

# The Anderson County Review



COPY PRICE - ONE MEASLY U.S. DOLLAR  
**February 7, 2023**  
SINCE 1865 157th Year, No. 8

The official newspaper of record for Anderson County, KS, and its communities. [www.garnett-ks.com](http://www.garnett-ks.com) | (785) 448-3121 | [review@garnett-ks.com](mailto:review@garnett-ks.com)

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## EKAE might provide city electricity

### Talks point to plant adding generator for own needs plus Garnett's

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT - In the face of rising electrical costs, East Kansas Agri Energy management is considering a plan to build its own gas-powered electrical plant and serve not only much of its own electricity needs, but also be a provider for the City of Garnett as well.



EKAE CEO Bill Pracht relayed the proposal to city commissioners at their recent meeting, saying the plant's leadership had opted to pursue the company's own electrical project as opposed to partnering with the city in what had been discussed over the past year as a possible option to cut electrical costs for both.

Plant and city officials last year toured the POET ethanol plant in Ladonia, Mo., which had undertaken an electrical generation aside to its fuel production in order to begin consideration on a similar local partnership. But Pracht said after further discussion his board had opted to undertake the financing, operation and management of electrical production solo, saying the private company would be more nimble in building and running the project and that a partnership with a municipality could be more cumbersome.

"Our board would like just to make it an East Kansas project," Pracht told commissioners. "We think it would be cleaner. Our lender would rather it be that way. If we had some good years we might be able to pay off our share of it early, and you guys probably wouldn't be able to do that."

Pracht said preliminary estimates were that the company could complete the construction of a gas generator in about two years, about the same time a city supplemental power contract for some 4 megawatts of power from the Grand River Dam Authority expires. EKAE already purchases a large amount of natural gas for its operation to produce ethanol, renewable diesel and dried distillers grains.

"We would like to be your

SEE **POWER** ON PAGE 6



Parker McCarty and Morgan Sumner were crowned Kind and Queen of Anderson County Winter Homecoming Friday night. The AC girls won their homecoming matchup with Girard 43-36, while the Bulldog boys fell 52-27.

## Parkwood Day School opens in Garnett

GARNETT - Parkwood Day School, an early childhood preschool center located inside Garnett First United Methodist Church, will open its doors to the Garnett community on February 13, 2023.

A press release announcing the opening said owner and operator Paula George also runs Parkwood schools in Leawood, Eudora, and Basehor Kansas, has more than 25 years of experience in early childhood education.

Garnett instructor Caryn Caylor is a dual-degree graduate from Ottawa

University, with a bachelor's in Psychology and a bachelor's in Human and Social Services. A Garnett resident for the past 15 years, Caylor has four children and said she is "very accustomed to the hectic lifestyle of working with children."

The release said the school will offer an active learning environment for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old with part-time, full-time, and before- and after-school schedules across multiple classrooms year-round. "Parkwood teachers

will provide children with engaging materials and key experiences by utilizing evidence-based, kindergarten-readiness curricula including High/Scope, Handwriting, and Learning without Tears as well as trauma-informed, emotion-regulation techniques from Conscious Discipline."

Developmental assessments and parent-teacher conferences will be offered biannually, the release said, and help track children's

SEE **PARKWOOD** ON PAGE 11

## City to GACC: We want a divorce

### Commission pulls plug on 8 year deal; 90-day transition set

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT - Eight years after the City of Garnett and the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce partnered in a deal that brought the chamber under the city's administrative umbrella in a public/private partnership, city commissioners have given notice they plan to cancel the deal.

The city's notice to the chamber last week sets in motion a 90-day transition period as specified in the original agreement.

Mayor Jason Sheahan told the Review the decision to end the agreement came with the appointment of chamber director Kris Hix to the Community Development Director post recently left vacant by the retirement of Susan Wettstein. Hix split her time half and half between chamber and city duties. Commissioners have made no comments about specific reasons for the split, but Sheahan said he envisioned

that the city would still support the chamber in some fashion. "Over the next 90 days, as the chamber and city transition away from the shared employee contract, there will be several conversations about how the city can continue to support the chamber."

Sheahan said. "I can't say how that support or partnership will look in 90 days, but there has already been good dialogue with chamber board, and I look forward to the future results of those conversations."

Outgoing chamber president Helen Norman and incoming president Courtney Tucker said in a joint statement they too expected to have more answers as the 90-day transition progressed.

"At this time we are still meeting with the Commissioners at their next meeting," the statement read. "At this point, Kris Hix has

SEE **DIVORCE** ON PAGE 5

## Davids backs Omar amid committee ouster

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Anderson County's representative to the U.S. Congress Sharice Davids defended reputed anti-Semite Congresswoman Ilhan Omar in last week's House vote to remove Omar from the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, an ouster driven by Omar's numerous controversial attacks on Jews and the State of Israel.

Davids' vote followed the mainstay of House Democrats opposition to a move initiated by Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, which dovetailed with the removal of two other controversial Democrats from committees last week over their nefarious pasts.

The final vote removed Omar 218-211. Davids' failed endorsement

of Omar however did not rise to the theatrics of her fellow Democratic congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Cory Bush of Missouri and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan - other members of the so-called "Squad," - in video clips of their sometimes exaggerated defenses of Omar that circulated on social media.

Critics said McCarthy was engaging in political vengeance against Democrats after former Democrat House Speaker Nancy Pelosi removed several Republicans from committee assignments in recent years over their own controversial statements.

The resolution to remove Omar, who is a follower of Islam, cited a number of her previous statements targeting

SEE **DAVIDS** ON PAGE 2

## Government officials must maintain electronic records for public review, KSC decision says

TOPEKA - A recent Kansas Supreme Court decision has put public records custodians on notice - under the Kansas Open Records Act they must provide electronic copies of electronic records.

"This ruling clarifies that the Kansas Open Records Act ensures access to open public records of all types and in all formats," said Attorney Max Kautsch, president of the Kansas Coalition for the Open Government, who also argued the case. "As the Court put it, KORA 'obliges the agency' receiving a request for elec-

tronic records "to faithfully duplicate the public record in all its respects...." (emphasis in original)."

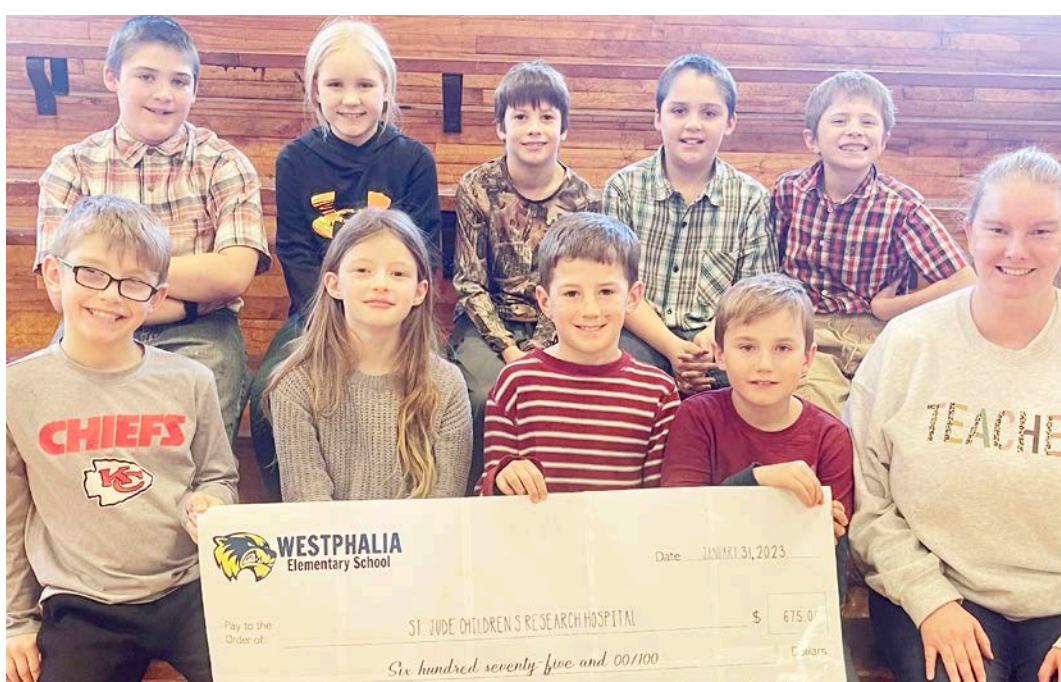
The background The decision stems from a 2019 case in which Kelly Roe, shortly after resigning from the Phillips County Hospital board, sent a KORA request for a number of records in their "native format," to include hospital documents, board meeting minutes with accompanying handouts and packets, Excel

