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A USD 235 teacher has been named to a governor’s council. See page 5.

INSIDE:

A Fort Scott High School student has received a KSHSAA scholarship. See page 5.

SPORTS:

The Fort Scott High School boys golf team swung to a first-place finish at its home tournament Monday. See page 8.



Fort Scott area sees up to 5 inches of rain, rising waters over weekend

By JASON E. SILVERS
The Fort Scott Tribune

Rain and thunderstorms that moved in last weekend caused some flooding due to several inches of rainfall throughout the county. On Sunday, the Fort Scott/Bourbon County Dispatch Facebook page reported several closures due to flooding; 195th

Street to 205th Street and Kansas, Third and Clark streets (Third Street underpass), Riverfront Park, Gunn Park, 240th Street to 250th Street and Limestone, as well as reports of flooding on Kansas Highway 31 near 165th Street. The Marmaton River level had reached 35.15 feet Sunday and was predicted to crest at 36.8 feet about 1 a.m., according to the post. On Monday, Bourbon

County Emergency Manager Brian Allen said the river reached 40.16 feet at 3:47 a.m. Monday and was sitting at “just over” 37 feet at 4 p.m. Monday, according to the National Weather Service in Springfield, Mo. Allen said he heard reports of rainfall amounts from 3 to 5 ½ inches “scattered around the county.” He said he had not received reports of damages or injuries due to the event.

Allen said he spoke with Bourbon County Public Works Director Eric Bailey Monday morning, and Bailey said the low-water crossings “were mostly covered.” On Tuesday, Bailey said most of the county roads that had been closed due to flooding have been reopened, with the exception of 255th Street between Native Road and U.S. Highway 54. He said county crews continued to work Tuesday on clearing debris and addressing roads that were washed out, and preparing for more rain in the coming days. Allen said he had not heard of any reports of cloud rotation in Bourbon County, although the storm sirens sounded briefly in Nevada, Mo. “It seems that the severe weather was east and south of Bourbon County,” he said. “We pretty much just had torrential rain.”



Submitted photo
Tree limbs and other debris are pictured near a small bridge on Yellowstone Road near Fulton Tuesday. Bourbon County Public Works Director Eric Bailey said the debris is an example of the clean-up public works crews are handling due to flash flooding last weekend.



Tammy Helm/Tribune photo
Water rushes down a hill towards Fern Lake at Gunn Park Sunday afternoon, shortly after rain stopped falling, ending a weekend-long deluge that dropped nearly 5 inches of rain on Fort Scott. After a couple of sunny days, a chance of rain is in the forecast every day through Sunday.



Tammy Helm/Tribune photo
A pickup truck is driven through high water at the Third Street railroad underpass shortly after rain stopped falling Sunday afternoon. Cones were set up to warn drivers of the high water.

Commissioners asked to rethink sick, vacation time for county employees

By JASON E. SILVERS
The Fort Scott Tribune

Bourbon County Commissioners plan to look into policies concerning coverage of injured county employees after hearing from a longtime employee Monday evening. Bobby Reed, a former administrator at the Bourbon County Law Enforcement Center who is currently an employee of the public works department, talked to commissioners about his concerns following a workplace accident that occurred March 10 in which Reed was hospitalized. “I appreciate the time to talk to you this evening,” Reed said, adding he decided to wait until a third commissioner was on the board before speaking to the commission. Reed was injured while clearing brush on a bridge project, according to the

report Commission Chairman Brandon Whisenhunt received on the accident, Whisenhunt told the Tribune Tuesday. Whisenhunt said commissioners plan to look into the matter as part of continued budget discussions. “We’ll look into it and do our research and due diligence and make sure we’re not costing an injured employee financial hardships,” he said. During the meeting, Reed said he has been a county employee for about 15 years. He said he did not plan to speak about the work accident, but rather the “aftermath and toll I know it’s taken on me ... Basically, I’m looking out for the next guy.” Reed said since he has served previously in a management position, he is familiar with current county policies. “I’m asking if commissioners decide to make any changes, please explore all


options you have within the law and the regulations you may face and make a decision that is best for all Bourbon County employees, every department,” he said. Reed asked commissioners to consider reviewing the use of employees’ vacation and sick time. He said when he received his paycheck the week after his injury, “I was charged 32 hours of sick time to make that 40 up for the previous week I was in the hospital. That would ensure the 40 hours. I don’t feel this is right. I didn’t ask for this. In my opinion, probably a lot more employees would think the same way; our vacation and sick time is earned. We earn it, so therefore it’s to our discretion on how it’s used and burned and rather not a workplace injury. We shouldn’t be forced to use it on a work-related injury as well.” SEE COUNTY SICK DAYS ON PAGE 5



Jason E. Silvers/Tribune photo
Bourbon County Commissioner David Beerbower, from left, and Bourbon County Counselor Bob Johnson listen Monday as county employee Bobby Reed speaks about his concerns with vacation and sick time.

WEATHER

A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58. Southeast wind around 7 mph.



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