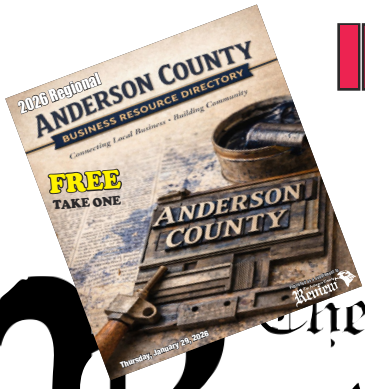
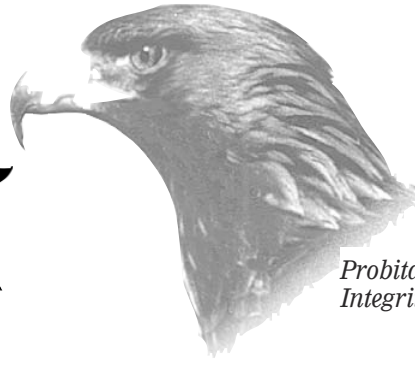


INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER:

Our 2026 Anderson County Area Business Resource Directory



The Anderson County Review



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Storm brings cold, snow, but pulls punch

Temps were frigid but damaging ice luckily skipped the local area

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT — The bitter cold that hit Anderson County and much of the Midwest since last weekend's winter storm was a blessing as winter onslaughts go, bringing snow cover but with temperatures far too cold to produce treacherous and more damaging ice.

A powerful winter storm that moved into Kansas late Friday delivered widespread snow, dangerous cold and biting winds across eastern Kansas, creating hazardous travel conditions and disrupting normal routines through the weekend. But weather watchers note the brutal cold that preceded the precipitation kept away the ice that proved so devastating in three separate storms in the early 2000s.

NBC News reported the storm affected 160 million and killed 21.

According to the National Weather Service and regional reports, much of eastern Kansas—including Anderson, Franklin, Coffey, Linn, Douglas, Osage, Shawnee and Miami counties—received roughly 4 to 8 inches of snow, with locally higher totals where narrow snow bands set up.

Garnett Airport Manager Pat Schettler said Garnett's official record was 4.25 inches. "Almost no moisture in the snow," Schettler said. "All fluff."

In parts of northeast Kansas, snow fell for more than a full day, and the light, powdery nature of the snow allowed it to drift easily in

open areas. Officials said blowing and drifting snow reduced visibility on rural roads and highways, particularly Friday night into Saturday.

While eastern Kansas avoided the worst icing seen farther south and east, patchy freezing drizzle and light glaze were reported in spots, adding to slick road condi-

tions.

Behind the storm, an arctic air mass plunged temperatures well below normal with daytime highs mostly in the single digits to upper teens. Overnight lows were near or below zero in some areas with wind chills frequently -10°F to -20°F

The National Weather Service

warned that these conditions significantly increase the risk of frostbite and hypothermia, especially for anyone stranded or spending extended time outdoors. The cold also created issues for homeowners and motorists, including frozen pipes, vehicle battery failures, and mechanical problems related to extreme cold.

Local schools took Monday off as county graders cleared rural roads, and some had delayed starts on Tuesday. KDOT, Anderson County and Garnett city crews road and street departments worked throughout the weekend, but many highways and rural roads remained snow-packed or icy, particularly on less-traveled routes. A raft of local businesses announced closings for Saturday, but local grocery stores and convenience stores remained open regular hours.

While widespread power outages were more common in other parts of the country, scattered outages were reported regionally due to wind and snow, most only for a few minutes.

Nothing like the old days

The storm was a far cry from more brutal ones that pummeled the local area in 2002, 2005 and 2007. A huge ice storm in 2002 smashed trees and power lines but rebounded immediately with temperatures in the 40s, leaving many in the region without power for days but with bearable temperatures. The January 4-5 storm in 2005 swabbed trees and powerlines with ½ to 2 inches of ice affecting 50 counties with many areas



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 1-29-2026 / DANE HICKS

Garnett city crews piled snow higher than vehicles to dispose of some 4.25 inches of fluff that fell during the single digit temperatures Friday/Saturday.

SEE STORM ON PAGE 7

Board suspends SEKMHC executive

Fawson put on leave while trustees decide "direction" for future

BY DANE HICKS THE KANSAS INFORMER

IOLA — The embattled head of the Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center based in Iola was suspended from his position on Monday by the organization's board of trustees, only days after testifying to a Kansas House Legislative Committee about operations and controversies surrounding his organization.



Fawson

SEKMHC board member Mike Blaufuss told the Kansas Informer Nathan Fawson had been suspended for 90 days with pay, while the board determined "which direction" it would take in the future.

A copy of a memo to SEK staff from the board of trustees and obtained by the Informer gave staff notice of Fawson's suspension, and told them Dr. Doug Wright, who currently serves as Chief Operating Officer, would serve as interim CEO. The letter, dated January 26, said the changes were effective immediately.

"The board is committed

SEE FAWSON ON PAGE 6

CodeRed system still working on comeback

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT — Anderson County's CodeRed alert system was busy autodialing its old friends last Friday, but Anderson County's Emergency Management Director says the emergency notification system under repair since a ransomware attack in November still isn't quite ready for primetime.

"There were some issues with that test we did on Friday so we are revisiting those," Sarah Burkhart said Tuesday. "We do still have access to IPAWS (International Public Address and Warning System) as a backup through the State of Kansas," she said.

IPAWS is a national communications network run by FEMA which is serviceable but prone to longer delays in getting messages out, Burkhart told county commissioners last month.

CodeRed was autodialing 8,000 numbers on its former contact list to confirm old phone numbers or to notify residents with phone changes they'd need to sign up again at the ACEM website.

"If they have changed phone

SEE SYSTEM ON PAGE 12

Toland won't rule out tax increase for Chiefs deal

BY DAVID HICKS THE SENTINEL

KANSAS CITY — Lt. Governor David Toland, who in his dual role as state Commerce Secretary was the architect of the STAR Bonds deal bringing the Chiefs to Kansas, refused to rule out a future tax increase as a result of the arrangement.

In an interview with Fox 4 in Kansas City, Toland said the deal answered questions about the Chiefs' future:

"The Chiefs are coming to

Kansas, and they're coming to Kansas with a stadium that will open in 2031", Toland flatly stated to reporter Malik Jackson.

After discussing the national notoriety for Kansas and the potential Super Bowls and Final Fours that would be awarded to the new domed stadium in Wyandotte County, Toland addressed concerns about costs associated with infrastructure



Toland

upgrades and public safety improvements, as well as potential tax increases to pay for them:

"What you've got to look at is both sides of the ledger," the lieutenant governor began.

"You've got costs and new revenues that come in, and what our studies show very clearly is that more revenues come with this project than costs. This is a net win — a net positive for Kansas."

When Jackson pressed on whether Kansans' concerns about potential tax increases from the stadium deal are valid, Toland stiff-armed:

"What I'm saying is that this is a net positive for Kansas."

"It is a massive win for our state economically to have the Chiefs," he said. "It's a massive win for our domestic and global image as a place to do business and as a place that's on the map."

SEE CHIEFS ON PAGE 7

Former ESU prof wins \$5 million in religious discrimination lawsuit

BY PATRICK RICHARDSON THE SENTINEL

EMPORIA — A former Emporia State University professor has won his religious discrimination lawsuit against the university.

A Lyon County jury earlier this week awarded Dr. Dusti Howell \$5,181,344.55 in compensatory and punitive damages, finding the university violated Howell's rights under the Kansas Preservation of Religious Freedom act and the Kansas Act Against Discrimination as well as Federal Title VII protections.

The jury said Emporia State and administrators Joan Brewer and Jim Persinger now owe Howell some \$2.1 million in compensatory damages — pay he would have been entitled to had he not been forced out — and \$3 million in punitive damages.

That figure will likely go higher when the judge awards attorney's fees and other punitive damages.

Lyon County radio station KOVE reports an appeal is likely.

The background

As The Sentinel previously reported, the jury verdict stems from a pair of lawsuits filed in 2022 and later consolidated, alleging that the university discriminated against Howell.

Dr. Dusti Howell, his wife Deanne, and his children are all members of a non-denominational church that also celebrates what in other contexts would be considered Jewish holidays.

Howell, who had been a professor in Instructional Design and Technology at Emporia State University for over two

decades — and tenured for 12 years — returned from celebrating the "Feast of Tabernacles" in 2020 to a "conference" with the now-former Dean of the Teacher's College, Joan Brewer, and now-retired interim IDT department chair Jim Persinger.

"I came back from a one-week church conference, which I've gone to since I was six years old and for 23 years at Emporia State — Feast of Tabernacles," Dusti Howell said. "They said 'you can't do that anymore, not without getting an 8-week, pre-approved notice from HR, and the dean and your chair.'"

"I asked if I could go to a tech conference," he said. "Oh, yeah, you don't even need to tell us, just go." But if you're gone for a church conference, gone for one

day for church. 'Yeah, you need eight weeks pre-approval. We'll let you know whether you can go or not.'"

The reason for this? According to Howell, he'd missed two classes — a Tuesday and a Thursday — during which students were to learn to use green-screen technology. However, Howell had already planned to have his graduate teaching assistant cover those days — something common at any university.

"She was probably the best graduate teaching assistant I've had there in 23 years," Howell said, noting that the TA was a former head of department at a university in India and was attending ESU while her daugh-

SEE SUIT ON PAGE 10

NEWS IN BRIEF

ANDERSON COUNTY COMMISSION JANUARY 19, 2026

Chairman Leslie McGhee called the meeting of the Anderson County Commission to order at 9:00 AM on January 19, 2025 at the Anderson County Commission Room. Attendance: Leslie McGhee, Present: Michael Blaufuss, Present: Anthony Mersman, Present: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Square Fair

Helen Norman, Garnett, met with the commission. She requested the use of the courthouse lawn for the 53rd annual square fair. The Commissioners approved for usage of the courthouse lawn and restrooms for the event on May 9th.

Economic Development

Jessica Mills, Economic Development Director, met with the commission. She brought the renewals for the neighborhood revitalization programs in the small cities. Commissioner Blaufuss moved and Commissioner Mersman seconded to approve resolution 2026-12 authorizing the extension by re-adoption by the governing body of the City of Garnett, Kansas, the Board of County Commissioners of Anderson County, Kansas and the Board of Education of USD #365 of that certain plan of the City of Garnett, Kansas to designate all land within said city as a neighborhood revitalization area; establishing a neighborhood fund by the City of Garnett, Anderson County, Kansas, and the Board of Education of USD #365 to extend existing inter-local agreement. All voted yes. Commissioner Blaufuss moved and Commissioner Mersman seconded to approve resolution 2026-13 authorizing the

extension by re-adoption by the governing body of the City of Greeley, Kansas, the Board of County Commissioners of Anderson County, Kansas and the Board of Education of USD #365 of that certain plan of the City of Greeley, Kansas to designate all land within said city as a neighborhood revitalization area; establishing a neighborhood fund by the City of Greeley, Anderson County, Kansas, and the Board of Education of USD #365 to extend existing inter-local agreement. All voted yes. Commissioner Blaufuss moved and Commissioner Mersman seconded to approve resolution 2026-14 authorizing the extension by re-adoption by the governing body of the City of Westphalia, Kansas, the Board of County Commissioners of Anderson County, Kansas and the Board of Education of USD #365 of that certain plan of the City of Westphalia, Kansas to designate all land within said city as a neighborhood revitalization area; establishing a neighborhood fund by the City of Westphalia, Anderson County, Kansas, and the Board of Education of USD #365 to extend existing inter-local agreement. All voted yes. Commissioner Blaufuss moved and Commissioner Mersman seconded to approved resolution 2026-15 authorizing the extension by re-adoption by the governing body of the City of Kincaid, Kansas, the Board of County Commissioners of Anderson County, Kansas and the Board of Education of USD #365 of that certain plan of the City of Kincaid, Kansas to designate all land within said city as a neighborhood revitalization area; establishing a neighbor-

hood fund by the City of Kincaid, Anderson County, Kansas, and the Board of Education of USD #365; and authorizing the City of Kincaid, Kansas, Anderson County, Kansas, and USD #365 to extend existing inter-local agreement. All voted yes. Commissioner Blaufuss moved and Commissioner Mersman seconded to approve resolution 2026-16 authorizing the extension by re-adoption by the governing body of the City of Colony, Kansas, the Board of County Commissioners of Anderson County, Kansas and the Board of Education of USD #365 of that certain plan of the City of Colony, Kansas to designate all land within said city as a neighborhood revitalization area; establishing a neighborhood fund by the City of Colony, Anderson County, Kansas, and the Board of Education of USD #365 to extend existing inter-local agreement. All voted yes. Jessica gave an update on upcoming events and trainings she has scheduled.

County Clerk

Discussion was held on the Drug & Alcohol policy for the county. It will be updated to include more departments to the random drug testing and add a pre-employment drug and alcohol screen. The updated policy will be presented next week for approval.

County Counselor

James Campbell, County Counselor, discussed properties in Anderson County where the county has the mineral rights due to previous tax sales. He would like to sign the rights over to the property owners. The publications will be scheduled soon to begin the process.

Abatements and adds

Abatements B26-139 through B26-141 were approved as presented.

Adjourn

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

ANDERSON COUNTY LAND TRANSFERS

Jesse D Bettinger to Jesse D Bettinger and Meghan J Bakken: Lots 21 & 22 blk 17 City of Garnett.

B&B Farms to Shelley R Collette and Cory D Brown: The n/2 of the ne/4 of the ne/4 of the n/2 of the s/2 of the ne/4 of the ne/4 of the ne/4 of the ne/4 of the nw/4 of the ne/4 of the ne/4 of the nw/4 of the ne/4 of the ne/4, all in 16-22-21.

Ronald L Callahan, Debra K Callahan, Sandra S Finnicum and Douglas S Finnicum to Graham Pollock: TRACT 1: The ne/4 of 35-21-19; and the s/2 of 35-21-19, lying east of the railroad tracks and east of Welda, less the e/2 of the se/4 and 169 Highway and a tract of land along 169 Highway. Tract 2: lot 1 of Welda View Addition, a subdivision of the se/4 of 35-21-19. lot 2 of Welda View Addition, a subdivision of the se/4 of 35-21-19.

Davina Barnett and Dustin Barnett to Roy Theisen: Lot 11 & n2 lot 12 blk 56 City of Garnett.

Barbara B McMillan to Grant A Davidson: Lot 55 Hayden's Lakeview Estates Addition (revised 1977) to City of Garnett.

Lavern L Chupp and Elaine Fay Chupp to Lavern L Chupp and Elaine Fay Chupp: A tract of land in ne4 4-20-19 described as follows: Com at nwcor ne4 said section 4, thence south 0°09'33" east 300.32 feet to pob; being a 1/2" iron bar found; thence south 89°04'52" east 485.86 feet to 1/2" iron bar found; thence north 4°07'09" east 323.12 feet to 1/2" iron bar found, said pt being on north line of said ne4; thence along said north line 88°23'45" east 1455.96 feet to 1/2" iron bar found, set on westerly bank of Sac Creek; thence continuing along said north line, north

88°23'45" east 88.50 feet to center line of Sac Creek; thence along said center line along a curve to right having an arc length of 109.32 feet, a radius of 316.58 feet, being subtended by a chord of south 53°07'14" east 108.78 feet; thence continuing along said center line along a curve to left having an arch length of 133.27 feet, a radius of 458.74 feet, being subtended by a chord of south 54°56'38" east 132.80 feet; thence continuing along said center line south 65°04'03" east 77.33 feet; thence north 88°20'41" west 98.00 feet to 1/2" iron bar set on westerly bank of said Sac Creek; thence continuing north 88°20'41" west 649.31 feet to 1/2" iron pin set; thence south 2°27'16" west 1110.69 feet to 1/2" bar set; thence north 89°09'44" west 1517.38 feet to 1/2" iron bar set on west line of said ne4; thence along said west line north 0°09'33" west 882.09 feet to pob; & a tract of land in ne4 4-20-19 described as follows: Beg at nwcor ne4 said section 4, being a 1/2" iron bar found; thence along north line of said ne4 north 88°23'45" east 60.02 feet; thence south 0°09'33" east 302.85 feet; thence north 89°04'52" west 60.01 feet to west line of said ne4; thence along said west line north 0°09'33" west 300.21 feet to pob.

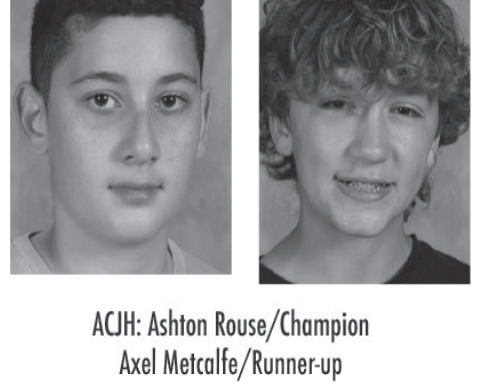
Loren J Sayers and Donna Sue Sayers to Todd L Rogers and Karin E Rogers: A tract of land located in the s/2 of the sw/4 of 14-22-20, further described as follows: Beginning at the se corner of the s/2 of the sw/4 of said section; thence n89°53'28" w on the south line of said sw/4 a distance of 908.71 feet; thence n01°12'17" e a distance of 422.52 feet; thence s89°49'43" e a distance of 200.00 feet; thence n00°35'41" e to the north line of the s/2 of said sw/4 a distance of 907.64 feet; thence

SOMETHING NEW COMING TO THE REVIEW
Review subscribers receiving our Thursday morning digital edition by email will notice a different look to next week's email notification. The new one-click access should be easier to operate and more secure than the old system. Just open the email and follow the prompts. Anyone purchasing a hard copy subscription is eligible for the early digital version at no extra cost, delivered worldwide with no delay on the morning of publication. Call if you have questions (785) 448-3121.