SEE **RECORDS** ON PAGE 11

## WES Market Day

Westphalia Elementary 3rd and 4th graders participated in Market Day on Thursday, January 5th. They made soap, painted gourd birdhouses and tic-tac-toe boards, paper friends, stress balls, phone stands, pumpkin pie, and cookies. They created their products at school, and ended up raising \$675 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Front row from left: Bryx Webber, Harper Bauman, Kyle Shilling, Colton Yoder, teacher Mrs. Madden. Back row: Wynston Heck, Brynlee Rockers, Kobe Edgecomb, Brogan Heck, Brayden Clark. Not Pictured: Collin Christian & Kady Shilling.





**GRIMES**

MARCH 24, 1942 - JANUARY 31, 2023

Ronald "Ronnie" Gene Grimes, age 80, of Garnett, Kansas, passed away on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at Residential Living Center in Garnett, Kansas.



Grimes

Ronald was born on March 24, 1942 in St. James, Arkansas. He was the second of three children born to Bud and Audra (Younger) Grimes. The family later moved to Kansas. Ronald grew up in Harris, Kansas and graduated from Garnett High School in 1961.

On January 25, 1964, he was united in marriage to Oneda Hinkle in Monahans, Texas. Ronald had five children who called him dad; Anita, Diane, Marvin, Eugene, and JoAnn. In 2004, Ronald and Oneda adopted two of their great-grandchildren, Brandy and Tatum.

Ronald worked at the Anderson County Cooperative after graduating from high school. When his father retired, Ronald took over driving the fuel truck until his retirement in 2005. He was known to many as the "Bubble Gum Man".

Ronald enjoyed fishing and

hunting with his family when he had free time. He enjoyed woodworking and small engine repair in his shop at home.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Ronald is survived by his wife of 59 years, Oneda Grimes, of the home; his children, Anita Vernon; Diane Lacy-Trostle and husband Lance; Marvin Grimes; Eugene Grimes and wife Susan; JoAnn Stites and husband Dale; Brandy Archer and Tatum Grimes; seven grandchildren, Deanna Crum; Jessica Boles and husband Chris; Marie Arceo; Michael Vernon; Tyler Lacy; Jessica Fleming and husband Mason; and Andrea Grimes; twelve great grandchildren; two sisters, Judy Tisor and husband Ray; Peggy Brubaker and husband Marlin; nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Ronald's family will greet friends from 6:00PM to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at the Feuerborn Family Funeral Service Chapel in Garnett, Kansas. Memorial contributions made to First Christian Church Youth Program may be left in care of Feuerborn Family Funeral Service, PO BOX 408, Garnett, Kansas 66032. Condolences to the family may be left at [www.feuerbornfuneral.com](http://www.feuerbornfuneral.com).

**WIEDERHOLT**

NOVEMBER 10, 1963 - JANUARY 26, 2023

Jackie R. Wiederholt, age 59, of Pittsburg, Kansas passed away on January 26, 2023.

Jacqueline Ruth Wiederholt was born on November 10, 1963 in Garnett, Kansas. Jackie was the eighth of nine children born to John R. "Jack" Wiederholt and MaryLou (Huettenueller) Wiederholt. Jackie grew up in Greeley, Kansas, where she attended St. John's Catholic School before graduating from Garnett High School with the class of 1982. Following high school, Jackie lived in Ottawa, Kansas and Pittsburg, Kansas, working in retail jobs and as a certified nurse's assistant. Jackie's strength, wit, and faith served her well during her lifetime. She loved her family profoundly including her nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Her contagious smile and laughter will be missed.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Robert "Bobby" Wiederholt, sister,



Wiederholt

Theresa Schneider, and foster brother, Mike Maxwell.

Jackie is survived by her siblings and their families, Betty and Dennis Miller of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Mike Wiederholt of Osawatomie, Kansas, Pat and Janel Wiederholt of Hartford, Kansas, Katie and Ben Rockers of Scipio, Kansas, JoAnn and Kevin Bradford of Ottawa, Kansas, and Margie and Dan Highberger of Westphalia, Kansas; brother in law, Ed Schneider of Olathe, Kansas; sister in law, Phyllis Maxwell of Sapulpa, Oklahoma; and many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial for Jackie will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 10:30 AM at St. John's Catholic Church, Greeley. A rosary will be at 10:00 AM, Saturday prior to the service. Jackie's family will greet friends following the Mass. A private family burial is planned. Memorial contributions to the St. John's Church building fund may be left in care of Feuerborn Family Funeral Service, PO BOX 408, Garnett, Kansas 66032. Condolences to the family may be left at [www.feuerbornfuneral.com](http://www.feuerbornfuneral.com).

**HERYNK**

MARCH 23, 1947 - JANUARY 30, 2023

Steve Neil Herynk, age 75, of Adel, Iowa, passed away on Monday, January 30, 2023 at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa.

Stephen Neil Herynk was born on March 23, 1947 at Garnett, Kansas. He was born to Thomas R. Herynk and Frances Mae (Neil) Herynk.

On March 14, 1970, Steve was united in marriage with Sandra Harris at Holy Angels

Church, Garnett, Kansas.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Steve will be 10:30 AM, Friday, February 10, 2023 at Holy Angels Catholic Church, Garnett. Inurnment will follow in the Kincaid Cemetery, Kincaid, Kansas. Steve's family will greet friends from 5:00-7:00 PM, Thursday evening at Feuerborn Family Funeral Service Chapel, Garnett, Kansas.

**FEUERBORN**

NOVEMBER 30, 1957 - JANUARY 30, 2023

Daniel E. Feuerborn, age 65, passed away at home in Garnett, Kansas on January 30, 2023.

Daniel Earl Feuerborn was born on November 30, 1957 in Garnett, Kansas. He was born to Clifford and Patricia (Nolan) Feuerborn.

On February 18, 1984 Dan married Geralyn (Scherman) Feuerborn in Paola, Kansas.

Mass of Christian Burial was February 3, 2023 at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Scipio, Kansas. Burial followed in the St. Boniface Cemetery.

**DURAND**

AUGUST 26, 1926 - JANUARY 28, 2023

Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Durand, age 96, passed away on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at Parkview Heights in Garnett, Kansas.

Mary was born in Manatee, Florida, to Claude Flowers and Eleanora (Lane) Flowers.

Mary married Milo Maurice Durand Sr. on July 8, 1944 in Bradenton, Florida. Milo and Liz later divorced in 1982.

Services for Mary "Liz" Durand will be held at a later date. Cremation will take place.

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Saturday, Feb. 11, 3:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
All you can eat! Ham & beans, vegetable beef soup. Homemade cornbread, pies & desserts.  
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**REEBLE MONUMENTS**

<b>Iola Location:</b> 202 S. State St. Iola, KS 66749 620-363-5005	<b>Emporia Location:</b> 1 S Commercial St. Emporia, KS 66801 620-342-5573	<b>Ottawa Location:</b> Corner K68 & Main Ottawa, KS 66067 785-229-0684
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**LAND & HOME REVIEW**

This one-owner home is located at 331 N. Hayes, Garnett, KS. Great neighborhood! There are no homes directly behind you so you feel like you are living on the edge of town! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. 1,426 square feet of living area on the main floor plus a full, partially finished basement. Home was built in 1978. Large kitchen with island. There's a see-through fireplace in the living room and dining room. Another fireplace to keep you warm and cozy in the basement. Newer hardwood floors. New breaker box. Attached 2-car garage. Relax on your back deck and enjoy the view! Nice front porch also. Asking \$207,000.

