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ONLINE EDITION:  
www.coffeycountyonline.com

## Death Notices

Page 3

- Kay Baldwin, 82
- Elmer Lendo, 88
- Cherlyn Meyer, 80
- Karen Truelove, 81

## Lake Levels

### John Redmond

2 p.m. Tuesday, March 24

Lake Elevation: 1,042.19  
Normal: 1,041  
Inflow (cfs): 2,157  
Release (cfs): 2,436  
LAST GATE CHANGE: 11 a.m.  
Wednesday, March 18 — 7 tainter  
gate open 0.5 feet; 2 low flow  
gates open 100%. Flood pool  
2.04% full.

### Melvorn

8 a.m. Tuesday, March 3

Lake Elevation: 1,034.52  
Normal: 1,036  
Inflow (cfs): 20  
Release (cfs): 20

### Pomona

Lake Elevation: 972.33  
Normal: 974  
Inflow (cfs): 20  
Release (cfs): 15

## Public Notices

Pages 8 and 9

- 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.
- Coffey County - Notice of Public Hearing to Vacate Portion of Rodney Street in Hillview Subdivision.
- City of Burlington - Ordinance 924, Determining and Establishing Salaries and Compensation.
- Estate of Craig Barnwell - Notice to Creditors.
- City of Waverly - Ordinance No. 566, Water Rates.
- LeRoy-Gridley USD 245 - Public Notice of Board Vacancy.

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



# Lehmann becomes second Kansas official to earn award for 60 years of service

Katie McMurray  
Reporter

TOPEKA — Each year, the Kansas State High School Activities Association recognizes and honors a select group of contest officials for their dedication and service to Kansas interscholastic athletic programs. The KSHSAA Official Recognition program started in the 1999-2000 school year to honor officials who have contributed significant years of service. Until 2025, award plaques are given for 20, 30, 40 and 50 years of service to the youth and schools of Kansas. In May 2025, KSHSAA awarded a 60-year service award for the first time, to John Deedrick of Topeka. In March 2026, Wilfred Lehmann, LeRoy, became the second official to receive a 60-year award. He received his award in a ceremony held during state basketball action at Emporia.

Lehmann mostly officiates high school junior varsity and junior high games nowadays but has officiated at the high school varsity and collegiate levels, as well, during his career. He mainly officiates basketball, but does officiate for other sports, such as football.

In basketball, Lehmann has witnessed plenty of changes to the game. The most recent of those changes include the addition of a shot clock and the dropping of one-plus-one free throw shooting.

When Lehmann received his 50-year service award in March 2015, he shared stories of his career and other changes to the game he had seen over the years. Those stories, as published in The Republican in 2015, follow below.

Lehmann began officiating in

See **Lehmann**, Page 12



Photo submitted

Wilfred Lehmann after receiving a 60-year award from Kansas State High School Activities Association recognizing his service as a sports official. The award is only the second presented in Kansas for 60 years. The award reads, "Presented to Wilfred Lehmann in recognition of 60 years of exemplary service as a KSHSAA registered official. 2025-2026."

# Filing list grows for 2026 election

BURLINGTON — With just over two months remaining before the filing deadline, the list of candidates for the 2026 election cycle in Coffey County continues to take shape.

All three incumbent Coffey County commissioners remain the only candidates filed for their respective seats. Michael P. Abendroth, District 1; Steve McCurry, District 4; and Wayne F. Thomsen,

District 5 have each filed as Republicans.

Additional filings have been recorded for township clerk positions. Sandra Meats, LeRoy Township; Mary Kropf, Pottawatomie Township; Roger Cook, Neosho Township; and Carolyn Harvey, Spring Creek Township have filed as Republicans. Margaret Keen is listed as an independent candidate for Star Township clerk and will

