

# The Anderson County Review



COPY PRICE - ONE MEASLY U.S. DOLLAR

July 17, 2025

SINCE 1865 160th Year, No. 26

The official newspaper of record for Anderson County, KS, and its communities.

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

E-statements & Internet Banking



GSSB

Member FDIC Since 1899

(785) 448-3111

## Commissioners may use ethanol windfall to stay “revenue neutral”

Eyes fall on road department to even up spending overages

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT – Anderson County Commissioners this week examined drafting some \$622,000 from a county reserve fund in order to shore up a deficit in the county’s initial 2026 draft budget, in order to meet the state’s “revenue neutral” mandate.

Commissioners drafted the additional funds from those paid in a settlement with East Kansas Agri Energy, after a years-long court battle over a final determination of the ethanol plant’s tax valuation was settled several years ago.

A first draft of the 2026 budget would have overshot the county’s revenue neutral mark by some \$768,000, and kicked off an expense cutting discussion that would have focused primarily on the county’s road and bridge department – the largest line item in the county budget. Kansas law requires

counties, cities and school districts to restrict property tax revenue to the same dollar amount as the previous year by adjusting mill levies to accommodate rising property values, or else meet additional notification requirements culminating in a separate public hearing to allow the public to comment on spending increases.

Though the EKAE funds are technically tax revenue which was held in escrow pending the outcome of the valuation debate, they’re now held in reserve and not part of the county’s general budget operation.

The road and bridge department is the largest single expense category in the annual county budget – at \$4.4 million in estimated expenditures for 2026, it accounts for some 27% of the initially proposed \$16.3 million total spending plan.

The second draft of the budget is not yet binding, and will not be adopted as official until its summary is published and until the conclusion of a public

SEE DRAFT ON PAGE 10



Reece Ferguson leads her steer in the exhibit ring during the beef cattle judging at the Richmond Fair last Saturday. Storm clouds threatened but fairgoers round-

THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 7-17-2025 / JESSIE DUNCAN

ed out a solid weekend with livestock and animal judging, lots of entries, a car show, games and live music. See more photos on Page 6.

## Windows 10 phase out pits county against Microsoft, money and planned obsolescence

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT – Anderson County government offices are preparing to follow millions of other Microsoft Windows 10 software users into a phase-out of the platform which will cost home and business computer users an estimated \$40-\$50 billion nationwide.

County commissioners met with ad hoc county tech advisor and treasurer’s office employee Harold Deforest Monday for a short discussion about the transition, after they compared transition costs for two desktop computer units in the emergency planning department to numbers presented for multiple machines in Anderson County Sheriff Wes McClain’s budget proposal. Inconsistencies in that pricing raised alerts and spawned a discussion on possible cost savings for a change out of all the machines in county offices.

Microsoft announced that Windows 10 will reach its official end of support on October 14, 2025. After that date, the operating system will no longer get security updates, bug fixes, or technical support — unless organizations pay extra for special extended security updates (ESU). The move is similar to what happened with Windows 7 when Microsoft ended free support in 2020, but many big institutions kept using it for years, paying millions in ESU fees to buy time to upgrade legacy systems.

Analysts say millions of devices are affected by the change. A 2024 estimate from Statcounter said about 69% of Windows PCs worldwide still run Windows 10 in the U.S. That means tens of millions of desktops and laptops in government offices, schools, hospitals, factories, banks, small businesses, and homes. Many organizations, especially local governments, utilities, health-care systems, and small businesses, rely on older hardware that might not meet the stricter requirements for Windows 11, which demands newer processors and security chips.

Industry analysts say the total cost of

## Kobach lands \$5.7 million in multi-state opioid settlement

In 2021, 435 Kansans died from opioid overdoses as plague raged

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

TOPEKA – Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach Tuesday announced an approximate \$720 million nationwide settlement with eight drug makers that manufactured opioid pills and worsened the nationwide opioid crisis.

Kansas stands to receive approximately \$5.7 million in settlement funds.

“We are holding these companies accountable for the human suffering caused by years of their illegal marketing practices,” Kobach said. “These dollars will help save lives, because the funds will be used to prevent and treat drug addiction throughout Kansas.”