AMERICAN LEGION BINGO
Bingo at American Legion Post 48 Garnett will be held every Tuesday, starting time at 6:30 p.m.

SENIOR CENTER BINGO/ SOUP NIGHT 2/13
The Garnett Senior Center will host a Lucky Friday the 13th Bingo/Soup & Chili Night on February 13th. Meal will start at 5:30 p.m. Participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

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2026 Anderson County Spelling Bee



1:15 p.m. Friday, January 30, 2026 - ACJSHS Auditorium

Public Welcome

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Best of luck to all our contestants!

YOUNG

MARCH 3, 1950 — JANUARY 19, 2026

Ronald Glenn Young planned at this time, with a later date private family inurnment at Garnett Cemetery.

There are no services

BROWNBACK

DECEMBER 13, 1942 — JANUARY 24, 2026

Betty Jean Brownback, age 83, of Tonganoxie, Kansas, passed away on Saturday, January 24, 2026. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Blue Mound Bible

Church, Blue Mound, Kansas. Betty's family will greet friends an hour prior to the service at 10:00 A.M. at the church. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery, Mildred, Kansas.

Love Wins!

Speaking Truth by Clint Decker

CLAY CENTER— When a man picks up a gun in anger and then points it at his enemy and pulls the trigger – hate wins. When one abuses the levers of power to silence opponents – hate wins. When one spews vile insults at their foe – hate wins. Martin Luther King, Jr once said, "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) For three years Jesus went about manifesting the love of God through His teachings, signs and wonders. But hate raised its ugly face and sought to silence the voice of love and truth. Anger, violence and wickedness nailed Jesus to a tree and buried Him in a tomb. Then three days later, the love of God came bursting forth from that grave. Love won!

Today, the message of God's love and truth continues around the world. It is a love unlike any other. It is loyal, sacrifices, it is pure, exposes evil, disciplines and corrects, overcomes evil with good and is a love that forgives. The song, "The Love of God" says it best, "The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell; it goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell...O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure: the saints' and angels' song!

This love of God compels us to love others, to love as He loves, especially those who are the most difficult. For Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." (John 13:34)

He told them, "...it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand...from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." (Deuteronomy 7:8) He also taught them to love Him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might... and keep...his commandments always." (Duet 6:5, 11:1) And He taught them to love one another, "...you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord." (Leviticus 19:18) Then at the right time, He revealed His marvelous love to the world on Christmas Day, "For God so love the world, that he gave his only Son,

What is God's message to a world that is filled with violence and vulgarity? Stop! Do not let hate win. There is a better way. Quit returning evil for evil. The love of Jesus has shown us a different path. Turn from the darkness and toward heaven's light and love. See Jesus lifted high upon a cross. See how He rose from the dead for you. Call out for a touch of His grace and mercy. Do it this very hour, then watch His divine love be poured into your heart and be changed forever. Love wins!

A prayer for you – Lord God, let us behold your divine love. Show us afresh the wonderful cross. Then help us to love as you would have us to. In Jesus name. Amen.

GORDON

SEPTEMBER 15, 1969 — JANUARY 25, 2026

Angela Gordon, age 56, of Garnett, Kansas, passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2026.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, January 30, 2026 at Feuerborn Family Funeral Service. Burial will follow

in the Garnett Cemetery in Garnett, Kansas. Following the burial, friends and family are welcome to come and join us for a meal and visitation in Angie's memory at Janet and Gordon's home 26577 NE 1400 Rd, Garnett, Kansas, throughout the afternoon.

Colony Christian Church - The problem with sin

Brant and Danelle McGhee led worship accompanied by Isla, Petra and Mike Billings. The songs included "Lord I Need You," "In Christ Alone," "Shout to the Lord" and "You Are My King."

Bruce Symes used scripture from Romans 3 and 5 while talking about righteousness and the peace we have through faith. We draw closer to God through reading His word but also by being involved in a church where we have people to learn from and to lean on and to love.

Pastor Chase Riebel fol-

lowed last week's sermon on the purpose of men as Christians being to give glory to God, with a sermon this week on the problem of sin. Romans 8:13 says that if you live according to the flesh you will die but if by the Spirit you fight the deeds of the body you will live. Sin, disobedience to the word of God, and iniquity, rebellion against God's authority, both fall short of the standard God has set for us. Theologian John Piper taught eternal life is attained along the path of warfare not of making peace with our sin.

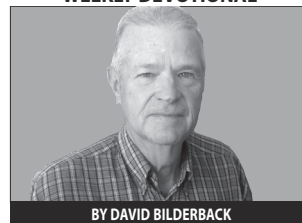
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Living before the face of God

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL



BY DAVID BILDERBACK

Most people don't realize we live our entire life before the face of God, that is God sees us as we are, the good and the bad. If you really think about that it should give you pause for thought. Honestly when I think about it I get embarrassed. I have taken the low road many times in my life and I can tell you it has not produced any fruit in my life. It took a long time but I have finally realized there is only one way and that is God's. See whether you know it or not God has a plan for your life. "A plan to prosper you not to harm you." (Jeremiah. 29:11) The more you cooperate with God the better the outcome. It is not necessary you even know the plan. God just needs your cooperation. Through the work of the Holy Spirit God will complete his plan if you cooperate. Most of us don't realize that our creator, that is God, is in control of our life from beginning to end. However he allows us a choice, either we follow him or go our own way, that is the low road. God did not create us to fail. Our choices determine our success or failure. If God sees our going out and our

laying down I believe it would benefit us to cooperate with him throughout the day. (Psalm 139:3)

God shows the Apostle John in Revelation 21 the new heaven and the new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. That is a very important text as is Revelation 21:5 where God says, "I am making everything new." For you and I, followers of Jesus Christ that means a new body. In 1 John 3:2 John tells us, "What we will be has not been made known. But we know that when he (Jesus) appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." We shall then be with God.

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

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Thank You!

The family of Bob Powls would like to thank everyone for their kindness at the time of Bob's death. Special thanks to Richmond Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center and Prairie Wind Hospice for taking such good care of Bob. Thanks also to Feuerborn Funeral Home for excellent service. All was very much appreciated.

- Wanda Powls and family

Gravestones speak support for ICE

The cost of Joe Biden's immigration disaster is written on the gravestones of those murdered or negligently killed by criminal illegals. Amid the filth, vulgarity and lies spewed by those obstructing the legal removal of these criminals in Minneapolis, certain words are never heard — the names of the victims and the families who lost them.

America has learned tragically and repeatedly that immigration policy is not an abstract debate; it has names, faces, and grieving families.

Over the past decade, the nation has witnessed a series of horrific murders committed by illegal aliens who should never have been in the country in the first place. Among the most widely known:

- Kate Steinle (San Francisco) — killed by an illegal alien who had been deported multiple times.
- Mollie Tibbetts (Iowa) — murdered by an illegal alien who had been living and working unlawfully.
- Laken Riley (Georgia) — a young nursing student allegedly killed by an illegal alien with prior encounters with law enforcement.
- Rachel Morin (Maryland) — a mother of five murdered on a hiking trail, with an illegal alien later charged.
- Sarah Root (Nebraska) — killed by an illegal alien driving drunk, who then fled the country.
- Jocelyn Nungaray (Texas) — 12 years old, killed by two Venezuelan suspect gang members who, when they were done with her, tossed her body under a bridge like garbage.

There's Melissa Powell and her 16 year old son Riordan from Colorado, killed in 2024 in a car crash caused by an illegal from Honduras; and Voictoria Harwell, a mom from Minnesota killed in 2024 by a drunk illegal Ecuadorian in north Minneapolis. Harjinder Singh, an Indian national in the U.S. illegally, swung his semi across multiple lanes of traffic on the Florida turnpike and killed Floridians

REVIEW COMMENTARY



DANE HICKS, REVIEW PUBLISHER

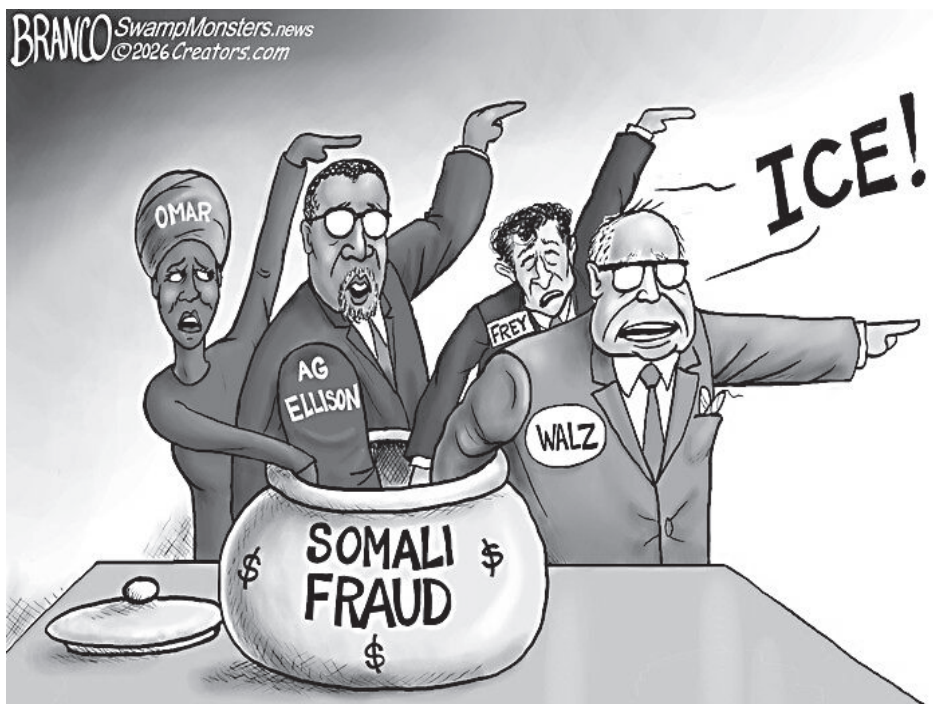
Herby Dunfresne, Rodrigue Dor and Faniloa Joseph when their van hit his trailer.

These are sons, daughters, sisters, and mothers and fathers. Their deaths represent the most brutal consequence of policies that refuse to enforce immigration law consistently and seriously. Those obstructing lawful efforts to confront the crime of illegal immigration in Minneapolis and elsewhere in blue states and sanctuary cities right now are perpetuating that brutality. Jimmy Kimmel doesn't cry for them.

Governor Tim Walz, Mayor Jacob Frey, and Rep. Ilhan Omar have aligned themselves rhetorically and politically with activist thugs who aren't just protesting but actively obstructing federal law enforcement. In recent weeks, mobs have interfered with ICE operations, blocked officers, and, according to federal officials, contributed to violent confrontations and serious injuries.

Mayor Frey has publicly told ICE to "get out" of Minneapolis, while state and federal Democrats have framed ICE itself — not the illegal activity those officers are confronting — as the real problem. The result is predictable: emboldened mobs, escalated confrontations, and a message to criminals that federal law will not be backed up by local leadership.

SEE **HICKS** ON PAGE 4



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.

In response to Corky Wilson of Greeley, under the letters to the editor, the 3rd of God's commandments to Moses is, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." The 4th Commandment being, "Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" Just like to make that correction. Thank you.

I don't mean to be angry, but these people that dump animals off hoping that they survive. And these people getting fined for feeding these stray animals? I have some strays where I live at.

I've yet to meet a Democrat whose diaper is a fool. What can I say? Ignorance is bliss.

The mayor of Minneapolis says they won't enforce federal immigration law. If it's a violation of the law then what is the GOP waiting for? Arrest him, Walz, Omar, and the lot.

I'm just not seeing it. This giant iron carport on the south side of the Garnett Rec Center right on Park Road? It's going to look like an industrial park. What do the neighbors that live in this area think? Where's the tourism person?

It's clear there are illegals in Minnesota or no one would be worried about ICE being there. Plain and simple.

It's a good thing that guy that threw the mystery liquid on Ilhan Omar didn't throw holy water. She would have burst into flames. Thank you.

Abortion pill: How many acceptable casualties?

When the phone rings at 2:00 a.m., the voice on the other end is rarely calm. As a former 911 dispatcher, I spent years trained to be the steady anchor in someone's darkest hour. But nothing in my emergency services career prepared me for the harrowing calls I field now on an abortion pill help line.

I speak every day with women and girls in moments of fear, pain, and confusion — often in the middle of the night, when no one else is willing to answer the phone. Over the past year, I have noticed a troubling pattern that should concern anyone who cares about women's health, parental responsibility, and basic medical ethics.

The number of calls from women related to chemical abortions is increasing, as is the confusion. Women ask whether the amount of blood they're losing is normal. They aren't sure if they took the pills correctly, or at the right time, or in the right dose. Many don't know how many weeks pregnant they are. They were told this would be simple, private, and empowering. In reality, it is often chaotic and isolating.

One call still haunts me. "Jenny" was 17 years old when she told the boy she'd known since she was 12 that she was pregnant. His response was blunt: get an abortion. When she told him she couldn't afford the pills, he suggested she drink rubbing alcohol. When she

NATIONAL COMMENTARY



LORIEN HERSHBERGER — SPEAK FOR THE UNBORN

refused, he blocked her number.

Jenny turned to her mother. Still a minor and financially dependent, she hoped for protection or guidance. Instead, she was told they couldn't afford a baby. Her mother ordered abortion drugs online.

By the time the drugs arrived, Jenny was 16 weeks pregnant. Four months pregnant and well past when it is considered "safe" to take abortion drugs.

She delivered a baby far more developed than she was told to expect. Two months later, Jenny called our helpline. She was still grappling with trauma, grief, and the realization that this was never truly her choice. Access did not give her autonomy. It gave her scars.

Stories like Jenny's are becoming more common as abortion activists, protected by so-called "shield laws" in blue states, mail high-risk abortion drugs

across state lines with virtually no oversight. During the pandemic, the FDA's long-standing safety protocols, or Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS), were rolled back, allowing the distribution of mifepristone without essential medical screenings. In 2023, abortion drugs accounted for 63 percent of all abortions.

These drugs don't just reach women who actively seek them. They end up in the hands of minors, coercive parents, and abusive partners — angry boyfriends or husbands who pressure, manipulate or even administer them without consent.

Last month, in the early hours of the morning, I received a call from a teenage boy who was in the middle of forcing abortion drugs into his girlfriend's vagina.

"Is two enough," he asked, "or do I need to put in another one?"

When I asked where he got the drugs, he said, "I don't know. One of the top two search results."

He couldn't find the website again. There were no clear instructions. No medical supervision. No accountability. This is what happens when policy turns every home into a makeshift abortion center and leaves women and girls to deal with the fallout alone.

SEE **PILL** ON PAGE 6

Walz, Frey complicit in obstruction in Minneapolis

If Minnesota officials don't like President Trump's threat to invoke the Insurrection Act, maybe they should do more to tamp down the insurrectionary activity in their state. After an ICE officer was violently attacked by two illegal immigrants while making an arrest and shot one assailant in the leg in self-defense, anti-ICE activists — predictably enough — rioted.

In response to the unprovoked attack on the officer, Mayor Jacob Frey blasted ICE. Imagine, he implored, if your city "was suddenly invaded by thousands of federal agents that do not hold the values that you hold dear."

Minnesota elected officials might want to consider whether portraying federal law-enforcement officers as an alien invading force is the best way to convince President Trump that he shouldn't resort to the Insurrection Act. They sound like Confederate officials complaining about, say, the 20th Maine Infantry showing up within the city limits of Richmond, Virginia, circa 1863. But they can't help themselves — this is how they think.

A state representative named Llish Kozlowski thought the new shooting provided more evidence that ICE officers "are not here for public safety or for fraud or for the well-being of anybody, but to hunt and harm us."

Prior to the latest incident, Gov. Tim Walz implored Trump to "end this occu-

NATIONAL COMMENTARY



RICH LOWRY, King Features Syndicate

pation." This mindset is why the elected leadership in the state has justified and encouraged a low-grade anti-ICE insurgency. It doesn't involve guns or bombs, but other tools of coercion and intimidation meant to make it impossible for the federal government to enforce the nation's immigration laws in the state.

ICE officers are operating among a hostile population, significant elements of which consider them an occupying force and are determined to expel them. This is "Free Palestine" for the anti-ICE crowd.

Apologists for the agitators say, as Ilhan Omar has maintained, that they are only recording ICE officers and holding them accountable. This is nonsense. The activists almost always have cameras, true, but they are obstructing ICE

vehicles, yelling at ICE officers and, if the opportunity arises, trying to "de-arrest" people.

The point of all of this is to create an atmosphere of violent intimidation and make every step ICE takes in the city as painful as possible.

If this is the work of "legal observers," as the euphemism has it, the Proud Boys at the Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville in 2017 were just "historic preservationists."

Jacob Frey says that the activists are protecting their city and looking out for their neighbors. In no other context, though, would the mayor make this claim.

If, say, the FBI arrests gangbangers in Minneapolis, it's not an assault on the Twin Cities — in fact, the opposite. As for neighbors, anyone arrested for any crime is someone's neighbor. Just because the guy stealing hub caps or dealing drugs lives in a neighborhood doesn't mean he gets legal immunity, or his neighbors get to try to prevent law enforcement from going after him.

Often, the "neighbors" that the activists are supposedly protecting, by the way, are other activists who have interfered with ICE and been detained.

