

\$1,100 CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY
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WINNER

The Anderson County
Review



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Tumbling gas prices make Christmas merrier

This line is for catchy subhead related to the article posted below this

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

EMPORIA - Kansans who traveled to spend the Christmas holiday with family or friends did so with a special Christmas gift from the U.S. economy: gasoline prices at their lowest level since 2021.

According to the latest data from AAA's daily fuel price tracker,

the national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline has dipped below \$3, marking the cheapest December at the pump since December 2020 and the first sustained break under that threshold since 2021.

AAA's national average for a gallon of regular unleaded stood at \$2.881 on Dec. 19, 2025, down from about \$3.094 a month ago and roughly \$3.045 a year ago. This sustained drop reflects broader energy market conditions — including relatively low crude oil prices, robust supply, and seasonally softer winter

demand — that have kept fuel costs subdued heading into the holidays.

Industry analysts note that the national average has been hovering below \$3 since early December, a level not seen consistently since May 2021 before prices spiked in subsequent years.

For drivers in Kansas, the savings are even more pronounced. AAA's state price data show that the average price for a gallon of regular gas in Kansas was just \$2.514 as of Dec. 19, 2025, about 37 cents below the national average. Kansas drivers have seen prices

tick downward in recent weeks according to AAA:

- Week ago: ~\$2.586
- Month ago: ~\$2.717
- Year ago: ~\$2.682

State averages mask even wider variation at the local level, with one station in Emporia reporting regular unleaded prices as low as about \$2.11, and other counties in the state with locations above \$3.09.

In major Kansas metro areas, prices remain comfortably below national levels:

- Topeka: \$2.426
- Lawrence: \$2.520

- Wichita: \$2.600
- Kansas City (KS): \$2.581

At these prices, a typical 15-gallon fill-up in Kansas costs roughly \$37.71 — about \$5.55 less than the national average would cost at current national pricing. That adds up to real savings for holiday travelers and everyday commuters alike.

AAA attributes the drop in prices to a combination of factors. The main impact is lower crude oil costs, which have remained subdued relative to earlier in

SEE GAS ON PAGE 8

Fuel price drop may help dampen inflationary woes

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

WASHINGTON - As gasoline prices hover near their lowest levels in years economists and market analysts say the broader U.S. economy could feel the effects in multiple ways, from consumer spending to shipping costs and inflation trends.

Those lower fuel costs combined with a report last week that consumer inflation cooled to 2.7 percent in November from 3.0 in September, creating optimism that stubborn high prices may be relenting and providing cautious hope that future interest rate decreases in 2026 may boost home buying.

Lower gasoline prices are known to be a fast route to put more money back into consumer pockets. Because fuel is a frequent and visible expense, shoppers tend to respond quickly when it drops. Analysts at Bankrate.com estimate that average drivers will spend about \$100 less on fuel in 2025 compared to the prior year, thanks to lower pump prices. This effectively functions like a tax cut for households and can free up cash for other spending.

That extra spending can show up in local restaurants, retail stores

and services. A commentary from financial analysts at advisorspectives.com noted that falling gas prices often correlate with increased consumer spending — a positive sign for broader economic activity, as drivers have more discretionary income once they fill the tank.

Fuel is one of the largest variable costs for transportation and logistics firms. Lower gasoline and diesel prices can reduce costs for shipping goods by truck, rail and intermodal carriers. While the savings don't always translate immediately into lower prices on store shelves, they slow the rate of price increases for shipped goods, helping businesses manage costs in a tough pricing environment, says Bankrate.

Motor carriers often adjust fuel surcharges based on price trends, meaning that sustained lower fuel costs can produce tangible savings for distributors and suppliers. Those savings can then support more competitive pricing or improved profit margins for companies that rely heavily on freight.

A Cool on Inflation Pressures

Energy prices, includ-

SEE PRICES ON PAGE 8



No one was injured Friday evening when a driver smashed through the front display windows of Garnett's Family Dollar

Store. Store officials were busy Saturday preparing for repairs as the final week of the Christmas retail season got underway.

THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 12-25-2025 / Photo submitted

Nitro to nuts & bolts: Schuster makes things work

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT - John Schuster is a tinkerer who keeps the vault of his family's literally "explosive" family history.

From nitroglycerine to antique cars; from little paper weight figurines — with attitude — made of engine valves and rocker arms; from perfectly balanced custom weather vanes he makes for gifts — Schuster's got a knack for the art of making things work, keeping history alive, and keeping all his fingers.

"I just never grew up," he said on a

recent afternoon in his extensively decorated backyard shop. "I got older, but I never grew up."

In his shop, the walls are lined with antique tin signage from historic oil companies and gas stations surrounding what must be every imaginable machine shop tool arranged around the floor. A steady drum beat of rock & roll music sets the backdrop, and Schuster talks about the things he's always done to keep his hands busy.

SEE SCHUSTER ON PAGE 14



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 12-25-2025 / DANE HICKS

Schuster talks artifacts and spare time and history in his Garnett shop.

2025: Rains damaged roads, brought abundance, eclipsed other stories

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

ANDERSON COUNTY — Rainfall totals in Anderson County during 2025 tell a familiar Kansas story to lead the local news in 2025: a dry winter, followed by a wetter-than-normal growing season, and then a drier fall, leaving the year close to average overall.

Like rain always does, it came with positive and negative impacts. This year in Anderson County the moist spring and late dry out brought a bumper corn crop; it also savaged county roads and raised temperatures of rural drivers and county road employees under constant criticism.

According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and analyzed through the Iowa State University Iowa Environmental Mesonet (IEM), the long-running Garnett 1 East precipitation gauge recorded 39.11 inches of precipitation during 2025. The 30-year normal (1991-2020) for the site is

40.71 inches, putting the year about 1.6 inches below normal.

The Garnett station, operated as part of NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) Cooperative Observer Program, has records dating back to 1906, making it the best long-term indicator of precipitation trends for Anderson County.

The year began with a notably dry winter. Meteorological winter, defined as December through February, brought just 1.63 inches of precipitation, compared with a normal 4.89 inches, a shortfall of more than three inches. NOAA and IEM data show that December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025 all



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 12-25-2025 / Archive

posted below-average moisture, continuing a pattern of increasingly variable winter precipitation in eastern Kansas.

But conditions shifted sharply in spring. From March through May, the Garnett gauge recorded 13.88 inches, compared with a normal 12.08 inches, finishing nearly two inches above average. April was especially wet, accounting for more than half a foot of rain on its own. According to the Iowa Environmental Mesonet's monthly climate summaries, the wet spring helped recharge soils following the dry winter and supported crop planting across Anderson County.

Summer continued the wetter trend.

From June through August, the county recorded 16.11 inches, well above the seasonal normal of 13.79 inches. June alone produced nearly eight inches of rain, making it the wettest month of the year locally. NOAA precipitation observers noted that much of the summer rainfall came in episodic heavy storms, rather than steady rainfall — a pattern consistent with broader eastern Kansas trends in recent decades. Rainfall tapered off heading into fall. From September through November, precipitation totaled 7.84 inches, compared with a normal 9.95 inches, leaving the season more than two inches below average. November was especially dry, registering just over an inch of moisture.

The weather pattern was consistent for most of the Farm Belt, and it showed in the anticipation of solid corn and soybean crops. USDA November 14th national forecast projected US production at 16.8 billion

SEE 2025 ON PAGE 14

2025 IN REVIEW

NEWS IN BRIEF

PET REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 1

The City of Garnett wants to remind citizens to register their dogs/cats with the City of Garnett before March 1, 2026. A late registration fee will be assessed to any registration on or after March 1, 2026, for twice the amount of the annual registration fee.

GARNETT SENIOR CENTER NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH

Celebrate the New Year with a brunch at the Garnett Senior Center on Thursday, January 1st at 10 a.m. Biscuits & gravy will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share.

AMERICAN LEGION BINGO HOLIDAY CHANGES

There will be no Bingo at American Legion Post 48 Garnett on December 30th. Bingo will resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 6:30pm.

ANDERSON COUNTY COMMISSION DECEMBER 15, 2025

Chairman Leslie McGhee called the meeting of the Anderson County Commission to order at 9:00 AM on December 15, 2025 at the Anderson County Commission Room. Attendance: Leslie McGhee, Absent: Michael Blaufuss, Present: Anthony Mersman, Present. The pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Road & Bridge

Ethan Lickteig, Road & Bridge Supervisor, met with the commission. He will be viewing a demonstration of a Atmax Equipment Co MowerMax Boom Mower on Thursday. The equipment will have an attachment for tree trimming and mowing areas that are unreachable with current mowers. The handrail at the courthouse gazebo is complete and will be painted this week and installed soon.

Budget Amendment

Julie Wettstein, County Clerk, met with the commission. She presented a 2025 budget amendment for the service program for the elderly budget. Commissioner Blaufuss moved and Commissioner Mersman seconded to open the meeting for public comment regarding the amendment. All voted yes. Dane Hicks inquired about the additional funds that were transferred from the board to the county when it was taken over. Commissioner Blaufuss moved and Commissioner Mersman seconded to close the hearing for public comment. All voted yes. Commissioner Blaufuss moved and Commissioner Mersman seconded to approve the 2025 budget amendment for the service program for the elderly. All voted yes.

Emergency Management

Sarah Burkhardt, Emergency Management Director met with the commission. She presented a quote from Advantage Computers to upgrade the current desktop computers in Rural Fire and Emergency Management to be compatible with Windows 11. The quote is for 2 complete desktop computers with Microsoft office and set up for \$4,206. Commissioner Blaufuss moved and Commissioner Mersman seconded to upgrade the computers for Rural Fire Coordinator and Emergency Management

for \$4,206 from Advantage Computers to be paid out of the civil defense fund. All voted yes. Sarah presented a bid for a Scotsman UC2024 ice machine to be located at the Westgate storage building. The ice machine will be a resource the county's emergency operations plan in the event of an emergency or disaster. The machine will serve as med support and cooling center needs. She had a bid from Flynn Appliance for \$3,900 and a cost if they purchased it themselves for \$5,102. She stated two firefighters are donating their time to install and setup the machine. Commissioner Mersman moved and Commissioner Blaufuss seconded to purchase a Scotsman US2024 ice machine from Flynn Appliance for \$3,900 to be paid out of the civil defense fund. All voted yes.

Rural Fire

Cruz Gillespie, Rural Fire Coordinator, met with the commission. The Welda fire station would like to add another drain

in the bays. Bids were received from Todd Adams and Bill Lickteig to remove concrete and insert a drain. The bids were not similar so Cruz will be speaking with them to get an updated cost that are the same and return next week. Cruz submitted bids for a new one-ton pickup to pull the foam trailer. He also presented another truck that he would like to purchase and put at the Harris Station. The discussion was tabled until next week. Cruz presented a red light permit for Thomas Benton, Welda Fire. Commissioner Blaufuss signed the permit.

County Attorney

Steve Wilson, County Attorney, met with the commission. He gave an update on their case load for 2025.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM due to no further business.

CREST UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 479
December 8, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

City of Garnett announces City Hall and city refuse schedule for New Year's week

For the New Year holiday, Garnett City Hall and all departments will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026, in observance of the New Year holiday. They will resume regular business hours on Friday, January 2, 2026.

Trash routes will be as follows:

- Monday, December 29: Regular Route
- Tuesday, December 30: Regular Route
- Wednesday, December 31: Regular Route
- Thursday, January 1, 2026: NO SERVICE
- Friday, January 2, 2026: Thursday and Friday Routes

NOTICE

The Anderson County Landfill will be closed December 25-28 & January 1.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

May the light of the Christmas Season shine on you and your family throughout the coming year.

We will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24th and December 31st and be closed Thursday, December 25th and January 1st.

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The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education of Crest Unified School District #479 was held at the Crest Board Office, Colony, on Monday, December 8, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Travis Church.

Roll Call

Board Members Present – Nathan Beckmon, Travis Church, Jamie Henderson, Kevin Nilges, Lance Ramsey and Laura Schmidt.

Board Members Absent - Seth Black

Others Present – Superintendent Shane Walter, MS/HS Principal Travis Hermreck, Board Clerk Elizabeth Donnelly, and Jessica Mills.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Jamie

Henderson and seconded by Mr. Lance Ramsey to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: 6-0

Approval of Consent Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Lance Ramsey and seconded by Mr. Nathan Beckmon to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the November 10th regular board meeting, bills in the amount of \$367,195.28, Enrollment Report and Budget Expenditure Report. Vote: 6-0

Information Items

ANW Special Education Minutes – The minutes of the November 12, 2025, ANW Special Education Cooperative meeting were reviewed.

Superintendent/Principal Report – Mr. Walter gave a thank

SEE RECORDS ON PAGE 8

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Wednesday: Fried chicken
Thursday: Sue's homemade meatloaf
Friday: Chicken fried steak or chicken fried chicken
Saturday:
1st Saturday: Ribeye Steak
2nd Saturday: Teriyaki-glazed pork chops

3rd Saturday: Surf & Turf: boiled Shrimp and/or beef tips
4th Saturday: Fried Catfish
5th Saturday: Homemade Lasagna
Sunday: Homemade pan-fried chicken w/sides


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The Anderson County **Review** SINCE 1865



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LICKTEIG

JANUARY 28, 1935 — DECEMBER 18, 2025

Bernard J. Lickteig, Sr. age 90, of Burlington, Kansas, passed away on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at Richmond Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Richmond, Kansas. He was born on January 28, 1935, in Greeley, Kansas, the son of Alfred Joseph and Albertine Eugenia (Peine) Lickteig. Bernie graduated from Greeley High School in 1954. He joined the Navy in 1955 and served until retirement in 1975.



Lickteig

Bernard was united in marriage to Dorothy Louise Root on December 27, 1955 in Greeley, Kansas. This union was blessed with seven children. Although Bernard and Dorothy eventually separated, she remained the love of his life.

In his spare time, Bernard enjoyed fishing and spending time outdoors. Horses and mules were a significant part of his life, reflecting his deep appreciation for hard work and tradition. In his younger years, he also enjoyed hunting. Above all, Bernard cherished his grandchildren and took great pride in each of them. He was a natural storyteller and especially loved sharing memories and stories from his time in the military.

Bernie enjoyed discussing the news, world, national and local. He enjoyed working with his hands on anything mechanical and teaching these skills to others.

Bernie was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Dionysius Lickteig, Stephen Lickteig, Victor Lickteig, Patricia Goodeyong, Eugene Lickteig, Joyce Burris, Linda Lickteig; love of his life, Dorothy Lickteig; son-in-law, Johnny Folsom; Rachel Quezada significant other of son, David Lickteig.

He is survived by his children, Walter Lickteig and wife Renee, Linda Martin and husband Marty, Kathleen Alexander and husband Royce, Charles Lickteig and wife Iya, Wanda Folsom, Bernard Lickteig Jr. and wife Michelle, David Lickteig; several grandchildren; great-grandchildren; great-great grandchildren and numerous other family and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 30, 2025. Burial will follow in the Holy Angels Cemetery in Garnett. Bernie's family will greet friends from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Monday, December 29, 2025, at the Feuerborn Family Funeral Service Chapel in Garnett. Memorial contributions may be made to Southern Coffey County Honor Flight and left in care of the funeral home. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.feuerbornfuneral.com

Garnett Lions Club December minutes

Lion President Skip Landis called our meeting to order at 6:30 PM with eleven (11) members in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, The Lord's Prayer offered, and America was sung.

The Secretary's minutes were provided at our last meeting.

The Treasurer's report was given verbally by Lion Dave. \$9025.13 Lion Mike motioned to accept the report. Lion Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership Trifold: Lion Chelsey provided a copy of a tri-fold proof for membership. With only corrections in the meeting time, they are approved for printing.

Lions Christmas Float: 2nd Place! The parade was well attended and we used the "Heroes of Sight" Lion Dane purchased two signs that can be reused for further parades. He will bring the bill to the next meeting.