The eight defendants and the total amount they will pay in funds to address the opioid crisis as part of the deal are:

- Mylan (now part of Viatris): \$284,447,916 paid over nine years

- Hikma: \$95,818,293 paid over one to four years
- Amneal: \$71,751,010 paid over 10 years

- Apotex: \$63,682,369 paid in a single year
- Indivior: \$38,022,450 paid over four years

- Sun: \$30,992,087 paid over one to four years
- Alvogen: \$18,680,162 paid in a single year

- Zydus: \$14,859,220 paid in a single year

In addition to these abate-



Kobach

ment payments, several of the settlements allow states to receive free pharmaceutical products or cash in lieu of this product. Additionally, seven of the companies (not including Indivior) are prohibited from promoting or marketing opioids and opioid products, making or selling any product that contains more than 40 mg of oxycodone per pill, and are required to put in place a monitoring and reporting system for suspicious orders. Indivior has agreed to not manufacture or sell opioid products for the next 10 years, but it will be able to continue marketing and selling medications to treat opioid use disorder.

The lawsuits that led to the most recent opioid settlement in Kansas were part of broader national litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors. Many states and localities, including Kansas,

began filing lawsuits against opioid manufacturers and distributors around 2017, according to Congress.gov.

These lawsuits alleged that the companies engaged in practices like misleading marketing and inadequate control of prescription opioids, contributing to the opioid crisis.

In 2015, Kansas doctors wrote a high rate of opioid prescriptions - 86.2 per 100 persons - exceeding the national average.

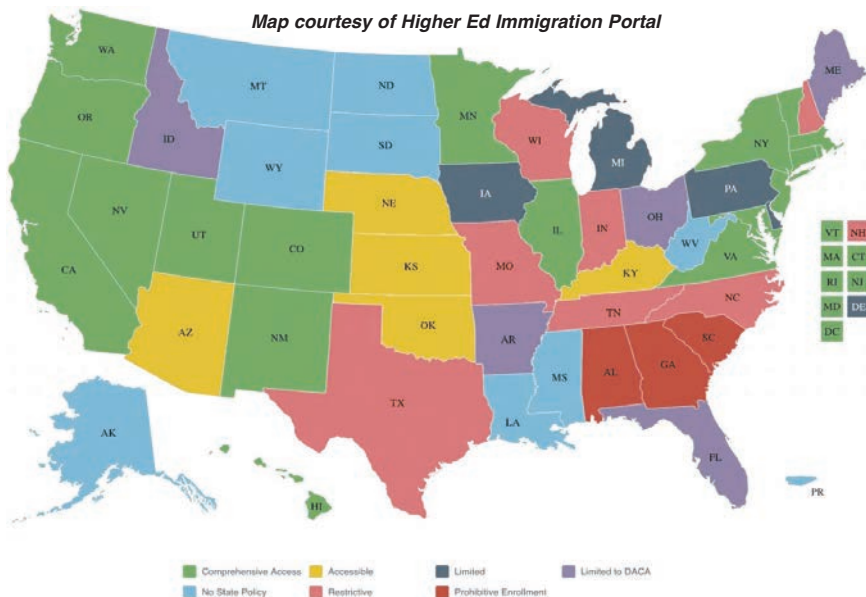
In 2021, Kansas saw 435 opioid overdose deaths, accounting for 64% of all drug overdose deaths in the state. Synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, are particularly concerning, with associated overdose deaths more than doubling each year from 2019 to 2021. Drug overdose deaths jumped 42 percent in the

SEE SETTLEMENT ON PAGE 10

## Kansas still allows in-state tuition for undocumented students

BY DAVID HICKS

THE SENTINEL



In the 2025 legislative session in the Sunflower State, an effort was made to outlaw the practice, but SB 254 died in committee.

For more than 20 years, the State of Kansas has offered in-state tuition to undocumented students since then-Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed House Bill 2145 into law in 2004. Now, with Florida and Texas discontinuing its programs this year, Kansas remains one of 22 states and the District of Columbia to offer the advantage to illegal aliens.

Eligibility in Kansas for in-state tuition includes any student who:

- has attended an accredited Kansas high school for three or more years and;

- has either graduated from an accredited Kansas high school or has earned a GED issued in Kansas and; (a) in the case of a person without lawful immigration status; has signed and filed an affidavit with the institution stating that the person or the person’s parents have filed an application to legalize such person’s immigration status, or will file such an application as soon as such person is eligible to do so, or; (b) in

SEE TUITION ON PAGE 8

SEE WINDOWS 10 ON PAGE 8