In Trump's first term, "the resistance" was an over-the-top term that applied to

SEE **LOWRY** ON PAGE 6

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Finds include cigarette tin & hinges

Remember last week I told you that so many of the artifacts being found at this site are damaged. These two finds are no exception.

#1 - When I found this artifact, I almost threw it in the junk box. After I got it home I washed and cleaned it up, and I happened to notice the name 'Park Sherman Co.' on the bottom of it. You know me and research. It is the bottom half of a vintage aluminum cigarette case.

Park Sherman Co. was a mid 20th Century American manufacturing company known for producing distinctive desk accessories, novelty items and cigarette lighters and cases, made of brass and aluminum. Operating primarily in Springfield, Illinois from the 1930's to the 1960's.

#2 - Broken strap hing-

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es (barn door hinges) I've found several of these old hinges at this site.

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THAT WAS THEN



PAULA SCOTT - REVIEW HISTORY COLUMNIST

Historical gleanings from past local newspapers.

1876 - 150 years ago
February 4 - The ladies of the United Presbyterian church of Garnett will give a social entertainment in Stouch & Vreeland's hall the evening of February 14, 1876. Supper, music and a fine display of art. Admission is 10 cents. Come and see us.

1886 - 140 years ago
January 29 - There are four little orphan boys that came with the recent carload from New York who have not secured homes. Those desiring to secure one can be accommodated by applying to the local committee; to either J. A. Gilmore or N. J. Paxton.

January 29 - There was a social hop at the Irish settlement the other night, which is said to have been a most enjoyable affair.

1896 - 130 years ago
January 31 - L. O. Huber was arrested last Friday by Marshall Douthett for violation of a city ordinance by peddling without license and fined in police court \$3, and costs. He deposited money in the bank to cover the fine and costs and was granted ten days to decide whether he would appeal.

January 31 - The public schools observed Kansas Day with appropriate ceremonies. Kansas Day is a

favorite with the public schools.

1906 - 120 years ago
January 29 - Garnett has several drunkards that should be in the hands of the officers. They are diseased, they are hardly responsible for what they do, and they are more dangerous to society than half the patients at the asylum.

January 31 - The Triple Tie Lodge of this city gave an oyster supper at the Woodman Hall last night. Nearly one hundred persons were present, including members and their friends. Supreme President Woodford was present and made an address in the early part of the evening. A good time is reported by all.

1916 - 110 years ago
February 3 - A mass meeting of the farmers of Anderson County is called to meet in Garnett Saturday, February 12th, at 11 o'clock sharp at the Booster Club rooms, for the purpose of pushing the organization of a farm bureau and securing a county agent. All up-to-date farmers are urged to be present. Also, all commercial clubs and live bankers and other businessmen are requested to attend.

February 3 - Homer Murdock has just completed a motor bob, and it is "some" bob. It steers like an automobile, has sled runners instead of a front wheel, a weed chain furnishing power for the propulsion of the machine. It is a dandy pleasure vehicle these snowy days.

February 3 - Mr. C. H. Oman and Miss Woods have been discussing and planning an All-School-



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 01-29-2026 / ARCHIVE

Circa January 2006 - Bernice and Wayne French choose from a variety of vegetables and cheese to add to their chili at the Westphalia Soup Supper.

Week for Anderson County. A week when every rural school, every graded school, and every high school will have an opportunity to display its year's work as a school. Each school of the county has some special features of its own and we can thus get acquainted with each other, exchange ideas and have a week decidedly worthwhile for ourselves and the school interests of the county.

1926 - 100 years ago
February 4 - The fire department announces that an arrangement has been made whereby the siren at the waterworks station will sound at noon hour, and in the evening, at 9:30, it will sound again as a curfew, at which time, all children under sixteen

years of age must be off the streets.

1946 - 80 years ago
January 31 - Plans are complete for the American Legion's big wolf hunt in the Harris vicinity next Sunday, February 3, weather conditions permitting. The round-up starts at 10:30 a.m. near the center of the hunting territory, 1/2 mile south of the Shellhorn farm.

1966 - 60 years ago
February 3 - A benefit basketball game, proceeds from which will be used to help buy new basketball backboards at the Garnett High School gymnasium, will be played there Monday evening, under the sponsorship of Garnett's Jaycees.

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Longtime civic volunteer and former Garnett Community Development Director Susan Wettstein was sworn into office earlier this month as the city's newest city commissioner, replacing Mayor Mark Locke, who chose not to seek a second term. Above Wettstein, left, swears the oath of office, administered by city clerk Trish Brewer.

Parkview Heights honors LPN Aislynn Bellinger as 2026 Employee of the Year



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 01-29-2026 / SUBMITTED

Pictured from left: Aislynn Bellinger, LPN & Casey Karnes, Executive Director.



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 01-29-2026 / SUBMITTED

Pictured is the Garnett BPW group as they listened to a presentation about the Iola Pregnancy Center at their January meeting. The speakers shared information about the Center and programs that include Ultrasound, Jail Ministry, Bright Course and After Care. Their information was about future projects and the Pregnancy Resource Act and tax credit. Picture on the right is BPW President Helen Norman with Angela Johnson (left) and Thereisa Turner from the Pregnancy & Family Center.



LOWRY...

FROM PAGE 4

the fervent opposition to Trump, including massive street protests that were obnoxious, but lawful. In Minnesota today, "the resistance" is a more apt phrase.

That's why the Insurrection Act is in play. It is an antiquated law with a vague trigger, allowing the president to use active-duty military forces and federalized National Guard troops to quell "unlawful obstructions, combinations or assemblages."

If Trump goes there, it would be a big deal. It would be better, first, to try to provide more protection for ICE officers with other law-enforcement assets and, better still, if Minnesota could turn off the anti-ICE insurgency.

Jacob Frey famously told ICE to "get the f*** out of Minneapolis." Now, he should tell the agitators to get the f*** off the streets.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

FAWSON...

FROM PAGE 1

to ensuring that SEKMHC remains a stable and supportive environment for both our staff and the communities we serve," the memo read. "Dr. Wright has been a vital part of this organization, and his clinical expertise and familiarity with our operations make him the ideal leader to guide us through this transition."

Fawson testified before the Kansas House Health and Human Services Committee January 22, telling legislators cost-based reimbursements for mental health services through Medicaid brought about by a certification change allowed the agency to grow from just over a hundred staffers serving the 6-county area to more than 500 - predominantly funded by an expansion in Medicaid billing via that change in certification. SEK's IRS 990 tax form shows about 120 employees in 2011, which Fawson said grew exponentially as the center was able to offer higher salaries to providers and other staff as it expanded into a Certified Community Based Mental Health Center operational model offering additional services.

As part of that expansion SEK purchased Ashley Clinic in Chanute to move into primary medical care offerings, and later purchased Yates Center Dental to offer dental services in that community. Fawson, his executive team and SEK's board of trust-

GARNETT - Parkview Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is proud to announce LPN Aislynn Bellinger as its 2026 Employee of the Year, an honor selected by those who know the facility's caregivers best—its residents, their families, and fellow team members.

Since joining Parkview Heights in May 2024, Aislynn has distinguished herself as an exceptional nurse whose compassion, integrity, and dedication exemplify the very heart of caregiving. She is deeply loved by residents, trusted by families, and respected by coworkers for her professionalism, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to providing the highest level of care.

"Aislynn consistently goes above and beyond—not because she is asked, but because she genuinely cares," said facility leadership. "She leads with her heart and brings comfort, stability, and reassurance to everyone around her."

One powerful example of Aislynn's impact occurred when a resident experienced the sudden loss of his son. Recognizing the depth of his grief, Aislynn stayed well beyond her scheduled shift, refusing to leave him

alone until family arrived. Even after the resident returned home, she continued to make special trips to ensure his medications and treatments were properly maintained and that his needs were fully met.

"That is compassion. That is dedication," leadership shared. "That is the kind of care that cannot be taught."

Beyond her direct care of residents, Aislynn has had a profound impact on Parkview Heights' culture. She serves as a role model for teamwork, accountability, and empathy, fostering an environment of trust and collaboration. Staff members know they can rely on her for support, guidance, and encouragement, and her calm, steady presence elevates the standard of care throughout the facility.

Aislynn Bellinger represents the highest standards of Parkview Heights and Recover-Care Heartland. Her care leaves a lasting impression on residents, families, and colleagues alike, making her a truly deserving recipient of the 2026 Employee of the Year honor.

Free independent living services and supports for Kansans with disabilities provided by RCIL, Inc.

OSAGE CITY - The Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL) is committed to working with individuals, families, and communities to promote independent living and individual choice to persons with disabilities. RCIL's home office is located in Osage City and has satellite offices in Emporia, El Dorado, Iola, and Topeka. RCIL offers five core services for people who live in Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Butler, Chase, Coffey, Cowley, Elk, Greenwood, Linn, Lyon, Marion, Miami, Morris, Osage, and Shawnee counties.

Core Services include:

1. Advocacy

•Individual advocacy - assist people with disabilities develop the skills they need to represent themselves. These skills help them act on their own behalf to obtain support services from agencies in

the community.

•System advocacy - RCIL works at community, state and federal levels for policy changes that make facilities, services and opportunities accessible to people with disabilities.

2. Independent Living Skills Training

•Teaches the life skills that people use to live independently including budgeting, cooking, also, how to acquire and maintain housing, employment, transportation, medical equipment, healthcare, technology and more.

3. Peer Counseling

•Connects people with disabilities with other people who have disabilities and are living independently in the community. Together, they explore options and solve problems that sometimes occur for people with disabilities. For example, they may help each other adjust to newly acquired disability,

adapt to changes in living arrangements, or learn to use community services more effectively.

4. Transition Services

•Diversion and Transition from Facilities - individuals who live in a facility, or are at risk of entering one, have community options. RCIL helps them learn their choices and find the resources they need for the option they choose.

•Youth Transition - assist youth as they transition from high school to post-secondary life.

5. Information and Referral

•Call RCIL with your questions about available community resources. RCIL makes appropriate referrals to other community agencies to help individuals obtain services. RCIL's resource library provides valuable information on disability topics.

because they understand this is not safe.

We are told these drugs are compassionate and necessary. From where I sit, answering the phone in the dark, they look like a growing public health crisis - one that sacrifices women like Jenny and calls it progress. The calls abortion activists celebrate as victories are the same calls that follow me home at night.

The question we should be asking is simple: how many women and their babies are an acceptable casualty?

-Lorien Herschberger is an author, speaker and activist for Speak 4 The Unborn, an abortion alternatives organization based in Florida. see more at www.speakfortheunborn.com

PILL...

FROM PAGE 4

Major online distributors of abortion pills advertise "medical support" hotlines, but the details matter. The hours are limited. If something goes wrong late at night - when many of these crises occur - there is no one to help.

These same organizations promote themselves in glossy media articles celebrating abortion at home as progress. Yet even their own stories reveal women receiving unmarked drugs in brown paper bags without instructions. The industry either vastly overestimates the medical knowledge of its audience or knowingly exploits it. Either way, women pay the price. Some callers are actively

discouraged from seeking emergency care because of cost or inconvenience. Others are told to lie - to say they're having a miscarriage rather than admit they took the drugs. This isn't health care. It's damage control.

Women in rural and impoverished communities are especially vulnerable. Many lack reliable internet, transportation or nearby emergency rooms. As an emergency responder myself, I know that a phone assessment is only as good as the caller's ability to describe her symptoms, often while bleeding, panicked and alone.

Even Americans who support legal abortion recognize the danger here. A majority oppose mailing abortion drugs without an in-person doctor visit

ees drew fire from county commissioners in its service area of Anderson, Allen, Bourbon, Woodson, Neosho and Linn counties, due to what they viewed as exorbitantly high compensation for those upper managers after the Kansas Informer broke the story in March of last year. Based on a national consultant's recommendation, trustees approved salary and benefits for Fawson that topped \$800,000 in 2025, and for other execs that far outpaced any similar positions in Kansas. Revenues and salaries for SEKMHC were the highest of all 26 Kansas mental health center districts, and executive salaries put Fawson and his immediate reports in the fabled "1 percent" of earners in the country.

Though no malfeasance has been claimed involving funding at SEKMHC, legislators who attended the HHS hearing said publicity around massive Medicaid fraud allegation claims in Minnesota focused more attention on SEK's heavy Medicaid funding and compensation packages.

Leadership in most of the counties acted during last

summer's budgeting period to strip all local county funding from SEK, saying an organization that could pay those salaries didn't need money from local taxpayers. Those subsidies ranged from \$30,000 to more than \$100,000 per county.

Commissioners also acted to rescind appointments for one or in some cases both of their local appointees that make up SEK's board of trustees, replacing those members with new selections who in several cases were sitting county commissioners from the member counties.

Blaufuss said the board meeting vote that suspended Fawson happened Monday. He said the board of trustees was under no legal obligation to give a reason for Fawson's suspension and offered none. The Informer was unable to determine immediately what the vote among the newly seated trustees was for that decision.

The staff memo pledged a dedication to transparency and a commitment to provide further updates as more information was available.

Weddings, anniversaries, engagements, birth announcements, club minutes... Publish them FREE in the Review! review@garnett-ks.com

CALENDAR

Thursday, January 29, 2026
 5:30 p.m. - PM Yoga
 6:00 p.m. - 13 Point Pitch & Snacks at Senior Center
 6:00 p.m. - GACC Annual Awards Banquet
 7:00 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

Friday, January 30, 2026
 8:45 a.m. - AM Yoga

Monday, February 2, 2026
 8:45 a.m. - AM Yoga
 9:00 a.m. - Anderson County Commission Meeting
 4:00 p.m. - Greeley PTO
 5:30 p.m. - TOPS Meeting
 6:00 p.m. - Hot Yoga with Jenelle

6:00 p.m. - Celebrate Recovery
 6:00 p.m. - Garnett Lions Club
 7:30 p.m. - Kincaid Masonic Lodge No. 338

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
 10:00 a.m. - Storytime hosted by the Garnett Public Library
 12:00 p.m. - Rotary International Club Meeting
 5:30 p.m. - PM Yoga
 6:30 p.m. - American Legion Bingo
 7:00 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous
 7:00 p.m. - Garnett Senior Center Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
 8:45 a.m. - AM Yoga
 1:00 p.m. - Duplicate Bridge
 3:30 p.m. - Bricks & Books @ Garnett Public Library
 5:30 p.m. - Garnett Elementary Site Council Meeting
 6:00 p.m. - GES PTO Meeting
 6:00 p.m. - Parks & Rec. Advisory Board Meeting
 6:30 p.m. - Awana

Thursday, February 5, 2026
 5:30 p.m. - PM Yoga
 6:00 p.m. - 13 Point Pitch & Snacks at Senior Center
 6:30 p.m. - USD 365 Endowment Association Mtg
 7:00 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous
 7:00 p.m. - USD 365 BOE Mtg

Friday, February 23, 2026
 8:45 a.m. - AM Yoga



Patriots Bank recently made a pair of donations to area organizations. Pictured in the WINGS photo, from left: Kelsey Cooper, Terri Cooper, Scott Cooper, Michelle Hermreck, Cameron Cooper, and Carston Cooper.



Pictured in the Saint Boniface Catholic Church Parish Hall, from left: Terri Cooper, Scott Cooper, David McEvoy, Cameron Cooper, Kelsey Cooper, Katelyn Shane, and Carston Cooper.

Patriots Bank and our family are honored to donate \$10,000 to the WINGS Foundation in loving memory of my Papa, Jimmy Cooper! This contribution continues our tradition to support breast cancer awareness and the WINGS Foundation's mission to provide care, comfort, and critical resources to those affected throughout our communities. We cannot thank the WINGS organization enough for all that they do for our community and those in need! Jimmy's legacy is rooted in service, compassion, and

strengthening the people and places he loved in our communities. We are proud to carry that forward. In addition, we were also fortunate enough to donate a beautiful handmade grandfather clock (done by Ralph Rockers) to the Saint Boniface Catholic Church Parish Hall in Scipio, KS. If you haven't been by the new hall that Father Jerry worked extremely hard on, you definitely need to stop by and see it - it is truly remarkable for both the church and the community. We can't thank Father Jerry enough for his wonderful tenure and the legacy he leaves behind as he embarks on his retirement adventures! Lastly, we are very excited to have Father David McEvoy (pictured) join us to lead the church and its newest addition.

Parish Hall in Scipio, KS. If you haven't been by the new hall that Father Jerry worked extremely hard on, you definitely need to stop by and see it - it is truly remarkable for both the church and the community. We can't thank Father Jerry enough for his wonderful tenure and the legacy he leaves behind as he embarks on his retirement adventures! Lastly, we are very excited to have Father David McEvoy (pictured) join us to lead the church and its newest addition.

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Scott Cooper

HICKS...

FROM PAGE 4

ICE is enforcing laws passed by Congress — with votes from both parties. These are not rogue agents inventing policy. They are carrying out federal laws. When elected officials undermine that authority, they are not standing up for "justice." They are signaling that some laws no longer matter. That's not compassion. It's negligence.

Every time local or state leaders encourage resistance to immigration enforcement, they increase

the risk that another Kate Steinle, another Mollie Tibbetts, another Laken Riley will be added to the list. The mobs obstructing ICE today may claim some bizarre moral superiority, but the victims of illegal-alien crime pay the real price for their social justice warrior virtue.

There's nothing extreme about expecting immigration laws to be enforced. There's nothing radical about protecting Americans from preventable crime.

There's nothing extreme about expecting immigration laws to be enforced. There's nothing radical about protecting Americans from preventable crime. What is extreme is a dysfunctional political culture based on

hate for Donald Trump that treats border enforcement as optional and demonizes the officers tasked with carrying it out.