Contact any of the agents at Kansas Property Place or call the office at (785) 448-3999 to schedule your viewing of this fantastic home!



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**242 Acres, Garnett KS**  
Take hunting to new heights, this property just might check all your boxes. Located East of 169 HWY between Garnett and Greeley. These types of places don't seem to come along all too often these days, don't miss out!

**0000 1000 Road, Welda**  
Awesome Building site on 18.50 acres. Property is right off the highway. All utilities surround the property. It is currently used for hay.

**404 N Oak Street, Garnett,** Awesome large lot to build your dream home. Close to the walking trail, city park and ball fields.

**CLOSE TO TOWN** – 57 acres right at edge of Garnett! 3 bedroom ranch style home fixer upper, attached 2 car garage. Detached garage and 2 ft road frontage on 2 sides. Property has 2 phone towers for extra income. Priced to sell at \$279,500

**COMMERCIAL PROJECT** – Two buildings for one low price! All new roof just installed with 10-year warranty, just off town square, 2-stories with living quarters started upstairs, use for your business or complete fix up and rent. Tons of options, opportunity for only \$34,900. Owner says 'bring us an offer!'

**TOWN SQUARE** – Historic building on the square! Newer roof, central heat and AC. Even has a partial basement. This has been a prime retail spot in downtown Garnett for generations. Now you can make it what you'd like and/or need for your business, or own an investment property that is a piece of the town's history. \$74,900

**COUNTRY CUTIE** – 3.5 acres not far from town! 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, basement, 2 car attached garage, fantastic finishes throughout, great kitchen island, top building with extra lean-to area. You've got to take a look at this cutie for only \$340,000

**PERFECT NEW HOME SITE** – 2 lots in one of Garnett's nicest subdivisions. Over a half acre combined! Use all to build your new home and maybe that outbuilding. Or use one and keep the other for investment. Either way, you can't beat the value – all for only \$16,900

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# Let's end wind farm corruption

How often do you see a story about corruption in government and think why doesn't someone stand up and try to stop it? One of my daily prayers is that anyone who sees corruption, and holds a position with the power to stop it, will have the courage to attempt to do so.

Well, that is exactly what I tried to do this past week through Senate Bill 86, which I drafted, to stop unethical and corrupt practices surrounding renewable leases across Kansas. The bill hearing took an hour, but really should have gone longer. It remains to be seen whether this bill will be put up for a vote in committee...but I am hoping it will... and am making amendments to the bill to clarify some of the points discussed during the hearing.

SB86 would force any county official who has a substantial interest in a renewable project to recuse themselves from being able to make a decision on whether to approve a project of that type in their county. It would also prevent them from using relatives or close associates to hide their involvement in those projects.

Why did I focus on renewables? Because these projects are huge. They encompass thousands of acres. Leases for these projects can run up to 90 years. Nearby residents are exposed to health and safety hazards. These projects remove fertile agricultural land from production, displace wildlife habitats, alter ground and subterranean water flows, affect aviation, and create bitter divisions in small rural communities. Counties that approve these land-consuming projects are forever altered in many ways. Why wouldn't you want an unbiased person making decisions of this magnitude?

We have ample evidence to show that these unethical practices are happening. I have heard horror stories from people in a number of rural counties where the majority of the residents who would have to live near these large projects oppose the approval of the project...and yet county commissioners who have signed lease agreements, or have had a relative do so, approved the project and refused to recuse themselves from the decision.

Consider Republic County where ALL THREE commissioners had interest in the project that will bring wind turbines taller than the Gateway Arch in St Louis to this small rural county! Here is direct written testimony from one resident in Republic County, whose farm will be near the now-approved project:

"All three of our county commissioners, who were involved in negotiating and approving the

## KANSAS COMMENTARY



MIKE THOMPSON, KANSAS SENATE

High Banks Wind Farm, have ties to the project or a wind energy company.

- The first commissioner has a brother who signed a lease with High Banks Wind.

- The second commissioner has a brother who works for a wind energy company in a neighboring county.

- The third commissioner setup a life estate on a tract of land in 2019 and then in September 2021, just two years later, gave up that life estate to his son (this is not something that typically happens with a life estate). Then two months later a lease was signed on that tract of land with High Banks Wind. Sign-on bonuses are common for signing leases with wind energy companies. How much of a sign-on bonus was this commissioner's son given?? We will never know. (Note: This commissioner did recuse himself from the vote however he was involved in every executive session discussing the project even the executive session on the day the vote was taken. Did the commissioners talk in executive session that day to know the other two were going to vote yes so that commissioner was able to recuse himself to make it look like he was doing the "right" thing? Why didn't he recuse himself from all the discussions throughout the year in regards to the project?")

Testimony from Marshall County reads:

"I support SB86 because I have witnessed the questionable tactics of some local elected officials which does appear to have benefit for themselves and others they know. One such questionable action was a commissioner in Marshall County Kansas which voted to support a wind development, after which a close family member who is part of an accounting firm signed a

SEE THOMPSON ON PAGE 7

BRANCO SwampMonsters.news © 2023 Creators.com



## The Anderson County Review's PHONE FORUM

Record your comments on the topic of your choice at (785) 448-2500. You do not need to leave your name. Comments may be published anonymously. Calls may be edited for publication or omitted.

You can do the sign of the cross and not be Catholic, and you can do yoga and not be Hindu. All you get from yoga is strength and flexibility.

Poor sportsmanship in the bleachers at junior high girls basketball games is embarrassing to the girls, the school and the other spectators. Do you really think you can do better than your kids or grandkids out there? Let them have fun and compete and be encouraging on the sideline not a mouthy know it all.

A Republican bill in Oklahoma would fine drag performers up to \$20,000 and have them face up to two years in jail for performing in front of a minor. Fact: In most states, prison inmates do more to stop pedophilia than our own government.

## Biden shows weakness to China over balloon

By Mike Pompeo From Fox News Opinion

One of President Ronald Reagan's greatest lessons to the world was that showing clear strength and strong resolve results in peace.

In contrast, weakness, appeasement, and ambiguity can lead to war. And yet, America's foreign policy establishment, embodied by the Biden administration, embraces weakness.

This was on full display last week when the Chinese spy balloon flew over our airspace. I fear Biden's response will only continue to invite Chinese aggression.

Yes, we may have finally shot down the balloon, but not before it literally flew coast-to-coast over the entire United States and outrage over the incursion had reached a high pitch.

In my new book, "Never Give an Inch," I write about how America created peace and security through the creation of real deterrence.

There will be no freedom, human rights if China 'gets their way': When Russian proxy forces seriously threatened American forces in Syria, we annihilated them. When Iranian terror forces, under the direction of Qasem Soleimani, posed a real risk to the lives of Americans, we responded in kind by eliminating Soleimani...

# Gov. Kelly - school choice for her kids, but not for yours

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly is staunchly opposed to school choice - allowing Kansas families to take their kids's education dollars to the approved education institution of their choosing - except for her own children.

Alumni newsletters show Kelly and her husband, Dr. Ted Daughety, could afford the tuition for their children to attend Topeka Collegiate, which is a private college preparatory school. But many other parents have no option but to send their kids to the Topeka public schools, where only about one in five high school students is proficient in reading and math and more than half are below grade level.

Like other opponents, Gov. Kelly thinks school choice is bad for the public school system, but that's the wrong focus. First and foremost, we should be looking at what's best for students.

A large body of research shows that school choice overwhelmingly benefits students and not just those who take advantage of an opportunity to choose a different school.

Research on the effects of educational choice programs compiled by EdChoice shows that 11 of the 17 studies (65%) on program participant test scores find positive effects; four showed no visible effect, and only three (18%) showed any negative effect.

The empirical evidence also shows that choice programs positively impact achieve-

## KANSAS COMMENTARY



DAVE TRABERT, KANSAS POLICY INSTITUTE

ment for students who do not take advantage of a choice opportunity. Of the 28 studies on this issue, 25 (89%) found a positive effect, and only two (7%) found any negative effect.