Highway Clean-Up: Misty Villegas's fiancée is the new contact for the Boy Scouts as an attempt to continue this project. The Boy Scouts are down to 4 members.

Pancakes with Santa: Lion Chelsey advised that the date is secured and reminded the club that this is a partnered event with

the VFW. Parents will be available to discuss membership while their children play in the Snowball Fight. Please plan to attend to recruit future Lions!

NEW BUSINESS

District Governor, 17N, Visit: Clark Lindstorm wants to schedule a visit to our club. Lion President Skip advised it might be best to look at Jan 5.

Lions Soup Supper: January 22 is the date of our Soup Dinner at First Christian Church. We discussed the volume of soups made and the possibility of cutting back on total production. Chili is the largest volume held in inventory after the event. Advertising is key in any event, including the radio stations, newspapers, and yard advertising.

Lion Chelsey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM. Lion Ryan seconded the motion passed by acclamation.

The winner of the 50/50 Raffle Drawing for \$13 was Lion Dane Hicks

- FUTURE PLANNING:**
 07 DEC - Pancakes with Santa Event
 15 DEC - Christmas Meeting
 05 JAN - Regular Meeting
 22 JAN - Chili / Soup Feed (tentative)

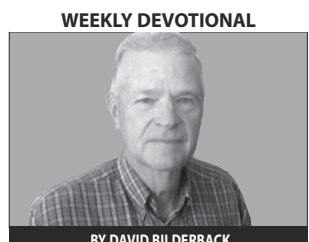
Is time our friend or our foe?

From the minute we get up in the morning until we go to bed at night we are controlled by time. The following may be said about time. You can't save it, borrow it, loan it, take it or give it away. Time can't be stopped, stored, stretched or shared. All you can do with time is use it or lose it.

So what do we do about this time issue? Time is unique because it is one of the only things that everyone, young or old, rich or poor, has the same amount of. Time can make you feel like a prisoner because you have too much or a last minute Christmas shopper because you have too little. The people with too much time don't understand the issues faced by those with too little time and those with too little time don't understand why other people have so much time.

With all that said we have the same twenty-four hours every day. If we think about it I believe we can see that God puts a lot of importance on time. He separated the light and the dark to give us time for rest. Every time he sent his people into captivity he did it for a specified time. God also set one day aside for we read in Genesis 2:3; "And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating he had done."

God did not create this



WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL
BY DAVID BILDERBACK

day for us to ignore or to fill with activities. We read he blessed the seventh day. God created you and me for fellowship with him. In Genesis 1:27 we read, "So God created man in his own image in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

There is one more important aspect of time. It runs out. For each of us time will someday cease. God is no respecter of persons. Time will run out for each of us. I hope that makes us look at how we are using our time. In Hebrews 9:27 we read; "It is appointed for man to die." After that time will be no more. There will be no opportunity to right the wrongs. When we lay down at night and all is quiet and dark are we comfortable with the ticking of the clock? If not maybe we need to change the way we spend our time.

*Ministry of the Holiness of God.
 Author of the book,
 "On the Other Side of the Door."
 Like David Bilderback*

MALEY

MAY 24, 1933 — DECEMBER 20, 2025

Audrey Maley, age 92, Moran, Kansas, passed away on December 20, 2025.

A funeral service for Audrey Maley will be held Monday, December 29, 2025, at 2:00 pm in the chapel at Feuerborn Family Funeral Service, 1883 US Hwy 54,

Iola, Kansas 66749. Family will greet friends just prior to the service at 1:00 pm., December 29, in The Venue at Feuerborn Family Funeral Service. Burial will follow the funeral service in Moran Cemetery.

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December 24 – closing at noon

December 25 – closed

December 31 – closing at noon

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For mankind, the most pivotal day

Each Christmas season, Christians around the world return to a story told most clearly in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke; a story humble in setting yet monumental in consequence. It begins not in palaces or halls of power, but in obedience, faith, and quiet wonder.

Luke tells of a young woman, Mary, visited by an angel who announces she will bear a son by the will of God. Her fiancé, Joseph, though troubled, is reassured in Matthew's account that this child is Emmanuel, "God with us." Divine direction, the Bible says, drives the couple to endure suspicion and fulfill the plan for which they were destined.

Because of a Roman census, the couple travels to Bethlehem, where Jesus is born not in comfort, but in a stable. Shepherds, the poor and overlooked of society, are the first to hear the news and the first to kneel before the manger.

Matthew adds another dimension: wise men from the East, guided by a star, recognize the child as king and bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Their visit draws the wrath of King Herod, forcing the holy family to flee as refugees into Egypt. From the outset, the Christmas story is not sentimental—it is costly. It speaks of sacrifice, danger, humility, and trust in God's promise.

Yet from this fragile beginning emerged a faith that reshaped history. Christ's message, fulfilled through His life, death, and his resurrection, centered on two revolutionary ideas: charity rooted in love for neighbor, and everlasting life grounded in redemption rather than earthly power. These principles formed the moral spine of Christendom, and brought unparalleled change to mankind.

Christian charity transformed societies. Hospitals, orphanages, poorhouses, and schools arose from the belief that every human life bears divine worth. Care for the sick, the elderly, and the marginalized was not an afterthought but a calling. Even today, many of the world's largest charitable organizations trace their ori-

REVIEW COMMENTARY



DANE HICKS, REVIEW PUBLISHER

gins to Christian teaching.

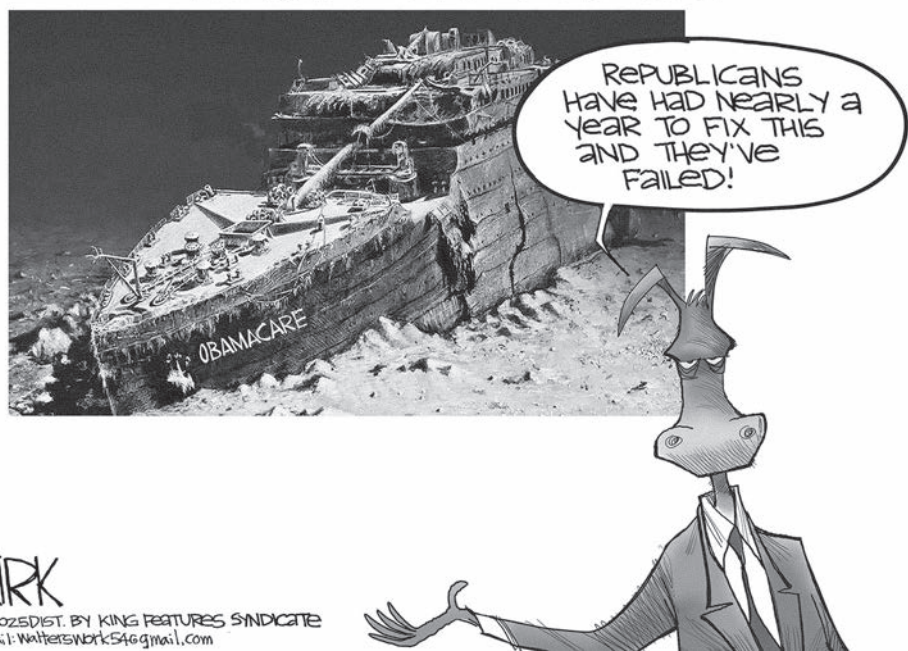
Equally transformative was the promise of everlasting life. Christianity taught that human dignity did not flow from kings or governments, but from God Himself. This belief limited absolute power and elevated conscience, laying groundwork for ideas of natural rights, equality before the law, and moral accountability.

These principles profoundly shaped the founding of the United States. While not a theocracy, the nation was built upon assumptions inherited from Christian thought: that rights are endowed by a Creator, that law must be tempered by justice and mercy, and that liberty carries moral responsibility. Early American institutions—from churches to colleges to civic charities—were expressions of this worldview.

Christmas, then, is more than a historical remembrance or a cultural tradition. It marks the arrival of ideas that changed how the world understands power, compassion, and hope. From a manger in Bethlehem came a faith that insisted the weak matter, the lost can be redeemed, and death is not the final word.

In remembering Christmas, we remember not only a birth, but a legacy—one that continues to challenge societies to measure success not by wealth or force, but by charity, humility, and faith in life everlasting. ###

THE MIDTERM MESSAGE



KIRK
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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.

Just heard about they made a deal for the Chiefs, and now I find out it's going to be Olathe? How are they going to call themselves The Kansas City Chiefs? The Olathe Chiefs, yeah that has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

I'd like to say thank you to the Nazarene Church for the beautiful white trees lights on 4th Street. It's wonderful.

There seems to be some confusion about the enrollment numbers at Greeley Elementary. Currently, there are 62 stu-

dents enrolled in preschool through 6th grade, and on January 6th, when school resumes, the number will increase to 65.

Mr. Hicks, thank you for putting the Chamber Choir photo in the paper. I have long said the arts in our local schools don't receive the publicity and attention they deserve, and they are most often very, very talented and win accolades from their competitions. It was nice to see this talent recognized in the paper.

I enjoyed the dedication ceremony for Garnett's Liberty Tree yesterday and the talk by Dan Benjamin about Garnett's Liberty Festival and our traditional celebration of July 4th in our community. I look forward to the committee's special 250th birthday celebration this summer. If you didn't make it to the dedication there is a Youtube video online. Thank you and God bless.

Iran's on the brink; Trump should give a little nudge

The Iranian regime is in dire straits.

Thanks to the decisive actions of President Trump and the State of Israel, the Islamic Republic is no longer the regional power it once was, and it now faces crises on every front. Iran's military infrastructure has been seriously degraded, and its illicit nuclear program has been severely decimated. Its network of proxies throughout the Middle East is disintegrating; Hezbollah is seriously diminished; the Assad dynasty has collapsed; Iranian-backed militias in Iraq face mounting political and public backlash; and Hamas is a shadow of its former self.

The domestic situation is also bleak. Thanks to chronic economic mismanagement, corruption and international isolation, the economy is in shambles and the country is running out of water. Lacking popular legitimacy and unable to deliver for its people, the regime's only remaining instrument of control is rule by fear.

Despite these many weaknesses, there are still so many in the West who continue to labor under the misapprehension that there's no alternative to the current government.

The Iranian people have made their preference abundantly clear in repeated waves of uprisings. They do not want a theocracy or a monarchy — they want a republic that is free, democratic, and accountable to the citizenry.

GUEST COMMENTARY



MIKE POMPEO - FMR. U.S. SEC/STATE

This is wrong on every level. It erases the aspirations of millions of Iranians who have risked their lives to demand change. It ignores the existence of a well-organized, democratic opposition that has spent more than four decades fighting the mullahs and preparing for the day after the theocracy falls. And it perpetuates the regime's propaganda that the West must tolerate its brutality because the alternative is chaos.

The Iranian people have made their preference abundantly clear in repeated waves of uprisings. They do not want a theocracy or a monarchy — they want a republic that is free, democratic and accountable to the citizenry.

Iran's organized pro-democracy movement has the capacity, popular support and systematic plan needed to replace the moribund, murderous mullah-crazy with a government that reflects the

will of the Iranian people. This force for positive change has a credible blueprint for a democratic Iran that includes free elections, the rule of law, the separation of religion and state, and a commitment not to pursue nuclear weapons.

This movement does not want American troops on the ground or any kind of external regime change. It has asked only that the United States and its allies support the Iranian people's demand for self-determination and deny the regime access to the resources it relies upon to survive.

US working with Israel to reach a peace agreement in the Middle East. We know from history that the fall of authoritarian regimes often appears impossible until it is suddenly upon us. When I served in West Germany as a cavalry officer in the late 1980s, the idea that the Berlin Wall would come down just a few months after my tour ended would have seemed like science fiction, yet that's exactly what happened.

Even after nearly 14 years of civil war, no one predicted the fall of Assad in Syria, yet it seemed to crumble all at once. Today, Iran's dictatorship shows the classic signs of fatigue that portend the end stages of a regime: economic exhaustion, internal fragmentation, eroding deterrence and a population no longer willing to live under clerical rule.

SEE POMPEO ON PAGE 8

Like Monroe, the Trump Doctrine's a pretty good idea

President Trump likes putting his name on things, so maybe it was inevitable he'd get his own corollary to the Monroe Doctrine.

Truth be told, what the president's just-released national security strategy sets out as a new proposition is really a restatement of the Lodge Corollary, named after Senator Henry Cabot Lodge in 1912. That proviso prohibited any foreign power or interest — not just European governments — from gaining "practical power of control" in the Western Hemisphere.

Naming rights aside, the treatment of our hemisphere is a strong element of the strategy. The so-called Trump corollary aims to assert U.S. preeminence in the hemisphere and keep non-hemispheric actors from creating threats or controlling strategically vital assets here. It is, in the words of the strategy, "a common-sense and potent restoration of American power and priorities, consistent with American security interests."

We should, by all means, breathe new life into a Monroe Doctrine that in recent decades has become a museum curiosity. The precipitating crisis for the making of the doctrine was an 1821 declaration by the Russians that they'd prohibit foreign shipping within 115 miles of their holdings on the Pacific coast. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams rebuffed the edict in terms anticipating the doctrine.

NATIONAL COMMENTARY



RICH LOWRY, King Features Syndicate

The bigger issue was that the Spanish empire was disintegrating. The end of its grip in the Western Hemisphere catalyzed the birth of Latin American republics and presented the risk of interventions by ambitious, illiberal continental Europeans states.

What to do? The British, who didn't want to get locked out of Latin American markets by other European countries and viewed the U.S. as a potential partner, suggested a joint declaration that continental powers should steer clear. We strung the Brits along and then President Monroe issued, on his own, what would become his eponymous doctrine in an annual message to Congress in 1823.

He asserted that "the American continents, by the free and independent condi-

tion which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers."

New European footholds in the Western Hemisphere were thought to represent not just security, but territorial, demographic and ideological threats. Metternich, the Austrian statesman, took great umbrage. He called it an "act of revolt," and pronounced it "fully as audacious" and "no less dangerous" than the American Revolution. Tsar Alexander said that "it merits only the most profound contempt." But Russia backed off its 1821 power play.

Initially, we weren't close to being militarily capable of contesting European encroachments and we relied on the British, in effect, to enforce our declaration. Still, the Monroe Doctrine became a predicate of American geopolitical power by avoiding major challenges to our hegemony in our own hemisphere. When we had the means, we enforced it ourselves. Once we were no longer distracted by the Civil War, we pressured France to end its intervention in Mexico in the 1860s. We got Germany to stand down during the Venezuela crisis of 1902 (this event led to the Roosevelt Corollary, named after President Teddy Roosevelt, stipulating the U.S. could deploy "an

SEE LOWRY ON PAGE 8

Letters to the editor

Singing Jingle Bumps

Bouncing down our roads, in a 5.7 liter pickup truck as our sleigh,

O'er the fields we go Bouncing over potholes all the way,

Bangs and truck beds ding making spirits spill,

Oh what fun it is to bounce down the Anderson County roads tonight,

Oh, bounce, bounce, bounce, bounce, bounce bouncing all the way, Oh, what fun it is to bounce down our county roads tonight, with a pick up as our sleigh, Hey Banging beds, Banging beds, banging all the way, Oh what fun it is to ride in a pick up as our sleigh;

A day or two ago, I thought I'd take a ride, and soon Miss Fanny Bright who was seated by my side;

All the sudden hit a pothole square, and Miss Fanny was no longer there, the ole pick up truck was mean, bounced Miss Fanny out;

Misfortune seemed my lot, my truck-sleigh bounced into a ditch, Fanny got really sore cause she was bounced into a tree,

Oh bounce, bounce, bounce, bounce, bounce, bounce, bouncing all the way, oh what fun it is to bounce down our County roads tonight.

Brian Hall, Garnett

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How about a trip to Hanover?