If leaders in Minnesota and elsewhere truly care about public safety, they should stop enabling obstruction, stop attacking law enforcement, and start standing with the victims whose lives were cut short by a system that refused to enforce its own laws. The cost of failure is already written in gravestones. ###

Walter tops Senior Center pitch

We had a good turnout for 13-point pitch in spite of the predicted cold weather.

Two new players, Ray Meyer and Lonnie Davis, joined us for a fun time. The top spot went to John Walter winning 8 of 10 games; Jackie Waddle won the 50/50; Karen Register had the most perfect hands

of 13 with three and Ray Meyer won the least number of games.

Come join us for a fun evening of 10 games of 13-point pitch. We gather at the Senior Center promptly at six o'clock and bring a snack for the group to share. Always room for one more.

Jan Wards reporting

CHIEFS...

FROM PAGE 1

And at a time when our country is divided, this is an example of Republicans and Democrats in Kansas coming together to do big things," Toland said. Toland indicated the state expects to gain site control very soon, potentially within days or weeks, and remains confident that the financial modeling and planning will continue to come together as the project moves forward.

FHSU releases fall 2025 Dean's Honor Roll

HAYS - Fort Hays State University has named 2,066 students to the Dean's Honor Roll for the fall 2025 semester.

Isaac Kubacka, Garnett, and Katherine Ludolph, Westphalia, were both honored.

The Dean's Honor Roll includes undergraduate students only. To be eligible, students must have completed 12 or more credit hours and earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.60 for the semester.

Chapter Y P.E.O. met 1/19

P.E.O. Chapter Y met January 19, 2026 at the home of hostess Becky Solander for a delicious soup supper. Jessica Klein served as co-hostess. Sixteen members were present.

Following the meal, the business meeting was conducted by President Alice Anderegg. After the meeting Rita Boydston led the group in a game of Founders

Bingo in celebration of the anniversary of PEO created in 1869. Members learned some details about PEO as bingo numbers were replaced with answers to fun facts.

The next P.E.O. meeting will be February 16, 2026 at the library. Dorothy Miller will serve as hostess and Angela McSpadden will be the co-hostess.

Garnett Public Library to host puzzle contest

Puzzle lovers looking for a friendly challenge can put their skills to the test later this month at the Garnett Public Library's upcoming Puzzle Contest.

The contest will take place on Sunday, Feb. 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the library and is open to anyone 15 years of age and older. Participants will compete in two-person teams, working to assemble identical 500-piece puzzles.

Teams will be judged primarily on how quickly they complete their puzzle. If a team is unable to finish within the allotted

time, judges will determine placement based on the number of remaining pieces and the size of completed connected sections. Prizes will be awarded to the first- and second-place teams.

The entry fee is \$8 per team, and advance registration is required. The registration deadline is Feb. 9. Teams may register in person at the Garnett Public Library or by emailing garnettlibrary@yahoo.com.

For additional information, interested participants can contact the library at 448-3388.

Put your business in every mailbox in the local market on March 5, 2026.



Think of it like the Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes, except you have a better chance of winning!

Each year the Review pulls out all the stops for our big blowout circulation drive of the year – and we mail this AMAZING offer to EVERY DELIVERABLE ADDRESS in the area as well as former subscribers everywhere with a special invitation to resubscribe.

And we sweeten the deal with **\$1,000** in cash prizes!

Your business can tag along in our entry mailing with a custom-printed ad flyer for only **\$350**, or two monthly payments of \$200.

Contact us today to find out how your business can take advantage of this once-a-year **total market coverage** event!

Reply ASAP!
Deadline:
February 17



review@garnett-ks.com
 (785) 448-3121



YOU SAW THIS.
 So did your customers.
 Call (785) 448-3121 to advertise.

Garnett Chamber of Commerce ANNUAL BANQUET



Thursday, January 29, 2026 • Garnett Knights Hall



Silent Auction • 50/50 Raffle • Singo to Close the Night!

This year's award nominations include: — Seating still available, members \$25, non-members \$30

Business of the Year:

- Garnett Flowers and Gifts
- 130 Collective
- Tom Adams Construction
- 3 Monkeys Bakery
- Countryside Vet Clinic
- Dutch Country Cafe
- Andy's Wrecker Service

Organization of the Year:

- Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival
- Garnett Rotary Club
- Garnett Ministerial Alliance
- Garnett Community Foundation
- Garnett Fire Dept
- Garnett BPW

George Clasen Memorial Service Award:

- Susan Wettstein
- Sandy Mills
- Holly Byerley
- Melanie Modlin
- Garnett Meals on Wheels



Silent Auction & 50/50 Raffle!

SINGO to
to Close the Night!

Music, Bingo & Fun!



These area business congratulate all the 2025 nominees and urge you to Shop Local First.

Congratulations to this year's nominees. We appreciate all your support.

CEDAR VALLEY
TIRE & AUTO SERVICE
formerly Wolken Tire
601 South Oak, Garnett • 785-448-3212

Best of luck to all the nominees.



101 N. Pine • Garnett, Ks. • (785) 448-2434

Awesome.

Congratulations to all our nominees and thanks for all you do in our community.



Garnett • Coleroy • Hopler • Orissa • Pomeroy • St. Paul • Walnut

Congratulations to this year's nominees. Thank you for your support and commitment to business in our community.



112 W. 6th • Garnett (785) 448-3121

CONGRATULATIONS!

To all the nominees for your dedication and attention to our community.



1-800-823-8609

In appreciation to all this year's nominees and our hopes for a prosperous 2026 for our community.



GUEST HOME ESTATES VII

Our compliments to the nominees and our grateful thanks for making a better community.

806 W. 4th, Garnett, KS 785-448-8884



Congratulations to all the nominees and thank you for your dedication.

Farmers State Bank

517 S. Oak Garnett, KS 66032 (785) 448-5451
Pleasanton www.fsbkansas.com Blue Mound (913) 352-6437 (913) 756-2221



Congratulations to all the Chamber nominees

Ethanol - Fueling A New Generation



East Kansas Agri-Energy

Fuel for the Future

Congratulations to all the nominees!

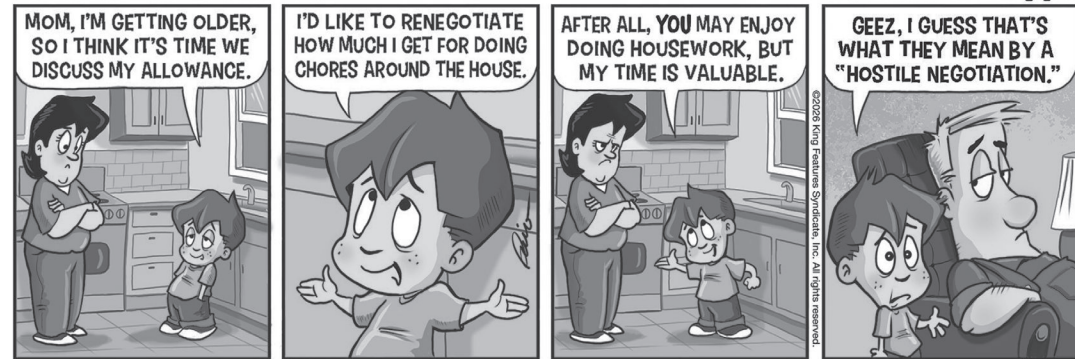


Courtney Tucker, Agent

415 S. Oak St. • Garnett • (785) 448-2284

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



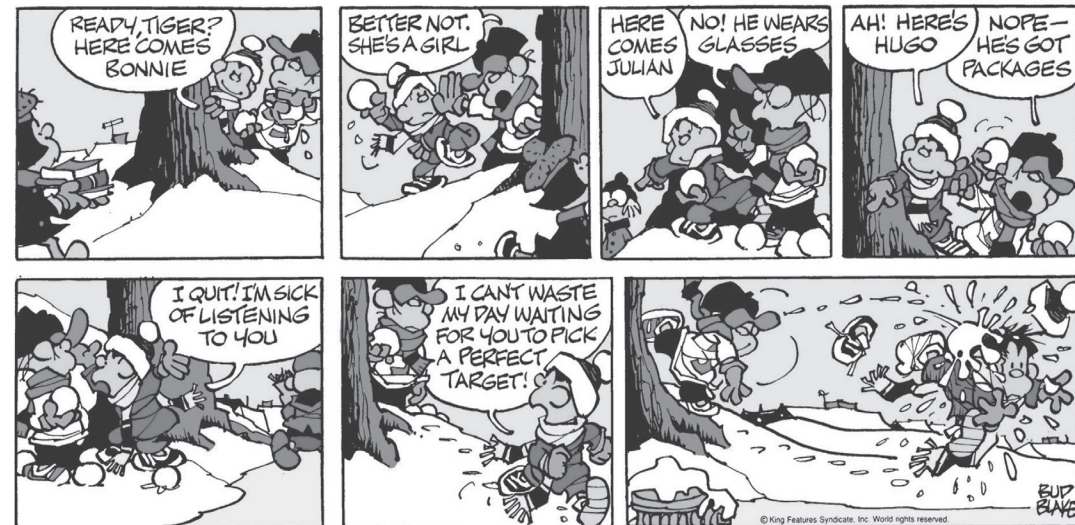
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



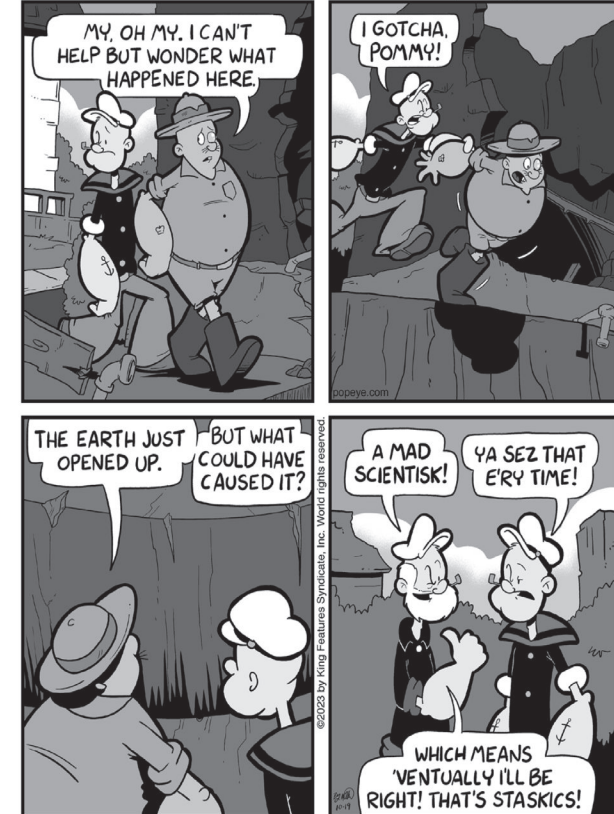
TIGER

by Bud Blake



OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: L equals U

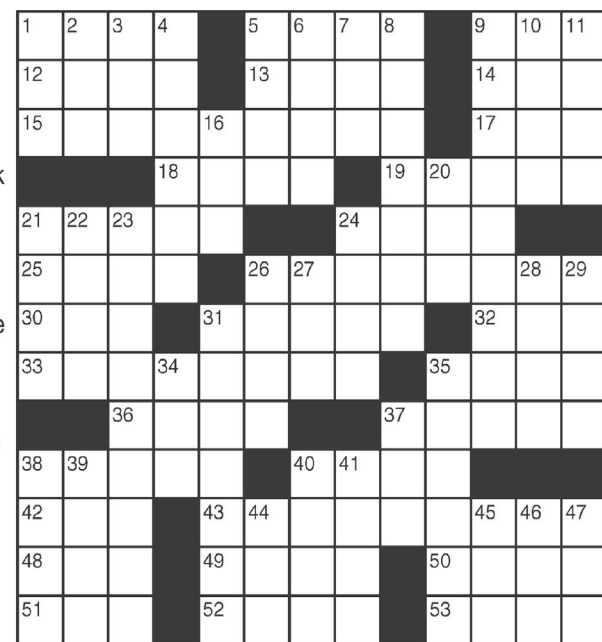
HTBI RUL GBXMLDCB ADIR
 GBUGQB WU AUOB WU
 LVXDEIB'M JDGEWDQ, HTDW
 CU RUL CU? WTEJVBI VEB0.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Melville captain
- 5 Bottle part
- 9 Schlep
- 12 Petty of "Tank Girl"
- 13 Jai —
- 14 Navarro on "The View"
- 15 Tanguy fruit pie
- 17 White wine cocktail
- 18 Night light?
- 19 Comic Chase
- 21 Prove untrue
- 24 Converse
- 25 With (Fr.)
- 26 Woo with a tune
- 30 Rule, for short
- 31 Ohio's "Rubber Capital"
- 32 Crone
- 33 Genius
- 35 Speck
- 36 Fireplace fuel
- 37 Golf great Sam
- 38 "Untrue!"
- 40 Stated
- 42 Jargon suffix
- 43 Small digit
- 48 "Caught ya!"
- 49 Leading man?
- 50 McGregor of film



- 51 Grier of "The L Word"
- 52 Really pesters
- 53 Pixels

DOWN

- 1 The whole enchilada
- 2 Weed whacker
- 3 Branch
- 4 Having superhuman strength, say
- 5 Post-WWII alliance
- 6 Flair
- 7 Lot vehicle
- 8 Chef's workplace
- 9 Sierra Nevada resort
- 10 Prof's employer
- 11 Actor Sinise
- 16 Born abroad?
- 20 Solo of "Star Wars"
- 21 Biting remark
- 22 Always
- 23 Defendant's defenders
- 24 Gator's kin
- 26 Takes to the slopes
- 27 Epoch
- 28 Facts and figures
- 29 "Zounds!"
- 31 Luanda resident
- 34 Cyclades isle
- 35 Truly
- 37 Part of RSVP
- 38 Tide type
- 39 Job-safety org.
- 40 Male deer
- 41 \$ dispensers
- 44 Journalist Tarbell
- 45 Pair
- 46 Feedbag bit
- 47 USN rank

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Weekly SUDOKU

5			8	7	1	4		
	3	8		2	4		5	6
4	7		6			8		
					6			
	1		6			8	3	
		2	5	3			4	
4			3		2	9	1	
5	1			6	3	7		
8	3			2	4			

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Five Spot™

Winter wonderland

S	N	O	W	Y

- Type of owl or egret
- A team gets four in football
- Epee or saber
- A noted Day
- Carnival feature
- Motivation

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.sproutspuzzle.com

02623



Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Who was the first Canadian to win the Nobel Prize in Literature?
2. MYTHOLOGY: What is the home of the Greek gods?
3. LANGUAGE: Which language is the second most spoken in Canada?
4. HISTORY: Which explorer sailed around Africa to discover a trade route between Europe and India?
5. MOVIES: What is the name of Elle Woods' Chihuahua in "Legally Blonde"?
6. GAMES: In what year was the original Pac-Man video game released?
7. TELEVISION: What is the name of the town where "Hart of Dixie" is set?
8. FOOD & DRINK: Which popular fruit has seeds on the outside?
9. MEDICAL TERMS: What is the common name for alopecia?
10. GEOGRAPHY: In which country are the Cliffs of Moher located?

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WEALTHY

Today's Word

- 3. Wallow; 4. Attire
- 1. Imply; 2. Shade;

SCRAMBLERS

E	V	I	R	D
S	E	S	R	I
S	O	R	I	S
D	O	R	S	D
S	N	W	O	D
Y	W	O	S	L

Solution

5	9	8	3	7	1	2	4	6	5
2	5	1	4	9	6	3	7	8	1
6	4	7	8	3	5	2	9	1	4
8	6	2	5	7	3	9	1	4	3
7	1	4	2	6	9	5	8	3	2
3	9	5	1	4	8	6	3	2	7
4	7	9	6	5	1	8	3	2	7
1	3	8	9	2	4	7	5	6	9
5	2	6	3	8	7	1	4	9	6

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

When you persuade many people to move to Ukraine's capital, what do you do? Thicken Kiev.

CryptoQuip

- 1. Short story author Alice Munro.
- 2. Mount Olympus
- 3. French
- 4. Vasco da Gama
- 5. Bruiser
- 6. 1980
- 7. Bluebell, Alabama
- 8. Strawberries
- 9. Hair loss
- 10. Ireland

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Mean **LIMPY**

Hue **DEASH**

Bask **LOWLAW**

Garb **TRAITE**

TODAY'S WORD

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"Well, it's that time again to regret you didn't marry a _____ woman!"

SUIT...

FROM PAGE 1

ter was in the nursing program. "She was fantastic as a graduate teaching assistant, but I was chastised for allowing a graduate teaching assistant to teach in my class," Howell said. "Wow, really, you can't use them to teach at all?"

This was the beginning of what the lawsuit alleges is a years-long effort to force Howell out — including multiple false claims against him.

