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## Death Notices

Page 3

- Orville Hutchinson, 76
- David Strawder, 66

## Appeal deadline approaching for property valuations

Property owners have until March 31 to appeal their 2026 real property valuations after notices were mailed Feb. 27.

Under Kansas law, taxpayers generally have 30 days from the mailing date to file an appeal with the county appraiser's office. The process typically begins by completing and returning the appeal form included with the valuation notice, which allows for an informal meeting to review the property's value.

Information on how to appeal is included with each notice. For assistance, contact the Coffey County Appraiser's Office at 620-364-8426.

## Public Notices

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- City of New Strawn - Invitation to Bid Rewiring and Renovation.
- Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC vs. Grover P. Rippey, et. al - Notice of Suit.
- Bahr Storage - Notice of Sale.
- Coffey County - Advertisement for Bids for Project No. A2601-C Hot Mix Asphalt Project.
- City of Waverly - Invitation to Bid 2008 Chevrolet 2500 HD, 2WD Truck.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at [www.kansaspublicnotices.com](http://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



# Board approves 457 plan, airport plat contract

BURLINGTON — The Coffey County Commission approved a deferred compensation retirement plan for county employees, authorized work on the Coffey County Airport subdivision plat and handled several personnel and administrative matters during its March 9 meeting.

Chairman Mark Pette-son called the meeting to order with commissioners Michael Abendroth, Todd Barker and Steve McCurry present. Commissioner Wayne Thom-son was absent. County Clerk Angie Kirchner and County Counselor Wade Bowie II also attended.

Commissioners approved Resolution No. 2026-971, authorizing a deferred compensation plan through the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System for county employees. Known as KPERS 457, the voluntary program allows employees to set aside additional retirement savings without cost to the county.

The commission also approved the 2025 Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report for Coffey County on the recommendation of Noxious Weed and Recycling Director Todd Bemis.

Commissioners waived landfill disposal fees for a structure destroyed by fire at 202 Senior St. in Waverly owned by Terry Bradley. The structure sustained heavy interior fire damage and will be demolished.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Heidi Harris presented a recommendation for survey and plat work related to the Coffey County Airport subdivision project. Commissioners approved a contract with Driggs Design Group to complete

See **Airport**, Page 12

## STATE BASKETBALL



Annabelle Payton/The Republican

The Burlington Wildcats made an exciting and memorable trip to the Class 3A State tournament at Hutchinson this past week, defeating the defending Class 3A State Champion Hesston, in the semifinal round Thursday, March 12, by a 77-76 score in triple overtime in a spectacular fashion that included not one but two thrilling buzzer shots, one to force another overtime period and one to win the game, and making their first appearance in the title game since 2004. Backed by the support of the Burlington High School cheerleaders and Wildcat band, a sizeable student section and many other fans, the Wildcats finished as the Class 3A State Runner-up, battling hard but taking a 55-42 loss to Wichita Collegiate in the championship game. See Page 10 for more coverage of the Wildcats' run at state.



Annabelle Payton/The Republican

The Lebo Wolves finished a three-game run in the Class 1A Division II State boys' basketball tournament with a hard-fought, 65-64 win over Cunningham to earn third place on Friday, March 13. The win came after a tough semifinal loss to Hanover Thursday, March 12. Many supporters and fans made the short trip to White Auditorium in Emporia to support the Wolves, including the Lebo High School cheerleaders and a big student section. See Page 11 for further coverage of the Wolves' state games.

## BURLINGTON USD 244

# BOE discusses BES, handles contracts

Katie McMurray  
Reporter

BURLINGTON — The Burlington USD 244 Board of Education, at its regular monthly meeting, discussed next steps in determining the future of BES

and handled multiple contracts. The board briefly discussed the results of a survey regarding BES, noting there were still a number of people who responded they were unsure or needed more info. Next steps

were also discussed. Work will be done to get a detailed breakdown of costs for a potential renovation of the existing BES, and the board will hold a work session to better define the scope of both options, renovation and new build.