Well the shortest day of the year has come and gone and now the days get longer and spring arrives, so why not start making plans for the New Year?

If you are a traveler and perhaps a history buff, why not spend a day in Hanover, Ks.? Hanover is about a 3 1/2 hour drive north of Garnett, almost on the Nebraska state line.

While there, be sure and pay a visit to the Hollenberg Pony Express Station. It is the only Pony Express station on its original site in its original dimensions. Gerat H. Hollenberg sold trading goods to travelers on the trails before relocating east of Hanover in Washington County. He built his frame structure of walnut on a stone foundation around 1857 or 1858, as both home and business. He and Sophia Brockmeyer were married in 1858 and the couple made their home in four rooms on the ground floor with two

DIGGING UP THE PAST



Henry Roekers
Call (785) 448-6244 for local archeology information.

more rooms for a grocery, post office and tavern. The second floor provided an open sleeping area for stage employees. A blacksmith shop and stable housed up to 100 head of horses and oxen. The station provided food, lodging and fresh horses to the riders on the Pony Express during its operation from 1860 to 1861.

The station was purchased by the State of Kansas in 1941. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1961, it became a State Historic site in 1966. A really neat one day trip.

60 years - Near blizzard conditions on Christmas Eve

THAT WAS THEN



PAULA SCOTT - REVIEW HISTORY COLUMNIST

Historical gleanings from past local newspapers.

1885 - 140 years ago

December 25 - The old jail is undergoing repairs today. They are arranging to close the windows at night so as to prevent communication with the outside world.

December 25 - Three fellows - can't call them men, left a most filthy puddle of spit where they sat in the opera house last night. The surroundings had the appearance of a swine resort.

1895 - 130 years ago

December 27 - Charley McCrum reports that he has just signed a contract for flour and feed that will keep the Garnett roller mills running day and night for the entire year 1896. This is good news for our people who want to see the Garnett mills succeed.

December 27 - Mayor Wagstaff and Councilman Lane are responsible for originating a plan whereby many needy people of this city were enabled to enjoy a good Christmas dinner and then have a goodly supply of provisions left for the future. The day before Christmas found a store-room well stocked with flour, meat, groceries, etc., and the mayor personally superintended and distributed the articles among the

needy.

December 27 - The U.P. Sabbath school will have a Christmas tree and musical entertainment in the church. No admission fee, but each one who attends is expected to take a present for some friend and put on the tree.

1905 - 120 years ago

December 26 - Charlie Coleman had a quarter of beef-but Charlie had no beef at all, someone came in and robbed Charlie.

While Mr. Coleman will not say anything regarding the matter we understand that Park Keeney and Charlie Rice are being shadowed by Night Watch Lacy. If this is so we advise them not to try and hide in a barn.

December 30 - Isn't it about time that Garnett was getting bigger? Not that we want a boom-but by taking in some of the land adjoining the city. It would help to reduce the city tax and those adjoining the city have all the conveniences of the town without paying any tax. If the city does nothing else in the year 1906 it should during that time enlarge the city limits on the north and west.

1915 - 110 years ago

December 30 - Company K will give a dance in the Armory New Year's Eve, for the benefit of the company. There will be splendid music.

December 30 - The cours-



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 12-25-2025 / ARCHIVE

Circa December 2005 - Some of the cast members from the Westphalia Elementary School play, "Thank You, Santa," gathered around visiting Santa following the program (l-r): Kristen Thweatt, Jessica Woolsey, Whitney Tate, Brittany Mitchell.

ing meet, Christmas Day, was a success, from a sport view, although the attendance was cut down by cold and snow. There were first eight races; then the winners met in four races, then two, and finally, in one. The winners were Scarlet Lady, owned by Dr. Moonlight, of Eureka, first prize, \$40; Tom Rice's Joe Dongan, second, \$25; Lady Lill and White Rock, owned by Doman of Paola, won third and fourth prizes of \$7.50 each. Young Peril won his race but was fined two points for hesitating. The races showed that blood counts in dogs the same as horses.

1935 - 90 years ago

December 26 - In a raid staged on Christmas Eve, Giles Bouse, Westphalia, was arrested and a quantity of liquor was confiscated by County Attorney Merle Loughridge and L. O. Post, city constable at Colony. Charges of liquor posses-

sion and maintenance of a nuisance were filed against Bouse in the court of Deane L. Smith, Colony, justice of the peace for Ozark township. The same charges are already on file against Bouse in district court in connection with an earlier raid.

1965 - 60 years ago

December 27 - Anderson County had a white Christmas this year, but high winds accompanying the five-inch Christmas Eve snowfall caused a rash of highway mishaps and altered weekend travel plans for several families. The near-blizzard conditions also delayed an annual luminaries' light ceremonies in two cities. High winds accompanying the snowfall forced postponement of the lighting of luminaries, a Christmas Eve observance which has become a custom in sections of Garnett and Richmond.

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Highlights of Anderson County news from the past year

January

January opened with heartbreak in Colony, where a 16-year-old former Crest High School student was arrested after an aggravated assault incident and a subsequent fire that destroyed the Colony Community Church. Deputies pulled the juvenile from the smoke-filled building before firefighters from multiple departments fought a blaze that rekindled the next morning and ultimately leveled the historic church.

Kansas legislators acted to drop the sales tax on groceries which becomes mostly effective this month, but the savings will be short lived if voters pass a Garnett sales tax increase to build the new swimming pool and other projects.

Winter Storm Blair gave Anderson County a “cold start” to 2025. Ice, sleet and a few inches of snow coated roads, trees and power lines, but emergency officials credited residents for largely staying home, helping the county avoid serious crashes and widespread outages despite sub-zero wind chills.

A new report from Kansas State University extension says farmland values are holding steady in eastern Kansas land deals, with location still being king and general values.

Mid-month, Garnett’s city government buttoned up a host of housekeeping items – passing new ordinances that spell out rules for golf carts, work-site utility vehicles and micro utility trucks on city streets, and updating camping fees in city parks starting January 1, 2025.

The Anderson County Historical Society museum hosts its first artifact identification day in late January.

Despite market impacts of President Biden’s ban on new drilling leases on the US coastline, county commissioners get a better bid from the Leroy Co-op on its diesel fuel for the coming year.

Hackers attack the “Power School” program affecting 50 million students, including those in Kansas.

Anderson County District Judge Eric Godderz swears in newly elected officials from the November elections, including second district county commissioner Tony Mersman, county sheriff Wes McLain, county attorney Steve Wilson, register of deeds Sandra Baugher, county clerk Julie Wettstein and 3rd District county commissioner Mike Blaufuss.

The City of Garnett has installed a new online booking system for the 3000 plus camping spot reservations it makes annually for city parks.

The Kansas Senate floats a plan for a constitutional amendment to limit property value growth affecting taxes.

A report from Kansas data scientist Earl Glenn says 447 dead people in Kansas tried to register to vote in March of ‘24.

Ivin and Marvin Bauman buy Wolken Tire from Patty Rundle and expand their Cedar Valley Tire & Auto operation to Garnett.

He now lives in Garnett and once played in the bands that backed Sammy Davis junior, the Coasters and the Shirelles along with Glenn Miller, Woody Herman and Bob Mills and the Texas Playboys. Chuck Cowan was inducted into the Kansas Music Hall of Fame in January.

President Donald Trump is elected to the highest office in the land for the second time promising a golden age for America, and hits the ground running with scores of new policy orders.

Schools filled the latter half of January with spelling bees and student achievements. Garnett Elementary, Crest, Westphalia Elementary and Anderson County Junior High all crowned bee champions and runners-up, sending a county-wide slate of students to compete at the Anderson County Spelling Bee at ACHS at the end of the month.

January closed with business on the brain. The Jan. 30 edition carried the free 2025 Regional Business Resource

Directory as a supplement – a one-stop guide to Anderson County and area businesses – positioning local firms and services in front of readers heading into the new year.

February

Colony’s city ordinances were updated to adjust water and sewer rates and to formally rescind a long-standing breed-specific ban on Pit Bull dogs inside city limits, as the council rewrote rules that affect daily life for residents and their pets.

A plea deal with Anderson County’s former county attorney allows Joshua left of Colony to avoid charges of felon in possession of a firearm in exchange for a single conviction of burglary after an incident at Colony High School in October last year.

Mike Hill and Helen Norman of Garnett are awarded the George Clasen Memorial Service Award at the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual banquet, along with Parkview Heights as Business of the Year and the Friends of the Library as Organization of the Year. Anderson County Sheriff Wes McClain pitches a plan to bring the county’s Emergency Management division under his wing.

Jacob Zimmerman and Kurston Allen are crowned king and queen of Crest Winter Homecoming. Diego Garcia-Campoy and Ana Vega win the honors at ACHS and Melaney Chrisjohn and Landon Lopez reign over the festivities at Central Heights.

Anderson County Development Agency director Jessica Mills proposes Donna Harris Park, the south yard of the Garnett Rec Center, and the existing skate park in Lake Garnett Park as locations for the pavilions the city got for free with the exception of transport costs from the former Overland Park farmers market.

County commissioners get over the bad taste left in their mouths by a dust control deal gone bad a few years ago, and take advantage of the company’s conciliatory pricing and service promises for the coming year’s dust abatement.

With stronger majorities in the legislature, Republicans override Governor Laura Kelly’s third veto of a law that would ban child sex change operations in Kansas.

By mid-month, health-care access took center stage. Hundreds of Kansas pharmacists in white coats rallied at the Statehouse in Topeka, temporarily closing more than 100 pharmacies – including independent stores like Rockers Pharmacy in Paola – to spotlight how pharmacy benefit managers and low reimbursements are driving closures and threatening community access to medications.

In the same issue, former Anderson County Emergency Management Director J.D. Mersman cautioned commissioners about folding the department under the sheriff’s office, arguing that direct accountability to commissioners better matches their ultimate responsibility for county emergencies.

Landry Sparks, Ebony Hughes and Julie Platt will represent Central Heights at state women’s wrestling. Gage Peine and Royce Ulrich attend for CHHS men.

On the opinion pages later in the month, the Review’s editorial voice turned its sights on the U.S. Postal Service. A column urging leaders to “DOGE the USPS” channeled subscriber frustration over chronic delivery delays, telling stories of local mail taking nearly two weeks to travel short distances and arguing that national reforms can’t come soon enough.

The Feb. 27 edition mixed youth innovation with long-range planning. Anderson County Junior High 8th-grader Vivian Riblett’s “Vivian’s Slime” small-business project won the local Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, earning a trip to the state competition, while

other students pitched ideas like a water-vapor condensing “Gadget Factory.”

At the same time, Economic Development Director Jessica Mills laid out five possible new homes for three steel pavilions acquired from Overland Park – from Donna Harris Park and the Garnett Rec Center yard to sites at the Garnett Industrial Airport – with city leaders eyeing public input before committing to a relocation plan.

That same issue also pointed to a quieter but significant statewide story: Kansas child-abuse reports. A Sentinel analysis noted that in recent years the vast majority of reports have been labeled “unsubstantiated,” with some counties posting 95-97 percent unsubstantiation rates and the state recording only about 1,300 substantiated cases over 2022-2023, even as agency officials struggled to explain sharp swings in the data.

March

After a three-year delay, William Vandenberg of Paola will face a jury, charged with shooting up his ex-girlfriend’s car and her new boyfriend’s home in southern Garnett in April of 2022.

Sharing space on that front page was a very different kind of “recruit”: a four-year-old Dutch Shepherd simply named “Sheriff.” The dog, trained in German for search-and-rescue and drug detection, is slated to join the Anderson County Sheriff’s Office after community sponsors – including a \$16,500 donation from Patriots Bank, donated vet care from Countryside Veterinary Clinic and lifetime dog food from Brummel Farm Service – stepped up to fund the K-9 program.

Anderson County’s Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge showcases kids with original business ideas.

Saint Luke’s Home Care & Hospice has moved its south branch office from Ottawa, Kansas, to Anderson County Hospital.

New leadership breathes life back into Westphalia Day after a 10 year absence.

Garnett’s historic 1909 “Balyeat Building” which housed The Hunt Furniture Store in Garnett for some 70 years and subsequent businesses in latter decades is set for condemnation by Garnett City Commissioners.

Richmond natives David D. Schafer and Todd Mildfelt are awarded by the Kansas Notable Book Board for their book “Abolitionist Of The Most Dangerous Kind.”

Countywide, a required real-estate market analysis showed just how hot local property has become, with residential, commercial and vacant land all seeing double-digit valuation increases in the latest year-over-year snapshot.

Put together, the first quarter of 2025 in Anderson County tells a familiar local story: communities rallying after loss, braving winter storms, fine-tuning ordinances, celebrating kids’ achievements and small-town entrepreneurs, and quietly grappling with big-picture issues like health-care access, child-protection data and rising property values – all while the hometown paper runs its own promotions and helps underwrite a new four-legged deputy for the sheriff’s office.

Kansas senators advanced SCR 1611, a constitutional amendment that would allow Kansans to directly elect Supreme Court justices – a dramatic shift from the current lawyer-dominated nominating system.

Locally, Sheriff Wes McClain warned commissioners that the county jail needs hundreds of thousands in repairs – from outdated cameras to a failing fire suppression system – if the county hopes to earn national jail certification.

Meanwhile, Garnett moved forward on condemning the historic 1909 Hunt Furniture Building after falling glass and long-term abandonment worsened its structural danger down-

town.

Federal cuts to ACA Navigator grants blindsided Thrive Allen County, with CEO Lisse Regehr confirming a 90% reduction beginning in 2026 – jeopardizing staffing and statewide outreach.

In Anderson County, a long-running farm-equipment theft saga moved toward closure as Marvin Slyter pled guilty to two felony theft counts tied to stolen tractors and loaders discovered in 2019.

Garnett area musicians rallied to restore the city’s vandalism-reward fund after feces-smearing vandals struck the Santa Fe Depot, prompting renewed calls for security cameras along the Prairie Spirit Trail.

One of the longest theft investigations and prosecutions in recent memory came to a close in Anderson County District Court Monday when Marvin Slyter pleads guilty to two of nine felony charges related to the possession of stolen farm equipment dating back to 2019.

The \$1.8 million cattle-fraud case against Tennessee livestock dealer Bert Smith continued to grow with multistate charges and an April 1 status hearing set amid scheduling complications.

County commissioners in the six county Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center district are aggravated because the organization’s board pays key leadership hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, and commissioners say if they can afford those salaries based primarily off Medicaid billings, they don’t need local county tax money.

Vandals throw poop on furniture at Garnett’s historic depot, prompting calls for new surveillance cameras at various city locations.

Saint Boniface Church at Scipio makes headway on its new meeting hall project. The former hall suffered storm damage in 2021 and was razed in favor of a new structure at the site.

Musicians taking part in the monthly open jam at Toddy’s Back Porch cocktail bar agree to donate all their tips at the upcoming jam to the reward fund for their recent depot vandals, raising over \$300.

William Vandenberg sentenced to five years in prison stemming from gunplay involving his ex-girlfriend and her new beau.

An April Fool’s Day court appearance is set for Tennessee’s Burt Smith on charges that he built local cattlemen Ron Ratliff out of \$1.8 million in bogus cattle purchases.

Separately, a Review investigation revealed SEKMHC director salaries to be the highest among Kansas mental-health districts, fueling regional backlash and calls for accountability.

April

The county mourned the drowning of 5-year-old Ruger Petersilie in a farm pond near Colony, prompting renewed discussion about rural water-safety measures such as fencing, rescue posts, and signage.

Kincaid sex offender Kevin LaBelle receives an 18-year sentence for felony sodomy after a plea deal covering multiple child-sex charges.

Porfirio DeLa Cruz-Cantu – an illegal immigrant accused in a violent Prairie Spirit Trail assault – was set for a June 30 trial.

County and Garnett city officials agreed to dissolve Garnett’s Land Bank and replace it with a county-wide version aimed at faster action on derelict properties across multiple towns.