Strong evidence of choice programs benefiting public school students is the reason we believe school choice is also good for the public school system. The system exists not to create employment opportunities for the adults who work in it but to academically prepare students for college and career.

The Kansas public school system is not adequately preparing students, especially low-income students and minority students, who predominantly take advantage of choice programs.

SEE TRABERT ON PAGE 8

Most low-income high school students in Kansas (62%) are below grade level in math, and only 9% are proficient. It's even worse in Topeka, Kansas City, and Wichita - districts in which students are most likely to take advantage of choice programs.

By opposing school choice, Governor Kelly is effectively trapping low-income students in woefully-underperforming schools and condemning them to a life of underachievement. To paraphrase former Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, there was a time when politicians stood in school doorways to prevent underprivileged students from entering; now, union-backed politicians are preventing them from getting out.

So here is our question for Governor Kelly and the legislators who are blocking school doorways - how many years will it take to get underprivileged students to grade level if the public system is left to do as it pleases?

Choice opponents make excuses for the public system - it takes more time, they need more money, etc. - but the cold hard facts are that achievement gaps have existed for decades, they are not getting any better, funding has grown much faster than inflation, and the system isn't about to change until forced to do so. Legislators provided over \$5 billion in incremental funding since 2005 to help students who

# Black cops killed Nichols, but it's white supremacy

There's nothing white supremacy can't do. It is supposedly so pervasive and powerful that it can cause Black men to sign up to serve as police officers in a majority Black city and severely beat a Black arrestee.

It is to the contemporary left what capital was to Marx, sex was to Freud, and gravity was to Newton.

It is the King Charles head of American public life, a matter of obsession that comes up in debates and contexts where it has no possible relevance.

An opinion piece at CNN by former Obama official Van Jones was headlined, "The police who killed Tyre Nichols were Black. But they might still have been driven by racism."

A piece at The New York Times on Memphis related the view that it "is the system and the tactics that foster racism and violence," not "the specific racial identities of officers."

This argument gets points for novelty but none for plausibility. The Memphis officers who brutalized Tyre Nichols may be guilty of many things - incompetence, malice, criminal wrongdoing - but white supremacy is unlikely to be one of them.

Presumably these officers don't all hate their parents, children, neighbors, and colleagues as unworthy, racially inferior people who deserve no protection under our laws.

Maybe it's only as police officers that these men become unwitting tools of white supremacy? This makes no sense, either. The Atlantic noted in an article last year that FBI data showed Memphis to be the most violent metropolitan jurisdiction in the United States in 2020. According to The New York Times, Memphis had nearly 350 murders in 2021,

## NATIONAL COMMENTARY



RICH LOWRY, King Features Syndicate

when New York City - 13 times larger - had about 480.

Of course, these murders disproportionately affect young Black men. Isn't this just how a white supremacist would like it - overwhelmingly Black neighborhoods under siege as Black men kill other Black men? Why would white supremacy want to interfere with this dynamic by deploying police units to try to quell the disorder?

Indeed, the false consciousness in Memphis must run deep. Cerelyn Davis, the city's first African American woman police chief, created the just-disbanded special police unit implicated in the Nichols beating. Understandably, she thought it was very important to get a handle on rising homicides and dangerous reckless driving, but, unbeknownst to her, she was just serving the man.

The obsession with white supremacy is perverse and insulting on several levels. It implies that if urban neighborhoods are under-policed and dangerous, that is their

natural state, whereas if they are robustly policed to try to make them safer - a worthy project that tends to be supported by people of all races - that is somehow an inherently "white" initiative.

It suggests that good African American, Hispanic and Asian cops are dupes, puppets on the string of nefarious white people using them to perpetuate white rule. And, finally, if taken seriously, it would vitiate the agency of the cops involved in the abuse of Tyre Nichols. How can they fully take the blame if an ineradicable, unavoidable force was ultimately responsible for their behavior?

The explanation for what happened in Memphis is more straightforward than any of this. Police are given considerable authority, and human beings - of all races and creeds, in all times and places - have a natural tendency to abuse authority unless constrained by institutions, norms and accountability.

If you are unwilling to believe that the cops in this case were self-loathing Black men, then their behavior becomes a function of poor training and supervision, abysmal decision-making, anger in the moment, free-floating cruelty, or some combination of these things.

The left elevates race above all the other factors that might play into a police encounter gone horribly wrong because the racial interpretation allows it to make a broader critique of American society and force wide-ranging political and social changes.

This is a very useful narrative, which is why it is loath to give it up even in an incident involving Black cops.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
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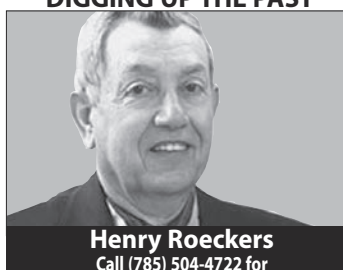
# More finds as I take advantage of the weather 40 years ago...Record snowfall hits Garnett

I've been taking advantage of every afternoon it gets above 45 degrees and go out to my site for about 3 or 4 hours.

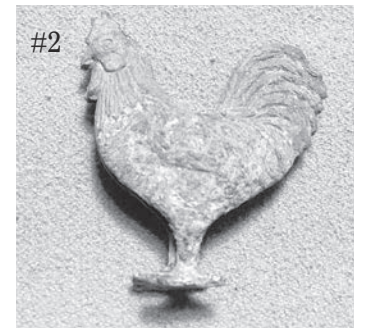
Every time I go, it seems I find a few more artifacts. The more I find, the more I have to share with you. Here are four photos of my latest finds.

- #1 - You ladies that still can or those who canned in the past will recognize this porcelain canning jar lid or cap seal.
- #2 - Does anyone remember these little lead roosters?
- #3 - Another pretty marble. This one shows several dings.
- #4 - Can anyone identify these three items for me? I think they are made of Bakelite material.

**DIGGING UP THE PAST**



**Henry Roeckers**  
Call (785) 504-4722 for local archeology information.



Respectfully submitted by: Henry Roeckers. 31Jan2023

**100 years ago...**  
D.L.G. Simmons has sold his implement and seed business to the Farmers Union, and this firm will take charge of the business right away. The Sinclair Oil Company is going to put in a new filling station just south of Dr. Turner's office. J.F. Swonger will be the manager and will have his office there.

**THAT WAS THEN**



**Chelsey D'Albini**  
Send historic photos, information to review@garnett-ks.com

of the debris has fallen further south near Nacogdoches. Their crews are sectioning off the area and searching the rubble for anything that NASA can use to determine the cause of the crash.

**40 years ago...**  
After a record snowfall of seven inches by the end of Wednesday night, Garnett residents were left dealing with an aftermath of snow and ice. The storm began about 7 PM Monday, dumping ice than snow upon the area and closing schools, causing power outages, impaired highways, streets, and roads, and sending residents scurrying to the hardware stores for snow shovels, ice scrapers, and tire chains. In addition, a memorial service was held at the Anderson County Courthouse for Clark Howerton and Gwin Shell. Howerton and Shell, local attorneys, were remembered for their longstanding practice and exceptional skills.

reduction in staff was necessary to allow for the inclusion of the new post. In addition, the City of Garnett has agreed to sell the second of two building renovation projects it took over in the Downtown area, resurrecting the two once-dilapidated structures into functional commercial properties. The city commission approved the sale of the second property at 112 W. Fifth Avenue to local attorney William Walker.

**10 years ago...**  
Anderson County Commissioners and hospital officials took their most significant steps by approving resolutions bringing a multi-million dollar question for a new facility to the coming ballot in April. The bond issue will ask voters to approve the \$26 million needed to build a new hospital and long-term care unit west of the current Anderson County Hospital building. Officials have said that without a new facility, it's doubtful that Anderson County will be able to maintain a hospital. The current building is six decades old and has infrastructure issues in numerous areas, including plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and roof problems. An independent study said it would likely cost more than \$21 million to repair the current facility instead of building a new one. In addition, an electrician is working with Anderson County and jail officials to fix wiring problems in the jail that had been installed incorrectly during its construction in 2008.

