

# HEARING..

FROM PAGE 1

since receiving certification in early 2024. That expansion of staffing to more than 500 employees in 30 locations across the 6-county service area brought with it a compensation package of more than \$800,000 for Fawson and hundreds of thousands in pay and benefits for several among the SEK executive team. It also got attention from county commissioners who appoint members to the SEKMHC board of trustees. Most county commissions in the district opted to withdraw their county tax subsidy payments to the organization for 2026, which averaged a

little less than \$100,000 each per county. Fawson told legislators SEK was "significantly underpaying" staff prior to certification, and that higher salaries for front line therapists and other staffers were required in order to attract quality service providers to fit SEK's plan to expand and offer more integrated care. That plan included the February 2023 purchase of Ashley Clinic and February 2025 purchase of Yates Center Dental Clinic. He said Ashley Clinic had applied for a "look alike" federal reimbursement designation formerly known as a Federal Qualified Health Center which would also expand revenues by allow-

ing for a prospective payment system for Medicaid/Medicare, but that designation had not yet been granted. Fifth District Rep. Fred Gardner (R-Garnett) questioned Fawson on the make-up and management of SEK and Ashley Clinic's application for FQHC status, noting Kansas law required county commissioners to appoint mental health center boards of trustees, while FQHC's fell under federal guidance that require 51 percent of those boards to be made up of community members receiving services there. "That appears to be quite incompatible," Gardner said. "How are we going to deal with that?"

"We feel confident that our governance structure meets both the state and the federal criteria," Fawson said. He said it would take about a year to find out if the FQHC designation was approved for Ashley, and if so, criteria would have to be in place that directed county commissioners to appoint board members with consideration to whether they were receiving FQHA services. If Ashley did not qualify as an FQHC, Fawson said later, Ashley Clinic might be closed. Gardner also noted the contrast between SEKMHC salaries and that of others in the state's regional mental health system, which said he figured were some

4-5 times those of other mental health districts. Fawson said boosting salaries and attracting qualified providers was a focus of a consultant with an initial grant to pursue the CCBHC designation, and that SEKMHC met the 50th percentile of the consultant's recommended range over a period of years. Committee chair Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado) questioned Fawson on SEK's legal authority to operate Ashley Clinic. Fawson didn't reply directly, but said the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services had documented changes in Ashley's billing for services and later in its direction for it not to bill services.

The Kansas Board of Healing Arts prohibits a general business entity from the practice of medicine by employing or contracting with physicians, with certain statutory exceptions. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) most often allows for a Partner model in which the entity performs required screening/monitoring as a CCBHC, but delivers broader primary care through a relationship with an FQHC, physician group or hospital-owned clinic. Carpenter asked Fawson to provide an explicit documentation of that authority to the committee at a later date.

# PETITION...

FROM PAGE 1

district voters in a subsequent election. The school presently has about 43 students, with 19 half-day pre-K attendees in classes already slated for relocation to Garnett Elementary Center next year. USD 365 as a whole has seen enrollment declines as well from nearly 1,100 students in 2014 to 860 in 2025, which have created space board members say can be utilized at Garnett Elementary Center by housing the Greeley students. A little more than half the students enrolled at Greeley live in Garnett,

district records show. Most's closure plan included no reduction in staff and delayed its mainstay of financial savings until those staff members presumably leave due to attrition several years from the proposed closure date at the end of this school year. Most told attendees at the public hearing enrollment declines anticipated for the coming school year will mean a \$242,000 reduction in state revenue for USD 365. Expenditures per pupil at Greeley are nearly \$32,000. Most said in a presentation at the hearing, with per

head costs at Westphalia Elementary close behind at almost \$30,000. Student costs at Garnett Elementary come in at about \$16,000, the report said. That report said it presently costs \$1 million per year in staff and facility costs to operate the school at Greeley, with the highest cost in salaries and benefits. Opponents of the move can force a Kansas Board of Education review of the board's closure resolution if at least 5% of registered voters in the district sign the petition within 45 days of the resolution's January 13 adoption. The state board

will then issue an advisory determination on whether the closure is "reasonable under the totality of the circumstances" and may recommend modifying or rescinding the resolution. If a review is requested, the district board must hold a new public hearing to either reapprove, modify or rescind the closure resolution after that hearing. Organizers planned a number of petition locations and carriers, with an event set at the Archer Room of the Garnett Public Library this Sunday, Jan. 25.

**Make a HUGE SPLASH STATEWIDE**

**Or target your ad regionally for the most cost effective media buy anywhere!**

Statewide Ads appear in over 140 newspapers, reaching more than a million readers each and every week.

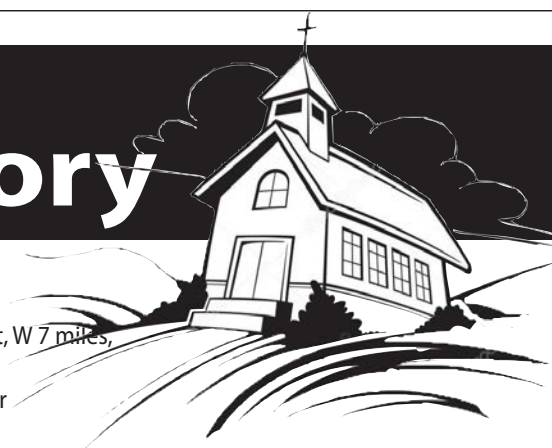
**Display, Classified & Online networks available!**

Need a more targeted campaign or looking for national coverage? Call us today to customize your plans.