Nationally, the U.S. Department of Education demanded states certify that all DEI policies be eliminated or risk losing federal funds, while Kansas officials called the mandate merely a “request.”

Garnett learned it must return more than \$300,000 in FEMA overpayments tied to Cedar Valley Reservoir repairs in 2018-2019.

Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents say they have positively identified the remains of 16-year-old Jimmy Allen Dollison, buried anonymously in Garnett in 1973 after his remains were found in a local field, and the case has turned into an active murder investigation as they try to find out who killed him and why. This reopened a cold case mystery tied to Kansas City’s violent era.

County commissioners from six counties held an extraordinary meeting in Iola questioning SEKMHC’s six-figure executive compensation packages – the highest in Kansas – with many calling them “immoral,” but meeting leader and Allen County Commissioner David Lee locks Kansas Informer reporter Dane Hicks out of the meeting while allowing other media and private individuals to attend.

Former Republican governor candidate Arlyn Briggs, who pulled 80,000 GOP votes in an unsuccessful bid for the Republican nomination in 2022, is back in Anderson County District Court, this time on charges he vandalized a family member’s property.

The Anderson County Cornstock Concert On The Hill hits 20 this fall, with local performers Trevor Holman and the Haymakers the opening act.

County Emergency Services Dispatcher Sarah Burkhart is hired to head county emergency preparedness.

Kansas lawmakers overrode Gov. Laura Kelly’s vetoes to limit future COVID-style shutdowns and protect faith-based foster/adoptive families – a major ideological win for the GOP supermajority.

The Kansas Insurance Department released 2024 storm-damage totals, showing Anderson County at \$778,000 – far below neighboring counties with multi-million-dollar losses.

A controversial SEKMHC salary meeting may have violated Kansas’ open-meetings law by banning a reporter; commissioners also learned counties are not required by statute to fund the agency.

Vivian Riblett, an eighth grader at Anderson County Junior High school, was named a finalist in the 2025 Kansas entrepreneurship challenge. She earned a \$1,700 award for her all natural slime business, having qualified for the state competition after winning the Anderson County youth entrepreneurship challenge in February.

May

Commissioners approved more than \$300,000 in long-needed repairs at the county jail – triple the sheriff’s original estimate – to fix blind spots, acoustic hazards, broken doors, and outdated fire systems.

The SEKMHC salary controversy deepened as board members refused public comment, while outside mental-health officials confirmed the high pay originated from a private consultant’s recommendations which apparently got blanket approval from the board.

KDOT announced a massive two-year rebuild of the US-169/59 roundabout starting May 19, forcing a “shoofly” detour that will reroute more than 5,000 vehicles per day.

A fiery May 4 head-on crash near Lane killed eight people – including youth basketball players and coaches – in what is believed one of the two most deadly crashes in Kansas highway history.

Marvin Slyter is sentenced to 24 months probation in a plea deal on numerous farm equipment theft charges that have dragged on for nearly six years, largely because he had no previous criminal record.

ACHS Bulldog Jordan Miller sets a new school record in the triple jump at a Humboldt track meet with a leap of 35 feet nine inches, a first place meet finish.

County Attorney Steve Wilson added an attempt-

ed-rape charge against illegal immigrant Porfirio Cruz-Cantu after the victim confirmed the sexual intent of the Prairie Spirit Trail attack from last October.

Court officials continued evaluating 16-year-old Kaiden Robb’s competency in the arson that destroyed Colony Community Church the day after Christmas.

President Trump announced a UK trade deal benefiting Kansas beef, agriculture, and ethanol producers by lowering British tariffs on U.S. goods, drawing strong support from East Kansas Agri-Energy leaders, and issued an executive order aimed at slashing prescription drug prices by limiting PBM power and imposing “most favored nation” pricing if drugmakers fail to negotiate.

Recent flood waters continue to threaten the local area, with a number of water rescues.

Linus Thuston, the Neosho County Attorney who ran for the Anderson County GOP CA nomination in 2020, will face three felony counts of perjury in the county he formerly served regarding statements he made about receiving nude photos from a confidential informant in a NC drug case.

A new Garnett fitness business, Gains and Glory, is the beneficiary of a \$100,000 grant from the Kansas historic economic asset life-line program to refurbish a downtown building and open for business there.

Eli Martin qualifies for boys 3A State Golf for ACHS.

The Yutzy School west of Garnett will open this fall to offer a more Christ based educational experience for area kids.

Local jam musicians host a free “Rock The Square” event May 31 at the Anderson County Veterans Memorial.

Third District Congresswoman Sharice Davids and fellow Democrats fail to kill Trump’s Big Beautiful Bill, which continued the Trump tax cuts for high earners in Johnson County and nationwide.

The Central Heights Viking baseball team mount an improbable 6-0 deficit comeback to beat Southern Lyon County 8-7 in extra innings and win a berth at the state tournament.

Memorial Day weekend rains dumped up to 5 inches on the Greeley area, continuing a warm wet spring that saw more than 15 inches of rainfall between March 1st and May 27th.

June

Heavy rains drenched Anderson County with up to five inches in 24 hours, triggering four water rescues, two rain-related vehicle crashes, and widespread rural road flooding as an already-soggy spring pushed creeks past capacity.

The week also closed the election-filing window, leaving two USD 365 board seats without candidates and requiring November write-ins or later board appointments. City races across the county filled out with a mix of incumbents, newcomers and empty slates in places like Greeley and Lone Elm.

Central Heights Viking Men’s Track Team brings home a state 2-1A Championship.

Garnett began finalizing plans for the Liberty Festival, set for June 28 at Lake Garnett, promising music from the Osawatimie Community Band and Scipio Bottoms, family picnics and fireworks over the water.

A countywide EMS improvement also made headlines: a new network of pre-planned helicopter landing zones on rural properties—paired with a faster dispatch protocol—dramatically cut med-evac response times and proved successful during a real emergency the previous week.

Internally, county employees pushed for meeting time without commissioners present, arguing an employee engagement committee could share ideas and concerns more freely.

2025...

FROM PAGE 6

The community reeled from the death of 16-year-old Wyatt Witham, killed in a late-night UTV rollover west of Garnett—another in a troubling pattern of Kansas youth ATV/UTV fatalities over recent years.

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly attacked President Trump for deploying federal troops to protect ICE agents during violent riots in Los Angeles—even as Trump argued federal law gives him clear authority over Guard activation to protect ICE in illegal immigration raids.

Garnett reflected on the legacy of Jim Cooper, a banking leader whose decades of civic service, development work, and stewardship of Patriots Bank left an enduring imprint on Anderson County life.

A sweeping federal energy debate hit home as U.S. Senate Republicans unveiled a bill to end industrial wind and solar tax credits by 2028, but preserve nuclear, hydro and geothermal incentives through 2036—a move closely watched in rural Kansas counties where industrial projects have been divisive.

Westphalia announced it would create its own municipal court, hoping to finally enforce long-ignored nuisance and safety ordinances involving dilapidated structures, loose animals and other chronic problems.

Flooding again made headlines when a sheriff's deputy responding to a rescue became stranded in high water, leaving his patrol vehicle a likely total loss but causing no injuries.

County commissioners also withheld a \$32,000 quarterly payment to SEKMHC amid continuing backlash over executive salaries exceeding \$600,000 annually, despite the agency's heavy reliance on Medicaid revenue.

Separately, watchdog reporting warned Evergy ratepayers they face 33% total bill increases.

The Review announced a historic change: beginning July 3, the paper will publish on Thursdays instead of Fridays after a longstanding Burlingame printing plant closed. The shift marks another transition in the region's shrinking print-press landscape, even as the newspaper reaffirmed its commitment to the authenticity and permanence of print journalism.

County fire officials revived long-paused plans for a Garnett rural fire station, shelving oversized 2019 engineering drawings and restarting design discussions for a scaled-to-need facility on West Seventh Street.

The Anderson County Fair Board pitched a major overhaul of its aging livestock facilities, planning to raise nearly half a million dollars for a single large metal structure to replace decades-old patchwork barns.

At the county table, commissioners signaled that SEKMHC's windfall of "life-changing" Medicaid funding means the county's \$90,000 subsidy may end after 2025—especially amid continued scrutiny of executive pay.

Statewide, Attorney General Kris Kobach sought a federal civil-right's investigation into four Kansas school districts for policies that conceal student "gender-transitioning" from parents, alleging FERPA violations.

July

A long-planned downtown project, The 130 Collective, officially opened at 130 E. 5th in Garnett, transforming a historic building into a shared space housing The Beloved Book Co., Monroe 816, and 3 Monkeys Bakery—a major boost to downtown revitalization efforts.

County commissioners signaled they will defund Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center for 2026 after executives presented their budget but failed to justify six-figure compensation packages exceeding \$600,000, given the agency's sharply increased Medicaid revenue.

Garnett prepared to celebrate the 160th birthday of

Arthur Capper, the famed Kansas publisher and U.S. senator born in Garnett, with museum exhibits and Capper Foundation art displays honoring his legacy in publishing, agriculture, youth leadership and philanthropy.

The Richmond Free Fair entered its 101st year, emphasizing its "Family Tradition" theme and celebrating a century-long legacy of 4-H, livestock shows, parade traditions and multi-state participation. Mary and Leo Weiderholt will be the grand marshalls of parade Saturday, July 12.

A federal judge ruled in favor of Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach, allowing the state's new ban on foreign funding in constitutional amendment campaigns to stand—a major decision ahead of the 2026 vote on electing Kansas Supreme Court justices.

Kansas Congresswoman Sharice Davids joined Democrats in a final measure opposing President Trump's renewed tax-cut package, and the president signs the bill during the July 4 holiday.

Anderson County assumed direct control of its public transportation system, shifting oversight from a previous board but keeping service hours and fares unchanged.

A statewide KBI report showed crime declining across Kansas, with Anderson County logging a comparatively low index-crime rate while Allen County remained the region's highest.

Facing a large projected 2026 budget shortfall, county commissioners considered using \$622,000 from an ethanol-plant tax settlement to meet "revenue neutral" requirements for the 2026 budget.

Jerry and Carolyn Smith are grand marshalls of the reconstituted Westphalia Day Parade.

Anderson County began preparing for the looming Microsoft Windows 10 end-of-life transition, confronting substantial technology upgrade costs.

A statewide debate resurfaced over in-state tuition for undocumented students, with Kansas remaining one of 22 states allowing the benefit despite legislative attempts to end it.

Commissioners withheld state alcohol-tax funds typically allocated to SEKMHC, part of a continuing backlash over high administrative salaries.

Forty-five year-old Chad Farrar died of carbon monoxide poisoning while working at a local residence, prompting EMS to adopt new mandatory CO-detector protocols after several responders suffered exposure symptoms.

Steven Bundy and Kevin Calley emerge as write-in candidates for vacant USD 365 school board seats, ensuring contested races despite no initial filings at the June deadline.

New state assessment results showed more than 150,000 Kansas students "functionally illiterate," with criticism aimed at KSDE for redefining proficiency metrics.

A third write-in candidate, Chris Brady, joined the USD 365 school board race, emphasizing academic performance, transparency, and community engagement.

Long-serving noxious-weed director Vernon Yoder announced his retirement after 31 years, launching a county search for a replacement amid a heavy weed-growth season.

August

A Heartlander media investigation revealed that decisions by past Anderson County prosecutors allowed a violent offender to avoid prison, setting the stage for his later alleged killing of a Wyandotte County deputy.

Garnett police received new training on the "Sovereign Citizen" movement, learning tactics to handle encounters with anti-government extremists.

A judge ruled 17-year-old Kaiden Robb competent to stand trial in the 2024 Colony church-arson case, with prosecutors still weighing whether to charge him as an

adult.

The county published its delinquent-tax roll, showing more than \$510,000 owed—a 20% rise reflecting increased valuations and strained household budgets.

A Review analysis highlighted the near blackout of coverage by Kansas City and Wichita media on the Prairie Spirit Trail attempted-rape case involving illegal immigrant Porfirio De La Cruz-Cantu.

Garnett proposed a 2026 city budget with \$1.5 million more in spending but kept its mill levy just below the revenue-neutral threshold.

City officials prepared to ask voters for a one-cent sales tax in November to fund a new swimming pool and long-delayed infrastructure projects.

A longtime Country Mart bookkeeper, Megan Marshall Wilson, is charged with 17 felony theft counts after more than \$37,000 in missing deposits were traced to her.

A massive outbreak of fall armyworms swept through eastern Kansas lawns and pastures, leaving brown swaths across the county as extension agents urged chemical treatment before first frost.

Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach moved to block Gov. Laura Kelly's attempt to join a multi-state lawsuit against the Trump administration, arguing she lacked legal authority.

A Wisconsin-based study shows Kansas funerals are the least affordable in the U.S., with the average funeral in the state now costing more than \$12,500.

September

USD 365 prepared to adopt a 2025-26 budget exceeding the revenue-neutral rate, adding \$528,000 in new property-tax revenue and expanding spending authority by more than \$4 million.

The Greeley Smoke Off celebrates its 25th anniversary with food, live music, charity competitions, and family activities under the town's water tower.

Colony Day brought crowds to the streets with floats, marching bands and family-themed entries continuing the rural town's summer-festival tradition.

September's news mixed big-stage entertainment with hard-edged crime and policy fights. On the lighter side, Cornstock's 20th anniversary lineup came into full focus, with rising country artist Kelsey Hart and the Kentucky Headhunters joining headliner Chris Janson and local favorites Trevor Holman & The Haymakers for a late-September blowout at Lake Garnett.

Former Shawnee Mission resident Shi Kinney was finally arrested after more than a year evading a warrant in the fentanyl-overdose death of her fiancé in Garnett, with lab tests and a syringe DNA match leading to a first-degree murder charge.

Prosecutors also moved toward trial against illegal immigrant Porfirio De La Cruz-Cantu for an alleged brutal Prairie Spirit Trail assault on an elderly cyclist, while a separate front-page story in mid-September detailed how, win or lose in court, an ICE detainer ensures he'll either face prison or deportation.

Rural life and infrastructure showed both fragility and resilience. A 78-year-old farmer west of Cedar Valley Reservoir survived a horrific grain cart auger accident thanks to quick work by a deputy with a tourniquet, coordinated EMS, and pre-planned helicopter landing zones.

Commissioners wrestled with how to demolish a decaying historic bridge near Scipio by "trading" another vintage span to state preservation officials.

Strong early corn yields delighted East Kansas Agri Energy and local growers even as Kansas planted fewer acres, though prices are lower.

Commissioners prepared a tax-foreclosure sale on more than 20 delinquent parcels.

Policy tension reached from Topeka into Anderson County kitchens when the USDA moved to withhold

\$10.4 million in Kansas SNAP funds after Gov. Laura Kelly refused to turn over program data, putting assistance to more than 400 local households in limbo and prompting a lawsuit from Attorney General Kris Kobach.

Former county appraiser Gary Stapp releases his first novel, a science-fiction historical work entitled "Trespassers."

October

The Anderson County Flywheelers' annual gas engine and tractor show returned to North Lake Park with steam tractors, threshing demos and school "Education Day."

County commissioners hear about rural landowners tempted to illegally burn down dilapidated houses they can't easily remove.

Porfirio De La Cruz-Cantu avoids trial on attempted rape by pleading to aggravated battery, mistreatment of an elderly person and a misdemeanor.

Garnett city leaders lay out their case for a one-cent sales tax to rebuild Garnett's aging pool and ballfields—while acknowledging the regressive nature of sales taxes on poorer residents.

Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival highlighted the growing vintage-auto event for its 12th annual performance along with its charity rides.

A dive into the proposed 1% city sales tax featured former commissioner Jason Sheahan's math, arguing the projected revenue can't cover the full recreation "wish list" without either cutting projects or finding more money elsewhere.