**30 years ago...**  
With Anderson County Sheriff Franz Aubry hospitalized, Anderson County hired a new Undersheriff, Steven Hinkle. Aubry's hospitalization left a position to be filled on the five-person team, so no

**20 years ago...**  
Around the nation, people are mourning the loss of the space shuttle Columbia and its crew. The somber mood settled across Texas, where the shuttle was lost and where former Anderson County residents are now living. Residents in the area follow the coverage of the historical events as they unfold. Mary Ellen (Callahan) Kelley said, "I heard the boom at about 8:00 or 8:30 in the morning, and it rattled everything." Much

## DIVORCE..

FROM PAGE 1

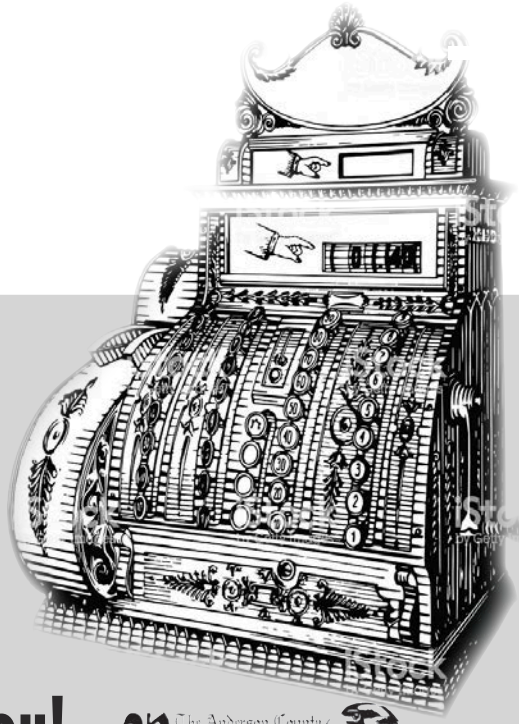
accepted the position of Community Development Director. She is working as director and the chamber director for 90 days. Hopefully, we will know more after the next commission meeting." Sheahan said chamber officials were apprised of the city's decision after an executive session meeting of city commissioners at the Jan. 24th meeting set to personnel and the Community Development Director post. Chamber members met Jan. 26 for the organization's annual meeting and awards banquet, but no announcement of the change was made to the membership. Sheahan outlined what he said he hoped would be a period

of assistance between the two entities in which they could come with an operational plan for the chamber following the end of the staffing and office agreement. The chamber still owns its former downtown headquarters and at present rents office space to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and to a Burlington-based company. The 2015 agreement was struck to solve problems that beset the struggling chamber after years of inability to keep part-time administrative staff, as well as what was seen as duplication of efforts between city staff engaged in development activities and similar chamber projects. Under the deal the chamber moved from its building on Oak Street into city hall and reimbursed half the salary of the staffer plus

paid all chamber associated expenses. More complications arose with the arrangement however, particularly in the fact that the chamber remained a dues-paying member association, whereas the city's Community Development Director was charged with working for the benefit of the city at large whether or not residents or businesses happened to be members of the chamber of commerce. Critics at the time of the agreement in 2015 questioned whether bringing the chamber under city direction would mean too much city control of the GACC. In the years since, the chamber has struggled to find board of directors members willing to serve when terms of other board members expired. The organization includes more than 100 members.

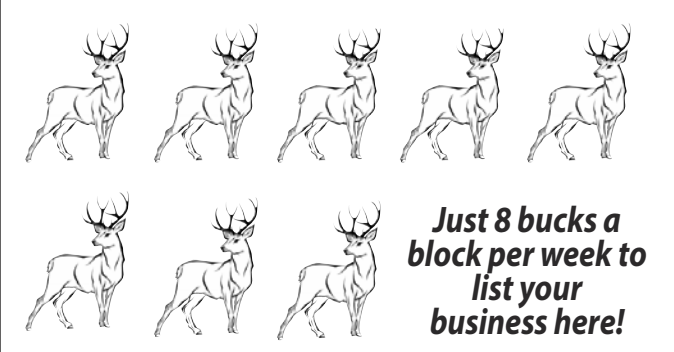
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# Pieces & Patches Quilt Guild January minutes

The Pieces and Patches Quilt Guild was called to order by President Mary Parrott on Thursday, January 26th, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held at Kansas State Extension Office Conference Room. There were 20 members in attendance. There were two guests: Maggie Moore from Greeley and Barbara Lane from Richmond.

Minutes of the December 15th, 2022 meeting were approved as printed.

Helen Norman gave the treasurer's report for January 26, 2023.

### Committee Reports

Programs: Connie Hatch reported that the February 23rd guild program will be a morning trunk show by Judy Vore and her presentation will be "All about Applique". Judy will have an afternoon workshop about hand applique using the freezer paper method. The cost for the workshop is \$20 for members and nonmembers will pay \$30. The March

program will be about Quilt of Valor. Connie's new group from Burlington will present information and guidelines about QOV quilts.

BOM: Sharon Rich and Joyce Buckley both showed table runners made using the Tri-Star pattern. Members were given the pattern and were urged to complete it to show at the March meeting.

Opportunity Quilt: The 2023 quilt is on display in the quilt store in Burlington through February and will move to Garnett after that. Members will receive their quilt raffle tickets at the February meeting. The 2024 Opportunity Quilt committee decided to make a queen size quilt using the Tennessee Waltz pattern.

May Quilt Show: The quilt show will be Saturday, May 13th at the Senior Center from 10 am -3 pm. and members were urged to display their quilts. There will be special displays for the Challenge and BOM projects made in the past

year. President Mary Parrot urged members to get involved and help with the quilt show. Connie Hatch moved that the guild pay a group \$125 to set up and take down racks and assist with other items for the quilt show. Ruth Theis seconded. Motion passed.

Challenge: Connie Hatch and Lori Hoyt presented a challenge of having members make a Signature quilt using a specific kind of block. Any member interested should sign up by February so we know how many blocks each of us need to make to share. The unfinished block is 6 1/2 square"; the diagonal strip is made with white or off white solid fabric (no muslin or tone on tone) and is due by the June meeting. Members may choose any print for the squares.

Anderson County Fair 2023: The theme of this year's fair is "Once Upon a FAIR-ie Tail. Terrie Gifford and Ruth Theis will be teaching a class to kids on how to make a block for a quilt during the week of March 15th.

Quilter's Hugs quilts: Quilts are needed.

Retreat: The February retreat on 20th-22nd has room for 1 more person; \$239. The September retreat is 11-14th has room for more participants; \$319.

Scholarships: Approximately \$1000 was made on the 2022 opportunity quilt and discussion was held concerning scholarship amounts and costs incurred to make the next opportunity quilt. Judy Stuke moved that the guild give two (2) \$400 scholarships, one each to an Anderson County senior and one to a Coffey County senior. Shirley

Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: none  
New Business: none  
Secret Sister Gifts: Lynda Feuerborn received a birthday gift and it will be delivered to her. Connie Hatch received an anniversary gift of a decorated box filled with chocolates and brownies. Joyce Buckley received a Valentine gift of chocolates, needle threader, two fat quarters, hand cream, prayer quilt, and a small notepad.

Show and Tell: Many beautiful and creative quilting projects were shared. Judy Stuke showed her completed baby quilt of Sunbonnet Sue for new great-granddaughter. Mary Cubit showed a strip pieced wall hanging using the Roman Stripes pattern. Shirley Allen showed a lap quilt top made with reds and teals. Ruth Theis showed two knitted scarves done with red yarn and white yarn. The red scarves will be given to women who are having a cardiac procedure at Anderson County Hospital during February. Jeannette Gadelman showed an extension table bag she made for her cousin to use with her little Featherweight machine and table. Joyce Buckley showed the Block of the Month table runner. Lori Hoyt showed a small wall hanging with a black bird sitting on a pumpkin.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Bonnie Deiter

January Program: Terrie Gifford showed many of the different kinds of rulers she has and how they are used. Lori Hoyt showed the steps in making the Signature block for the Challenge project.

