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THE REPUBLICAN
324 HUDSON ST.
BURLINGTON, KS 66839

ONLINE EDITION:
www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices
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☐ Patty Pegram, 85
☐ Charles Raaf, 87

Lake Levels

John Redmond
1 p.m. Tuesday, July 15
Lake Elevation: 1,043.11
Normal: 1,041
Inflow (cfs): 1,279
Release (cfs): 4,711
LAST GATE CHANGE: 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 14 — 2 tainter gates open 1.0 feet; 12 tainter gates open 0.5 feet; 2 low flow gates open 100%. Total release: 4,711 cfs. Flood pool 3.74% full.

Public Notices
Pages 6 and 10

☐ Estate of Mary Margaret Knight - Notice to Creditors.
☐ Big Creek Watershed - Notice of Budget Hearing.
☐ Pleasant View Cemetery - Notice of Budget Hearing.
☐ Pottawatomie Creek Watershed - Notice of Budget Hearing.
☐ City of LeRoy - Resolution No. 2025-3, Nuisance Abatement at 705 Main St.
☐ City of LeRoy - Resolution No. 2025-4, Nuisance Abatement at 202 Nebraska Ave.
☐ USD 244 Recreation Commission - Notice of Budget Hearing.
☐ City of New Strawn - Notice of Budget Hearing.
☐ Petition of Zenobia Koleyemi Idugboe - Notice of Hearing to Change Name.
☐ Lebo Planning Commission - Official Notice of Planning Commission Hearing, Reclassification of Property.
☐ Burlington Township - Notice of Budget Hearing.
☐ Halls Summit Cemetery - Notice of Budget Hearing.
☐ Freedom Mortgage Corporation vs. Jay A. Reed Jr., et. al - Notice of Sale.
☐ Burlington USD 244 - Resolution to Exceed Statewide Average for Local Option Budget.

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 Harford

Lebo-Waverly USD 243
Burlington USD 244
LeRoy-Gridley USD 245



Fair returns for 145th consecutive year

BURLINGTON — The 145th annual Coffey County Fair is set to bring five days of tradition, entertainment, and family fun to Kelley Park in Burlington from July 23 to 27. With this year's theme, "Boots, Roots and Cattle Chutes," the fair will showcase a full lineup of livestock competitions, hands-on activities, and engaging community events that promise to draw crowds.

The fair kicks off with several pre-fair events beginning July 19, including 4-H Shopping in Style, the Western Heritage Revue, and sewing and textile judging. A hand pet show also takes place that day, followed by the cat, and dog shows on July 19. On July 22, a rabbit show and the 4-H/Open Class Horse Show and Shodeo events warm up the arena before the fair's official opening.

Wednesday, July 23, marks the first official day of the fair, with open class entries, 4-H judging, livestock weigh-ins, and 4-H bake sale during the day. Evening activities begin with free root beer floats provided by Coffey County Farm Bureau from 6 to 8 p.m. east of the grandstands, followed by live music in the park from 7 to 9 p.m. featuring Jeff Gordon "Country Outlaws,"

sponsored by the Coffey County Arts Council. The 4-H Ambassadors will host an event later that evening. Thursday, July 24, features a full slate of livestock judging, including poultry, dairy, goats, sheep, and rabbits open to the public. Evening events begin with the Bucket Calf Show at 6 p.m. and the Ranch Rodeo at 7 p.m. in the rodeo arena.

Friday, July 25, starts with the beef show and continues with library-led youth activities and axe throwing. The excitement builds after the 6 p.m. parade, with the Pedal Power Tractor Pull, Sweet 6 and 16, Parade of Purples, Heroes Pull, and a blow-up archery activity. Saturday, July 26, a pancake breakfast and fun run

See **Fair**, Page 11

PUBLIC TOURS LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER



More than 500 people toured the new Coffey County Law Enforcement Center Friday evening and Saturday. Above, Coffey County Sheriff Tom Johnson addresses a captive audience in one of the jail pods. An "official" ribbon cutting was held prior to the Friday tours. Coffey County Attorney Wade Bowie II and Sheriff Johnson held a blue ribbon while County Commission Vice Chairman Steve McCurry cut the ribbon in the absence of Chairman Wayne Thomsen. Other commissioner present were, from left, Mark Petterson, Mike Abendroth and Todd Barker.



Board reviews budget options, tour jail

BURLINGTON — Coffey County commissioners tackled a packed agenda Monday, July 7, approving multiple budget items, reviewing progress on the county's comprehensive plan, and conducting a final walkthrough of the new law enforcement center.

All five commissioners

were present — Chairman Wayne Thomsen, Steve McCurry, Mike Abendroth, Mark Petterson, and Todd Barker — along with County Clerk Angie Kirchner and County Counselor Wade H. Bowie II.