Patriots Bank's long-running WINGS fundraiser crossed the \$20,000 mark to help local women fighting breast cancer.

Yet another USD 365 write-in candidate—veteran educator Skip Landis—stepped up in races that initially drew no official filings.

Max Chrisjohn and Ashley Harkins are Central Heights king and queen of fall homecoming.

Voters in Central Heights USD 288 weighed a \$15.35 million bond focused largely on a consolidated vo-ag center and early childhood space aimed at real-world job training for students.

Kansans For Life presents "Aftermath" a memorial display of 19,467 fetal models—each representing a child lost to abortion in Kansas in 2023.

At the federal level, Congresswoman Sharice Davids faced criticism for voting against a funding bill that might have averted what some branded the "Schumer shutdown," even as she publicly lamented the government closure.

New College ACT test results showed Kansas hitting a new all-time low, with just 17% of graduates testing college-ready in all four subjects after a decade of "Kansans Can" policy that critics say prioritized social-emotional programming over academics.

Garnett police arrested a 23-year-old Hunter Hill allegedly driving to pick up his child from Garnett Elementary with a blood-alcohol level more than three times the legal limit.

Investigators tied a rash of local forged-check purchases at local stores to a broader theft ring spanning 11 Kansas jurisdictions and roughly \$24,000 in stolen goods.

Zach Schaffer and Brylie Kohlmeier are crowned king and queen of ACHS homecoming. Jensen Barker and Kinlee Edgerton win the honors at Crest.

Halloween week turned reflective and a little creepy. A feature traced the holiday back to Celtic Samhain, medieval souling, and immigrant Jack-o'-lantern lore, while a second story mapped upcoming parades and trick-or-treat routes for Anderson County goblins. City staff, meanwhile, faced an unusual complaint: a pack rat nesting in a Garnett cemetery grave, prompting an education in how floral arrangements and stonework make perfect "middens" for the rodents.

Famed KISS guitarist Ace Frehley passes away after

complications from a recent fall at the age of 74.

Beyond the spooky season, Attorney General Kris Kobach notched a legal win in a multistate suit overturning a Biden-era rule that would have forced doctors and hospitals to perform or insure gender-transition procedures under Obamacare's sex-discrimination language.

Garnett City Manager Travis Wilson takes steps to rectify a pack rat that's built a nest at a grave in Garnett cemetery, causing stress for family members of the deceased.

November

November opened with voters reshaping local tax and school landscapes. Garnett residents approved the controversial one-cent city sales tax to fund a new pool and other recreation upgrades, while Central Heights voters passed a \$15.35 million bond for vo-ag, early childhood and gym improvements—both measures winning despite debates over cost and scope.

Susan Wettstein cruised to a Garnett city commission win, incumbent Gina Witherspoon easily held her USD 365 seat, and officials began the painstaking process of counting and confirming hundreds of write-in votes for the remaining school board positions.

Local Marines celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps, tracing its origins to Tun Tavern in 1775 and following "Devil Dogs" through Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Princeton's Kenneth Teter is tragically killed in Greeley when he accidentally falls underneath the parked trash truck he was operating.

A week later, the sky itself stole the show. A rare, strong Aurora Borealis event pushed the auroral oval far enough south that eastern Kansas residents who knew to use newer iPhone cameras could capture eerie reds and greens over Colony and the countryside—a solar-storm science lesson wrapped in social-media spectacle.

Back on the ground, former Anderson County Emergency Preparedness Director (and Garnett mayor) Mark Locke reached a \$30,000 settlement with the county over his January firing to avoid costly litigation, even as controversy continued swirling around emergency-services leadership.

Colony teen Kaiden Robb, whose arson destroyed the Colony Community Church, received a sentence of 12 months' probation and \$2,000 in restitution as part of a plea deal that dropped more serious counts, while the congregation's new building continued to rise.

Commissioners removed their citizen appointee to the SEKMHC board and replaced her with Commissioner Mike Blaufuss amid fresh rumors of even higher executive salaries tied to a new federal designation.

The final USD 365 vote canvass results showed write-ins Skip Landis and Anne Marie Strobel winning two previously vacant school board seats backed by a more conservative slate of supporters.

Late November brought a mix of seasonal spirit and a simmering controversy. Commissioners broke election ties the old-fashioned way—by drawing names from a hat—settling council races in Kincaid and Lone Elm with a bit of courthouse pageantry as required by Kansas statute.

A front-page examination of gravel-road damage reminded rural drivers that washboards and ruts often originate with drivers behind the wheel as much as behind a grader, with county road supervisor urging slower speeds and patience after heavy rains turned roads to mush and back to concrete-like hardness.

A Welda-area crypto-mining project seeks a special-use permit and a 72-panel solar array to power its Dogecoin-computation rigs—a proposal county staff noted would not fall under the city's solar-ban ordinance since no electric-

ity would be sold.

Garnett's newly approved 1% city sales tax received an implementation date of April 1, 2026, clearing the last procedural step toward funding the city pool replacement and other capital projects voters supported earlier in the month.

Thanksgiving season also revived familiar traditions: Operation Christmas Child volunteers at Dunkard Brethren Church aimed to top last year's 216 shoeboxes for overseas children, while the annual Great Christmas Giveaway kicked off with \$1,000 and multiple smaller prizes awaiting lucky shoppers at local businesses.

Roughly 450 Anderson County recipients stood at the intersection of fraud crackdowns, political finger-pointing, and questions about obesity and nutrition standards within the SNAP government food assistance program.

Garnett's last barber, Larry Varvel, announced his retirement after 62 years due to a shoulder injury, closing a chapter of shared stories and small-town camaraderie.

A review of tax documents confirms SEKMHC compensation soared to \$889,000 for CEO Nathan Fawson in 2024, placing the agency's leadership firmly in the top 1% of U.S. earners and reigniting county outrage at the mental-health district's compensation structure.

December

Bert Smith, charged with passing \$1.8 million in hot checks to a Garnett rancher, moved toward a January preliminary hearing with subpoenas issued and livestock-fraud investigators brought into the case.

A continuing analysis of SNAP and obesity tied together local hardship, statewide trends, and federal policy, noting Kansas' 35-36% adult-obesity rate and projections that statewide obesity could exceed 50% by 2030, raising the stakes in debates about allowable food purchases and program oversight.

Crime touched even the quiet spaces of the county when thieves stole bronze veterans' grave markers from Springfield Cemetery—likely for scrap metal—echoing similar crimes statewide and leaving families and caretakers outraged at the violation of soldiers' resting places.

Local government and business agencies stepped forward to strengthen local collaboration, with an inter-agency Chamber/ Foundation/Economic Development meeting planned to help streamline community engagement and better align efforts in business growth, philanthropy and city improvements.

Regional energy news made national waves as Parsons, Kansas, secured the groundbreaking for America's first mile-deep nuclear micro-reactor, backed by both Kansas senators, Gov. Laura Kelly, and the Trump administration's advanced-reactor pilot program—a move supporters say could power future data centers and position Kansas at the forefront of next-generation nuclear energy.

USD 365 announces a January public hearing on whether to close Greeley Elementary, citing just 46 students, high per-pupil costs, and maintenance needs. A companion front-page review of national research showed rural school closures often lead to lasting economic harm, population loss, and declining property values in small towns.

Anderson County Clerk Julie Wettstein says county attorney Steve Wilson will see a \$33,000 budget overrun driven by surging caseloads and inherited backlogs.

Holiday traditions still anchored the season. Garnett announced Christmas and New Year trash-route changes, the 55th annual Christmas Parade marched under frozen skies, and the ACHS marching band led families into the small-town glow of the holiday season.

Hart's 100th birthday

The family of Shirley Hart would like to invite friends and extended family to an open house in her honor as she turns 100 years old. She can be greeted at the Dutch Country Cafe from 3-5 on Saturday, Dec. 27th. Enter thru the door on the south side of the building.



Hart

to: Shirley Hart
c/o Desta Ledom
1802 S 22nd St.
Rogers, AR 72758

There will be a special program at 4 performed by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. No gifts please but cards are welcome.

If you are unable to attend and would like to send a card, please send

RECORDS...

FROM PAGE 2

you to Mr. Lance Ramsey for his 8 years of contributions and service to the district. He was presented with a plaque commemorating his dedication. Mr. Walter shared that the first home basketball game will be the 19th of December, which is the last school day before Christmas break. January 5th will be half day of Professional Development with the focus on KESA's standards alignment and half work day; students will return on the 6th of January.

Items of Business
Jessica Mills - Neighborhood Revitalization Plan - Jessica presented an updated City of Colony Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. It was moved by Mr. Nathan Beckmon and seconded by Mr. Kevin Nilges to approve the City of Colony Neighborhood Revitalization Plan - Residential, Commercial and Industrial as presented. Vote: 6-0

Crest FFA - Washington D.C. Presentation - At 7:20pm, five Crest FFA students entered the meeting to share a presentation on National FFA Washington Leadership Conference Washington D.C. - July 7-10, 2026, pursuing funding from the district to assist in making the trip possible. This conference is a premier leadership experience designed for FFA members to develop their skills while exploring the history of the nation's capital. No action taken.

Insurance Policy Renewal Discussion - Mr. Walter discussed options for insurance premiums. Current district property insurance will be renewed in February. No action taken.

KESA - Mr. Walter discussed goals for KESA (Kansas Education Systems Accreditation) with the focus on standard alignment with district opportunities in the 2025-2026 spring semester for professional development and professional collaboration goals. It was moved by Mrs. Jamie Henderson and seconded by Mr. Nathan Beckmon to approve the action plan as presented. Vote: 6-0

KSHSAA Baseball / Softball Cooperative Agreement - Mr. Hermreck discussed progress for implementing cooperative agreement with SCC baseball / softball programs. No action taken.

2026-2027 Calendar Discussion - Mr. Walter shared the 2026-2027 district calendar with input about Back to School Open House date. No action taken.

Facility Improvements - Mr. Walter updated the board on the improvements that are being completed for the school facilities. Mr. Walter shared a Three Rivers League teams signage rendering for main gym.

Mr. Walter shared seating ideas for the new concessions area.

Mr. Walter shared a sample of benches and updated player chairs for gym.

Mr. Walter shared some options for seeding grass area.

No action taken on any of the items presented.

Personnel - Executive Session - It was moved by Mr. Travis Church and seconded by Mr. Kevin Nilges to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing district staffing. The reason for the session was the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA. The meeting was to resume in the board room at 8:38 p.m. Mr. Walter, Mr. Hermreck were invited to attend. Vote: 6-0

Adjournment - It was moved by Mr. Lance Ramsey and seconded by Mr. Kevin Nilges to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Vote: 6-0

ANDERSON COUNTY JAIL ROSTER (as of December 9, 2025)
William Christopher Lee Vandenberg was booked into jail on July 25, 2024.

Porfirio De La Cruz - Cantu was booked into jail on October 10, 2024.

Shi Leilani Kinney was booked into jail on August 29, 2025.

Trenton Rudy Parker was booked into jail on October 14, 2025.

Arial Joy Parker was booked into jail on November 6, 2025.

Maras Montgomery McSwane was booked into jail on November 22, 2025.

Lacy Jean Michael was booked into jail on November 24, 2025.

ANDERSON COUNTY JAIL FARM-INS (as of September 3, 2025)
Jesse John King was booked into jail on March 25, 2025.

Trevor Floyd Summers was booked into jail on September 2, 2025.

K-State fashion studies experts give their tips for staying warm this season

MANHATTAN, Kan. - No one wants to be stuck outside in cold temperatures without the proper attire. Kelsie Doty, an assistant professor of fashion studies in Kansas State University's College of Health and Human Sciences, says there are some important factors that go into staying warm when working or playing outside.

"We often recommend that people layer for the cold weather, rainy weather and wet season," Doty said. "A different fiber might be appropriate for each layer."

Doty says there are two main textile families: synthetic and natural. Synthetic textiles are made from such petroleum fabrics as polyester and nylon.

"Natural fibers are things like cotton, linen and wool," Doty said. "They come from plants or animals."

Natural fibers are divided between plant fibers and animal fibers. Those two categories make a huge difference when it comes to the time of year to wear them.

"Plant type fibers like cotton, linen or hemp are good for hot weather," Doty said. "Animal fibers, like wool, mohair or even silk can be really good for colder weather."

Deciding which layers to wear could make the difference between a warm or cold outing. "I think strategic layering is just as important as the fiber choice because you don't want to work against that fiber choice by leaving out an air gap."

Doty recommends a dense exterior layer like nylon or denim, or materials in which the yarns are tightly packed so the air or water cannot get in.

GAS...

FROM PAGE 1

year. That's combined with seasonally softer demand since fewer long road trips are taken in winter months. There's also a continuing adequate gasoline supply nationwide even amid the pulse of increased holiday travel.

While international energy markets and crude production patterns can shift quickly, the current landscape offers some relief

for holiday travel budgets.

AAA's fuel price reports suggest that prices may stay relatively low into early 2026 barring major supply disruptions or sudden shifts in crude oil costs. For now, drivers across Kansas and the Midwest can treat the lower prices as a welcome "Christmas gift" at the pump — one that makes holiday travel and year-end errands a bit lighter on the wallet.

LOWRY...

FROM PAGE 4

international police power" when Latin American countries were failing).

Since the 1990s, though, we've let down our guard. China is now Latin America's second-largest trading partner after the United States, and has expanded its influence in the region on all fronts. Russia has relationships with Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba, and has increased its covert operations in Mexico. Hezbollah has a notable presence in Latin America.

Trump's focus on countering these malign actors could be seen in his successful effort earlier this year to get Panama to pull out of China's Belt and Road Initiative, and is evident now in his pressure campaign against a Maduro regime in Venezuela that is aligned with China, Russia and Iran.

Trump's actions often feel new and different, but here, his strategic departure is returning to a traditional American approach to our side of the Atlantic.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Colony Christian Church - "Love Came Down"

To celebrate this season of the First Noel, Lexy Langworthy led worship with that song followed by "King of Kings," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "O Come All Ye Faithful."

Bruce Symes talked about the life of a shepherd and what that first Noel meant for them. A shepherd had the job of leading the sheep beside still waters and through pastures of tender grass and keeping watch over them at night. They were terrified when an angel stood before them until they realized

the angel brought good tidings of great joy, a baby wrapped in swaddling cloth and lying in a manger.

Pastor Chase Riebel's message "Love Came Down" was from John 15:13. Love is a long term commitment and an action. There is no greater love than to lay down your life for others. Jesus laid down His life knowing full well the people He was dying for were full of sin. Jesus' death was a bittersweet gift to us. Christina Rosetti wrote a poem called "Love Came Down at Christmas."

PRICE...

FROM PAGE 1

ing gasoline, are a major component of headline inflation measures like the Consumer Price Index (CPI). When gas falls, it directly lowers the energy portion of the inflation calculation and indirectly eases price pressures on consumer goods that depend on transportation. Researchers have found that a reduction in gas prices tends to lower inflation expectations among consumers — meaning people may expect slower price growth overall when fuel costs retreat. sciencedirect.com

Historical data show that earlier drops in gasoline prices have helped temper inflation readings even as other parts of the economy faced persistent cost pressures. For example, a previous inflation report found that falling gas prices contributed to an unexpected decline in the CPI during a period of price volatility. investopedia.com

Limits and Trade-Offs
Economists caution that lower gasoline prices are not a magic bullet for all price pressures. Many consumer costs — such as housing, healthcare and food — are less directly tied to gasoline and may contin-

ue to rise independently. In addition, lower gas prices alone do not guarantee that retailers will reduce prices; some businesses may instead choose to hold prices steady to rebuild margins squeezed by other cost increases.

Another consideration is that cheaper fuel doesn't offset all economic headwinds. Recent retail sales data have shown that consumer spending can be uneven across sectors, with broader affordability concerns still shaping spending behavior. apnews.com Energy forecasters expect gasoline prices to remain relatively low into early 2026, based on current crude oil outlooks and typical winter demand patterns, suggesting continued relief at the pump for many drivers.