# POWER...

FROM PAGE 1

power provider," Pracht said. "We could take those 4 meg of electricity, run it through our turbine to the city of garnett at a very competitive price I think you'll find out."

Pracht also said there were logistical advantages for the city in connecting the proposed turbine on the EKAE campus to a city substation directly across Main Street from the plant - the proximity would do away with an estimated 10 percent of electricity loss the city presently incurs when purchasing incoming power via the line from Garnett to Ottawa.

Both entities began to study electricity options after a February 2021 cold emergency that resulted in skyrocketing costs for gas and electricity as producers raised prices in view of peaking demand. Pracht said Evergy was anticipated to raise electric rates by some 20 percent in the future as well - all factors that made investment in a privately-owned local power plant more feasible.

"We're in a benchmarking group with several plants in the U.S. and one in Canada," Pracht told commissioners, "and we have the highest priced electricity of any one in that group."

Commissioners earlier in

2022 had outlined a \$4 million plan to replace several diesel generators at the city's Crystal Lake Electrical Plant due to increasing federal energy regulations. Those generators power the city's distribution to homes and businesses in town in emergencies when juice isn't available from Evergy's power grid. City manager Travis Wilson said a deal with EKAE to provide power could do away with that needed investment although the city would have to invest some funds in connecting its plant to the EKAE turbine. Early estimates last year pegged a project cost of some \$28 million.

Commissioners made no formal endorsement of Pracht's proposal but spoke encouragingly toward pursuing the option.

At the POET plant in Ladonia, a Missouri utility commission there partners with the ethanol plant to maintain a 15 Megawatt production plant that feeds directly into the power grid that serves the local area. Steam and electricity supplied to the POET plant provides nearly two-thirds of the steam requirement for the plant's 65 million gallon per year ethanol operation, according to company documents.



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# Central Heights Winter Homecoming 2023

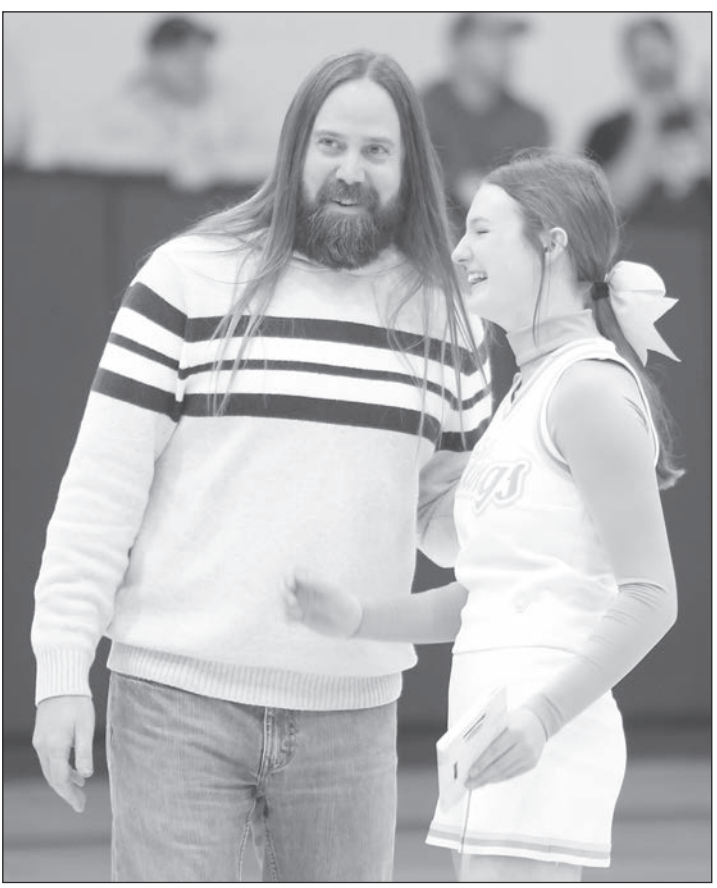
Friday, February 10, 2023  
Central Heights vs. Jayhawk Linn: Coronation at halftime of the boys varsity game.

2023 Winter Homecoming Candidates are: Front Row: Sophomore Attendant: Stacy Hill, Senior Candidates: AnneLeese Thao, Lydia Burbank, Josie Stottlemire, and Taylor Chrisjohn, Junior Attendant: Emma Cubit, Freshman Attendant: Macy Cubit. Back Row: Sophomore Attendant: Russell Reed, Senior Candidates: Conner Peel, Luke Burkdoll, Max Cannady, Luke Brown, Junior Attendant: Matt Williams, Freshmen Attendant: Max Chrisjohn.

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THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 2-7-2023 / DANE HICKS

Congratulations to Emma Cubit (pictured with Cross Country head coach Troy Prosser) for earning her membership to the 2022 Academic All-State team for Cross Country! With her sixth place finish at the State Championships last fall and her exemplary academic standing, the Kansas Cross Country Track & Field Coaches Association has recognized her and eight other female athletes from the 64 schools in Class 2A for this achievement. Thank you to all of her family, friends, and current/former teammates who were able to come out to support her, the KCCTFCA and, of course, Emma for her incredible work ethic in and out of the classroom.

TRABERT...

FROM PAGE 4

are economically and academically at risk, but a government audit found that most of the districts examined didn't spend that money for the direct benefit of those students as required by state law.

The state board of education responded to the audit by publishing a column that effectively said, 'shut up, go away, we

know what we're doing.' And nothing changed.

It's great that Governor Kelly and her husband could afford to give their children a chance for a better education. She should do the same for the parents and students who are not as fortunate.

- Dave Trabert is executive director of The Kansas Policy Institute, a conservative think tank based in Wichita.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Your RIGHT to know, guaranteed by Kansas Law.

Notice of resolution allowing special use permit

(Published in the Anderson County Review on February 7, 2023.)

the Board of County Commissioners adopt the Special Use Permit #SUP2022-06(Dueck); and

RESOLUTION No. 2023-14

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT #SUP2022-06(DUECK) TO OPERATE A WOODWORKING BUSINESS AT 109 S CATALPA ST, GARNETT, KANSAS.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, after duly reviewing the recommendation of the Planning Commission and considering all comments for and against said amendment, finds that the Special Use Permit is in substantial compliance with the intent of the County Comprehensive Plan and the public interest.

WHEREAS, Anderson County, Kansas is a county municipal government with the authority to adopt zoning regulations and create zoning district boundaries as provided in Section 15-753 K.S.A.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anderson County Board of County Commissioners does hereby approve Special Use Permit #SUP2022-06(Dueck), said property is located at 109 S Catalpa St, Garnett, KS in Anderson County, Kansas.

WHEREAS, the County did adopt Resolution NO. 00, 0911.1 in September 2000, establishing zoning regulations for the unincorporated areas of Anderson County; and

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 23RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Anderson County Planning Commission did hold a Public hearing on January 16, 2023 to consider Special Use Permit #SUP2022-06(Dueck) to operate a woodworking business with full-time employees.

This action shall take effect upon publication in the official County newspaper.

/s/Leslie D. McGhee, Chairman /s/David Pracht, Commissioner /s/Anthony C. Mersman, Commissioner ATTEST: /s/Julie Wettstein, Clerk

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, after reviewing and considering all written and oral testimony, did unanimously approve said amendment request, and recommends that

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 • Assist the Production Superintendents in the field as needed.  
 • Coordinate and manage repair and warranty work while ensuring these repairs are performed in a timely manner.  
 • Keeping production systems updated at all times (Various Smart Sheet tracking sheets and Procedure 7).  
 • Assist in processing all labor contracts on a weekly basis.  
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 To fill out an application and to view the complete job description for this Coordinator position go to: <https://www.qualitystructures.com/careers>  
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City of Garnett  
**Part-time Parks & Cemetery Maintenance Worker**  
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# 2023 Anderson County Soil Conservation Banquet

## Celebrate the legacy and future of our soil resource.

### KDA Announces 2023 Bluestem Pasture Survey

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is seeking feedback from Kansans for the 2023 Bluestem Pasture Survey to collect information on native tallgrass pasture use and practices. The survey is administered through the K-State Land Use Survey Center and will be open through March 31, 2023.