Commissioners devoted significant time to shaping the 2026 budget. The

current draft proposes a tax rate of 56.06 mills — above the revenue-neutral rate of 51.938 — but the board is aiming for 54 mills, a 4% increase over last year (*By the end of the July 14 meeting, the proposed mill levy stood at 54.642 mills*). Strategies to reduce the gap include applying \$100,000 in inter-

est revenue, utilizing up to \$538,000 from GIS reserves, and requesting 1% cuts from departments. Appraiser Connie Lawrence recommended retaining \$150,000 in the GIS fund for future aerial imagery and software needs. The commission also

See **Budget**, Page 12

Coffey County celebrates 170 years of history

Coffey County's history began in 1854, when the first known settlers arrived in the area, drawn by the promise of new beginnings in the Kansas Territory. Just a year later, on July 22, 1855, the Territorial Legislature officially established Coffey County's boundaries: a 24-mile square starting at the southeast corner of what was then Weller County (now Osage County). Though the county was named in honor of Asbury Madison Coffey — a prominent settler in Kansas Territory — it's worth noting Coffey himself never set foot within the county bearing his name.

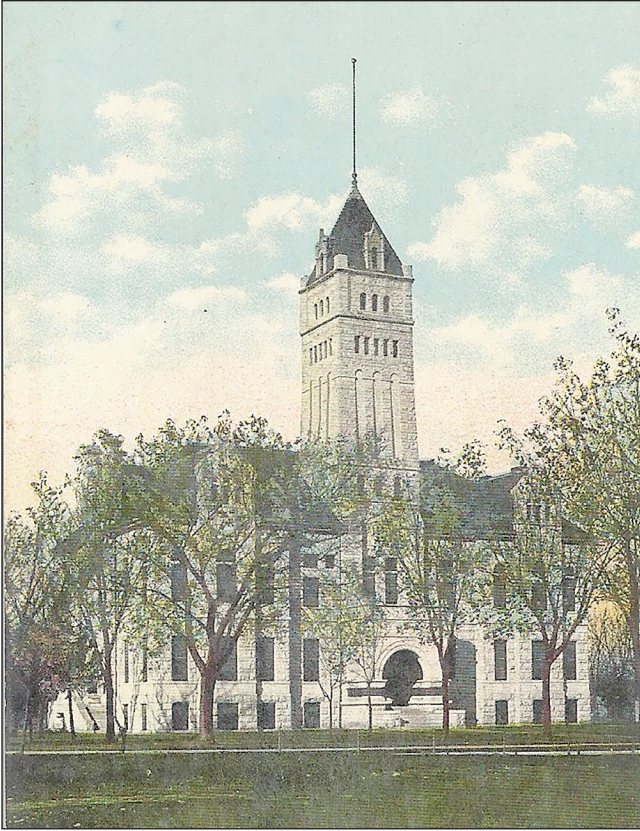
That same year, the first term of court convened in Hampden, presided over by Chief Justice Samuel D. Lecompte of the Territory. Just a year later, on April 13, 1856, Coffey County recorded its first marriage: John H. Bowen to Margaret Crail.

Coffey County was formally organized for governmental business on February 17, 1857. The

early county offices operated from downtown buildings in the county seat at the time, as no courthouse

yet existed. John Woolman was appointed Probate

See **Coffey**, Page 4



The Coffey County Courthouse utilized from 1901 to 1964.

Commissioners proclaim 'Coffey County Week'

BURLINGTON — The Coffey County Commission has officially proclaimed the week of July 20-26, 2025, as Coffey County Week in celebration of the county's 170th anniversary. The proclamation was adopted during the commission's regular meeting Monday, July 14, and honors the founding of the county on July 22, 1855.

Recognized as one of the earliest organized counties in Kansas, Coffey County was established under the territorial government and named for Asbury Madison Coffey, a pioneering settler and legislator during Kansas' territorial days. The week-long observance will serve as an opportunity to reflect on the county's rich heritage and progress over nearly two centuries.

In the proclamation, commissioners noted Coffey County's trans-

formation from a Kansas frontier community into a vibrant region known for its agriculture, civic pride, and enduring sense of place. The document also recognizes the contributions of generations of residents who have shaped the county through resilience, innovation, and a shared commitment to community.

"It is fitting and proper to recognize this historic occasion," the proclamation reads, "and to celebrate all that makes Coffey County a remarkable place to live, work, and visit."

The 170th anniversary will be observed throughout the designated week, with the proclamation encouraging public recognition of the county's legacy and role in Kansas history. Coffey County Historical Museum staff prepared the proclamation.



County Fair

The 145th Coffey County Fair officially begins a 5-day run Wednesday, July 23. Senior 4-H members are featured in a special pre-fair section. See the 16-page news supplement included with today's edition.

NEW STRAWN CITY COUNCIL Proposed 2026 budget remains flat

Mark Petterson
Managing Editor

NEW STRAWN — The New Strawn City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2026 city budget at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, during its regular monthly meeting.

Ahead of its July 10 meeting, the council met in a special session with the city's auditor to review the 2024 audit and make adjustments to the proposed 2026 budget.

The council voted not to exceed the revenue neutral rate. The city raised \$151,298 in ad valorem taxes for 2025 and has proposed raising the same amount in 2026. Last year, the city levied 32.994 mills. With a \$700,000 increase in assessed valuation to

See **Strawn**, Page 9