If prices stay low, the combined effects — improved consumer budgets, reduced shipping costs and eased inflation pressures — could help temper economic headwinds and support modest growth. But experts stress that fuel prices are just one piece of a complex macroeconomic landscape, influenced by wider energy market forces, supply chain dynamics and policy decisions.

POMPEO...

FROM PAGE 4

The task for U.S. policymakers is not to predict the exact moment when the regime collapses, but to shape the environment so that when it does fall, the outcome is stability rather than chaos. This requires an approach rooted in realism and willing to dispense with the failed diplomatic formulas of the past.

The latter trait has characterized President Trump's Iran policies in both his first and second administrations. He now has the opportunity to round out his historic accomplishments in the Middle East with a truly transformational achievement and help hasten the demise of the Iranian regime.

The benefits of such a shift would be incalculable. Terrorists would lose their primary sponsor; America's adversaries would lose a key outpost in the Middle East; incredible economic opportunities in the maritime and energy sectors would develop; and a highly educated, globally connected Iranian population could emerge as a

natural economic and political partner for the United States.

No outside force can or should affect regime change inside Iran — that is a job for the Iranian people. But we can help them by ramping up the pressure externally, and by supporting the Iranian people seeking a peaceful, democratic, pro-Western future in their desire for change.

Our task is simple: stand with the Iranian people, recognize the democratic vision they have chosen, and deny the ruling clerics the money, legitimacy and impunity they rely on for survival.

When the day of change arrives — and it will — the U.S. should put itself in the best possible position to reap the benefits and enter into a new era of friendship with the Iranian people.

Former Kansas 4th District Congressman Mike Pompeo serves as a contributor at FOX News Channel, where this article was first published. He previously served in the Trump administration as the sixth director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the 70th U.S. secretary of state.

Kilet wins Senior Center pitch

In spite of the wind, 13 pitch players assembled to play 10 games of 13-point pitch. The top winner for the evening was Mike Kilet who won eight of 10 games. Don Smith won the 50/50 and Karen Register won the least number of games. Jan Wards had the most perfect hands of 13 points with five.

We also had our white elephant gift exchange which proved to be entertaining. One in the group ended up with 3 rubber

duckies, another received a John Deere plate that hadn't been seen for 3 years and another received a "NO" button. It was a fun time for all of us.

Come join us on Thursday evening promptly at 6 o'clock at the Senior Center for 10 games of 13-point pitch. Each player is to bring a snack for the group to share. Always room for one more.

Jan Wards reporting

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CALENDAR

Thursday, December 25, 2025
Christmas Day
Friday, December 26, 2025
 8:45 a.m. - AM Yoga
Monday, December 29, 2025
 8:45 a.m. - AM Yoga
 9:00 a.m. - Anderson County Commission Meeting
 5:30 p.m. - TOPS Meeting
 6:00 p.m. - Hot Yoga with Jenelle
 6:00 p.m. - Celebrate Recovery
Tuesday, December 30, 2025
 12:00 p.m. - Rotary International Club Meeting
 5:30 p.m. - PM Yoga
 6:00 p.m. - BPW Meeting
 6:30 p.m. - American Legion Bingo (cancelled)
 7:00 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous
Wednesday, December 31, 2025
New Year's Eve (may effect schedule)
 8:45 a.m. - AM Yoga
 10:30 a.m. - "Noon" Year's Eve hosted by Garnett Library
 1:00 p.m. - Duplicate Bridge
 6:30 p.m. - Awana
Thursday, January 1, 2026
New Year's Day
 10:00 a.m. - Senior Center Brunch
Friday, January 2, 2026
 8:45 a.m. - AM Yoga
Monday, January 5, 2026
 8:45 a.m. - AM Yoga
 9:00 a.m. - Anderson County Commission Meeting
 9:30 a.m. - American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
 5:30 p.m. - TOPS Meeting
 6:00 p.m. - Hot Yoga with Jenelle
 6:00 p.m. - Celebrate Recovery
Tuesday, January 6, 2026
 10:00 a.m. - Storytime hosted by Garnett Public Library
 12:00 p.m. - Rotary International Club Meeting
 5:30 p.m. - PM Yoga
 5:30 p.m. - Garnett Community Foundation Meeting
 6:30 p.m. - American Legion Bingo
 7:00 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous
 7:00 p.m. - Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
 8:45 a.m. - AM Yoga

The Yutzy School hosts Christmas program



GARNETT — As students gathered around the manger scene, the familiar melody of "Silent Night" filled the sanctuary. At the students' invitation, the audience joined in singing as the Nativity reenactment reached its conclusion. It was a simple, reverent moment—shared, sincere, and unpolished—that captured the heart of The Yutzy School's Second Annual Christmas Program.

More than 120 families and community members gathered Thursday evening, December 18, at the Garnett Church of the Nazarene for a program that wove together scripture, music, drama, and student creativity. What unfolded was not just a performance, but a thoughtful retelling of the Christmas story shaped by humility, joy, and genuine effort.

Students from across grade levels took part, presenting choral music, poetry readings, dramatic scenes, video presentations, and visual art displays. Together, the program explored the message of Christ's birth and the enduring themes of hope, redemption, and light through the voices and



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 12-25-25 / SUBMITTED

The Yutzy School hosted their 2nd annual Christmas program Dec. 18. Pictured in top photo are: Front row, from left: Stanley Yoder, Reuben Miller, Holly Yoder, River Gable, Serena Keim, Maciah Yutzy. Back row, from left: Andrea Keim, Tristan Miller, Dawson Miller, Micah Yutzy, Stetcyn Brown, Gloria Yutzy, Payton Brown. Directing the music (bottom right corner) Mrs. Gessica Tastove. Above photo, from left are: Left to right: Tristan Miller, Dawson Miller, Micah Yutzy, Gloria Yutzy and Payton Brown.

work of children and teens. Two original student plays formed the centerpiece of the evening. Middle and Upper School students presented The Christmas Carolers' Catastrophe, an original Yutzy School mini-play that brought humor and warmth to the program. Through playful dialogue and exaggerated characters, the students explored the frustrations of imperfect caroling before arriving at a simple truth: Christmas joy is found not in flawless performance, but in giving from the heart.

The Lower School followed with The Greatest

Story, a Nativity reenactment written specifically for the program. Told through narration, pantomime, and scripture, the play offered a gentle and reverent retelling of Luke 2, inviting the audience to see the Christmas story through the wonder and imagination of children.

SEE PROGRAM ON PAGE 14

"Noon" Year's Eve party at Garnett Public Library

Too young, too old, too tired to stay up until midnight? Join us at the Garnett Public Library at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31st, as we count down to NOON!

There will be stories, pictures, dancing, crafts,

bingo, refreshments and of course a count down! This is a family friendly event and geared toward youth, but all ages are welcome to attend. Questions? Give the library a call at 785-448-3388.

ACC fall 2025 honors lists announced

IOLA, Allen Community College announced its Fall 2025 academic honors, recognizing students named to the President's Honor Roll, Dean's Honor Roll, and Academic Honors list.

President's Honor Roll (4.0 GPA)
 Lily Marie Keith, Garnett
 Blaine Allen King, Colony
 Darian Alyse LeBlanc, Garnett
 Ava Sinclair Mills, Garnett
 McKenna Marie Powell, Iola

Levi James Prasko, Colony

Dean's Honor Roll (3.50 - 3.99 GPA)
 Lonna Abigail Ayers, Kincaid

Isaac Burton, Colony
 Ryan Patrick Golden, Colony

Kaitlyn Marie Mersman, Garnett

Academic Honors (3.0 - 3.49 GPA)
 Ashley N Miller, Kincaid
 Clayton Eugene Scott, Colony

Camryn James Wilson, Garnett

Tush honored for 25 years with KDOT

Benjamin Tush of Garnett was one of five Kansas Department of Transportation employees to be honored for 25 years service as of January 2026.

Tush is an estimation analyst with the department.

Twenty other employ-

ees were award for service terms of 10, 15 and 20 years according to a KDOT press release.

"KDOT is proud to acknowledge them for the long-term dedication they have provided to the state of Kansas," the statement said.

Merry Christmas to you and the best of New Years!



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Review publisher Dane Hicks presents Shawn Tompkins with the \$1,000 prize in the 2025 Great Christmas Giveaway, plus two unclaimed \$50 weekly prizes.

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2025 WINTER SPORTS

ACHS boys smaller than usual, but look to offset that with defense & shooting

BY KEVIN GAINES THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW
GARNETT - The Anderson County Bulldog boys basketball team enters the new season with familiar leadership, a retooled roster, and a longer schedule than in years past.

Now in his seventh season at the helm, Dan Ray returns as head coach of the Anderson County Bulldogs, guiding a squad that blends experienced seniors with emerging contributors.

The Bulldogs will be tasked with replacing a major piece from last year's lineup following the graduation of Noah Porter, an All-Pioneer League first-team selection and Class 3A All-State honorable mention. Porter led the team with averages of 23 points and 10 rebounds per game, production that will be difficult to duplicate.

Also departing due to graduation are seniors Eli Martin, Jack Dykes, and Camryn Wilson.

Returning to anchor the Bulldogs is senior Brayden Wheat, a second-team All-Pioneer selection last season who averaged approximately 16 points per game. Wheat will be joined offensively by fellow senior Brylan Sommer, who con-



2025 Anderson County High School Boys Basketball. Front row, from left: Dixon Brooks, Chance Witherspoon, Jase Spencer, Kale Schafer, Kallen Willard, Dalton Godwin, Camden Bettinger, Jack Miller, Colton Myers. Second row, from left: Coach Jake Smith, Dagon Velvick, Gus Carver, Kemper Hollon,

Ethan Hoffman, Aiden Perez, Landry Hedrick, Conner Slyter, Dylan Hoffman, Christopher Barnett, Braden Gillespie, Kai Goetz, Beau Howey, Coach Dan Ray. Back row, from left: Aleck Smith, Christian Barnett, Brylan Sommer, Aidan Steele, Brayden Wheat, John Stoltzfus, Coach Ricky Rios.

tributed about eight points per game a year ago.

Projected starters alongside Wheat and Sommer include Aidan Steele, Christian Barrett, and Dylan Hoffman, with Beau

Howey expected to be the first player off the bench.

Ray said the Bulldogs' strengths this season will be their shooting and defensive effort, though he noted the roster is smaller than

teams he has fielded in recent years.

"Our goal is just to get better every week and be peaking by the end of the year," Ray said.

This season also brings a

notable scheduling change, as Kansas high school teams move to a 23-game regular season for the first time after competing under a 20-game schedule for many years. Ray said

the expanded slate will test depth and consistency but also provide additional opportunities for growth as the season progresses.

Lady Bulldogs look to build as young roster gains experience

BY KEVIN GAINES THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW
GARNETT - The Anderson County High School girls basketball team heads into the 2025-26 season with a young roster, valuable varsity experience, and an emphasis on growth as the Lady Bulldogs prepare for another competitive year in the Pioneer League.

The program is led by coach Paige Ferguson. Ferguson is in her second season at Anderson County after previously coaching two years at Blue Valley High School.

Almost all of the players expected to contribute at the varsity level this winter saw meaningful varsity action a year ago, something the coaching staff believes will help accelerate development despite the team's youth. While the roster includes several underclassmen, the team also benefits from senior leadership that has helped set expectations in practice and games.

Competition in the Pioneer League is expected to be strong once again. Ferguson said the league consistently features several talented teams, but noted that depth across the conference makes every night a challenge.

Our goal this season is just to focus on the players making each other come together as a team to improve.



2025 Anderson County High School Girls Basketball. Front row, from left: Manager Paislyn Foltz, Coevin Velvick, Reagan Slyter, Allie Thompson, Lilly Beaudry, Koralyne Gaines, Alli Rockers, Baylee Barnes, Manager RaeLynn Morrison. Second row, from left: Coach Michaela Read, Coach Paige Ferguson, Maura Rockers, Sage Partida, Lilly Kent, Shelby O'Connor, Addy Sommer, Lyndsay Hughes, Maliah Brewer-Velvick, Ashlyn Honn, Manager Bree Schafer, Coach Laurel Ladewig. Third row, from left: Brooklyn Kellerman, Hope Hill, Addy Kueser, Brylie Kohlmeier, Lyndsie Carey, Emma Harvey, Rylee Hill.

THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 12-25-2025 / ROCKERS PHOTOGRAPHY

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AC boy grapplers are inexperienced but have lots of potential



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 12-25-2025 / ROCKERS PHOTOGRAPHY

2025 Anderson County High School Boys & Girls Wrestling. Front row, from left: Manager Sylvan Troyer, Manager Maggie Self, Sawyer Schaffer, Landon Totten, Westin Wright, Gunner Grosdidier, Braxton Barnes, Braxton Herr, Manager Hayden Wright, Manager Nora Thompson. Second row, from left: Braxton Williams, Cowen Wittman, Caiden Fisher, Roberto Cavallaro, Serenity Boothe, Ashlyn Nelson, Hailey Gregory, Shawn Barker, Brody Kohlmeier, Lucas Mills, Chase McClain. Back row, from left: Coach Keegan Barnes, Obree Barnes, Andrew Kiatoukaysy, Eli Herr, Zach Schaffer, Donovan Price, Owen Thompson, Adam Kiatoukaysy, Avery Coyer, Coach Jeremy McAdam, Coach Ryland Wright.

BY KEVIN GAINES THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT - The Anderson County Bulldogs enter the 2025 winter wrestling season with optimism, energy, and a growing sense of stability under longtime head coach Jeremy McAdam.

McAdam is in his 11th year leading the Bulldogs and his 21st year overall as a coach, having spent a decade coaching youth wrestling before arriving at Anderson County. He is joined this season by assis-

tant coach Keegan Barnes as the program continues to build toward long-term success.

Last season, the Bulldogs relied heavily on youth, fielding a roster that included eight freshmen and just two juniors. That experience is beginning to pay off. This year's team features 22 wrestlers, with 13 freshmen and sophomores making up the core of the lineup.

"We finally have a full room," McAdam said.

"Four seniors chose to join the room, and we have almost all weight classes full. This is very helpful in dual competitions."

Seniors Zach Schaffer and Owen Thompson provide leadership and experience for a young squad, while freshmen Braxton Barnes and Westin Wright are among the emerging wrestlers expected to make an immediate impact this winter.

Despite once again being

in a rebuilding phase due to a large freshman class, McAdam is encouraged by the team's progress and mindset.

"With a new group of freshmen, we are again in a building year, but they are doing great," he said. "The main goals for this year are to get the young guys to step up and set the pace for the next few years."

Early results have already shown promise, as contributions are coming

from across the lineup.

"All the boys are key players," McAdam said. "They have all been contributing to early wins this year already."

As the season unfolds, the Bulldogs may be young, but confidence within the program continues to grow.

"We are young, but the

future is bright," McAdam said. "They just keep impressing me."

With a full roster, developing talent, and experienced leadership, Anderson County wrestling looks poised to lay the foundation for success in the years ahead.

ACHS lady grapplers have a new coach, looking to build culture

BY KEVIN GAINES THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT - The Anderson County Bulldogs women's wrestling program enters the new season with a small but motivated roster, a first-year head coach, and a clear focus on growth both on the mat and beyond it.

Head coach Jolie Ziegler, in her first season coaching at the high school level, is embracing the opportunity to help shape the Bulldogs' developing program.

In her first year of coaching high school, Coach Ziegler said the goals off the mat are just as import-

ant as the success on it.

Ziegler defines this season's mission around building strong, respectful individuals who support one another in practice, competition and daily life.

"We want everyone to work hard every day, push their limits, and grow as athletes and teammates," she said. "Ultimately, our goal is to make it to state, but more importantly, to develop good character and a positive team culture throughout the journey."