"On November 4, 2020, Dean Brewer sent Dusti a letter of discipline claiming that Dusti had not report-

ed for teaching for 'weeks' (when in fact Dusti's religious absence was a week)," the lawsuit reads. "Brewer claimed Dusti had been absent a week (for the day of Atonement) when in fact it was only one day. Brewer claimed Dusti had sought two weeks of absence (for the Feast of Tabernacles) when in fact it was only one week. Brewer claimed that Dusti had not responded to school emails for upwards of a week (when in fact it was only two days). Brewer contended that meant Dusti was on a leave of absence when he was not. Brewer contended that Dusti had not followed the proper 'process' but never identified where in any published policy of

Emporia State making such requirements." Indeed, Emporia State not only did not have a written policy accommodating religious observances but — according to filings — had a history of discriminating against students who observe the Jewish holidays. "In 2016, Emporia State University (ESU) considered developing a written policy regarding absences for religious observances (FSB 16004). Its purpose was described as being 'designed to create a policy on absences for religious observances.' But the ESU faculty Senate failed to enact such a policy," the filing reads, and notes that ESU "developed a custom in refusing to accom-

modate students' request for religious accommodations." Howell's attorney, Linus Baker, asked for a stay on the lawsuit while the Groff v. Dejoy religious discrimination lawsuit was pending before the United States Supreme Court. In 2023, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that employers had the duty to prove a religious accommodation would prove an "undue hardship" on the business before it could be denied, rather than forcing the employee to prove it would not. Baker said in a phone interview at the time that this was clearly not the case here, as Emporia State had provided Howell the accom-

modation for years, until Brewer became dean. Baker said Howell was refused accommodation, disciplined on a series of trumped-up issues or technicalities, not included on email chains, and then disciplined for not knowing about meetings or departmental issues and threatened with termination. "It was a constructive discharge," Baker said, referring to a process in which an employer creates a work environment so hostile an employee is forced to resign. "I mean, they just made his life miserable because of his religious practice, which, for the prior administration, had never been an issue." Baker also noted that

Howell's need to work around his religious observances was hardly new. "That's something he has practiced habitually since he was there," Baker said. "When he hired on, it was understood, right? So, I mean, it's not like he had some epiphany during his employment where he changed the rules of the game. This has been Dusti from day one. This has been who he is and still is." Eventually, Howell resigned after being demoted to teach only freshman classes — and after having taught only graduate students for years — believing he was about to be terminated.

Notice of Suit - Conaway Heirs

(First published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, January 22, 2026.)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ANDERSON COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

HGRF Trust
Plaintiff,
vs.
The Heirs at Law of Ann Conaway, deceased; Rena A. Berger; Rhonda Martin; John Doe (Tenant/Occupant); Mary Doe (Tenant/Occupant),
Defendants.

Case No. AN-2026-CV-000001
Court Number:
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS, to the above-named defendants and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devi-

sees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased, and all other persons who are or may be concerned.

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Anderson County, Kansas, praying to foreclose a real estate mortgage on the following described real estate:

LYING AND BEING LOCATED IN THE CITY OF WESTPHALIA, COUNTY OF ANDERSON, STATE OF KANSAS; ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OR TRACT OF LAND KNOWN AS: SEVENTY-FIVE (75) FEET OF THE EAST END OF LOTS SEVEN (7) EIGHT (8), NINE (9), TEN (10), ELEVEN (11) AND TWELVE (12) IN BLOCK FIVE (5) IN SUPPLEMENT TO MERRILL'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF WESTPHALIA. LOT NINETEEN (19) AND SOUTH HALF (S 1/2) OF LOT TWENTY (20) BLOCK FOUR (4) MERRILL'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF WESTPHALIA, commonly known as 206 Garrison Ave, Westphalia, KS 66093-7245 (the "Property")

and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before the March 4, 2026, in the District Court of Anderson County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

NOTICE

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Prepared By:
SouthLaw, P.C.
Linda Tarpley (KS # 22357)
13160 Foster, Suite 100
Overland Park, KS 66213-2660
(913) 663-7600
(913) 663-7899 (Fax)
Linda.Tarpley@southlaw.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff
(255930)
ja2213*

Notice to creditors - Lickteig Trust

(First published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, January 15, 2026.)

In the Matter of the
Margareta Lickteig Living Trust
Dated September 12, 2023,
And any amendments thereto
(Now Irrevocable Trust)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that the Grantor of the above-named Trust Agreement, Margareta Lickteig, passed away on the 26th of November, 2025, in Allen County, Kansas, being a resident of Anderson County, Kansas. All parties interested in the Margareta Lickteig Living Trust dated September 12, 2023, and any amendments thereto, (now an Irrevocable Trust), shall govern themselves accord-

ingly. All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Trust within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred. Said demands shall be delivered, in writing, to the office of the Margareta Lickteig Living Trust dated September 12, 2023, Trustee as follows: First Option Bank, Successor Trustee, of the Margareta Lickteig Living Trust, 702 Baptiste Drive, Paola, Kansas, 66071.

First Option Bank
Successor Trustee

First Option Bank
702 Baptiste Drive
Paola, Kansas 66071
(913) 294-9222
Successor Trustee

Notice of Sale - 309 W. 3rd, Garnett

(First published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, January 29, 2026.)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ANDERSON COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Plaintiff,
vs.
Stacey L. Whitcomb; Unknown Spouse, if any, of Stacey L. Whitcomb; John Doe (Tenant/Occupant); Mary Doe (Tenant/Occupant)
Defendants.

Case No. AN-2025-CV-000016
Court Number:
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Anderson County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Anderson County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the West Door of the Courthouse at Garnett Anderson County, Kansas, on February 19, 2026, at 10:00 AM, the following real estate:

The East Half (E/2) of Lot Twenty-two (22) and all of Lot Twenty-three (23) in Block Twenty-nine (29) to City of Garnett, Anderson County, Kansas, commonly known as 309 W 3rd Ave, Garnett, KS 66032-1305 (the "Property")

to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court. For more information, visit www.Southlaw.com

Wesley McClain, Sheriff
Anderson County, Kansas

Prepared By:
SouthLaw, P.C.
Blair T. Gisi (KS #24096)
13160 Foster., Suite 100
Overland Park, KS 66213-2660
(913) 663-7600
(913) 663-7899 (Fax)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
(239880)

Notice of Sale - 221 E. 2nd, Garnett

(First published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, January 29, 2026.)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ANDERSON COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
Plaintiff,
vs.
JERRY K WEST III, ET AL.
Defendants.

Case No.: AN-2025-CV-000026
Division No.
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60
Title to Real Estate Involved

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Anderson County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Anderson County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand at 10:00 AM on February 19, 2026, front steps of the Anderson County Courthouse for the following real estate located in the County of Anderson, State of Kansas, to wit:

Lots Seventeen (17) and Eighteen (18) in Block Sixteen (16) to the City of Garnett, Anderson County, Kansas. ("Property") Commonly known as: 221 E 2nd Avenue, Garnett, KS 66032

to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court.

Wesley McClain
Anderson County Sheriff

Prepared by:
MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C.
David V. Noyce, #20870
11111 Nall Avenue, Suite 104
Leawood, KS 66211
Phone: (913) 800-2021
Fax: (913) 257-5223
dnoyce@mlg-defaultlaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C. IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

City of Kincaid 2025 Treasurer's Annual Report

(Published in the Anderson County Review on January 29, 2026.)

City of Kincaid Treasurer's Annual Report For the Year-to-Date as of December 31, 2025						
	Beginning Cash	Cash Receipts and Transfers	Cash Disbursements and Transfers	Ending Cash	Accounts and Payroll Payable	Ending Cash Less Payables
General Fund	148,961.56	79,546.22	60,513.64	167,994.14	0	167,994.14
Special Revenue						
Special Highway Fund	22,929.29	7,895.04	7,919.98	22,904.35	0	22,904.35
ARPA Grant Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enterprise						
Water Fund	23,695.56	54,143.67	44,424.82	33,414.41	0	33,414.41
Sewer Fund	79,025.80	34,378.37	3,870.28	109,533.89	0	109,533.89
Trash Fund	25,492.50	11,949.69	8,378.04	29,064.15	0	29,064.15
Agency						
Payroll Clearing Fund	759.22	16,955.46	15,428.94	2,285.74	0	2,285.74
Sales Tax Clearing Fund	4,504.76	624.65	0	5,129.41	0	5,129.41
Deposit Clearing Fund	6,791.82	5,114.27	5,201.29	6,704.80	0	6,704.80
Penalty Clearing Fund	13,316.08	2,067.51	14,990.70	392.89	0	392.89
Total	325,476.59	212,674.88	160,727.69	377,423.78	0	377,423.78

Note: Payroll is encumbered only for year-end financial statement reporting.

Outstanding Debt as of Statement Date:	G.O. Bonds	0
	Revenue Bonds	0
	Other Debt	22,501
	Total Debt	22,501

Notice of Rural Water District No. 5 annual meeting

(First published in the Anderson County Review on January 29, 2026.)

To the Participating Members:

5, Anderson County, Kansas will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the office at 204 East Broad, Colony, Kansas, for the purpose of election of three directors and considering such other business as may properly come before the meeting, as authorized

by the By-laws of the District.

Board of Directors
Rural Water District No. 5
Anderson County
ja29t2*

City of Colony - 2024 Treasurer's Report

(Published in the Anderson County Review on January 29, 2026.)

CITY OF COLONY, KS ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025						
FUND	CASH BALANCE AT 1/1/25	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	CASH BALANCE AT 12/31/25	OUTSTANDING ACCTS PAYABLE	UNENCUMBERED CASH AT 12/31/25
General	143,074.02	156,337.97	150,456.33	148,955.66	5,834.19	143,121.47
Sewer	150,566.16	109,678.16	93,376.92	166,867.40	1,034.94	165,832.46
Water Works	163,082.11	141,414.49	124,655.89	179,840.71	5,854.79	173,985.92
Sanitation	(1,889.04)	29,484.69	25,664.98	1,930.67	2,333.18	(402.51)
Special Highway	163,166.76	10,285.45	1,777.55	171,674.66	-	171,674.66
Equipment Reserve	27,128.02	3,550.00	-	30,678.02	-	30,678.02
Library	253.12	4,956.32	798.34	411.10	157.98	253.12
Security Deposits	10,955.53	2,280.00	4,793.48	12,442.05	37.96	12,404.09
Total	656,336.68	457,987.08	401,523.49	712,800.27	15,253.04	697,547.23

GSSB - Checking 447,205.97
GSSB - CD 265,594.30
Total Cash 712,800.27

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Estate Auction

Kelly Scott & Mike Qualizza

19533 Kansas Highway 52 • Pleasanton, Ks.
*We will be in the shop with heaters most of the day!

This amazing 130 acre farm with all infrastructure is up for sale!
Open house day of auction.

Vehicles-2004 Ford Ranger 4x4 only 167k miles Manual Transmission 4.0 gas motor; 2005 Ford F-350 Lariat only 106k miles Super Duty 6.0 v8 Turbo Diesel, Dually, 5th wheel hitch, 4 door, leather seats; 2012 Lincoln MKZ only 70k miles, heated and cooled seats, leather interior; Subaru Forester only 134k miles Manual transmission AWD new tires. Atv-LS 450 Land Star American Land Master Dump Bed, Gas Motor, Front and Back Window, Good Rubber
Wood Splitter- Huskee 22 ton Log Splitter (like New)
Zero Turn Mowers- Grasshopper 227 only 961 hrs, Commercial grade mower, kohler 27hp motor 72" cut Grasshopper 335 Commercial grade Mower 72" cut only 226 hrs Kohler 27hp motor; Toro Battery Powered Push mower new in the box
Tractors- Ford 8630 Dual Power Farm Tractor, only 6100 hrs clean tractor, good rubber & good paint, Duals on back, Weights on front; Alice Chalmers project tractor. RV-2006 Ford E-450 Super Duty Chateau Sport only 41k miles Econoline motor
Tons of tools, Straw, household, Cattle Chute Priefert, and much more






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Place your 25-word classified in the Kansas Press Association and 135 more newspapers for only \$300/week. Find employees, sell your home or your car. Call the Kansas Press Association @ 785-271-5304 today!

Cash paid for high-end men's sport watches. Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-866-481-0636.

MISCELLANEOUS

Got an unwanted car??? Donate it to Patriotic Hearts. Fast free pick up. All 50 States. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-877-560-5087

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Stop overpaying for health insurance! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-888-519-3376 You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider.

We Buy Vintage Guitar! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-877-560-1992

Water damage clean-up & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-586-6688. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

Need new windows? Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise reduction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer! Call for a consultation & FREE quote today. 1-866-766-5558 You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider.

MISCELLANEOUS

Aging roof? New homeowner? Storm damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-877-589-0093 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

Injured in an accident? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$10,000's. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-888-920-1883

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Firewood for sale. (785) 229-5901 or (785) 433-1423.
ja22t2

TRAILERS

For Sale - Premier Gooseneck Trailer, 25' x 8'-6", Year 2004 Model BF 25, 14K capacity. Trailer over all in good condition, \$4,500. Contact Rick King, cell (785) 448-7529. ja29t1

FARM & AG

American Walnut - buying standing timber. Must have 25 or more trees. Call (916) 232-6781 in St. Joseph for details. fb15tf

EQUIPMENT

2005 Ditch Witch - Model RT 55, 422 hours, serial # - 5Z0920, Hoe, A-523 serial # 5Z0745, Trencher, H515, serial # 5Z0965, back fill blade. \$35,000 Contact Rick King, (785) 448-7529. ja29t2*



HAPPY ADS

Happiness is... Dawn McCarty 30 years experience master stylist/barber. Come into Studio 501 for your hair-care needs. Talking walk-ins and appointments. (913) 244-7358. ja8t4*

Happiness is . . . Honor Flight Community Breakfast Saturday February 14, 7am-9am, Lane Community Building. Pancakes, Biscuits & Gravy, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs & Sausage Patties. Proceeds go to Honor Flight. Sponsored by Pottawatomie Township Ruritans. ja29t3*

Happiness is... Having the Review's EagleEye News Drone do aerial photography or videography for your wedding, special event, property survey, promotional video, high-altitude equipment or building inspection, etc. Real-time view from up to 400 feet elevation, up to nearly 1 mile range. Contact the Anderson County Review at (785) 448-3121 for more info. oc11tfn

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HELP WANTED

CITY CLERK

The City of Colony is accepting applications for the position of City Clerk. This is a full time position responsible for all operations of the City Hall. Basic knowledge of accounting, payroll, and computers is required. Applicants should be multi-taskers and customer friendly and live within a 20 radius of the city. This is a KPERS covered position with health benefits available.

To apply contact
Colony City Hall. EOE



KITCHEN ASSISTANT

East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging

The East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging Meals on Wheels Program is seeking a Kitchen Assistant for 30 hours a week. Position would need to be on site by 6:30 am, Monday - Friday. Kitchen Assistant will help kitchen staff prep food items, pack meals for delivery, assist with cleaning and inventory and be trained as a sub route driver.

Preferred candidates will be someone who can work in a fast-paced environment, has good attention to detail and organization and is dependable and willing to do all parts of the job. Understands the need for good hygiene and food safety and is a team player.

No nights, weekends, or holidays. Hourly rate, negotiable based on experience. The job is located in Ottawa, Kansas. Perfect job for college students and retired people wanting extra income and to help their community.

Must pass background check and have a clean driving record.

To inquire about these positions or send resume call 785-242-7200 or email leslear@eckaaa.org or debh@eckaaa.org EOE



NOW HIRING- COOKS

East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging

The East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging Meals on Wheels Program is seeking cooks. Average 650 meals a day. Institutional cooking experience preferred. Monday - Friday 6 AM to Noon, 30 hours a week. Paid Holiday, vacation, and sick time. Job located in Ottawa, Kansas at central kitchen. No nights, weekends, or holidays. Salary is hourly rate, negotiable based on experience.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Ability to assist in interpretation of standard procedures & recipes.
- Experience in quantity cooking preferred.
- Ability to lift and carry at least 50 pounds.
- Have reliable transportation and be punctual.
- Must pass background check and have a clean driving record.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

This position will help prepare main dish food items and assist with packing meals for delivery to sites and for freezers. Assist in preparing menu items while maintaining all recipe standards and portion control guides. Maintain good working relationships with co-workers and assist where needed after completing assigned department work. Assist with inventory, record keeping, cleaning equipment and kitchen facility.

To inquire call 785-242-7200 or send email to leslear@eckaaa.org or debh@eckaaa.org EOE



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Bulldog boys win War on 54 Tournament in Iola

IOLA - The Bulldogs won all 3 games of their War on 54 Tournament last week in Iola, crowning them champions.

In the first game on Monday night, January 19, the Bulldogs raced past Cherryvale by opening play with a 69-33 win.

Anderson County led 21-8 after the first and stretched their lead to 43-16 at halftime.

With a bevy of players getting time in the second half the pace slowed. The Bulldogs still managed to outscore Cherryvale 15-6 in the third and 11-9 in the fourth to finish off the dominant victory.

Brayden Wheat led the way with 28 points. Brylan Sommer added 15 and Beau Howey had 9.

Others scoring were: Dylan Hoffman 6 points,

Aidan Steele 4, Aidan Perez 3, Landry Hedrick 2 and Christian Barnett 2.

In the second round on Wednesday, it would be Eureka's turn to get throttled by the Bulldogs to the tune of 66-31.

It was a slow start though as the Bulldogs led 13-6 after the first quarter and just 27-19 heading into halftime.

The AC boys blew the game open with a dominant 25-6 advantage in the third to take a 52-25 lead heading into the final 8 minutes.

The Bulldogs outscored Eureka 14-4 in the fourth.

Wheat exploded for 33 points, Hoffman added 15.

Howey chipped in with 8 on the night, followed by 4 from Hedrick and 3 by Barnett and Steele.

In the championship

game on Friday night, the Bulldogs edged the host team Iola 64-62.

Anderson County held the advantage early jumping out to a 17-12 lead after the first quarter and pushing their advantage to 33-23 at halftime to seemingly be in control.

Iola responded coming out of halftime and mounted a comeback to cut the deficit to just two heading into the fourth quarter as the held a 21-13 advantage in the fourth.

