

The Coffey County Republican

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Death Notices

Page 2

□ Duane Smith, 88



Delinquent Taxes
A list of properties in Coffey County with delinquent taxes is printed today.

Pages 10 and 11

Public Notices

Pages 8, 10, 11 and 12

- Estate of Douglas L. Sherman - Notice to Creditors.
- Estate of Samuel M. Kiefer - Notice of Hearing on Petition for Final Settlement.
- Coffey County - List of July Warrants.
- City of Hartford - Notice of Hearing to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearing.
- Estate of Ivan Paul Salyer Jr. - Notice of Hearing and Notice to Creditors.
- Coffey County Treasurer - Notice of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes.
- Coffey County - Notice of Sale for Tax Foreclosure.
- Coffey County - Invitation to Bid Full-Sized 1/2 Ton 4x4 Crew Cab Pickup and Full-Sized 3/4 Ton 4x4 Crew Cab Pickup.
- Coffey County - Invitation to Bid Hydraulic Excavator.

Access public notices throughout Kansas at www.kansaspblicnotices.com

Lake Levels

John Redmond
8 a.m. Monday, August 5
Lake Elevation: 1,041.39
Normal: 1,041
Inflow (cfs): 0
Release (cfs): 313

Melvern
Lake Elevation: 1,036.20
Normal: 1,036
Inflow (cfs): 10
Release (cfs): 20

Pomona
Lake Elevation: 974.36
Normal: 974
Inflow (cfs): 10
Release (cfs): 15

Average Gas Prices
Week ending August 5, 2024
Kansas \$3.16/gal. **Nation** \$3.45/gal.
▼ 1.7 cents ▼ 4.6 cents
www.KansasGasPrices.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



Coffey County's oldest consecutively published newspaper

Thursday, August 8, 2024

Fair Results
4-H and open class results from the 144th annual Coffey County Fair are printed in a special section.
News Supplement



34 pages, plus supplement - \$1.00

Incumbents fall short in commission races

BURLINGTON — Incumbents in two contested Coffey County Commissioner races fell short in their bid for re-election in Tuesday's primary election.

In District 2, Mark Petterson won a three-way race with 149 votes. Incumbent Don Meats had 88 votes and James Higgins had 83 votes. District 2 includes Burlington City – Ward 1, Hampden Township, LeRoy City, and LeRoy Township.

In District 2, Todd Barker won over incumbent Jesse Knight, 244-140. District 3 includes Lebo City, Key West Township, Lincoln Township and Pleasant Township.

Voters in LeRoy picked Lyle Sherwood over Phyllis Owens, 75-30, to fill a vacant seat on the LeRoy City Council.



Mark Petterson



Todd Barker



Caryn Tyson



Derek Schmidt



Nancy Boyda

Brad Barrett ran unopposed as a Republican for State Representative in the 76th district.

In the Kansas Senate, 12th district, Caryn Tyson beat Stetson Kern, 918-529, in Coffey County. Districtwide, she

won 6,961-3,076.

In the Republican race for 2nd district U.S. Representative, Derek Schmidt received 936 votes in Coffey County, followed by Shawn Tiffany, 343, Jeff Kahrs, 139, Chad Young,

62, and Michael A. Ogle, 29. Schmidt was declared the winner districtwide.

In the Democratic race for 2nd district U.S. Representative, Nancy Boyda beat Matt Kleinmann, 106-43, in Coffey

County. Boyda was declared the winner districtwide.

All election results are unofficial until the results are canvassed. In Coffey County, a canvass will take place Aug. 19.



Mark Petterson/The Republican

The Coffey County Law Enforcement Center continues to take shape. This photo was taken Tuesday afternoon from the northwest corner of the structure.

COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

Board makes grant, personnel decisions

Mark Petterson
Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Coffey County Commissioners on Monday approved documents related to a \$750,000 grant, approved the purchase of a key piece of the county's information network, and approved a personnel change in the highway department.

Present for the weekly meeting Monday morning were Commissioners Jesse Knight, chairman, Wayde Thomsen, Don Meats and Steve McCurry, Tax Levy Clerk Kacy Peres and County Counselor Wade H. Bowie II. Commissioner Tom Hugunin was absent. One hour into the meeting, Thomsen left to attend a funeral.

Construction Update

Cole Stockman, of River City Construction, provided a weekly construction update on the Coffey County Law Enforcement Center. He provided commissioners a change order log and a four-week look-ahead. At the site, joists arrived Friday. Workers began setting roof frames and will start putting the roof deck on later this week. Stockman said they are making "steady progress."

Economic Development

Economic Development Director Bobby Skipper reported on a variety of topics. He said a circus will be held Monday, Sept. 9, in Burlington's Kelley Park, pending official approval

from the Burlington City Council at their Aug. 7 meeting.