The roster has just 5 athletes, 4 of them are upper-classmen.

Seniors Obree Barnes and Avery Coyer will be

joined by juniors Serenity Boothe and Ashlyn Nelson as well as freshman Hailey Gregory.

Despite being a freshman, Gregory has quickly made her presence felt in the wrestling room.

"Hailey has made impressive strides," Ziegler said. "She's eager to prove herself and consistently shows up with a strong work ethic. She's committed to her own growth and is a supportive teammate who motivates everyone around her."

The Bulldogs' competitive mindset is one of their biggest strengths. According to Ziegler, this

group does not like to lose, a trait that fuels effort and intensity. The challenge will be translating that drive into confidence during matches.

Something that the team will need to focus on as the season progresses is their confidence level.

"At times we lack the confidence needed to secure a win," Ziegler said.

As the Bulldogs take the mat this season, success will be measured not only by wins, but by growth, resilience, and the foundation being laid for the future of Anderson County women's wrestling.

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Crest boys seek state birth

BY KEVIN GAINES THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

COLONY - Coming off one of the more successful seasons in the past 15 years, the Crest Lancers boys basketball team enters the winter with experience and high expectations under fifth-year head coach Dakotah Sporing.

Crest finished last season 16-5 overall, earning an opening-round postseason bye and rolling to an undefeated league championship. The Lancers' season came to an end against a strong Little River team that went on to qualify for the state tournament. This result has fueled motivation heading into this year.

"We've set high expectations," Sporing said. "We want to repeat as league champions, but our bigger goal is to make the state tournament. Winning our preseason and mid-season tournaments is also on our list."

Despite the loss of three seniors from last year's roster — Gentry McGhee, Denton Ramsey and Jacob Zimmerman, Crest returns a solid core of contributors who helped power last season's success.

Leading the group is

sophomore point guard Kole Walter, who earned first-team all-league honors and honorable mention all-state recognition last season. Walter's ability to control the tempo and make plays will be central to the Lancers' offense.

Senior Levi Prasko also returns after an all-league season in which he narrowly missed setting the school's single-season shooting percentage record. Prasko is a reliable perimeter shooter and one of Crest's top on-ball defenders.

Junior Lane Yocham adds another scoring threat from the outside. Coming off the bench last season, Yocham set the school's single-season three-point percentage record, shooting 42 percent from beyond the arc.

Senior Henry White is



2025 Crest High School Boys Basketball: Front row, from left: Koiy Miller, Kole Walter, Ty Coberly, Ethan Flyingman, Xander Fuller, Will Disbrow. Back row, from left: Bentley Hammond, Ben DeTar, Daylan Nicholas, Levi Prasko, Henry White, Tristan Boone, Lane Yocham, Max Disbrow.

expected to step into a more prominent role this winter. An extremely athletic player, White brings energy, defensive pressure, and the ability to create turnovers.

Several underclassmen have stepped up faster than expected, according to Sporing. Koiy Miller and Xander Fuller have both earned increased playing

time and shown the ability to stretch the floor while also attacking defenders off the dribble. Sporing said both players have played within the flow of the game and are poised to become consistent scorers as the season progresses. Will Disbrow also joins the varsity mix, adding depth.

The Lancers expect to

face challenges with size throughout the season, as nearly every opponent will have a height advantage. Crest plans to counter that with effort, pace, and strong perimeter play.

"We're going to be a small team all season long," Sporing said. "But we can stretch the floor and we have multiple kids who can

put the ball on the floor and get to the rim."

Competition will be strong again this year, with Southeast Cherokee and Pleasanton expected to be among Crest's toughest tests. Pleasanton, in particular, returns its major stat leaders and features athleticism and length.

Crest Lancers girls basketball eyes return trip to state

BY KEVIN GAINES THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

COLONY - After a historic postseason run a year ago, the Crest Lancers girls basketball enter the new season with confidence, experience, and unfinished business.

After over 15 seasons of finishing with a losing record, Crest has now had back-to-back 15+ victory seasons.

Last year's team became just the second team in program history to qualify for the state tournament, finishing 15-8 overall and navigating a tough substate path that included victories over Sedan, Olpe and Flint Hills. The Lancers' season ultimately came to a close with a quarterfinal loss to eventual state runner-up Little River at the state tournament.

Head coach Steve Zimmerman, entering his third season at the helm with a 40-26 career record, returns three starters from that state-qualifying squad and several key contributors. Leading the way is All-Three Rivers League second-team selection

Aylee Beckmon, a senior who averaged 8 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists and 3 steals per game last season. Her all-around play and defensive pressure continue to set the tone for the Lancers.

Joining Beckmon in the senior class is forward Kinley Edgerton, who provides a strong interior presence after averaging 7 points and 8 rebounds per game, along with 1.5 blocked shots. On the perimeter, junior Jaycee Schmidt returns after contributing 5 points, 3 rebounds and nearly 1 1/2 steals per contest.

Another familiar face back in the rotation is sophomore Summer Valentine, a returning letterwinner who added 2 points and 4 rebounds per game a season ago.

Crest will be tasked with replacing its top two scorers from last season, Karlee Boots and Cursten Allen, both of whom graduated. While that production leaves a gap, Zimmerman believes the returning core — combined with improved depth and experience



2025 Crest High School Girls Basketball - Front row, from left: Harlowe Rush, Remington Womelsdorf, Braylee Edgerton, Sunny Brewer, Jaycee Schmidt, Danielle Burnett. Back row, from left: Summer Valentine, Kinley Edgerton, Aylee Beckmon, Allison Weatherman, Josie Walter, Kaelin Nilges, Gracyn Ellington.

gained from last year's postseason run — positions the Lancers well.

With a proven defensive identity, veteran leadership, and the confidence

that comes from having already broken through to state, the Lancers open the

season focused on building toward another memorable season.

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Viking boys look to build off last year's late season success

BY KEVIN GAINES THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

RICHMOND - The Central Heights boys basketball team enters the 2025 season looking to build on late-season momentum and establish itself as a contender in the Three Rivers League under veteran head coach Rusty Cannady.

Cannady is entering his 30th year in coaching and his second stint as head coach at Central Heights. He previously led the Vikings from 2009 to 2014 and spent several seasons as an assistant coach under long-time Viking coach Buddy Welch. Before returning to Central Heights, Cannady also served eight years as an assistant at Ottawa University under Andy Carrier.

The Vikings finished last season with a 4-17 record but showed signs of progress down the stretch, winning three of their final seven games following an 1-13 start. That late push has carried into the off-season and preseason practices.

Central Heights will be tested early this winter with a demanding non-league schedule. Games against Anderson County, Osawatomie, Iola and Olathe Heritage — all larger classification schools — are expected to challenge the Vikings and prepare them for league play and postseason competition.

Despite a young roster, the team's goals are ambitious. Central Heights is aiming to compete near the top of the Three Rivers League this season.

Experience remains a concern, as only one senior returns with significant varsity minutes. Still, Cannady believes the team's attitude and approach will help close that gap. He described the Vikings' biggest strength as their positivity, adding that the team will emphasize discipline, a fast pace and patience on both ends of the floor.

Several returning let-terms will be counted on to provide leadership and production, including seniors Max Chrisjohn,



2025 Central Heights High School Boys Basketball. Front row, from left: Brooks Hamilton, Aydan Dunbar, Ethan Kraft, Chase Bones, Gabriel Carmack-Roberts, Alex Lickeig, Knox Cannady, Mathew Dunbar. Second row, from left: Blake Bones, Payton Miller, Kreig Garrett, Aidan Howland, Max Chrisjohn, Landon Lickeig, Colt King. Third row, from left: Sawyer Thackeray, Graham Higbie, Hal Higbie, Hans Higbie, Tate Smith, Kaiden Reeder. Not Pictured - Roarke Brock.

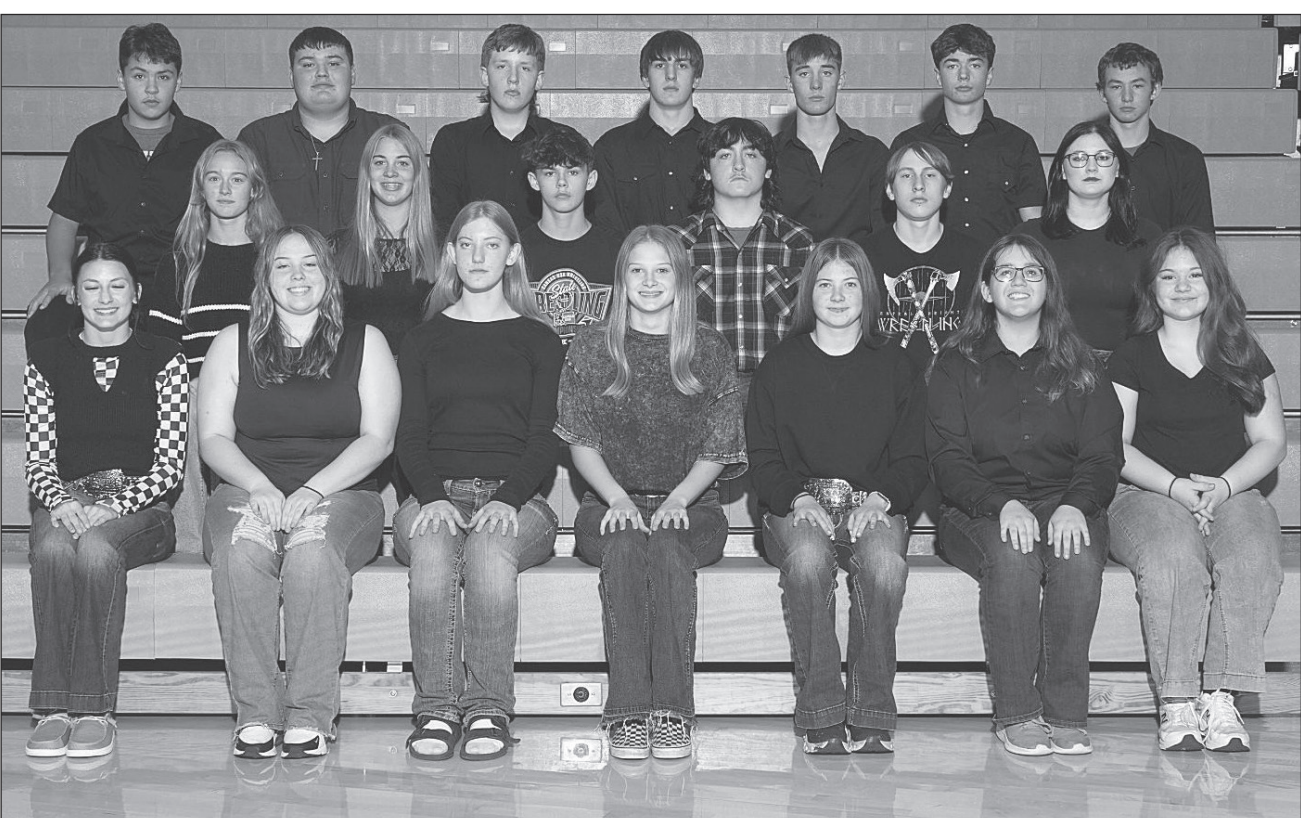
Aydan Dunbar and Aidan Howland. Juniors Colt King, Landon Lickeig, Ethan Kraft, Chase Bones and Payton Miller also return, along with sophomore Knox Cannady.

The Vikings will need to replace key graduates Brody Roulette and Landon Lopez.

One of the wildcards on the roster this season is the return of senior

Kreig Garrett, who had not played basketball in recent years. Garrett is an all-state baseball player for Central Heights and brings athleticism, outside shooting and a scorer's mentality that

Cannady said the team has been missing. He has made rapid progress in a short time and is expected to play an increasing role as the season continues.



2025 Central Heights Boys & Girls Wrestling. Front row, from left: Landry Sparks, Cayleigh Latimer, Alyssa Reed, Charley Roehl, Kaylor Matile, Autumn Frasier, Ava Jones. Second row, from left: Ebony Hughes, Caitlynn Detwiler, Hayden Jamescupp, Willis Miller, Jayden Kennamer, Julie Platt. Third row, from left: Attikus Rodriguez, Cooper Tush, Chase Mercer, Gage Peine, Caleb Detwiler, Royce Ulrich, Josiah Meyer.

BY KEVIN GAINES THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

RICHMOND - The Central Heights Vikings wrestling program enters the 2025 season with a solid core of state-level competitors on both the boys and girls sides, giving the team leadership beyond its years despite having no seniors on the roster.

On the girl's side, Landry Sparks at 100 pounds, Ebony Hughes at 110 and Julie Platt at 155 lead the way.

For the boys, Royce Ulrich at 144 pounds and Gage Peine at 165 return after solid seasons a year ago.

With an 18-member roster, the Vikings are young but far from inexperienced. Coaches Jeff Meyer, Jeff

Moore and Margo Hughes have emphasized fundamentals, technique and conditioning.

Coach Meyer said, "Fans can expect a hardworking, competitive squad representing Central Heights with pride and toughness."

Central Heights opens its schedule with three meets before Christmas break.

The Vikings will compete at Anderson County on December 13 in a varsity boys meet, followed by a junior varsity boys meet at Wellsville on December 17. The final pre-break competition comes December 20 at Chase County, featuring varsity and junior varsity matches for both boys and girls.

Vikings girls look to blend experience, youth

BY KEVIN GAINES THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

RICHMOND - The Central Heights Vikings girls basketball team enters the winter season with a mix of experienced seniors, developing underclassmen, and a renewed focus under second-year head coach Adam Horstick.

Central Heights finished last season 10-12 overall, going 4-5 in league play and placing seventh in the league.

"We'll start three seniors, but overall we're still a young team," Horstick said in his season outlook. "Our sophomores are going to have to step up, along with a couple of freshmen, as they adjust to the speed of the high school game."

Leadership will come from a senior-heavy backcourt led by Marcy Cubit, a returning starter who earned All-League honorable mention honors last season while averaging 7 points, 3 rebounds, and 2.5 assists per game. Fellow seniors Arabella Dunbar and Ashley Haskins add experience and stability as both Cubit and Dunbar were starters last season. Sophomores Lily Burkdoll and Carly Matile are expected to take on expanded roles this season as they are projected starters.

Central Heights also welcomes several newcomers who could see varsity minutes early, including freshmen Kenna Kimball, Makenzie Moon, and Lillea Clayton, as the Vikings continue to build depth for the future.

There are a trio of players the Vikings will miss from last year as Addy Ouellette, Melany Chrisjohn and Sydney Evans all graduated.

The Vikings will be tested early and often with a busy schedule that includes matchups against Anderson County, Oswego, Crest, Erie, and Northern Heights and a preseason tournament at home. Horstick noted that Jayhawk Linn figures to be one of the top teams in the Three Rivers League this season.

While wins and losses remain important, the primary goal for Central Heights this winter is continued growth.



2025 Central Heights Girls Basketball. Front row, from left: Ashley Harkins, Macy Cubit, Aracely Crump, Arabella Dunbar. Second row, from left: MaKenzie Moon, Aubrey Watkins, Josie Buckley. Third row, from left: Carly Matile, Lily Burkdoll, Hannah Matile. Not Pictured - Kenna Kimball, Ella Stinson, Mya Jument.

this team grow," Coach Horstick stated.

As the Vikings tip off the new campaign, fans can expect a team still finding its identity — but one determined to develop, compete, and lay the foundation for long-term success.

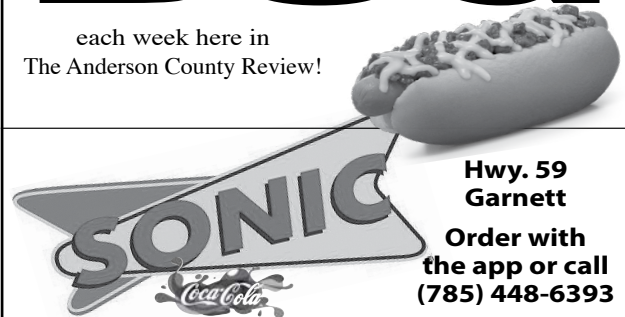
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THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 12-25-25 / SUBMITTED

SCHUSTER...