The Bluestem Pasture Survey provides reliable, accurate information to Kansas ranchers and the agricultural community as a whole. The survey asks about native tallgrass pasture availability, leasing rates, and fencing rates, and should take less than 15 minutes to complete.

"The native tallgrass region of Kansas provides rich grazing opportunities for cattle producers, and this biennial survey collects valuable data that can aid landowners and renters when entering into lease agreements," said Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam. "Underwriting

this important survey tool is one way our agency works to provide useful data that supports the state's agriculture industry."

The 2023 Kansas Bluestem Pasture Survey is voluntary, anonymous and confidential. To complete the survey, please visit [www.tinyurl.com/bluestem23](http://www.tinyurl.com/bluestem23). If you are unable to complete the survey, but wish to participate, please contact Dr. Leah Tsoodle, Director, Land Use Survey Center, at [LTsoodle@ksu.edu](mailto:LTsoodle@ksu.edu) or Tori Laird, KDA Division of Agriculture Marketing, at 785-564-6726 or [Tori.Laird@ks.gov](mailto:Tori.Laird@ks.gov) to receive a written survey or to complete the survey over the telephone.

The Bluestem Pasture Survey is a collaborative effort between the Division of Agriculture Marketing at the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the K-State Land Use Survey Center within the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.



Anderson County Conservation District  
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The Anderson County **Review**

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# Lesser prairie chickens numbers dwindling

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the overall occupied range of the lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) has declined by 84% commensurate with population trends.

Much of this decline has been attributed to the loss and fragmentation of native grasslands throughout the lesser prairie-chicken range. However, quantification of changes in land cover in the distribution of the lesser prairie-chicken is lacking.

Recent study objectives by Global Ecology and Conservation were to (1) document changes in the areal extent and connectivity of grasslands in the identified lesser prairie-chicken range in Kansas, (>60% of extant lesser prairie-chicken population) from the 1950s to 2013 using remotely sensed

data and (2) assess the potential of the Conservation Reserve Program (U.S. Department of Agriculture Program converting cropland to permanent cover; CRP) to mitigate grassland loss.

Digital land cover maps were generated on a decadal time step through spectral classification of LANDSAT images and visual analysis of aerial photographs (1950s and 1960s). Landscape composition and configuration were assessed using FRAGSTATS to compute a variety of landscape metrics measuring changes in the amount of grassland present as well as changes in the size and configuration of grassland patches.

With the exception of a single regional portion of the range, nearly all of the grassland converted to cropland

in the lesser prairie-chicken range of Kansas occurred prior to the 1950s. Prior to the implementation of CRP, the amount of grassland decreased 3.6% between the 1950s and 1985 from 18,455 km<sup>2</sup> to 17,788 km<sup>2</sup>. Since 1985, the overall amount of grassland in the lesser prairie-chicken range has increased 11.9% to 19,898 km<sup>2</sup> due to implementation of CRP, although the area of grassland decreased between 1994 and 2013 as CRP contracts were not renewed by landowners.

Since 1986 grassland in Kansas became more connected and less fragmented in response to the CRP. While the CRP has been successful in increasing grassland quantity and connectivity throughout the lesser prairie-chicken range in Kansas, offsetting loss of grassland since the 1950s,

abundance and occupied range of lesser prairie-chickens has declined since the 1980s, suggesting that habitat quality is the principal factor influencing population demography of the species.

Although the CRP is contributing to conservation actions for lesser prairie-chickens, efforts to improve habitat quality throughout the range of the lesser prairie-chicken are likely necessary to meet management goals. Continuation of the CRP faces an uncertain future in the face of rising commodity prices, energy development, and reduction in program scope, leaving open the possibility that these areas that have created habitat for lesser prairie-chickens could be lost.

# NRCS Advanced Climate-Smart Agriculture, broadened reach of conservation in past two years

WASHINGTON – Under the Biden-Harris administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continued its conservation work across the country amid an ongoing pandemic and numerous natural disasters, helping agricultural producers and forest landowners – including urban and underserved producers – implement conservation practices on their working lands. These efforts by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helped conserve natural resources such as soil, water and wildlife while delivering climate solutions and boosting producers' bottom lines.

"NRCS provides America's farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance to address their unique conservation concerns and improve their operations," said NRCS Chief Terry Cosby. "Many of our investments this year focused on ensuring greater access to our programs for underserved and urban producers, and on climate-smart agriculture and forestry strategies to help mitigate climate change and build on-farm resilience."

During the past two years, NRCS provided targeted funding for climate-smart agriculture and forestry conservation practices through its conservation programs and made improvements in nutrient management that will be bolstered by funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, all while prioritizing assistance for underserved producers and urban and innovative production. Key highlights include:

With the help of funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, NRCS invested \$803 million into watershed programs for more than 250 projects. This includes the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program, Watershed Rehabilitation (REHAB) Program, and Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, which helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design lives and/or no longer meet federal or state standards. This historic legislation allows NRCS to address a broader portfolio of priority watershed needs across the nation and U.S. territories. NRCS prioritized underserved communities for funding.

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), NRCS provided \$3.6 billion in assistance to help put conservation practices on 43.5 million acres during the past two years. Through the EQIP Cover Crop Initiative, NRCS made avail-

able \$38 million in additional assistance in 11 states to help agricultural producers mitigate climate change through the widespread adoption of cover crops. Cover crops offer agricultural producers a natural and inexpensive climate solution through their ability to sequester atmospheric carbon dioxide into soils. In fiscal years 2021 and 2022, NRCS provided technical and financial assistance to help producers plant 2.3 and 2.8 million acres of cover crops through EQIP, respectively.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helped producers protect sensitive landscapes, including wetlands, grasslands and prime farmlands, providing many natural resource benefits. This included nearly 86,000 acres in ACEP Wetland Reserve Easements and over 289,000 acres in ACEP Agricultural Land Easements.

Through both the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG), NRCS co-invested \$580 million with partners, expanding the reach and improving the effectiveness of conservation. For both RCPP and CIG, NRCS prioritized projects focused on underserved producers and climate-smart agriculture and forestry.

In fiscal year 2022, NRCS invested \$50 million in 118 partnerships to expand access to conservation assistance for climate-smart agriculture and forestry. These Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements funded two-year projects to expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are new to farming, low income, socially disadvantaged or military veterans. Projects support USDA's broader effort to address cli-

mate change and equitable access to programs. In October 2021, NRCS established the NRCS Equity Division. The Equity Division oversees and ensures the Agency is implementing a framework to meet the agency's equity operations short- and long-term goals and objectives.

NRCS provides urban producers with conservation assistance and leads the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP), working with other USDA agencies to support urban farms in providing access to healthy local food, jobs, and green space. This includes \$26 million in grants and \$3 million in cooperative agreements for composting and food waste reduction in the past two years. Additionally, OUAIP has convened the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee for the Secretary as well as relaunched the People's Garden Initiative. Looking ahead to 2023, NRCS will continue to prioritize climate-smart agriculture and forestry conservation practices bolstered by funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as well as improved access and outreach to underserved and urban producers. NRCS requested public comments for ideas on how to maximize IRA funding to benefit climate mitigation, measure climate results, and improve program delivery to producers, especially underserved producers. NRCS will soon be announcing climate-smart IRA opportunities for fiscal year 2023 and will and continue to implement innovative program improvements in future years. Visit the NRCS Priorities webpage to learn more.

# RECORDS...

FROM PAGE 1

and PowerPoint presentations and files, slides, newsletter, CEO reports of purchases and employment evaluation, and documents regarding a CT scanner and ultrasound machine. The requested materials were mostly related to at least seven different Board meetings.

