



Contact Us

CALL (620) 364-5325
FAX (620) 364-2607
EMAIL
ccrepub@gmail.com

or MAIL
THE REPUBLICAN
324 HUDSON ST.
BURLINGTON, KS 66839

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www.coffeycountyonline.com

Death Notices
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- Stephen Austin, 77
- Joan Freeman, 93
- Larry Jewett, 85

STATE BOUND
Burlington boys, Lebo boys and Lebo girls won their respective substate basketball tournaments and are playing in state tournaments this week.
See Section B

Public Notices
Pages 7A, 8A, 11A

- Coffey County - Invitation to Bid Mowing Four Parcels.
- Coffey County - Invitation to Bid Bush Hog Mowing.
- Coffey County - Advertisement for Bids for Highway Pavement Striping.
- Pottawatomie Creek Watershed Joint District No. 90 - Notice of Annual Meeting.
- Coffey County - Advertisement For Bids for Agricultural Land Lease Agreement.
- Coffey County - Notice of Intent to Dispose of 1996 Broce RC300 Road Sweeper.
- Coffey County - List of February Warrants.
- City of Burlington - Ordinance 913, Salaries and Compensation of Officers and Employees.
- Coffey County Treasurer - Quarterly Report.
- Waverly Zoning Board of Appeals - Notice of Public Hearing.
- City of LeRoy - Resolution 2025-1, GAAP Waiver 2025.
- City of LeRoy - Resolution 2025-2, GAAP Waiver 2024.
- Coffey County - Resolution 2025-944, Minimum Maintenance Roads in Northeast Quarter.

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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



Photo submitted

Wolf Creek Nuclear Generation Station is celebrating 40 years of commercial operation. It is licensed for 20 more years.

Wolf Creek Generating Station celebrates 40 years
of nuclear energy, providing reliable power

Plant will
continue to
operate at
least 20 more
years

BURLINGTON — On March 11, Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station celebrated 40 years of providing reliable energy to Kansas and the region. The plant, which received its original operating license on March 11, 1985, will continue operations for at least two more decades. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has extended Wolf Creek's operating license through 2045. "Wolf Creek is an important piece of our diverse energy mix that helps us serve all of our 1.7 million customers across Kansas and Missouri," said David Campbell, Evergy chairman and chief executive

officer. "When we talk about reliability, affordability, and sustainability for Evergy as a company, Wolf Creek delivers on all

of those. It is an integral part of the communities we serve." The Honorable Governor Laura Kelly joined

Campbell and other officials for a special event honoring Wolf Creek's 40 years and its impact on the state of Kansas.

"Beyond energy production, Wolf Creek plays a major role in Kansas'

See **Wolf**, Page 12A



Photo submitted

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly speaks about the role Wolf Creek plays in a strong Kansas economy. Looking on are Wolf Creek CEO Cleve Reasoner and Evergy Chairman and CEO David Campbell.

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

City employees granted 3%
cost-of-living increase

Mark Petterson
Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — At its March 5 meeting, the Burlington City Council approved a 3% cost of living increase for its employees. The increase will take effect April 12. Each year, information is gleaned from the January Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used to determine the cost-of-living increase. The wage band is also adjusted on the wage and salary schedule. The City of Burlington has 41 employees and another six positions in various departments listed as vacant. Based on the latest payroll ordinance, the increase will amount to about \$88,000 annually. In a related motion, the council adopted Ordinance 913, determining and establishing salaries and compensation of officers and employees, pursuant to the personnel policies and procedures of the City of Burlington. Governing body present were Mayor Stan Luke and council members Jerilyn Curtiss, Maxi Berryman, Lila Van Horn, Cara Mays, Nathan Strawder, and Martin Ernst. Strawder arrived 15 minutes into the meeting.

Water Project

The council received an update from Jeff Shamburg of Schwab Eaton on the water plant's pretreatment improvement project,

which is currently at the 30% design stage. Good discussions have taken place with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), though challenges remain with floodplain issues in Burlington. Coordination with the Division of Water Resources and the U.S. Corps of Engineers is ongoing to prevent future project hurdles. The design has been refined, shifting from using a piece of equipment to a potential sludge holding pond concept, though final decisions are pending. The project is estimated at \$5.68 million, and the schedule is largely unchanged. The discussion focused on contracting strategy, with a recommendation for a phased hybrid of the traditional design/bid/build approach, which the council supported. The project consists of four phases. The first phase, costing around \$1 million, includes minor upgrades like a carbon feeder changeout and filter maintenance, scheduled after peak summer. The second phase involves six more months of design, with bidding over the winter and construction expected to begin in 2026.

Ballfield Lights

Burlington USD 244 Recreation Director Scot Jeffers updated the council on a joint ballfield lights and pole replacement project at Kelley, Jones, and Katy ballfields. He received a bid from GeoSport

Lighting of Louisiana for \$596,000 if all three fields are done together, which is \$156,000 less than MUSCO's \$752,000 bid. Both companies offer a 25-year maintenance-free warranty. Jeffers plans to discuss the project with the Rec Commission board on March 14. The new light poles will be galvanized steel, with Katy Park requiring a retrofit. GeoSport Lighting offers higher lighting levels (50 candlelight power infield, 30 outfield) compared to MUSCO (30 infield, 20 outfield), and the lighting levels are adjustable. The project is expected to begin at Jones Park in July, followed by Katy Park, then Kelley Park in August. Once approved by the Rec Board, the city will provide support, though the extent of that support has not been disclosed. Jeffers emphasized that the project will move forward regardless, as it is necessary.

Departmental Updates

Electric Department: Superintendent Alan Schneider reported a tree fell on an electric line during the March 4 storm, affecting three customers. Once notified, it took 30-45 minutes to restore electric service. Wind from the storm damaged five utility pole, which will be replaced. Other minor damage also resulted from the storm. Schneider said

Former
Burlington
resident
faces federal
charges

IRMO, S.C. — A former Burlington resident has been jailed due to allegations that he threatened to kill President Donald Trump. Travis Keith Lang, 47, of Irmo, South Carolina, was arrested on March 6. The incident reportedly occurred around February 17, prompting an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service. Lang, who was federally indicted earlier that week, is accused of knowingly and willfully making threats to "take the life of, to kidnap, and to inflict bodily harm" upon the President, according to an indictment from the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina. This charge stems from a violation of federal law prohibiting threats against the president, a crime that carries potential penalties of up to five years in prison, a fine, or both if convicted. Lang was arraigned on March 7 in a Columbia federal courthouse, where he pleaded not guilty. He was denied bond and detained at the Lexington County Detention Center. His arrest follows a history of notable behavior, including an unsuccessful 2024 presidential candidacy as a Republican, though he lacked significant recognition or funding.

See **City**, Page 9A

See **Lang**, Page 12A