



## FAULTY POWER LINE PROMPTS WOLF CREEK STAFF SHUFFLE

By RICHARD BURKARD  
richard@emporia.com

**BURLINGTON** — Some workers were moved to different parts of the Wolf Creek power plant Thursday. But the operators said there's no problem with the plant itself.

"There's no outage or power plant issue," Evergy spokesperson Justin Daily said.

Instead, he explained, power lines to some of the administrative buildings stopped working Wednesday.

"There was an issue with one of those that caused a limited loss of power," Daily said. That meant no air conditioning or computer service.

Workers were given the option of moving to other buildings at the complex or working from home. Daily noted many employees have worked remotely since the coronavirus pandemic developed in 2020.

"They're still troubleshooting and restoring that line," Daily added. He estimated the number of employees affected was "minimal."

Evergy's online outage map showed fewer than five customers in the Burlington area were without service for a short time Thursday afternoon. More than 1,300 customers were in the dark in the Topeka area.



FILE PHOTO

Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant in Coffey County is the second-largest energy producer in Kansas.

## RURAL CRASH KILLS READING MAN

The Emporia Gazette

**NEOSHO RAPIDS** — A Reading man died Thursday night when his car went off a road about one mile north of Neosho Rapids.

A statement from the Sheriff's Office said Douglas Cunningham, 42, was driving east on Road 170. For reasons still unknown, he went across the road between Road W and Road X and hit a concrete culvert.

Cunningham was declared dead at the scene. No one else was in the car.

This is the second deadly crash in rural eastern Lyon County this week. A Texas woman died Monday morning when a Polaris RZR rolled over on Road V near Road 50.



COURTESY LYON COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The dot on this map shows Road 170 and Road W. Authorities say a Reading man died in a crash east of that intersection Thursday night.

## COUNTY RECEIVES HEALTH REPORT, CAREARC SAYS COVID NUMBERS 'LOOK GOOD'



MARGARET MELLOTT/KANSAS REFLECTOR

By SHAYLA GAULDING  
shayla@emporia.com

The Lyon County Commission received a public health report from Lyon County Public Health representatives at its meeting Thursday morning.

COVID-19 seems to have taken a back burner, Dr. Ladun Oyenuga, public health officer, said.

"Things have looked good so far in our county," Oyenuga said.

Public health administrator Renee Hively said CareArc has started providing COVID-19 vaccines for children six months to five years old.

"Having some takers on it, not, definitely, been bombarding us or anything, but we do have takers on it," Hively said.

CareArc does not have any future vaccination clinics scheduled as of now but is averaging three to 10 COVID-19 tests per day. Lyon County is averaging just under 50 weekly cases, but the number is most likely higher, as many people are using home testing kits.

"But we are still [seeing] considerable lower cases compared to that peak that we had in January," Hively said. Over 900 COVID-19

cases were reported in Lyon County the week of Jan. 9.

Hively also gave commissioners a preliminary update on monkeypox and said CareArc would set up a time to speak with commissioners about the disease at a later date.

At the time of this report, the CDC has reported 351 monkeypox cases in the United States in 28 states. Kansas has not yet reported a case.

"Not a lot of information is coming down the pipe right now," Hively said.

"Obviously, we are going to treat it just like we do any other infectious disease case," she said. "We are going to do contact tracing investigation, encourage isolation and quarantine of those people."

Hively said monkeypox has an isolation period of 14 to 21 days and is similar to smallpox. Those infected will develop lesions on their body that will go through different phases until the lesions scab and fall off.

In addition to the health report, the commission approved a quote from Road and Bridge for a 2023 Silverado 2500 truck for \$49,905 from Longbine Auto Plaza.

Road and Bridge had originally approved a truck at the beginning of the year for \$38,865, before Chevrolet closed the order bank on the vehicle. When Chevrolet reopened the order bank, the truck had new pricing, a jump of around \$11,000. There are also no government discounts being offered at this time. The commission approved the purchase of the truck at the new price and canceled the old requisition.

Commissioners voted not to raise the Lyon County mileage reimbursement rate from 58.5 cents to match the IRS rate of 62.5 cents, citing consistency with the district court rate as the reason behind the decision. The commission tabled the motion last week to wait for confirmation from the district court about their mileage rate. The court did not increase its mileage reimbursement this year due to budget restraints.

"We have always matched the district court," Commissioner Briggs said.

"Not saying it doesn't need to go up, but for now, I agree it needs to remain the same," Commission Chair Rollie Martin said.

The commission voted to make

the deputy appraiser job an exempt position and change the job description to require a Registered Mass Appraiser (RMA) designation and a college degree.

"That was kind of in line with what some of the bigger counties have done too," Ryan Janzen, Lyon County Appraiser, said.

For personnel changes, Newman Regional Health board vice-chair Jim Williams has handed in his resignation, effective immediately. The commission will be taking applications for the position. Williams' term is set to end in 2025.

"We appreciate his service and time put in on the Newman [Regional Health] board," Martin said. Also approved at the meeting:

- ◆ Sending LCECC supervisor Selena Lasser and CTO Cassandra Grimm to the national APCO Conference in Anaheim in August. The trip will be financed using 911 funds, not taxpayer dollars.

- ◆ Approving the CIC annual maintenance invoice for \$48,185 to be paid out of the sales tax account.

- ◆ Transferring \$8,500 from Court Trustee Fund 14 to the General Fund 10.

## WOMAN ARRESTED FOR MURDER OF CYCLING STAR MORIAH WILSON, ENDING 43-DAY MANHUNT



Tribune News Service

Kaitlin Marie Armstrong has been arrested in Costa Rica, ending a 43-day manhunt that began after the fatal shooting of world class cyclist Anna Moriah Wilson in Austin, Texas.

The U.S. Marshals announced the arrest on Thursday, June 30, of Armstrong, who is suspected of killing Wilson at a home in Austin on May 11. Wilson, 25, was in Austin for a race and was found with multiple gunshot wounds.

Armstrong is accused of using a fake passport and flying from Newark International Airport to San Jose, Costa Rica, on May 18. She had already been questioned by Austin police, and her arrival in Central America came a day after a homicide warrant was issued for her arrest, according to the U.S. Marshals.

Last week, the U.S. Marshals announced they had located Armstrong's black Jeep Grand Cherokee. They say she sold it to an Austin CarMax dealership on May 13 for \$12,200.

"Armstrong was provided a check from the dealership a day

Please see **Wilson**, Page 5