



Construction continues at a steady clip on the brand new Rural Health Clinic across from Coffeyville Regional Medical Center. The new multi-million dollar facility will be more efficient, allowing for more providers and services to be performed there. There are hopes that the Primary Care Clinic will be open by September of this year. Brea Sanford | Staff Photo

# Commission receives MCAC update, approves RFP for rural fire bunker gear

BY LESLIE FOX  
Contributing Writer

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners met for their regular meeting on Monday, May 12. They met to discuss a new position at the County Clerk's Office, the Montgomery County Action Council's quarterly report, bridge projects, bids for Rural Fire and the Juvenile Services' quarterly report.

Jonathan Booe, County Administrator, came forward to present the resolution for a temporary full-time position in the County Clerk's Office. It was reviewed by Paul Kritz, County Legal Advisor. The Commissioners approved.

Melissa Johnson, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Action Council, presented the Commissioners with MCAC's quarterly report. "MCAC is the economic development agency for the County and we are taking a holistic approach when it comes to economic development. Our primary focus is on creating and retaining jobs and by doing so that can help to expand the tax base. We are also about promoting economic diversity, making sure to encourage small businesses and entrepreneurship and then of course enhancing the quality of life for all citizens by advocating for the infrastructure and legislative changes that we need to support our economic growth," she stated.

Johnson provided an overview of what

they accomplished in 2024. They have hosted presentations, community engagement events and workshops for small businesses. They hosted community conversations in Cherryvale, Coffeyville and Independence. The group has held an economic outlook conference in Coffeyville, as well as a small business energy workshop in partnership with USDA Rural Energy for America program in Caney, which had an excellent turn out. They helped five businesses with the Forge grant. All five businesses were then awarded the grant with payoffs between \$2,500 and \$5,000. MCAC also helped businesses apply for the Business Builder grant and offer an incentive match program which uses ARPA funds to help with employee recruitment and retention. The ladies at MCAC attended Team Kansas in 2024 and invested \$2,500, which enabled MCAC the opportunity to attend three site selector events.

MCAC worked on professional development for their team by attending the KEDA annual conference and the SEK Economic Developers Coalition's quarterly meetings. SEK Day on the Hill gave them an opportunity to talk to the legislators in Topeka. They hosted a Coffeyville legislative day in Topeka where they were able to get the Coffeyville city leaders together with the state legislators.

Next Johnson listed some of the projects MCAC has been working on. Project Delta recently signed a contract for the certified

site in Cherryvale. They have been working with the City of Independence on the incubator building at the old Mercy hospital. In 2025, they increased their contribution to Team Kansas to \$10,000, which means that two MCAC representatives can attend five site selector events this year. Montgomery County has more certified sites than any other county in the state of Kansas. "Economic development is a marathon, not a sprint. So it takes time for some of these projects to come to fruition," she stated.

The City of Cherryvale recently annexed 20 acres west of HWY 169, which is being marketed as a commercial corridor. They signed a contract on the Cherryvale certified site with a developer out of Texas. Spears Manufacturing is expanding their operations in Caney. This will create an additional 175 jobs with a starting wage of \$17.74 per hour. Project Jayhawk, a development group out of Oklahoma seeking a location for a technology related project, will be bringing another 30 full-time jobs. The CVR Nitrogen fertilizer plant will begin a turnaround this fall that will temporarily add an additional 1,000 jobs. They plan to roll out a 60 acre certified site in Caney and also a certified site in Coffeyville.

Most of MCAC's services are free for small businesses. They are the hybrid office of the

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# Single-vehicle fatality accident under investigation in county

STAFF REPORT

On Tuesday, May13, at approximately 11:51 p.m., Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputies, along with Independence Fire and EMS and the Sycamore Rural Fire Department responded to a report of a possible fatality accident in the area of 3145 County Road 6450 near Neodesha-approximately three and a half miles northwest of Sycamore.

Upon arrival, first responders confirmed a single-vehicle accident had, in fact, occurred. Tragically, an adult female, whose identity has not yet been released, was pronounced deceased at the scene due to injuries sustained during the accident.

The incident remains under active investigation. Montgomery County Sheriff Ron Wade extends his deepest condolences to the family and friends of the deceased. He also respectfully asks the community to refrain from spreading speculation or rumors regarding the incident and to allow the family the privacy and peace they need during this difficult time.

MAY BUSINESS OF THE MONTH- Congratulations go to Eisele's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry, as they were named the May Business Spotlight of the Month by the Coffeyville Area Chamber of Commerce. A mainstay in the Coffeyville downtown, Gary's smile and commitment to service are what is greatly missing in today's fast-paced life. Courtesy Photo



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	Weather			
	High	Low	Precip	Wind
Saturday.....	81.....	61.....	16%.....	9mph
Sunday.....	81.....	68.....	63%.....	15mph
Monday.....	80.....	62.....	54%.....	17mph
Tuesday.....	72.....	53.....	43%.....	15mph

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