It would be a back and forth battle in the fourth but the Bulldogs held on as both teams tallied 18 points in the quarter.

Wheat scored a game high 28 points, Steele added 12 and the trio of Sommer, Howey and Hoffman each scored 8.

Lady Bulldogs drop three at War on 54 Tournament

IOLA - The Anderson County Lady Bulldogs went 0-3 at the War on 54 Tournament in Iola, opening play with a 43-24 loss to Eureka on Monday, January 19.

Eureka jumped out to a 13-5 first-quarter lead. Anderson County edged Eureka 6-5 in the second quarter, but Eureka pulled away by outscoring the Bulldogs 15-7 in the third and 7-6 in the fourth.

Brylie Kohlmeier led Anderson County with 10 points. Brooklyn Kellerman added 8, Rylee Hill scored 3, Lyndise Carey had 2 and

Maura Rockers added 1.

On Tuesday, January 20, Anderson County fell to Humboldt 43-35.

Humboldt led 9-7 after the first quarter and 23-16 at halftime following a 14-10 second quarter. The Bulldogs cut into the deficit in the third, outscoring Humboldt 11-8 to trail 31-27 entering the fourth. Humboldt closed out the game with a 12-7 advantage in the final period.

Kellerman led the Bulldogs with 12 points, followed by Kohlmeier with 8 and Hill with 7. Lyndsey Hughes added 3 points,

Carey scored 2, and Addy Sommer finished with 1.

In the final game on Friday, Anderson County was edged by Iola 35-32.

The Bulldogs led 12-11 after the first quarter and 17-15 at halftime. Iola rallied in the third to take a 27-24 lead into the fourth. Both teams scored eight points in the final quarter, with Iola holding on for the three-point win.

Kohlmeier paced Anderson County with 14 points, followed by Addy Sommer with 13. Lilly Kent scored 3 and Hill added 2 to round out the scoring.

AC boys knock off Humboldt

HUMBOLDT - Tuesday, January 27, the Anderson County Bulldog boys went on the road and picked up a convincing 73-35 win against Humboldt.

The Bulldogs jumped out to an early 17-7 lead after the first quarter and never looked back.

Humboldt was more competitive in the second quarter, outscored just 20-15, but in the second half the Bulldogs buried the home team outscoring them 20-7 and 17-6 in the third and fourth quarter respectively.

Brylan Sommer, 20

points, and Brayden Wheat with 18 points led the way.

Seven other Bulldogs would get into the scoring column on the night: Beau Howey 9, Dylan Hoffman 8, Aidan Steele 5, Aleck Smith 5, Landry Hedrick 4, Braden Gillespie 2 and Aidan Perez 1.

RECORDS...

FROM PAGE 2

n89°57'05"e on said north line to the northeast corner of the s/2 of said sw/4 a distance of 704.23 feet; thence s00°35'41" w on the east line of said sw4 to the pob a distance of 1331.82 feet.

Ersel W Carr and Maria E Carr to David Peine and Ami Peine: All that part of w2 ne4 36-19-20 north of Missouri-Pacific Railroad & State Hwy.

John H Carr and Arlene B Carr to David Peine and Ami Peine: All that part of w2 ne4 36-19-20 north of Missouri-Pacific Railroad & State Hwy.

ANDERSON COUNTY TRAFFIC CASES FILED

Yolanda Michelle McGhee was charged with unlawful passing of stopped emergency vehicle.

David Esparza, Jr was charged with speeding 80 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Antonia Fernanda was charged with operating a motor vehicle without a valid license and speeding 84 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Jarrah Jean Marnell was charged with speeding 80 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Sterling Christopher Pierce was charged with speeding 75 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Jonathan Eric Beaudoin Kiewer was charged with speeding 75 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Chad Allen Newell was charged with gross weight limits for vehicles.

Michael James Dale was charged with gross weight limits for vehicles.

Jeremy F Mcglothlin was charged with over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Gary Wayne Heck was charged with speeding 40 mph in a 35 mph zone.

Morris L Quigley was charged with speeding 40 mph in a 35 mph zone.

Isaac Nicholas Salgado was charged with speeding 56 mph in a 35 mph zone.

Harley N Crook was charged with operating a motor vehicle without a valid license.

Cougan Hunter Sjogren was charged with speeding 63 mph in a 35 mph zone.

ANDERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL CASES FILED

James W Smith has been charged with interference with LEO; obstruct/resist/oppose misdemeanor warrant service or execution, operating a motor vehicle without a valid license, vehicle liability insurance ins; fail to display evidence of financial security, vehicles; operate without registration or w/expired tag and speeding 78 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Kimberly F Broyles has been charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and battery.

ANDERSON COUNTY CIVIL CASES FILED

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. has filed suit against Trevor W Cronin for \$7,071.29 for unpaid credit card.

ANDERSON COUNTY LIMITED ACTION CASES FILED

Velocity Investments, LLC has filed suit against David Schweizer \$3,560.70 for unpaid goods and/or services.

LVNV Funding LLC has filed suit against Naomi Segundo in the amount of \$531.98 for unpaid goods and/or services.

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.

Humboldt downs Lady Bulldogs

HUMBOLDT - On Tuesday night, the Anderson County Lady Bulldogs faded in the second half after holding the lead at halftime in a disappointing 43-37 loss on the road to Humboldt.

Anderson County started fast leading 9-5 after the first quarter and 19-16 at

halftime.

Humboldt cut the deficit to just one heading into the fourth as they outscored Anderson County 11-9 in the third quarter and then finished off the comeback with a 16-9 advantage in the fourth to pull out the win.

Brooklyn Kellerman led

the Lady Bulldogs with 14 points and was joined in double figures by Brylie Kohlmeier with 11. Rylee Hill and Hope Hill each tallied 4 points on the night. Maura Rockers and Addy Sommer each finished the evening with 2 points.

Lady Lancers finish runner-up at War on 54 Tournament

IOLA - The Crest Lady Lancers did more than hold their own last week at the War on 54 Tournament as they knocked off Cherryvale and Iola before being downed in the championship game by Eureka.

In the opening round, the Lancers beat Cherryvale 40-35.

It was a tight contest all night as Crest outscored Cherryvale 9-7 in each of the first two quarters to take a slim 18-14 lead into halftime. Cherryvale had the upperhand in the third quarter, 11-9, to cut the deficit to 27-25 heading into the fourth.

Crest outscored Cherryvale 13-10 in the fourth to hang on for the

hard-fought win.

Aylee Beckmon paced the Lancers with 18 points. She added 4 rebounds and 4 assists on the night as well.

Kinley Edgerton joined her in double figures with 11 points and had a team leading 9 rebounds.

Jaycee Schmidt added 6, Kaelin Nilges had 4 and Gracyn Ellington tacked on one point.

Thursday night against Iola, the Lancers rallied with a huge fourth quarter to win the game 38-32.

Through 3 quarters, the game moved slowly as Crest trailed 6-5 after the first, 13-10 at halftime and 21-17 heading into the fourth.

The Lady Lancers would double their production

from the first 3 quarters, notching 21 in the fourth to pull off the come from behind win as they held Iola to just 11.

Beckmon and Nilges led the Lancers with 13 and 11 points respectively. Beckmon frustrated Iola ballhandlers as she finished the night with 8 steals. Edgerton scored 7 points and added 8 rebounds.

The trio of Josie Walter, Ellington and Summer Valentine each had 2 points and Schmidt added 1 to round out the scoring.

Friday night the Lancers met their match as Eureka (12-0 and #4 in 2A) rolled past them 43-24. Information is not yet available for this game.

Prescribed burning workshop scheduled in Garnett on 2/11

Area landowners, farmers and residents interested in learning more about prescribed burning are invited to attend a Prescribed Burning Workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Garnett Community Building, North Lake Park Road, Garnett.

The workshop will provide hands-on education and planning guidance for safely and effectively conducting prescribed burns, a land-management practice used to improve pasture health, control invasive

species and reduce wildfire risk.

Topics to be covered include:

- Reasons to burn
- Weather conditions for burning
- Equipment needed, planning and conducting a burn
- Fire behavior
- Hazards and precautions
- Liability
- CRP rules

The event is hosted through Kansas State University Research and Extension, in partnership

with the Anderson County Conservation District. Lunch and meeting materials will be provided by Everyg.

Participants are asked to register by Friday, Feb. 7, by contacting Ryan Schaub at reschaub@ksu.edu or 785-448-6826. Registration is required to ensure adequate materials and meals are available.

For more information or to register, contact Ryan Schaub at K-State Research and Extension.

SYSTEM...

FROM PAGE 1

numbers or added lines that they want to add, we can do that," Burkhart said. "I've actually had some call and said they no longer live in the area as well."

OnSolve, the Florida-based company that owns CodeRed and offered it as a vendor service to thousands of communities across the country, was hacked in November. OnSolve opted to shut the system down, and negotiated a resurrection agreement with Canada-based

Crisis24 to reconstitute the system. Crisis24 reported offered the criminals \$100,000 and later \$150,000 in ransom, to no avail. The cyberthugs then began releasing customer data like names, phone numbers, email and physical addresses.

Burkhart said there was as yet no timeable for CodeRed's re-emergence, but that company officials were moving to work the bugs out of the repaired system.

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Welcome to Anderson County: A practical guide for newcomers and returning residents

For those considering a move to Anderson County or for longtime residents helping family members, employees or new neighbors settle in, the county offers a mix of affordability, small-town living and access to regional job markets that continues to draw interest in rural Kansas.

From housing and schools to healthcare, broadband and commuting, here's a snapshot of what life looks like in Anderson County in 2026.

Cost of Living: A Major Advantage

Recent years inflation has made life more expensive everywhere, but one of Anderson County's biggest selling points is affordability. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, typical housing, transportation and overall living costs in Anderson County are significantly lower than in metro areas such as Kansas City and Topeka. Annual housing costs for a single adult in Anderson County are estimated at roughly \$7,500 to \$10,500, far below typical metro averages, while overall required income remains well below



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Anderson County Courthouse in Garnett, 1902.

urban benchmarks.

Lower real estate prices also mean more opportunities for first-time buyers, retirees and families seeking acre-

age or small-town homes, with a mix of in-town properties in Garnett, Greeley, Kincaid and Welda and Westphalia, as well as rural housing options across

the county.

(Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator for Anderson County, Kansas)

Commute Times and Highway Access

Anderson County is largely a commuter economy. U.S. Census data says 46.4% of county workers work outside the county of residence with an average one-way commute of 26.5-27 minutes. The figures say some 15.2% have commutes of one hour or longer. About 7-11% work from home, and 87% of workers drive alone to work.

Key connections include:

- U.S. Highway 59, providing north-south access toward Ottawa (25 min.) and Lawrence (50 min)

- Kansas Highway 31, linking Garnett to nearby communities like Emporia (70 min)

- Short drives to Iola and Burlington (30-45 min).

- Access to Topeka and the Kansas City metro within a manageable commute for some workers

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Planning for the long term: How rural investors save for retirement and college — and what works best

For rural families, farmers, and small-town business owners, long-term financial planning often looks different than it does in metro areas. Income can be seasonal, tied to agriculture or small business cycles, and households frequently balance retirement savings with college funding, land investments, and business reinvestment.

National research shows that while rural investors use many of the same account types as urban households, they often make different choices in how they invest — and why. According to Fidelity Investments' Q2 2025 Retirement Analysis, Americans continue to rely primarily on:

- 401(k) and 403(b) workplace retirement plans
 - Traditional and Roth IRAs
 - 529 college savings plans for education
 - Taxable brokerage accounts for flexible savings
- Fidelity reported in September 2025 that average 401(k), 403(b), and IRA balances reached record highs, reflecting steady contributions and long-term investing despite market volatility. For rural investors, these same accounts are common, but extension economists and financial planners note that rural households are more likely to:

- Hold a higher share of assets in conservative or income-oriented investments
- Use tax-deferred accounts heavily to manage uneven income
- Rely more on personal relationships with local banks and advisors

(Source: Fidelity Investments Q2 2025 Retirement Analysis)

Target-Date Funds and Simplicity

One of the most common default choices in workplace plans is the target-date fund, which automatically becomes more conservative as retirement approaches.

Target-date funds have grown rapidly since being encouraged under the Pension Protection Act, and research summarized in retirement industry publications shows they are widely used because they simplify decision-making.

For rural workers with limited access to specialized financial advice, target-date funds often serve as a “set it and forget it” option that helps maintain diversification over time.

(Source: Target-Date Fund overview; retirement industry research)

Conservative Bias and Risk Preferences

Multiple academic and industry studies show that many investors — especially outside high-income, high-education urban areas — tend to favor lower-risk investments.

A 2025 academic study on the geography of retirement savings found that equity allocations are significantly higher in higher-income and higher-education ZIP codes, while more rural and lower-income areas tend to hold lower equity exposure and more conservative portfolios.

Similarly, behavioral finance research summarized in Investor Decision Making within Retirement Savings Schemes found that investors across age groups show a consistent bias toward reducing risk, even when long-term investing would benefit from higher equity exposure.

For rural investors, this often shows up as heavier use of stable value funds, bond funds, money market or cash-like options or income-oriented investments. These patterns are consistent with findings in geography-based retirement research and behavioral finance studies.

(Sources: The Geography of Savings Opportunities in Retirement Plans, 2025; ScienceDirect retirement investor behavior research)

The Role of Stable Value and Principal Protection

In many rural workplace plans, stable value funds are popular options.

Stable value funds, commonly offered in 401(k) plans, are designed to preserve principal while providing steady, low-volatility returns. According to industry descriptions and retirement plan research, these funds appeal to investors who prioritize capital preservation — particularly those nearing retirement or with income tied to volatile industries such as agriculture.



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Brown Street in Greeley around 1913.

This preference for stability is often stronger in rural and agricultural communities, where households may already face income swings tied to weather, commodity prices, and business cycles.

College Savings: 529 Plans and Local Bias

For education savings, 529 college savings plans are the dominant tool.

However, research by economists at the University of Pennsylvania and the National Bureau of Economic Research found that many households choose in-state 529 plans even when better options exist elsewhere. Their research shows that roughly 60% to 67% of 529 accounts were invested sub-optimally due to higher fees or less favorable tax treatment.

This “local bias” — a preference for familiar or home-state options — appears to be common and may be more pronounced in rural areas where investors rely heavily on local institutions and state-sponsored programs.

Why Rural Investors Often Choose Differently

Financial researchers studying geographic patterns in retirement investing point to several reasons rural investors often make different choices:

- Greater preference for capital preservation
- Less access to specialized financial

planning services

- Stronger reliance on local institutions and familiarity
- Income volatility tied to farming and small business cycles
- Lower average income and education levels in many rural ZIP codes

The 2025 study (The Geography of Savings Opportunities in Retirement Plans, 2025) on retirement savings geography found that differences in income, education and local economic conditions help explain why rural investors tend to hold more conservative portfolios — even when plan investment options are similar.

What Works Best for Rural Investors

Industry guidance and research suggest several best practices that are especially important for rural households:

1. Use Tax-Advantaged Accounts First

Financial firms such as J.P. Morgan Asset Management and Fidelity consistently recommend prioritizing tax-advantaged accounts — 401(k)s, IRAs, and 529 plans — before taxable investing to maximize long-term growth.

2. Balance Stability with Growth

While stable value and bond funds reduce volatility, research shows that long-term retirement success general-

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What works in rural marketing: How small-town businesses can spend smarter in 2026

For rural retail and service businesses, marketing is no longer just a matter of placing a newspaper ad and waiting for the phone to ring. Today's most effective strategies blend traditional local media with targeted digital tools — while keeping budgets realistic for small-town margins.

Marketing research and rural economic development studies consistently show that businesses in small communities benefit most from a hybrid approach that combines trust-building local advertising with measurable digital outreach.

Print Still Delivers High Trust and Recall

Despite the growth of digital advertising, print remains unusually effective in rural markets.

According to Electro IQ's 2025 Print Marketing Statistics, print advertising delivers 70–80% higher ad recall than digital ads, and consumers consistently rate print as more trustworthy than online advertising. Electro IQ's analysis also found that readers are more likely to spend time with print ads, increasing brand recognition — a key factor in low-competition rural markets.

Rural economic development marketing firm Golden Shovel Agency reported in its 2025 analysis of rural communities that traditional media — including local newspapers and direct mail — continue to play a central role in rural brand awareness and credibility. The firm noted that rural audiences often maintain stronger ties to local news outlets than urban consumers, making print especially valuable for service providers and community-based businesses.

Digital Marketing Works — When It's Truly Local

Digital marketing adds flexibility and tracking that traditional media cannot match.

According to Vistaprint's 2025 Small Business Marketing Hub, small businesses increasingly use digital platforms because of their low entry costs and ability to target by location, interests and search behavior. Vistaprint's research shows that many small businesses begin with modest digital bud-

gets and expand only when campaigns prove effective.

Similarly, Bloomhouse Marketing's 2025 analysis of print versus digital advertising found that digital marketing typically has lower upfront costs and allows small businesses to test ads in short campaigns, making it attractive for businesses with limited cash flow.

However, both Vistaprint and Bloomhouse emphasize that rural digital campaigns perform best when they are geographically targeted and locally branded. Generic or broad digital ads often underperform in rural areas because they lack community relevance and trust signals.

What Tends to Work Poorly in Rural Markets

Marketing research comparing traditional and digital methods shows that some approaches are less effective in small communities.

Academic research published in 2025 in the International Journal of Engineering Business and Management found that while digital marketing is generally more cost-efficient, traditional local advertising plays a critical role in building trust. The study concluded that businesses using only one channel — either only digital or only traditional — tend to underperform those using a blended strategy.

