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City utility billing snafu addressed

BY BREA SANFORD

Daily Editor

Early this week, the City of Coffeyville took to social media to announce that all utility bills would be changing without notice, much to the chagrin of many. While the original post had been taken down as of press time, City Administrator Ben Brubaker was quick to backpedal over the radio, sharing with KGGF that if residents had already received a bill with the new due dates, the city will honor their original due date. He went on to explain that he and City staff will regroup and come up with a better way to explain why they are making this change,

along with other information. Thursday afternoon, another social media post appeared on the City of Coffeyville Facebook page (@cityofcoffeyville) stating the following:

“We’ve heard your concerns and truly appreciate your patience.

We understand that customers received utility bills with updated due dates and we sincerely apologize that this change was made without prior notice. We recognize the confusion it may have caused and we are working to make it right.

If your bill listed one of the following dates:

- C1- March 6
- C2- March 15
- C3- March 25

- C4- April 6
- C4- April 15

And you were assessed a late fee, but paid by your original due date, you will receive a credit for that late fee only.

Example: You received a bill on March 24 with a due date of April 9, but your original due date was April 15.

You paid on April 15, but were charged a \$13.52 late fee on April 15.

We are still reviewing our utility billing date process to better serve our residents and ensure clear, timely communication moving forward.”

This is an ongoing story and the Journal will keep readers updated as more information is released.



COFFEYVILLE MAN FACES ATTEMPTED MURDER CHARGE- In the early morning hours of Tuesday, April 22, the Coffeyville Police Department arrested Norman Starr, 60, after an incident occurred in the 300 Block of West 3rd Street. Starr is currently being held with no bond with pending charges of: criminal discharge of a firearm, criminal threat, aggravated threat and attempted first degree murder. This is an ongoing story and more details will be given as they are released. Courtesy Photo

County Commissioners continue to consider low water crossing

BY LESLIE FOX

Contributing Writer

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners met for their regular meeting on Monday, April 21. They met to discuss the closure of CR 6200, the Coffeyville Amateur Radio Club, an audit bill and the County health insurance stop-loss contract.

Several Montgomery County residents came forward to give their opinions on the closed low water crossing on CR 6200-24. The County engineers, Cook, Flatt and Strobel closed this crossing after the recent routine inspection. Inspections are required every two years. Rusty Duke began, “I’ve got a bridge on 6200, ya’ll took out the center section of it. Are you guys going to put it back in?” Commissioner Robert E. Bever stated that Commissioner Phil Clubine is going to go look at it and then the Commission is going to make a decision. Duke continued that he did not think it

would be that expensive to fix the low water crossing. The official estimate from the engineers is that it will cost \$630,000. “It’s been that way for 28 years. I’ve lived there for 28 years and it has been the same. It has never changed,” stated Duke. “If you go around it, it is 3.5 miles to get around that thing... There’s a lot of people who live there at that intersection.” Chair Mike Cor-dray stated, “We are just trying to look into it. I know it is taking a while and that’s frustrating. But we are wanting to make the best decision on it.”

Michelle Henry added, “It kind of goes back to when 400 was put in because that was HWY 39 and I don’t understand why they ever closed that. It was a paved road. I feel like when the state went ahead and the County went together and closed 3900 which is now CR 5700, this community has this highway right here, but you guys took that away and left the low water for the whole community and it’s not just the people that live

right there which is quite a few, this is HWY 39. Traffic is heavy through there. So now you have got all these people backed up not knowing where to go because now the low water crossing that everybody always went down is closed. Now you have got two dead end roads here.” She continued, “When they closed HWY 39, I felt like why wasn’t there an actual real bridge put over that low water. Instead of taking everything away from the community, they left them this junk low water that even though it looks old and crappy has lasted all these years.” When HWY 169 was closed, many semi trucks tried using this crossing despite signs prohibiting this. Henry stated that driving the 3.5 miles around the low water crossing is not only a nuisance for the people who live there, but it is also a matter of safety. Her own daughter had a diabetic emergency that really scared the family. “We love that road. It gets us out of our area,” she concluded.

Robert Keal and Becky Van-

Royen also came forward to give their opinions on the low water crossing. VanRoyen was born in the 1960’s and grew up on CR 6200. “My biggest concern is that if you close that road that you won’t maintain that road. There is a residence on that road. Plus I have openings to fields and pastures on that road that I have to take care of,” She stated. “I don’t understand how you can even think about closing a road where there is a home on that road and is a direct access for so many other people.” Commissioner Bever assured her that the County does maintain dead-end roads. He also explained that there is a limited amount of funds available for all the work that is necessary in the county and that they have to make the hard decisions of how to prioritize spending that money.

Brandon Beurskens, Public Works, provided the engineering

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Caney City Council looks ahead

BY BREA SANFORD

Daily Editor

The Caney City Council met for their regular meeting Monday evening in Caney City Hall. Unfortunately, due to a lack of quorum, the meeting was changed into a work session. Due to the informal nature of the meeting, Council members began the work session talking about setting a date for a public hearing regarding revenue bonds.

City Administrator Andrea Sibley addressed those Council members that were present, explaining why a public hearing had to take place, stating that it is simply a notice that goes into the newspaper letting residents know that a meeting will be held to speak on the topic at hand. At the date in question, Mayor Elliot will open up the floor to anyone that would like to speak on the subject- for or against. “Questions that come up during the public comments, I can answer,” she stated. It was a group decision to plan on having an impromptu work session on the evening of April 28, as it was convenient for most of the council members. At that time, the Council will hear any comments regarding the revenue bonds and will answer any questions that they can. The next meeting after that, to

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Kansas announces May as Bike Month

STAFF REPORT

May is National and Kansas Bike Month, a time to celebrate the many benefits of bicycling and encourage more people to give it a try. Whether you’re a daily commuter, a weekend rider, or just dusting off your bike for the first time in a while, there’s no better time to get rolling.

Why Bike Month? First established in 1956 and promoted nationally by the League of American Bicyclists, Bike Month is recognized across the country and right here in Kansas. Biking supports healthier communities, cleaner air, and more connected neighborhoods—and it’s fun!

There are lots of ways to participate in Bike Month, locally, regionally and nationally. Some dates to celebrate are:

• May 4 – National Ride a Bike Day. Everyone is encouraged to #bikethere on this day. Whether you’re riding for fun, fitness or with family, or taking essential trips to work or shop, you are part of our movement for safer streets, connected communities, a healthier planet, and happier people.

• May 7 – National/Kansas Bike to School Day. This day invites participants to celebrate the joy of active commuting while building a sense of community and school spirit. Find out more at walkbiketoschool.org or saferoutes.ksdot.gov/btsd for participating schools.

• May 16 – National Bike to Work Day – 40% of all trips in the U.S. are less than two miles, making bicycling a feasible and fun way to get around. Residents all across the region are encouraged to ride their bike to work and to share photos on social media by using the hashtag #salinabikestowork2025 or #kansas-bikestowork2025

Other local events with details can be found on www.ksrides.org and include:

• Free rides on KANcycle for the entire month of May including locations in Salina, Minneapolis, Concordia, Belleville, Mankato, Beloit, Lincoln, Ellsworth, Lindsborg and Coffeyville.

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Weather

	High	Low	Precip	Wind
Saturday.....	72.....	61.....	22%.....	10mph
Sunday.....	79.....	66.....	56%.....	16mph
Monday.....	79.....	64.....	17%.....	21mph
Tuesday.....	73.....	54.....	70%.....	14mph

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