The hospital insisted it was not required to provide electronic versions of the requested records but offered hard-copy printouts or to allow Roe to view the records at the hospital.

Roe filed complaints with both the Kansas Attorney General's office and the Phillips County District Court. The district court agreed with Roe ruling that records must be provided in the format requested if the public agency has the capability of doing so.

The Kansas Court of Appeals disagreed and overturned the ruling saying the law simply did not require the hospital to provide the records in electronic format.

The appeals court noted that on Sept. 26, 2019, the attorney general's office — after investigating — concluded "KORA contains no language requiring records be provided in their native format. A public agency retains the discretion to determine the format in which the records are produced."

Producing thousands of pages of hard-copy of electronic records is a fairly routine tactic public agencies use to avoid transparency, and something Kautsch noted in a press release.

"This ruling puts an end to a tactic sometimes employed by public agencies disinterested in transparency to do things like print thousands of pages of emails rather than provide electronic versions that would be dramatically easier to search and store, not to mention less expensive for taxpayers and better for the environment," Kautsch said.

Not so fast. The case eventually made its way to the Kansas Supreme Court, where on Jan 6, a unanimous decision with one justice, K.J. Wall, not participating, reversed the appeals court stating "... under the plain language of KORA, (the) Hospital

must provide copies of these records in the format it stores them."

The appeals court, according to the opinion authored by Justice Evelyn Wilson, "correctly determined that the plain meaning of 'copies,' 'allows for reproductions which may involve numerous formats or mediums.'" However, Wilson wrote, the appeals panel critically missed the implication that any "accurate reproduction" of a public record must mirror the content of that record unless specifically exempted.

"Here, if we focus on just an Excel spreadsheet, it can have embedded components that include at least some formulas," Wilson wrote. "Such formulas provide information to show more than just numbers in a cell, but also how those numbers are generated. Hardcopies simply will not work to reproduce accurately such an integrated animal. Plainly, hard copies do not 'embed' anything. The only accurate reproduction of an electronic file is a copy of the electronic file, which can easily be provided by, for example, email or thumb drive."

Kautsch lauded the decision.

"There can now be no doubt that public agencies must be prepared to disclose not only computer files like the Excel spreadsheets my client sought in this case, but any electronic record, including audio and video," Kautsch said. "The Court also established what agencies must do to comply with KORA in the digital age: public records in an electronic format can 'easily be provided by, for example, email or thumb drive.' Other options would include file-sharing software."

"In 2023, it is no longer a reasonable option for public agencies to delay the inevitable by using traditional mail to disseminate electronic records."

The Sentinel has been conducting its own KORA investigation concerning policies and costs for providing public records at the county level and found a disturbing pattern of failure to adhere to KORA. Those findings will be published shortly.

# PARKWOOD...

FROM PAGE 1

learning and development in the program.

"Parkwood is excited to bring this much-needed service to Anderson County," Geroge said. "Parkwood's mission is to support young children's cognitive, social, emotional, phys-

ical, and creative development to ensure children are well-equipped to enter the academic primary school years."

For more information about enrollment, contact Parkwood Day School @ parkwoodgarnett@gmail.com.

# Kansas wheat battling through tough conditions

By Pat Melgares, K-State Research and Extension news service MANHATTAN, Kan. – No need to tell Kansas wheat producers, but drought has really been a bummer for the hard red winter wheat crop.

On Jan. 17, the USDA's Economic Research Service reported that 59% of the winter wheat production in the United States is within an area experiencing drought. The Kansas wheat crop is still rated as good/excellent, according to the USDA, though its ratings for the Sunflower State dipped slightly between November and January.

"You never want to count a wheat crop out; we talk about it being the crop with nine lives," said Jeanne Falk Jones, a multi-county specialist with K-State's Northwest Research-Extension center in Colby. "But some would say we ran through a few of those lives trying to get to this point in the growing season."

Falk Jones said much of the Western Kansas wheat was planted in "extremely dry" conditions, creating variability in wheat stands in the late fall and into this spring.

"We had some wheat that was pretty well established, some with two or three tillers on those plants and had a good root system under them," Falk Jones said. "Then we had other fields that may have been just down the road where wheat had not even germinated last fall because it was in such dry conditions."

Sub-zero temperatures

delivered another punch to the hard red winter wheat crop, Falk Jones said. Wheat will better withstand cold temperatures if the soil is moist, but in areas where that ground was still dry, the conditions had "an additive effect on some of the stress those plants endured," according to Falk Jones.

"All of this is playing into how we think about wheat's chances of greening up this coming spring," Falk Jones said.

In the past year, precipitation in Kansas was about 10 inches below normal, but the news isn't all bad. In January, Falk Jones said, the Kansas Mesonet reported that the state was ahead of average by .85 of an inch.

"That is exciting," Falk Jones said. "We're happy to have every bit of that. It's going to help support some of the root growth and growth of spring tillers in our wheat."

"We're moving forward," she added, "although at the moment, our wheat is in a dormant period. While it's still having respiration out in the field, it's very slow, and we're not seeing a lot of growth. We won't see the visual effects of (recent) moisture until we start to warm up in the spring."

Kansas is the nation's leading wheat producer, known for hard red winter wheat that is used for whole grain white bread and other whole grain products.

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# AC girls earn win at home over Girard on Friday

GARNETT - The ACHS Lady Bulldogs improved to 10-4 with a win over visiting Girard (7-7) on Friday night, 43-36.

The teams were all square after the first quarter, knotted up at 10.

AC earned a little breathing room in the second quarter with a 14-8 advantage to head into intermission with a 24-18 lead.

Girard would battle tough in the third quarter but still outscored 7-6, making them face a 7-point deficit heading into the fourth.

Girard wouldn't go away easily though as the teams both scored 12 points over the final 8 minutes to account for the final score.

Anderson County connected on just 32% (14-44) field goals on the night while Girard was limited to just 21% (13-63) of their shots on the night.

The shot disparity came from a 23-9 advantage for Girard on the offensive boards for the evening, which kept them in the game.

A trio of Bulldogs would score in double figures. Addie Fudge led the way with 12 points, followed by Caitlyn Foltz and Kalina Edgcomb with 11 and 10 respectively.

Foltz added 13 rebounds and 4 blocks to her stat line for the night.

Kylie Disbrow chipped in with 8 points, coming up just shy of a triple double again as she ripped down 12 rebounds and had 10 blocks on the night.



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 2-7-2023 / DANE HICKS  
Anderson County Bulldog Kylie Disbrow attempts to get a shot off against Girard in Friday night's action. Anderson County won the game 43-36.

# Lady Bulldogs earn big road win

BURLINGTON - Before last Tuesday's game, Burlington had won 3 straight games to move within a game of the .500 mark (6-7) but the Anderson County Bulldogs went on the road and picked up a solid victory to move to (9-4) on the season with a 49-46 win.

The two teams battled back and forth all night with the host squad having the early 12-10 lead after the first quarter.

Both defenses stepped up in a huge way in the second period. Burlington was limited to just two points in the 8 minute session, while the Bulldogs mustered just 5 points but it was enough to jump back into the lead at halftime 15-14.

The Bulldogs would come out of the break and open up a slight margin outpacing Burlington 16-12 in the third quarter to go into the fourth with a 31-26 advantage.

As was the case all night, the game was tight down the

stretch as Burlington would not go away. Burlington outscored AC 20-18 over the final period but came up just short in the loss at home.

As has been the case most of the season, the Bulldogs controlled the inside en route to the win. ACHS outscored Burlington 36-14 in the paint.

Burlington's free throw shooting kept them in the game all night. They knocked down 21 of 30 (70%) to keep the game within striking distance.

They just didn't have an answer for Kylie Disbrow inside. Disbrow tallied a game leading 28 points, also adding 11 rebounds and 7 blocks.

Addie Fudge nearly had a double double herself with 9 points and 10 assists. She also added 4 steals and had 4 rebounds.

Harlee Young led Burlington with 21 points. Gracie Birk joined her as the only other player in double figures with 11 on the night.

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