FROM PAGE 1

He was born in 1947 - Garnett High School Class of 1965 - and grew up in a local oil industry family. His grandfather, father and uncles ran a "shooting outfit" - a company that specialized in blasting the shallow shoestring oil sands 450-800 feet under Anderson County for local oil wells in order to loosen the formations and let crude oil flow more easily for extraction. It's a near forgotten era in the history of the energy industry, with nitro long abandoned in favor of directed shape charges used in modern oil fields. But that family legacy - the photos, the stories, some of the equipment - is Schuster's responsibility now.

A few years ago he donated the company's final major heirloom - a 1950 Ford one-ton "shooting truck" - to the Kansas Oil Museum in El Dorado. The donation came with much hassle from the Kansas ATF, he said. The family's oil industry history remains preserved however in scores of photographs from those days in his shop, which doubles as a family museum of its own.

From the time he was in elementary school he was a fixture in his family's shop, making speed boats and welding hot rod hood scoops on the fenders of his bicycles. When he was about 10 his dad gave him the job of making "shot jars" - casings to hold dynamite to be lowered into a well and detonated to set off the nitroglycerine charge below it. "He paid me something - I don't remember how much, probably not much," Schuster said. But the responsibility and the disciplined mechanics of the job stuck with him. He'd later

attend welding school at Pittsburg State College (now PSU) while working in the local oil fields during summers and weekends.

"I got out and I got a (welding) job, and I hated it," he said. "I just couldn't take to it. So, I quit and went back to the oil field." It was from there that he eventually hired on to United Telephone Company 13 years later servicing telephones. He retired 38 years later in 2011.

He and his wife Peggy now live in the house once owned by his grandparents. Land stretching the lot far to the south made lots of room for the shop, and the shop made room for a large family gathering venue and for a studio of the mind where Schuster's creativity went from his daydreams into metal. Such was the case with the little figurines that channel a confluence of James Dean and The California Raisins.

"I call them Jive Asses," Schuster said of the cigar-smoking gremlins made from engine rocker arms and valves from an old Oldsmobile and shaped into poses. "They just look like they're going to jump up and do something ornery."

The Jive Asses carry a Schuster trademark. He wanted a certain crazed look to the marble eyes when the interior was illuminated with an electric light, so he figured out a way to heat marbles in a piece of angle iron and drop them into a bucket of ice water at the precise temperature. The inside of the marble fractures but doesn't break through the surface, keeping them intact and diffusing the light to imbue just the right amount of "jive."

Nearby is a wind vane with a metal cutout of a Cushman motor scooter on its rear fletching - a gift made for a



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 12-25-2025 / DANE HICKS Schuster's "Jive Asses" stand guard over the workbench in his backyard shop.

friend who was a Cushman fan but who since passed away. Schuster explains the laborious process of learning to balance the creation on a ball bearing pivot sunk in the main shaft in order to provide almost no drag - so sensitive the assembly can be moved with little more air movement than a cough.

"I made a jillion of those damn things and gave them away. I should have sold them I guess," he concedes.

Behind us on the floor sits a V-8 Lincoln engine destined for his 1938 Ford truck. On the work bench sit carburetors for his prized '37 Chevy Business Coupe, which is also due for a steering overhaul.

There's no estimating the time invested in the projects or in stockpiling the family artifacts and photos. But then

again Schuster says without other hobbies he never had much in the way of other distractions for his free time.

"I've never been a sports anything," he said. "This is my football, my baseball, my basketball - I've been this way since I was in grade school."

The donation to the El Dorado museum brought some celebrity however, and some requests for his time as a speaker at various collegiate and industry gatherings where students and professionals sit ensconced in Schuster's historical retellings. There's a Youtube video of one his interviews with more than 2,000 views. He enjoys it, he says, but it cuts into his shop time.

Afterall, there's a lot left to do.

Public Notice
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Current statewide Public Notice archive available at www.kansaspublicnotices.com

Notice of hearing to close Greeley Elementary School

(First published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, December 11, 2025.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to K.S.A. 72-1431, of a public hearing to be held on the 8th day of January, 2026, at 7:15 p.m. board offices at Ray Meyer Gym regarding the Unified School District No. 365, Anderson County, Kansas proposal to close Greeley Elementary School for the following reasons:

in the form of operational costs, utilities, maintenance and facility repairs
*Consolidate resources to improve efficiency in program delivery for USD 365 students

Students attending Greeley Elementary School will be reassigned to Garnett Elementary School.

A representative of the board of education will present the proposal to close Greeley Elementary School and the board will hear testimony as to the advisability of the proposed closing.

- Consistent Low School Enrollment
-Reduce operational costs for USD 365

dc1113

Notice of public hearing on application for a variance

(Published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, December 25, 2025.)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE

Notice is hereby given that an application has been filed with the City of Garnett Board of Zoning Appeals for a variance described as follows:

A public hearing before the City of Garnett Board of Zoning Appeals will be held regarding said application for a Variance:

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
City Commissioner's Room
131 West 5th Avenue,
Garnett, Kansas, 66032

Case #:V 25-04

Applicant: Robert Brooks
Purpose of Variance: Variance on Accessory Building

at which time written and oral comments will be considered by the City of Garnett Board of Zoning Appeals Information regarding said application may be reviewed prior to the meeting at the office of the City of Garnett Planning Director, 131 W. 5th Ave., Garnett Ks., 66032

Legal Discription: E.S. NICHOLLS SUBDIV GARNETT, S29, T20, R20, BEG SW COR LT 11,TH N260', E187.5', S120', W70', S140W TO POB

dc2511

2025...

FROM PAGE 1

billion bushel, up 12% from 2024 with an average of 186 bushel per acre production, nearly 7 bushels per acre more than 2024 and a record high yield forecast at a national level. National planted acreage was some 90 million acres, up 8% from 2024.

A mid-August DTN ag information company digital yield tour projected Kansas average corn yields around 138.7 bushel per acre for 2025. That estimate was well above the risk management agency's five year Kansas average of just over 111 bushel, suggesting significantly above average yields for Kansas relative to recent years. Local anecdotal reports also described some farmers enjoying high yields this fall.

Unfortunately, farmers saw no windfall from the bumper production. With prices around harvest time of \$4.20 to \$4.50 per bushel crop income often did not cover full production costs for many farmers.

Rain, safety and roads
What did come with the soaking rains was extensive damage to county roads, sometimes from fast falling rain gravel washouts,

sometimes from saturated washboard and chughole fields that did a number on vehicles. Swollen creeks also claimed a number of vehicles who's drivers made the bad bet of crossing them, including a stranded county sheriff's deputy working a rescue call for a similar traffic incident. Luckily no one in those incidents were seriously hurt.

RICHMOND - Road issues spawned by complaints over the condition of county roads in the post heavy rain weeks and months were a constant topic at county Commission meetings, as officials lamented the continuing high cost to purchase and maintain road equipment, trouble keeping experienced road department personnel and the increasing cost of materials.

All in this together
National issues also provided A poignant backdrop for a number of local news topics as President Trump pursued an aggressive economic and law enforcement agenda that had consequences and benefits locally. The previous years inflationary spike and resulting economic troubles revealed an impact on local property owners, with August's annual delinquent property tax report up 20% and delinquencies

from 2024. Also complicating the local finance picture particularly for more than 400 families receiving food assistance benefits was the threat of suspension of that federal money by the Trump administration after Governor Laura Kelly refused to provide research data on the Kansas SNAP program as part of the Trump Administration's push to root out fraud and abuse of government assistance programs. That effort became a national firestorm when it was revealed that Medicaid and other assistance programs had been widely abused in the State of Minnesota. As the year closed in Kansas, work requirements had been implemented for those receiving SNAP, with the threat of suspension of those benefits still underway with Kelly's refusal to provide data to be inspected.

Government money
Other major headlines involving government funding leaped from the region with revelations that the CEO of the Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center received board approval for more than \$600,000 in compensation in 2023. That information aggravated county commissioners who each participated with public subsidies from their

own jurisdictions, and most of them opted to defund the organization for 2026. Before that bad taste had faded, another revelation from the nonprofit's 2024 taxes showed executive pay got another huge bump, this time driving CEO Nathan Fawson's compensation close to \$900,000 for the year with similar proportionate increases for other executives. While no malfeasance was alleged or uncovered, the story echoed concerns about navigating Medicaid regulations and waste, fraud and abuse of government funds made a focus of Trump's incoming administration.

Crime & punishment
In a story broadly ignored by the rest of Kansas media amid Trump's high profile crackdown on illegal immigrant criminals, prosecutors in Anderson County pursued attempted rape and assault charges against an illegal Mexican national, Porfirio DeLa Cruz-Cantu, in connection with an incident on the Prairie Spirit Trail near Scipio late last year. Cantu eventually escaped the attempted rape charge in a no-contest plea deal and was sentenced to 41 months in a Kansas prison for other related felonies.

PROGRAM...

FROM PAGE 9

Music throughout the evening helped unite both reverence and celebration. Students sang familiar hymns and carols, including "Go Tell It on the Mountain," "How Great Our Joy," and "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen." During the Nativity presentation, the invitation for the audience to join in singing "Silent Night" transformed the reenactment into a shared moment of reflection and worship.

Behind the scenes, the program was guided by Yutzy School faculty who supported and shaped the students' work. Miss Shaina Esh, teacher at The Yutzy School, served as emcee,

directed both dramatic presentations, coordinated costumes, and authored The Greatest Story. Mrs. Gessica Tastove, the school's music teacher and choir director, led all musical instruction, with accompaniment by Megan Wright. Mrs. Maria Casto assisted with rehearsals and logistics throughout the preparation process.

Those who arrived early were treated to student-produced music videos created by students in The Yutzy School's Video Production class, highlighting moments from the first semester. Artwork from the school's drawing class was also displayed, adding a visual dimension to the evening's celebration.

At the conclusion of the program, Dr. Ric Mitchell,

Head of School, offered brief remarks, expressing pride in the students and gratitude for the school community.

"The Christmas story is about a perfect Savior," Mitchell said, "and about ordinary, imperfect people who keep trying. That's a story we can all relate to. Tonight, I hope you were touched by our students' effort, their sincerity, and most of all by the love that Jesus Christ has for all of us."

Following the program, families and guests gathered in the gymnasium for refreshments and fellowship. The reception was coordinated by Faye Yutzy, Sheila Brown, and Julie Keim, along with parent and community volunteers.

The event was hosted by the Garnett Church of the Nazarene, whose continued support has made gatherings like the Christmas program possible. The school also expressed appreciation for the ongoing partnership of Daniel Yutzy and The Yutzy Foundation, which supports student programs and opportunities throughout the year.

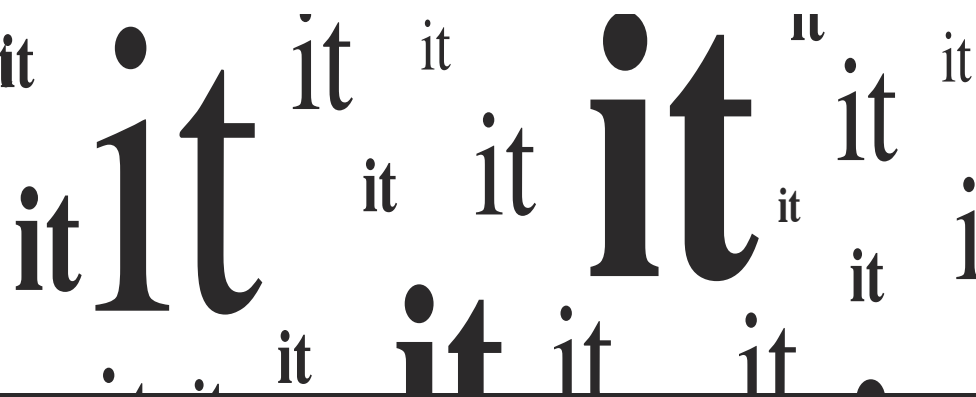
Now in its second year, The Yutzy School Christmas Program is becoming a meaningful tradition—one that reflects the school's commitment to Christ-centered education, creativity, and the belief that growth often comes not through perfection, but through effort, humility, and shared joy.

The Anderson County Review is the official newspaper of record for Anderson County, The City of Garnett, USD 365, and the other incorporated cities in Anderson County. Notices published here meet all required statutory legal parameters.

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Happiness is... Christmas napkins and candles at Josephine's, 421 South Oak. dc24t1

Happiness is... Kay and I celebrating our 68th wedding anniversary on December 26, 2025. Happy Anniversary Kay, "I Love You." Henry dc25t1

Happiness is...Teacher recommended screen - free Melissa and Doug toys at Josephine's on the square. dc24t1

Happiness is... Puzzles, games and last minute gifts for everyone at Josephine's, 421 South Oak. (785) 448-3038. dc24t1

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A special thank you for all the flowers, cards & expressions of sympathy in the loss of my son - n-law, Troy Miller, and my sister, Roxie Watkins Sperry. Also, to Reuben & his Feuerborn Family Funeral Home staff for being there for us during this sad time and for all who took the time to come to Troy's services. All is greatly appreciated.

-Kay Katzer & the family of Troy Miller

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East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging is seeking a **Medicare/Medicaid Program Coordinator**. This position will coordinate and oversee the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) program and the Administrative Case Management (ACM) program for the agency.

The Medicare/Medicaid Program Coordinator helps people understand Medicare enrollment rules and enrollment, how Medicare works with employer or retiree insurance, and Medicare plan options through the SHICK program. The position helps Medicaid beneficiaries deemed eligible for waived programs maintain Medicaid waived services by helping review applications, verifying information, and helping with renewal documents.

Job is in Ottawa, KS. Position is full-time, M-F, 8-4:30pm. No nights, weekends or holidays. Paid sick, vacation, holiday and retirement benefits. Competitive hourly rate based on qualifications and experience.

For more details or to send resume with references, contact Leslea Rockers, leslear@eckaaa.org, or send to agency at 117 S Main Street, Ottawa, KS 66067.

HELP WANTED

East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging

East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging is seeking a **Caregiver Coordinator**. This position will coordinate and assist caregivers needing access to agency and community services to help in their caregiving role. The Caregiver Coordinator is responsible for assisting caregivers in determining eligibility for services, creating caregiver programs, acting as an advocate for caregivers needing information on community resources and supporting caregivers in their caregiving role.

Core qualifications include experience working with caregivers, older adults and community service agencies. High school diploma or some college, bachelor degree preferred. Must have valid KS driver's license and pass a background check.

Job is in Ottawa, KS. Position can be full or part-time, M-F. No nights, weekends or holidays. Paid sick, vacation, holiday and retirement benefits. Competitive hourly rate based on qualifications and experience.

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East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging is seeking a **Medicare/Medicaid Program Coordinator**. This position will coordinate and oversee the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) program and the Administrative Case Management (ACM) program for the agency.

The Medicare/Medicaid Program Coordinator helps people understand Medicare enrollment rules and enrollment, how Medicare works with employer or retiree insurance, and Medicare plan options through the SHICK program. The position helps Medicaid beneficiaries deemed eligible for waived programs maintain Medicaid waived services by helping review applications, verifying information, and helping with renewal documents.

Job is in Ottawa, KS. Position is full-time, M-F, 8-4:30pm. No nights, weekends or holidays. Paid sick, vacation, holiday and retirement benefits. Competitive hourly rate based on qualifications and experience.

For more details or to send resume with references, contact Leslea Rockers, leslear@eckaaa.org, or send to agency at 117 S Main Street, Ottawa, KS 66067.



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Our best wishes to you for your 2026