What Rural Marketing Typically Costs

National small-business bench-



marks summarized by Vistaprint and rural marketing agencies provide realistic cost ranges for rural markets:

Local newspaper print advertising:

- \$100 to \$500 per insertion in small markets

- Discounted monthly or annual packages for regular advertisers

Direct mail (postcards or flyers):

- \$0.40 to \$0.75 per piece including printing and postage

- 500 pieces = approximately \$200 to \$375

Facebook and Instagram ads:

- \$5 to \$20 per day for targeted local campaigns

- \$150 to \$600 per month is common for rural businesses

Google search ads:

- \$1 to \$5 per click in many rural service categories

- Monthly budgets of \$200 to \$1,000 depending on competition

Basic website or local SEO services:

- \$50 to \$300 per month

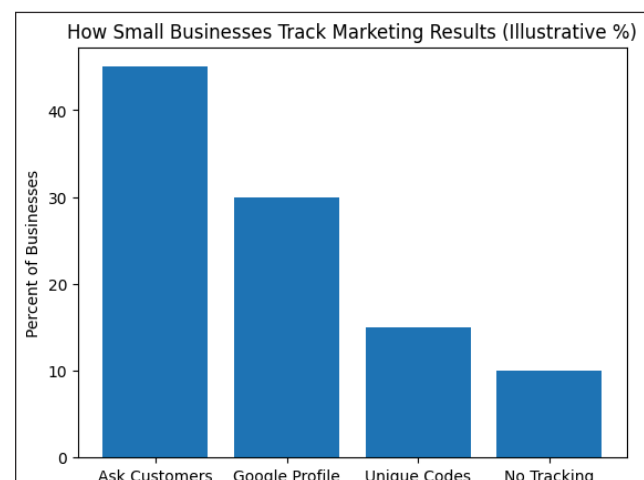
- One-time website builds: \$500 to \$3,000 or more

Vistaprint's small business marketing research also shows that many successful small businesses spend 3% to 7% of gross revenue on marketing, though rural service providers often operate toward the lower end of that range.

Measuring What Works: Why Every Rural Business Should Track Results

One of the most important — and often overlooked — aspects of rural marketing is knowing which channels actually produce customers for a specific business.

Marketing research consistently shows



that businesses that track results make smarter spending decisions over time. Vistaprint and rural marketing agencies emphasize that even simple tracking can dramatically improve return on investment.

For rural businesses, effective measurement does not require expensive software. Practical methods include:

Ask Every Customer: "How Did You Hear About Us?"

This remains one of the simplest and most reliable tools. Tracking responses over time helps businesses see whether customers are coming from the newspaper, Facebook, Google, word-of-mouth, or other sources.

Use Unique Phone Numbers or Offer Codes

Some businesses use different phone numbers, promo codes, or special offers tied to specific ads. This allows owners to directly attribute calls or sales to certain marketing channels.

Track Website and Google Business Activity

Free tools such as Google Business Profile insights and Google Analytics show how many people search for a business, request directions, click to call, or visit a website. Rural marketing agencies frequently cite these tools as cost-effective ways to measure digital performance.

Compare Marketing Spend to Actual

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New generation, new risks: What younger entrepreneurs face in rural business ownership

Across rural America communities like those in Anderson County are banking on “new blood” to purchase established, traditional businesses, or newcomers to town planning to start new businesses to replace longtime business owners reaching retirement age.

The transition to a new fabric of local commerce presents major opportunities for rural communities, but it also carries real risks for both new owners and the towns that depend on them.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses account for nearly 85% of all establishments in rural counties and employ more than half of rural workers nationwide. Rural communities depend far more heavily on locally owned businesses than metro areas, making ownership transitions especially important, says the SBA’s Office of Advocacy.

At the same time, federal researchers and university extension economists consistently warn that thousands of rural businesses are at risk of closing simply because there is no successor lined up. Iowa State University researchers note that many rural businesses shut down not because they are unprofitable, but because owners cannot find a buyer or family member willing to take over.

“Succession can be challenging even when an owner has an heir in mind,” Iowa State economist Georgeanne Artz has written, pointing out that younger generations often leave rural areas for education and careers, reducing the pool of potential buyers willing to return home.

For younger entrepreneurs, this dynamic actually creates a rare opportunity: established customer bases, existing buildings, equipment, and community goodwill can dramatically lower the barriers to entry and success compared to starting from scratch.

Younger buyers and startup owners are often drawn to rural businesses for several reasons. Purchase prices are typically lower compared to urban businesses. Real estate is cheaper and operating costs lower. There’s less competition, and rural areas have stronger community loyalty to local-owned

businesses. These lower cost and existing success aspects provide a better platform to do what younger business types do best – modernize operations using technology and online marketing to approach established markets in new ways.

USDA’s Economic Research Service notes that while rural economies face challenges, many rural manufacturers, service providers and “footloose” businesses — those not tied to natural resources — can remain competitive with the right workforce and technology.

Younger owners often bring skills in social media, online scheduling, e-commerce, and digital bookkeeping that can make long-established businesses more efficient and profitable.

But the same factors that make rural ownership affordable also increase risk.

Rural businesses tend to operate with thinner margins, smaller customer bases, and fewer backup options if sales drop. A bad harvest year, rising fuel prices, or the loss of a major employer can quickly ripple through Main Street.

The SBA has also documented that rural small business employment has grown more slowly than urban areas, meaning fewer opportunities to absorb shocks or expand payrolls.

Other common risks for younger rural entrepreneurs include:

- Limited access to specialized financing
- Fewer nearby professional services
- Difficulty hiring skilled workers
- Dependence on a small number of key customers
- Aging infrastructure and buildings
- Rising insurance and utility costs

University of Minnesota Extension research on rural business transitions has found that many owners lack formal succession plans, and that fragmented advising in rural areas can lead to rushed or poorly structured sales — increasing financial risk for buyers.

Researchers consistently find that younger entrepreneurs who grew up in rural communities often have an edge. Iowa State research shows that “location-specific capital” — knowledge of



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A photo of downtown Westphalia in 1925.

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Anderson County by the numbers: A demographic snapshot for 2026

Understanding who lives in Anderson County — and how the population is changing — is critical for businesses, schools, healthcare providers and community leaders planning for the future.

The most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau, including the 2020 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, show a county that remains deeply rural, older than the state average, and shaped by long-term trends affecting much of rural Kansas.

Population and Long-Term Trends

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Anderson County had a population of 7,836 residents. More recent population estimates compiled by the Census Bureau and summarized by USAFacts and World Population

Review place the county's population between 7,800 and 8,100 residents in 2024–2025.

Over the past decade, USAFacts and Census Bureau trend data show Anderson County has experienced a modest population decline of roughly 4%, reflecting common rural trends tied to aging populations and out-migration of younger adults for education and employment.

Age Profile: Older Than the State Average

American Community Survey (ACS) estimates published by the U.S. Census Bureau and analyzed by Census Reporter show that Anderson County's population is older than Kansas as a whole.

The county's median age is estimated between 40.4 and 42.0 years, compared to about 37.9 years statewide, according to ACS data.

- Approximately 21% of Anderson County residents are age 65 or older, compared to about 16% statewide, based on Census Bureau ACS estimates.

- Residents under age 18 make up roughly 25–26% of the county's population. This age structure affects workforce availability, health-

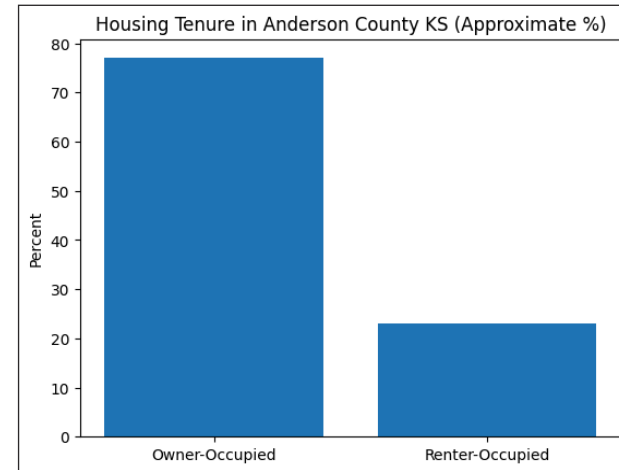
care demand and long-term school enrollment trends.

Rural by Definition

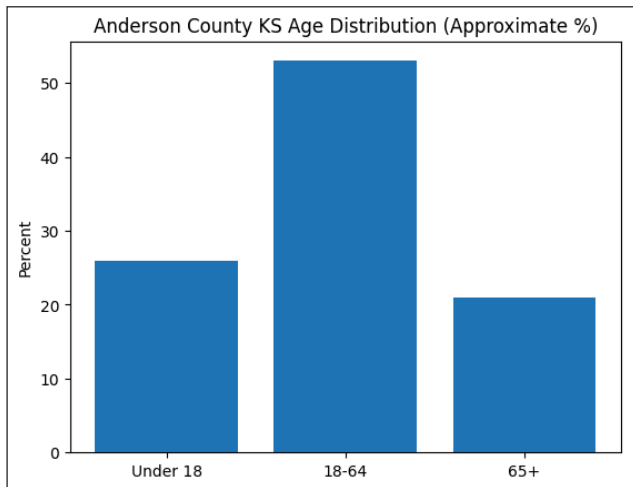
Under U.S. Census Bureau classifications, Anderson County is considered 100% rural, with no urbanized areas. Census Bureau and Census Reporter data place the county's population density at approximately 13 to 14 people per square mile, compared to about 36 people per square mile statewide.

This rural classification influences everything from emergency services and healthcare access to

broadband deployment and retail development patterns.



SEE DEMOGRAPHICS ON PAGE 14



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Most formerly Wolken Tire, our building location at 601 South Oak was built around 1880 originally as a lumber retailer, and later housed a sewing factory, skating rink and dance hall upstairs and eventually Stockebrand Motor Company, later Stockebrand Tire, and eventually Wolken Tire.

Jack and Patty Rundle bought the store in 1994 and expanded the service bays in 2018. Jack passed away in 2019 but we're proud to continue the Rundles' dedication to quality and customer service.



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From field to main street: How agriculture fuels Anderson County's town economy

In Anderson County, agriculture is more than a way of life — it is the economic engine that powers Main Street.

From grain prices to harvest timing, farm income levels have a direct and immediate impact on local businesses, including car dealers, hardware stores, restaurants, contractors, equipment suppliers and professional services. When agriculture does well, town businesses usually feel it. When farm income drops, the slowdown is often visible within weeks.

National and state data show just how closely rural retail and service activity tracks farm income.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, U.S. farm cash receipts are projected to increase in 2025, driven largely by stronger livestock markets, while crop receipts for corn, soybeans and wheat have faced pressure from lower prices. USDA notes that changes in commodity prices directly affect farm profitability and spending capacity (USDA ERS, 2025 Farm Sector Income Forecast).

Kansas-specific research from Kansas State University and the University of Missouri's Rural and Farm Finance Policy Analysis Center shows that Kansas crop and livestock receipts together account for billions of dollars flowing through the state economy each year. Economists note that even modest swings in grain and cattle prices can quickly affect how much farmers spend locally on vehicles, building projects, equipment and household purchases.

Farm policy organizations and local bankers know the score: When farm income changes, it doesn't stay on the farm, it moves through the entire local economy. Few times of year demonstrate the farm-town connection more clearly than harvest. During harvest season, increased activity shows up across Anderson County in local fuel and convenience store sales and restaurants traffic from harvest crews. Trucking companies and grain haulers log longer



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North Broad Street in Colony during the 1920's.

hours. Equipment repair shops stay busy and grain elevators and storage facilities and their service providers see heavy volume.

Even small delays caused by weather can affect cash flow timing, which in turn influences when farmers make major purchases or pay down accounts. USDA and university extension economists consistently note that harvest timing and yield outcomes affect not only farm income, but also short-term liquidity — which determines when discretionary spending happens in rural towns.

Agricultural support businesses form a major part of Anderson County's business ecosystem. Local and regional grain elevators, trucking firms, fertilizer and chemical suppliers, seed dealers, and equipment dealers are essential links between farms and national markets.

According to USDA and Kansas agricultural economists, down-

stream agricultural industries — including transportation, storage, equipment, veterinary services and processing — significantly expand agriculture's total economic impact beyond the farm gate.

A 2025 Kansas agriculture economic analysis performed by the USDA Economic Research Service shows that while direct farm production accounts for about 4% of Kansas' total GDP, the broader agricultural sector including transportation, processing and services, contributes far more to the overall state economy.

One of the most visible connections between farm income and Main Street is in large purchases. When farm profitability is strong, local businesses often see increased vehicle and pickup truck sales, farm and construction equipment purchases as well home remodeling and building projects. Even HVAC, roofing and general machinery maintenance see upgrades, economic mod-

els show. The other side of the farm economy coin is just as defined.

Reuters and regional economic reporting have documented that downturns in farm income can quickly lead to reduced spending at rural retailers, restaurants, auto dealers and service providers, sometimes resulting in revenue declines of 20% to 30% in heavily farm-dependent towns.

Economic development experts and rural bankers consistently point out that supporting agriculture also supports Main Street. Investment in ag infrastructure, broadband, transportation and value-added agriculture can help stabilize rural economies and create more consistent year-round activity.

For Anderson County, the farm-town connection remains one of the most important economic realities — and one of the clearest reminders that what happens in the field is felt on Main Street.

OWNERSHIP...

FROM PAGE 8

local customers, suppliers, and community culture — can make rural entrepreneurs more successful than outside buyers.

That local knowledge can mean knowing which months cash flow is tight, how harvest affects spending, which suppliers are reliable, and how community relationships influence purchasing decisions.

For Anderson County, that kind of hometown familiarity can make the difference between a smooth transition and a failed one.

When a rural business closes without a successor, the loss is more than just a storefront. Jobs, services, sponsorships, and tax base disappear, sometimes permanently. When a younger entrepreneur steps in successfully, the opposite can happen: a business can be modernized, expanded, and positioned to serve the community for another generation.

National data makes it clear that rural economies depend heavily on keeping existing businesses

operating, not just recruiting new ones. USDA researchers and university extension services consistently identify business retention and succession as one of the most cost-effective rural economic development strategies.

For younger entrepreneurs, rural ownership offers independence, affordability, and community connection. But it also demands patience, adaptability, and careful financial planning.

For communities, the transition represents both hope and risk. Supporting these new owners — through local banking, professional services, workforce development, and community loyalty — may determine whether small towns simply survive or find ways to grow.

As one rural business expert put it, succession and entrepreneurship in small towns is not just about business — it is about preserving the economic backbone of rural America.



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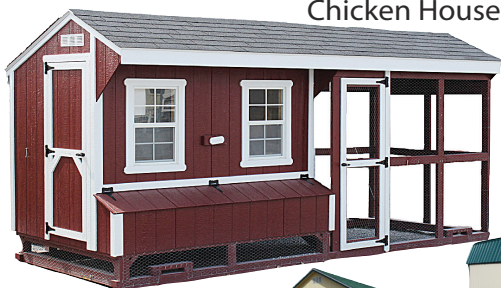
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DEMOGRAPHICS...

FROM PAGE 9

Household and Housing Characteristics

According to American Community Survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Anderson County has:

- Approximately 3,100 to 3,300 households
- An average household size of about 2.3 people
- About 77% of housing units are owner-occupied
- Roughly 23% are renter-occupied

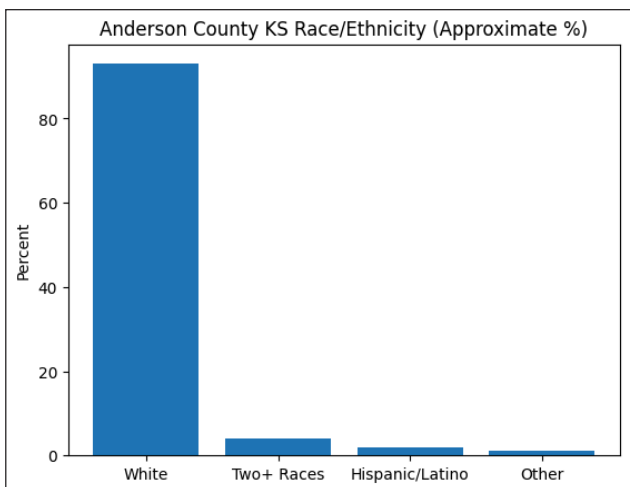
ACS estimates also show vacancy rates in the 12% to 13% range, reflecting older housing stock and limited turnover in rental properties. Local officials and economic development groups frequently cite limited rental housing as a challenge for workforce recruitment.

Income and Economic Profile

Median household income estimates for Anderson County range from approximately \$60,000 to \$65,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, with figures also reflected on Census Reporter and Data USA.

This compares to a Kansas statewide median household income of roughly \$72,600, based on statewide ACS data.

Per capita income in Anderson County is also below the state average, reflecting the county's rural economy and higher share of retirees. Poverty rates are generally estimated in the 10% to 13% range, based on Census Bureau ACS figures, with higher rates often



observed among seniors and children in some years.

Race and Ethnicity

The 2020 U.S. Census shows Anderson County remains one of the least racially diverse counties in eastern Kansas:

- White: approximately 93%
- Two or more races: about 4%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: under 1%
- Asian: under 1%
- Black/African American: under 1%
- Hispanic or Latino (any race): about 2%

Census Bureau and Data USA profiles also show that the county's foreign-born population is well under 1%, far below state and national averages.

