.

Vogts, Rodgers honored at state
level for 4-H achievements

Coffey County 4-H is celebrating the accomplishments of two members who earned top honors at the state level for their work in 4-H project areas.
Morgan Vogts, a 12-year member of the Tip Top 4-H Club, received the Family Studies Project Record Book Award. Vogts previously earned the Wood Science Project Record Book Award in 2022, which gave her the opportunity to attend the National 4-H Congress.
Alonna Rodgers, an eight-year member of the Liberty 4-H Club, received the Veterinary Science Record Book Award. Her award qualifies her to attend the 2025 National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Ga., this fall.

Both members were recognized June 5 during the Emerald Circle Awards Banquet, which honors Kansas 4-H members for their dedication and achievement.
To be considered for a state award, record books must first advance through competitive county and area review processes. The selection is based on a member's project involvement, leadership, community service, and character.
This year, awards were given in 38 project areas statewide. Coffey County 4-H was proud to have two members selected for top honors.
Vogts and Rodgers exemplify the commitment, leadership and service that 4-H strives to instill in its members.



Photo submitted
The Kansas Highway Patrol has promoted Ron Hess to the rank of Lieutenant.

KHP promotes
Hess to
Lieutenant

BURLINGTON — Kansas Highway Patrol Technical Trooper Ronald “Ron” Hess, a Burlington native, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. He will now serve as the Administrative Lieutenant for Troop S, which oversees specialized operations including hazardous devices and explosives response.
Hess began his career with the Patrol in 2008 as a member of Class #48 and was first stationed in Burlington under Troop H. In 2012, he transferred to the Patrol's Hazardous Devices Unit and earned the rank of Technical Trooper the following year.
Over the course of his career,

See **Hess**, Page 12

Haller sworn in, budget planning and
events highlight New Strawn meeting

Mark Petterson
Managing Editor

NEW STRAWN — The New Strawn City Council ratified the mayor's appointment of Dan Haller as a new council member during its regular meeting Thursday, June 12, to fill the remaining term of Jeanne Haas, who is now mayor, following the resignation of Rhonda Taylor last month. The council also approved the appointment of Johnny Hernandez as council president.
Governing body present included Mayor Jeanne Haas, and council members Stephanie Baker, David Christiansen, and Butch Gilkison. Hernandez was absent.



Mark Petterson/The Republican
Dan Haller takes an oath for city council member given by New Strawn City Clerk Lana Johnson. Haller will fill the unexpired term of Jeanne Haas.

See **Strawn**, Page 6