Skipper said everyone involved in the Secure Semiconductor Manufacturing (SSM) project worked hard this past week to get everything in order for closing this week. About 30 people were involved in various aspects of the deal, which is unique in how financing is structured.

Regarding the CHIPS application, there was correspondence last week to TEM from the CHIPS program office. The correspondence confirmed TEM is still being considered for CHIPS funding.

Skipper planned to meet with Wanda Chaffain Tuesday morning to assist with documents mentioned several weeks ago.

Brett Waggoner, Governmental Assistance Services (GAS), presented documents related to the State of Kansas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), including a contract to allow GAS to administer the grant on behalf of the county. The county will build roads and streets with \$750,000 in grant funds.

Waggoner said the funding for the SSM project took longer than anyone thought it might.

Bowie said the county should be in a solid position. Waggoner echoed what he said, indicating financial implications are being passed on to the business.

Commissioners authorized the chairman to sign:

► Economic Development Grant Agreement No. 23-IN-001 between the State of Kansas Department of Commerce and Coffey County.

► Contract for Administration Services for Coffey County, Kansas CDBG Economic Development Project - SSM between Western Consultants and Coffey County.

► All closing documents on the SSM project.

Regarding the CHIPS project, Waggoner said, "The answer is 'yes' until they tell you 'no.'"

Health Department

Health Department Administrator Amilia Marchant and Grant Urban, of BG Consultants, were present for an official bid opening for the health department renovation project.

Seven general contractor bids were received and one bid that appeared to be from a subcontractor. The general contractor bids ranged from \$389,000 to \$580,500. All bidders included two alternate bid requests.

BG Consultants will review the bids, make a recommendation and notice of bid award at the Aug. 12 county commission meeting.

Highway Department

Road and Bridge Superintendent Ryan Durst informed commissioners the Jacobs Creek sewer system needs a new pump. It will cost \$6,940 to rebuild a pump.

Commissioners entered into a

10-minute executive session with Durst and Bowie to discuss an employee's job performance, under the nonelected personnel exception to Kansas Open Meetings Act.

Related to the executive session, commissioners approved Durst's recommendation to add the highway department's sign/safety coordinator job description and pay range to classification 45, and personnel position change.

It was noted that no additional personnel are being added to the department with this action. Commissioners then approved the CP-2 payroll notice for Janet Leiser, sign/safety coordinator, promotion, from wage classification 55-07 to 45-16, from wage \$29.20 to \$29.21, effective Aug. 5. They also directed the chairman to sign the highway department's revised table of organization dated Aug. 5.

Commissioners approved advertising and hiring one heavy equipment operator, to fill a current vacant position within the department.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Adam Hoch said county crews wrapped up chip seal work. They are now doing shoulder work east of Burlington on the new asphalt. They will continue to address shoulder work on other roads throughout the county.

Commissioners approved the following motions presented by Hoch:

► Change Order No. 1 for A2403-C,

See County, Page 14

Former Marion police chief to be charged in 2023 newspaper raid

Dane Hicks
Kansas Informer

MARION — Two Kansas county prosecutors probing the August 2023 police raid on The Marion Record newspaper office and the homes of its employees say they will charge former Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody in that incident.

Sedgwick County District Attorney Mark Bennett and Riley County Attorney Barry Wilkerson said in an investigation report that neither the newspaper nor its staff, whose equipment was confiscated and withheld for several days before being returned, committed any crimes to justify the police action.

The initial report did not make it clear whether Cody would be charged

with a felony or a misdemeanor, but either may be justifiable depending on applications of Kansas statutes. The case with formal charges is expected to be filed this week.

Cody led city and county law officers on a raid of the Record's offices, as well as the home of its publishers and a city commissioner, on Aug. 11 of last year, on the suspicion that the newspaper had falsified an identification documents in order to gain Kansas driver's license information on a local woman applying for a city liquor license. That information was publicly available as an online public record, but District Magistrate Judge Laura Viar signed a search warrant for the raid anyway.

The Kansas Commission on Judicial Conduct dismissed a complaint

against Viar regarding the incident in December 2023. After Viar told the panel District Judge Susan Robson and Cody confirmed to her that Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents were prepared to join the raid. That assertion turned out not to be true, although Cody signed the sworn affidavit. Cody subsequently resigned his position.

Former Marion County record reporter Deb Gruver received a \$235,000 settlement in July from the City of Marion's liability insurance carrier for a lawsuit she filed alleging a violation of her civil rights.

The newspaper's 98-year-old co-publisher, Joan Meyer, died a day after police occupied her home for hours during their search.



Photo submitted

Former Marion, Kan., Police Chief Gideon Cody