Workforce and Commuting Patterns

American Community Survey commuting data from the U.S. Census Bureau, summarized by

Census Reporter and Stacker, show that approximately 46% of employed Anderson County residents commute outside the county for work.

Average one-way commute times are estimated at 26 to 27 minutes, reflecting regular travel to job centers such as Ottawa, Iola, Topeka and Johnson County.

This commuting pattern affects daytime population levels, local retail traffic and workforce availability for Anderson County employers.

What the Demographics Mean for Local Business

For businesses and service providers, Anderson County's demographic profile carries important implications:

- An aging population increases demand for healthcare, home services and senior-focused products

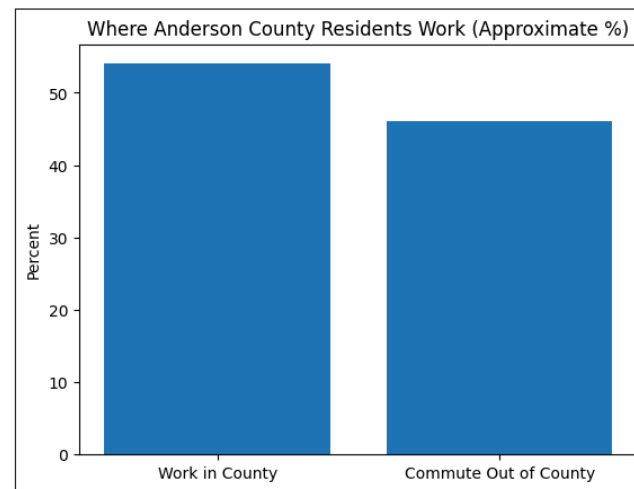
• High out-commuting affects daytime retail and restaurant traffic

• Limited rental housing can constrain workforce attraction

• Smaller household sizes and long-term residency support stable, relationship-based commerce

While population growth is modest, Census Bureau data show the county maintains a stable base of long-term residents. Combined with a strong agricultural economy, this stability continues to support essential services and local businesses.

For the 2026 Anderson County Kansas Resource Guide, these demographic realities help advertisers, employers and community leaders better understand who they are serving — and how the county's population profile is shaping local demand now and in the years ahead.




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INVESTORS...

FROM PAGE 4

ly requires some exposure to equities. Target-date funds can help balance growth and risk automatically.

3. Review Fees and Plan Options

Academic research on 529 plans and retirement accounts consistently finds that fees and investment choices matter over decades. Lower-cost options can significantly improve long-term outcomes.

4. Adjust for Rural Income Cycles

Farm and small-business families may benefit from flexible contribution strategies that increase savings in strong years and maintain minimum contributions in lean years.

A Practical Approach for Small-Town Households

For rural investors, the most successful strategies are often not the

most complex. Research and industry data point to a simple formula:

- Maximize employer retirement matches

- Use target-date or diversified funds if unsure

- Keep some growth exposure for long-term inflation protection

- Use stable options appropriately for short-term or near-retirement needs

- Review plans periodically with a trusted advisor

While rural investors often lean toward caution, national research suggests that combining that caution with disciplined long-term investing can produce strong results — even in communities where incomes and markets are more volatile.



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MARKETING...

FROM PAGE 6

Revenue

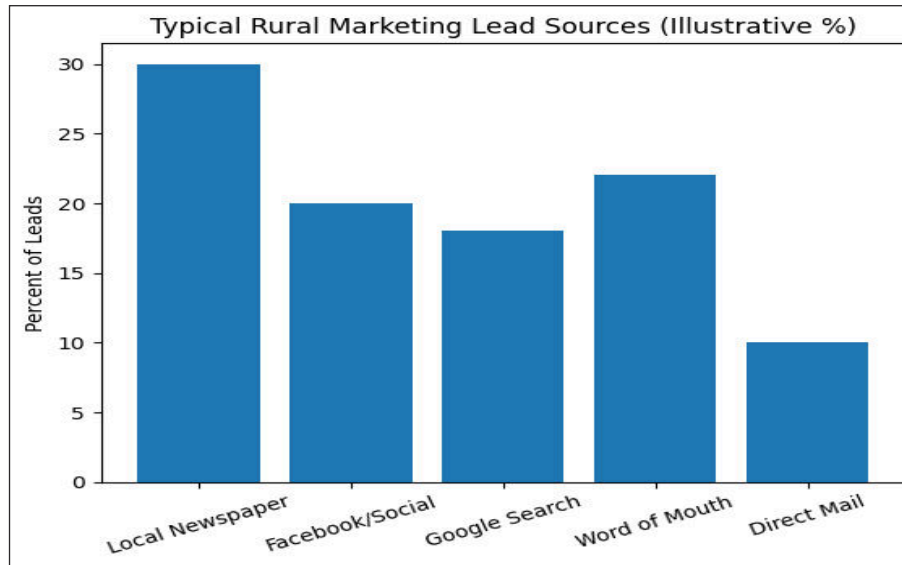
Small business marketing advisors recommend reviewing monthly spending and comparing it to changes in call volume, walk-in traffic or booked jobs. Over time, patterns usually emerge showing which channels deliver the strongest returns.

According to guidance summarized by Vistaprint and rural marketing firms, businesses that routinely track and adjust their marketing outperform those that simply repeat the same placements year after year without measurement.

The Rural Advantage: Trust and Word-of-Mouth

One area where rural businesses hold a clear advantage is trust-based marketing.

Research summarized by Electro IQ and rural development firms shows that traditional local advertising improves perceived quality and value, especially when paired with communi-



ty involvement. Sponsorships, school activities, local sports and community events act as trust multipliers that reinforce paid advertising.

In practical terms, rural marketing experts consistently find that businesses that combine:

- Local newspaper advertising
- Community sponsorships
- Active Facebook or social media

pages

•Google Business profiles and customer reviews tend to see stronger long-term results than businesses relying on only one channel.

A Smarter Strategy for Rural Businesses in 2026

Across industry research and rural marketing studies, the consistent rec-

ommendation is clear:

- Maintain a steady presence in trusted local media
- Use digital ads for targeted promotions and tracking
- Invest in local search and online reviews
- Track which channels bring in calls, visits or sales
- Adjust budgets based on real performance data
- Avoid one-time campaigns with no follow-through

As rural broadband improves digital tools will continue to grow in importance. But research from Electro IQ, Golden Shovel Agency, Vistaprint, Bloomhouse Marketing and academic marketing journals all point to the same conclusion: in rural markets trust and local visibility still drive buying decisions.

For Anderson County businesses the most effective marketing is rarely the flashiest. It is the strategy that stays visible, stays local, and stays accountable — guided by real results — month after month.

Longtime employee Rosan Williams purchased PSI from the Loren Korte family in 2025. The independent agency is based in Iola, Kansas, with offices in Moran and Humboldt as well as several satellite offices in SE Kansas.

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The small town lifeline: Why shopping local is the heartbeat of community resilience in 2026

In an era increasingly dominated by global e-commerce, artificial intelligence-driven logistics, and massive automated fulfillment centers, the quiet streets of small-town America are hosting a vital but often overlooked revolution. As of 2026, the act of shopping local has evolved from a sentimental slogan into a strategic necessity for the economic and social survival of rural and small-town communities.

For towns across eastern Kansas and rural America, Main Street is more than a shopping district. It is an economic engine, a social hub, and a stabilizing force that helps communities weather national economic swings, population shifts, and changing consumer habits.

While national retailers and online platforms offer convenience, the long-term costs to small towns are increasingly clear. Dollars spent locally do more than purchase goods — they help keep schools open, roads paved, firefighters staffed, and young families rooted in their hometowns.

The Multiplier Effect: Turning Spending into Community Wealth

The most immediate and measurable benefit of shopping local is known as the multiplier effect — the process by which a single local purchase generates multiple rounds of economic activity within the same community.

Retention Rates: Keeping Dollars at Home

For every \$100 spent at a locally owned business in 2026, approximately \$67 to \$73 remains in the local economy. Those dollars are used to pay wages, purchase supplies from nearby vendors, hire local contractors, and support community services.

By contrast, spending the same \$100 at a national chain or online retailer results in only \$13 to \$15 staying local. The majority of that money quickly flows to distant corporate headquarters, distribution centers, and shareholders located far from the community where the purchase occurred.

“In small towns, leakage is one of the biggest hidden threats,” said one rural economic development director.



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Downtown Garnett business buildings around the turn of the 20th Century

“Every dollar that leaves town is a dollar that doesn’t help keep a business open, a job filled, or a young family employed.”

Recirculation: A Self-Sustaining Cycle

Local spending does not just stay in town — it moves around.

Studies show that every dollar spent at a neighborhood business can recirculate between six and 15 times before leaving the community. A purchase at a local hardware store helps pay a clerk, who then buys groceries locally, who then pays a local mechanic, who then hires a local accountant — creating a chain of economic activity that strengthens the entire town.

This cycle is one of the main reasons small towns with strong local business support often show greater economic stability during recessions than communities dominated by big-box retail.

Funding the Future: How Local Commerce Pays for Public Services

Local businesses are also among

the most reliable contributors to the tax base that funds everyday public services — from schools to snowplows.

Efficient Tax Generation

Locally owned specialty retail stores generate a net fiscal benefit of about \$326 per 1,000 square feet for their communities. This means they typically contribute more in tax revenue than they require in public services.

Big-box retailers, on the other hand, often generate a net fiscal deficit of roughly -\$426 per 1,000 square feet. Large stores require expanded roads, traffic control, sewer and water capacity, and increased police and fire coverage — costs that can outweigh their tax contributions.

For rural towns with limited infrastructure budgets, this difference can be the deciding factor between balanced budgets and long-term financial strain.

Supporting Schools, Roads, and First Responders

Revenue from local commerce helps

fund:

- Local school districts and state-mandated education standards
- Road maintenance and snow removal
- Police, fire, and EMS services
- Parks, libraries, and community facilities

In many rural counties, small businesses also serve on school boards, volunteer fire departments, and civic committees — providing both tax dollars and leadership.

Economic Resilience and the 2026 Tax Landscape

Small businesses are proving to be among the most resilient employers in the American economy, particularly in rural areas.

Job Creation Power

As of 2026, small businesses account for roughly two-thirds of all new private-sector jobs nationwide.

For every \$10 million spent local-



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GUIDE...

FROM PAGE 3

or operate hybrid schedules, the county's location allows a balance between rural living and regional connectivity.

(Source: Kansas Department of Transportation county and highway maps)

School Districts and Education

Education is a central factor for families relocating to the area, with an educational profile that is in some cases radically more preferable than urban classrooms. Anderson County is primarily served by:

- USD 365 (Garnett) — Garnett Elementary, Greeley Elementary, and Anderson County Jr/Sr High School in Garnett

- Central Heights USD 288 — serving parts of the county and surrounding areas

- Crest USD 479 serving the southern region of the county

Anderson County Jr/Sr High School serves grades 7-12 and enrolls approximately 430 students, offering smaller class sizes and strong community involvement in school activities.

Healthcare Access

Healthcare access remains a key consideration in rural communities. Residents of Anderson County rely on a combination of local clinics and primary care providers and a local hospital in Garnett, as well ready access to a variety regional providers. Anderson County also staffs emergency medical services based in Garnett and surrounding communities, as well as mental health and behavioral health providers serving the local area.

The Kansas Hospital Association and state health officials consistently note that rural hospitals and clinics are often among the largest employers in rural counties and serve as critical anchors for community health and economic stability.

Internet Availability and Rural Broadband

Broadband access continues to improve, but gaps remain. According to the Kansas Health Institute and state broadband data, approximately 72% of Anderson County households have access to broadband internet, below the national county average. However, Kansas has made significant new investments in rural broadband expansion.

In late 2025, Governor Laura Kelly announced \$6.7 million in new Broadband Acceleration Grants to expand high-speed internet in underserved rural areas across Kansas, including counties in eastern Kansas. These projects are intended to improve access for both households and businesses, supporting remote work, telehealth and online education.

(Source: Kansas Office of Broadband Development; Kansas Health Institute; Kansas Department of Commerce)

Property Taxes and Housing Stock

Property taxes remain a significant topic across Kansas, including in Anderson County. County and municipal budgets show that the majority of property tax revenue supports county government and school districts, with additional levies for cities, fire districts and other services.

Recent Kansas legislative sessions have included renewed discussions of property tax relief, reflecting rising valuations and tax bills across much of the state.

Housing stock in Anderson County includes starter homes in Garnett and surrounding towns. Do-it-yourselfers can find older housing in need of renovation often for comparable bargain prices. There's acreage and rural homes typically less expensive than areas closer to nearby metros.

Limited rental inventory, particularly for families, is an ongoing challenge in the county. Local officials and development agencies have increas-

LOCAL...

FROM PAGE 18

ly, approximately 57 jobs are supported. The same amount spent through massive online retailers supports only about 14 jobs, many of which are located in distant fulfillment centers rather than in the local community.

In small towns, those job differences can determine whether young adults stay or move away.

Tax Relief for Local Growth

Recent tax policy changes have further strengthened small-business investment. Under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), the 20% Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction was made permanent starting in 2026.

This allows local entrepreneurs to keep more of their earnings and reinvest in:

- Hiring additional employees
- Expanding product and service offerings
- Updating buildings and storefronts
- Purchasing equipment from local suppliers

For many family-owned businesses, this tax certainty makes long-term planning possible — and keeps ownership local instead of selling to outside chains.

The Environmental and Social Fabric of Small Towns

The benefits of shopping local extend well beyond economics.

Lower Carbon Footprint

Local businesses typically source products and services closer to home, reducing long-haul trucking, international shipping, and excess packaging.

Shorter supply chains mean:

- Lower fuel consumption
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Less warehouse and packaging waste

In rural areas where residents already travel long distances for services, keeping commerce local can significantly reduce environmental impact.

Preserving Community Identity

In 2026, independent businesses are the primary defense against the “cookie-cutter” effect that has made many towns look the same.

Locally owned shops, cafés, service providers, and specialty stores:

- Reflect the town's history and culture
- Offer personalized service
- Create gathering places for residents
- Attract tourists seeking authentic experiences

A unique Main Street is increasingly viewed as a competitive advantage for rural tourism and economic development.

The Backbone of Local Giving

Small businesses also remain the most consistent supporters of community causes.

On average, small businesses donate 250% more per employee to local nonprofits, youth sports, school fundraisers, and civic events than large corporations.

From sponsoring Little League teams to donating auction items for benefit dinners, local business owners often fill funding gaps that no outside company will cover.

Conclusion: A Vote for the Town's Future

When a resident chooses a local hardware store, grocery, restaurant, or service provider over a global alternative, they are doing far more than making a purchase.

They are helping fund local schools. They are supporting neighbors' jobs.

They are strengthening emergency services.

They are preserving the character of their town.

In 2026, shopping local is no longer just a feel-good choice — it is a practical investment in the long-term health of small towns.

For communities across rural Kansas and America, the message is increasingly clear: the strength of Main Street and the strength of the town are one and the same.

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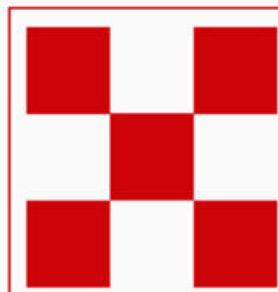
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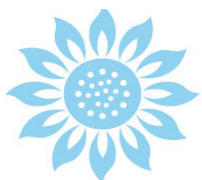
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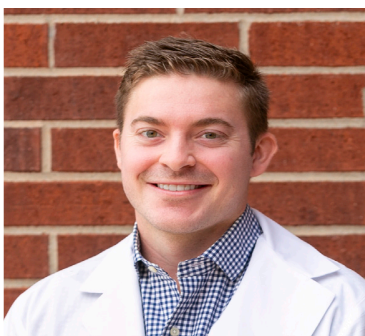
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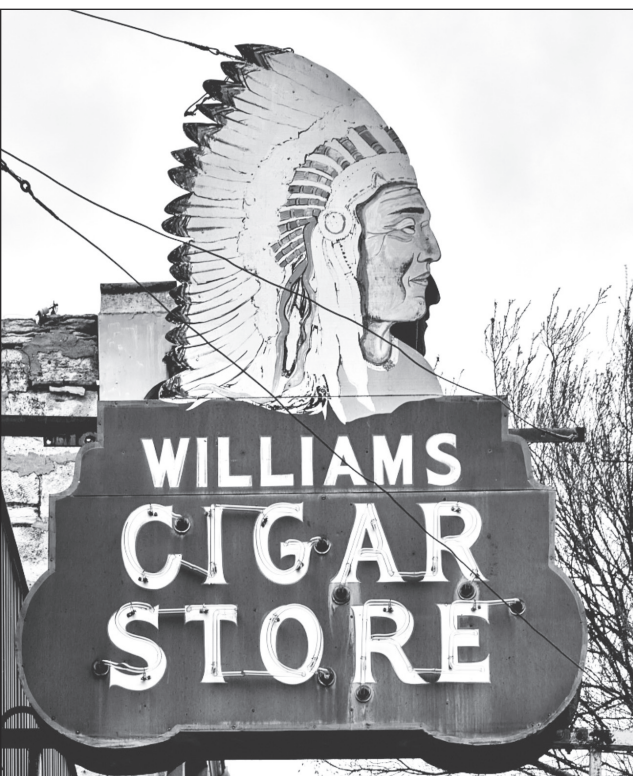
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An old blacksmith shop, as of 2021 a coffee shop in Lindsborg, Kansas, which the locals are fond of calling "Little Sweden, U.S.A."



This "cigar store Indian" was not a carving but a sign, bearing the likeness of a Native American chief, for one of what were once several (hand-rolled) cigar makers in Junction City

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