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Death Notices

- Page 3
- Glen Bazil, 93
- Jarvis Brink, 87
- Mark Hopkins, 63

Area Lenten services planned

Local churches that observe Lent have services planned. The following have shared plans with The Coffey County Republican.

Burlington
Burlington Methodist Church, 207 S. Sixth St., a Lent study, Jesus Asking, by J.D. Walt began, Wednesday, Feb. 18 and will air each day of the Lenten season on the Wake-Up Call and YouTube. An all-church breakfast will be served 9:15 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, by the Nurture Committee. Small group discussions will be offered at 9:15 each Sunday through March 29.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 214 Juniatta St., Friday, March 13, 5 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 5:45 p.m. Stations of the Cross,

See **Services**, Page 2

Public Notices

Pages 8 and 10

- Coffey County Treasurer - Quarterly Report.
- 1998 TrailMobile VIN *3717 vs. State of Kansas, et al. - Notice of Suit.
- 1998 TrailMobile VIN *3720 vs. State of Kansas, et al. - Notice of Suit.

City of New Strawn - Ordinance No. 2026-02 Summary - MT Networks Franchise.

Estate of Judith L. Thornbrugh - Notice of Hearing.

Coffey County - Invitation to Bid Asphalt Cold Mix Patching Material - 2026 Program.

Coffey County - Invitation to Bid Liquid Asphalt 2026 Chip Seal Program.

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



Commission approves purchases, reviews projects

BURLINGTON — The Coffey County Commission approved the purchase of four new pickup trucks for the Road and Bridge Department and held multiple executive sessions related to economic development matters during its regular meeting Monday, Feb. 9.

Commissioners present were Chairman Mark Petterson, Steve McCurry, Michael Abendroth, Wayde Thomsen and Todd Barker.

Others present included Payroll and Benefits Coordinator Kacy Peres, County Counselor Wade Bowie II, Planning and Zoning Administrator Heidi Harris, Environmental Health Director Carl Lee, Economic Development Director Jenny Tatman, and Road and Bridge Supervisor Adam Hoch.

Patrick Wood of 70Five Development and Economic Development Director Jenny Tatman presented

information regarding a proposed Reinvestment Housing Incentive District (RHID) resolution. The commission took no action at this time after Dominic Eck of Gilmore & Bell was unable to attend the meeting.

The commission entered four executive sessions during the meeting, all related to economic development matters. Commissioners entered a 20-minute executive ses-

sion with Bowie, Tatman and David Lendo to discuss the financial affairs of an individual proprietorship, as allowed under the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

Commissioners entered a 15-minute session with commissioners, Bowie and Tatman present to receive legal advice regarding a potential economic development project. No

See **County**, Page 2

Krueger takes county spelling crown

Ida Wilson
Reporter

LEBO — Burlington seventh-grader Callen Krueger earned the title of Coffey County Spelling Bee Champion for 2026 on Wednesday, Feb. 11, during the annual competition held at Lebo schools. Krueger will represent Coffey County at the regional spelling bee in Salina on Saturday, March 21.

The runner-up was Burlington eighth-grader Maddie Bell.

Krueger secured the championship by correctly spelling “cilantro” followed by the championship word, “contraband,” in the eleventh round of competition.

Krueger and Bell received plaques and Amazon gift cards provided by The Coffey County Republican. The newspaper also provided medals to all participants in the competition.

The 12 students who qualified to represent their schools in the Coffey County Spelling Bee were:
> **Lebo:** Meredith Davies, sixth grade; Colleen Davies, sixth grade; and A.J. Rogers, seventh grade.

> **Waverly:** Lachlan Waddle, sixth grade; Jase Bailey, eighth grade; and Addison Drumm, eighth grade.

> **Burlington:** Callen Krueger, seventh grade; Carson Oliver, seventh grade; and Maddie Bell, eighth grade.

See **Bee**, Page 7



Coffey County Spelling Champion Callen Krueger, left, a Burlington seventh-grader, and runner-up Maddie Bell, a Burlington eighth-grader.



The 12 students who participated in the Coffey County Spelling Bee held Wednesday morning, Feb. 11, at the Lebo schools are, from left, back row — A.J. Rogers, Carson Oliver, Maddie Bell, Addison Drumm, Austin Morray, Adelyn Miller; front row — Lachlan Waddle, Jase Bailey, Callen Krueger, Meredith Davies, Colleen Davies, and Henry Miller.

BURLINGTON USD 244

BOE renews several contracts, approves hires

Katie McMurray
Reporter

BURLINGTON — The Burlington USD 244 Board of Education, at its regular monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 9, renewed several contracts and approved multiple new hires.

Contract renewals approved included Courtney Fimalyson as assistant

technology director, Brian Shank as director of transportation/grounds, Margarito Solano as director of maintenance and Joe Sprague as CCSEC special education coordinator, all for the 2026-27 school year.

New hires included Jacqueline Miller as a BMS after school homework club staffer effective Jan. 5; Steven Burris as a BES para

and Patricia Knight as a BHS para, both effective Jan. 23; Kalya Turner as a BHS assistant track coach effective Feb. 1; Lydia Keeler as a BES para effective Feb. 9; Alexander Mudd as a BHS para effective Feb. 10; and Xoe Altic as a BMS assistant track coach effective March 2.

Board members James Higgins, Lucas Allen,

Johnny Hernandez, Nolan Strawder, Ron Hess, Bob Plummer and Selena King were present for the meeting. Also attending were Superintendent Craig Marshall, Clerk of the Board Christy Hess, Technology Director Craig Kuhlmann, Special Education Director Lindsey Graf, BES Principal Darla Long, BHS Principal Lee

Baldwin, BHS Assistant Principal/Activities Director Arianne Seidl and OPAA Food Service Director Anastasia Morgan.

In other personnel items, transfers approved included Lacey Johnson from BELC assistant director to BELC director effective Jan. 26 and Kelsy

See **USD 244**, Page 10

Community discussion sought regarding BES

Katie McMurray
Reporter

BURLINGTON — The Burlington USD 244 Board of Education is seeking input from the public regarding the future of BES and is holding community meetings at the elementary school to facilitate discussion on the topic.

The first of four community meetings was held Wednesday, Feb. 4, and the second occurred Thursday, Feb. 12. While only two patrons attended the first meeting, nine attended the second. Also attending the Feb. 12 meeting were school board members James Higgins, Ron Hess, Bob Plummer and Selena King, Superintendent Craig Marshall, BES Principal Darla Long, Assistant

tor Courtney Fimalyson, Board Clerk Christy Hess, McCown Gordon Construction's Brian Fuemeler and GMCN Architects' Senior Principal Architect Clark Simpson, who has worked with the district on previous projects as well as exploring options for BES, which include a renovation of the existing BES or building a new BES.

School board member Ron Hess provided an overview of what a renovation of the existing BES could include. Highlights include a new fire suppression system, as BES currently does not have one; a new playground on the north side of the building; an 8,000 square foot addition that would include the



Burlington USD 244 Board of Education member Ron Hess, left, describes what a renovation of the existing BES might look like while fellow board member Bob Plummer gestures at a map of BES to show patrons the part of the building being discussed.

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Katie McMurray/The Republican