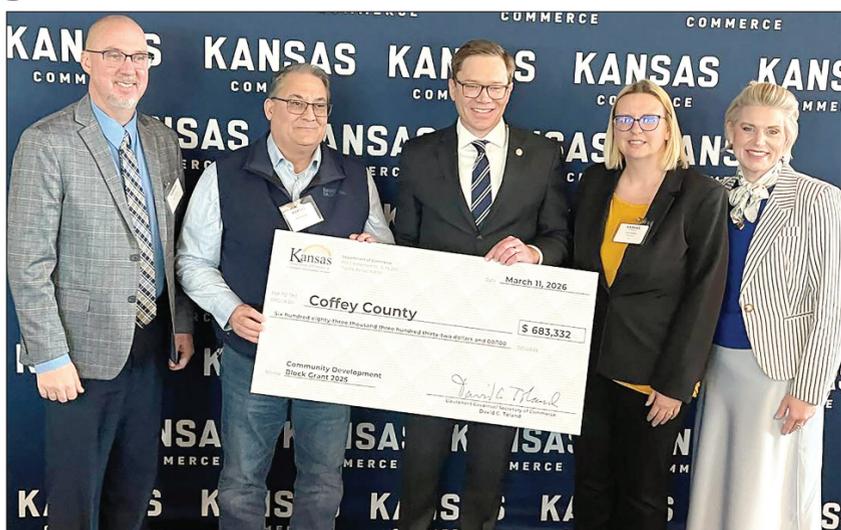
Six board members were present for the meeting, James Higgins, Nolan Strawder, Ron Hess, Bob Plummer, Selena King and Johnny Hernandez. Board member Lucas Allen was

See **USD 244**, Page 2

# Lebo childcare project highlights regional CDBG awards

BURLINGTON — A major early childhood development project in Lebo is among the highlights of more than \$22 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding awarded across Kansas in 2025, with several additional projects funded in counties surrounding Coffey County.

The Kansas Department of Commerce recently recognized 50 communities receiving a combined \$22 million in CDBG funding, which leveraged nearly \$28.9 million in local matching funds for a total statewide investment exceeding \$50.9 million. The program supports projects benefiting low- and moderate-income residents, including housing, infrastructure, childcare



Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland presents a ceremonial check in the amount of \$683,332, which is the amount of a Community Development Block Grant that will fund the majority of a \$820,000 early childhood development center in Lebo. Accepting the award from Coffey County are, from left, Lebo-Waverly USD 243 Superintendent Dustin Wilson, Coffey County Commission Chairman Mark Pette-son, Toland, Coffey County Economic Development Director Jenny Tatman, and Lebo Schools Principal Dr. Melissa Veatch.

See **CDBG**, Page 7

# Downburst impacts Westphalia area

Katie McMurray  
Reporter

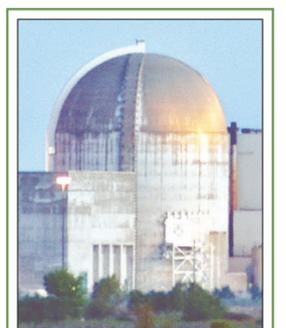
Thunderstorms moved through the area Tuesday night, March 10, and brought damaging winds to the Westphalia area.

The stormy weather was associated with a cold front moving through the area and prompted the National Weather Service to issue a tornado watch just before 6 p.m. March 10.

Thunderstorms arrived after 9 p.m. One storm that impacted northern portions of the county prompted a severe thunderstorm warning, and multiple storms prompted special weather statements, which are for storms that are strong but fall short of meeting criteria to be labeled severe. After 10 p.m., one of those strong storms brought gusty winds that left damage from near the county line between Coffey and Anderson counties eastward into Anderson County.

The storm generated what the National Weather Service, after conducting a survey of the affected area, determined to be straight-line winds in a downburst, or strong concentrated column of wind that hits the ground and spreads out, causing damage similar to a tornado. The downburst was estimated to have had peak winds 80-85 miles per hour and a wind core two

See **Storm**, Page 7



# NRC: Wolf Creek operating safely, earns top performance rating

BURLINGTON — The Wolf Creek Generating Station continues to operate safely and remains in the highest performance category under federal oversight, according to a March 11 annual assessment from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The NRC reviewed plant performance from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025, evaluating inspection results, performance indicators and any enforcement actions. The agency concluded that Wolf Creek "preserved public health and safety" during the review period and met all expected standards.

Wolf Creek was placed in the NRC's "Licensee

See **NRC**, Page 7