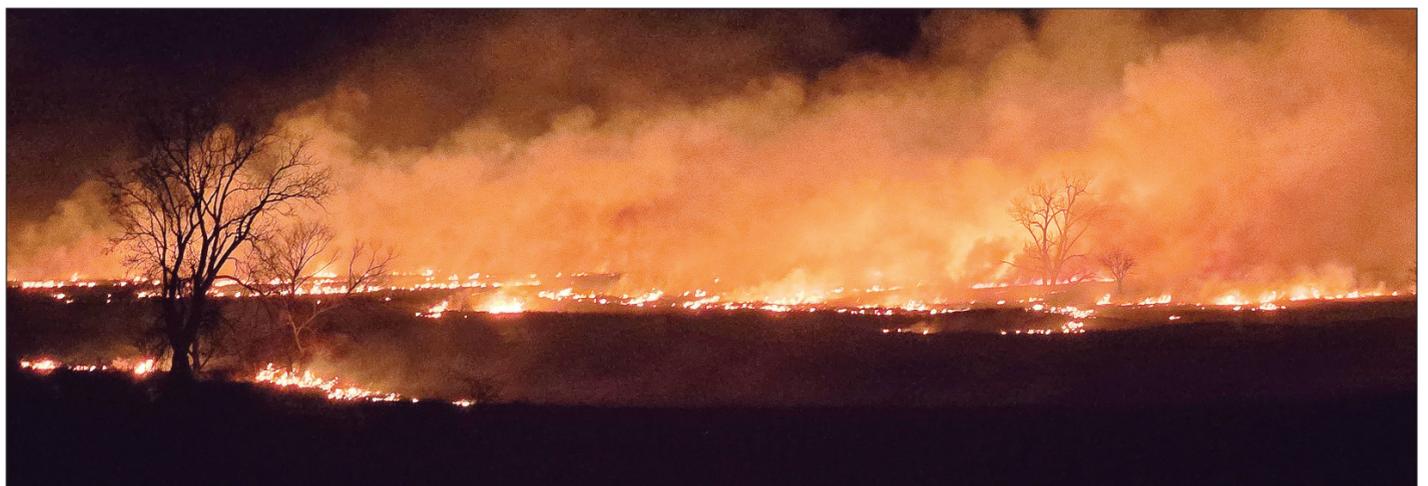
not appear on the primary ballot.

Republican precinct committee races have also expanded. Candidates for committeewoman include Jamie Sigg, Burlington Ward 2; Denise Humlicek, Burlington Ward 3; Kim Strawder, Key West Township; Phyllis Otto, LeRoy Township; Ida M. Wilson, Lincoln Township; Mary Kropf, Pottawatomie Township; Angie Kirchner, Ottumwa Township;

and Susan J. Mueller, Star Township.

Candidates for precinct committeeman include Robert E. Fitz Jr., Burlington Ward 1; Bob Strawder, Key West Township; Bill Otto, LeRoy Township; Roger Cook, Neosho Township; Robert L. Saueressig, Ottumwa Township; Greg Kropf, Pottawatomie Township;

See **Election**, Page 7



Mark Petterson/The Republican

Flames move across a pasture during a controlled burn Monday evening, March 23, south of 22nd Road and west of U.S. 75. Spring burning is a common land management practice across eastern Kansas, particularly in the Flint Hills region, where ranchers use fire to remove old grass, control invasive species and promote the growth of native warm-season grasses. The burns also improve grazing conditions for livestock and help reduce the buildup of excess fuel that could contribute to wildfires later in the year. Conditions such as wind, humidity and temperature are carefully monitored to ensure burns remain controlled and effective.



A number of area churches have planned Holy Week and Easter services. The following have shared plans with The Coffey County Republican.

**Community service**  
Community Good Friday service, will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, April 3, at Burlington Methodist Church, 207 S. Sixth St. Tanner Kaler with Radi-

ant Life Church will give the message. The service is hosted by the Coffey County Evangelical Ministerial Association (CCEMA). Available participating pastors will share roles for this service. A freewill offering will be collected towards funding the CCEMA sponsored Christian Life Scholarship. The CCEMA offers one scholarship per high school in Coffey County,

and one is available to a graduating homeschool student.

**Burlington**  
Burlington Methodist Church, 207 S. Sixth St., will be hosting an Easter egg hunt, provided by their Christian Education team, after their late worship service on Sunday, April 5.

See **Services**, Page 7

## Easter egg hunts planned

Several area organizations have planned Easter egg hunts, Easter bunny visits and other activities for children. Following are the events known by The Republican.



### Burlington

The Burlington Jaynes Easter Egg Hunt will be hosted at EB Sports, 317 Neosho St., at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 4. Each child will receive a bag of candy with a number on it at 10 a.m. and will need to visit with the merchant to possibly collect a prize. All prizes need to be collected by noon.

Life Care Center of Burlington, 601 Cross St., will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt and pictures with

the Easter Bunny at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 11. They are accepting non-chocolate candy donations until Friday, March 27.

### Gridley

Gridley Community Center, 102 E. Third St., will be hosting the Liberty 4-H Easter breakfast at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 4. Biscuits and gravy,

See **Hunts**, Page 7