**(785) 448-3121**

# Anderson County Area Religious Services Directory



**DODD'S REEBLE MEMORIALS MONUMENTS**

**OTTAWA - IOLA EMPORIA - HOME**  
785-242-3350  
FIND US IN NAMES & NUMBERS

**Benjamin Realty**  
*Sherry Benjamin, Broker*  
Land • Homes • Commercial

201 N. Maple  
Garnett, KS 66032  
benjaminrealty@earthlink.net

Office: (785) 448-2550  
Home: (785) 241-0532  
Cell: (785) 304-2029

**The Anderson County Review**

**GARNETT PUBLISHING, INC**  
112 W. SIXTH AVE., GARNETT  
(785) 448-3121

**Advertise here.**

**Call (785) 448-3121**

**Advertise here.**

**Call (785) 448-3121**

**KOFO**

103.7 FM • 1220 AM  
**(785) 242-1220**  
Country Favorites

Anderson County News  
Mon - Fri 8:00am

Your only locally-owned bank.

**Patriots Bank**

131 E. 4th Ave • PO Box 327 • Garnett, KS  
**(785) 448-3191**

**GRACE & TRUTH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday Service 10:00 am  
Wednesday 7pm  
East 6th & Hwy 169, Garnett, KS  
Pastor - Joshua Ford (785) 448-3908

**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
Sunday Connect Groups 9 am  
Sunday Worship Service 10:00am  
Bible Studies Sunday 5:30pm  
258 W. Park Road, Garnett, Ks.  
(785) 448-3208  
Lead Pastor - Scott King  
Childrens' Pastor -Sarah Pridey  
Teen Pastor -

**DUNKARD BRETHERN CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10am  
Sunday Worship 11am  
Hwy 31 & Grant, Garnett, KS

**KINCAID SELMA COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Worship 9am  
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.  
709 E. 5th St., Kincaid, KS  
Church Office (620) 439-5773

**ST. TERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Mass Saturday 5pm  
Richmond, KS  
Fr. David McEvoy  
(785) 835-6273

**NORTHCOTT CHURCH**  
Sunday Morning Bible Study 9am  
Sunday Worship 10am  
12425 SW Barton Rd., Colony, KS 66015  
(620) 228-9324

**BEACON HOUSE OF WORSHIP**  
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am  
23031 1750 RD • Garnett, Ks  
(785) 229-5172

**ST. JOHNS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Mass Sunday 8am  
Greeley, KS  
(785) 448-3846  
Pastor Fr. Thomas Maddock

**COLONY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Cross Training 9:45am  
Sunday Worship 10:45am  
211 Catalpa Ave., Colony  
(620) 852-3200  
Pastor - Chase Riebel

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
www.fccgarnett.org  
Early Worship 8am  
Sunday School (All Ages) 9:15am  
Second Worship Service 10:30am  
Children's Church 11am  
Nursery Provided  
Second & Walnut, Garnett, KS  
(785) 448-3452  
Chris Goetz, Pastor  
Brianna Wilson, Youth Minister  
brianna@fccgarnett.org

**COLONY COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Sunday Worship 9:30am  
Sunday School 10:30am  
Risen & Rockin' Sunday School Service 10:35am  
(620) 852-3237  
Colony, KS 66015  
Pastor - Steve Bubna

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH KINCAID**  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Church 10:45am, Eve Worship 7pm  
Wednesday Bible Study 7pm  
3rd & Osage, Kincaid, KS  
(620) 439-5311

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:30am  
Bible Study Wed. 10am  
Chancel Choir Sun 9am  
(785) 448-6833  
2nd & Oak, Garnett, KS

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School (All Ages) 10:00 am  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am  
116 N. Kallock, Richmond, KS  
(785) 835-6235

**WELDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Sunday Church School 9:45am  
Church Services & Children's Church 11am  
Nursery Available  
(785) 448-2358  
Welda, KS  
Pastor - Bill Nelson

**MONT IDA CHURCH**  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Church 10:40am  
(785) 448-8042  
1300 & Broomall Rd, Welda, KS

66091  
From Garnett - 7th St, W 7 miles, S 3 miles  
Pastor - Vernon Yoder

**KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
Sunday Public Meeting 10am  
Sunday Watchtower Study 10:35am  
Tuesday Ministry School 7:00pm  
Tuesday Service Meeting 7:35pm  
704 Westgate - Garnett, KS  
(785) 448-6755

**HOLY ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Mass: Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 10am  
(785) 448-3846  
514 E. 4th, Garnett, KS  
Pastor Fr. Thomas Maddock

**ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Sunday Mass 9am  
(785) 835-6273  
Scipio, KS  
Fr. David McEvoy

**ST. TERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Westphalia, KS  
Mass: Saturday 6 p.m..  
Fr. George Rhodes  
(620) 364-5671

**NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School 10am  
Sunday Worship 11am, 1:30pm  
705 S. Westgate (end of 7th St.)  
Garnett, KS  
(785) 204-1769  
Pastor - Chadd Lemaster

**ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Emerald (Hwy 31 West of Harris, KS)  
Mass: Saturday 4:00 pm  
Fr. George Rhodes  
(620) 364-5671

**COLONY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Church Services 9:30am  
Colony, KS  
Parsonage (620) 852-3103  
Church Office (620) 852-3106  
Pastor - Dorothy Welch

**LIVING WATERS BIBLE TEMPLE**  
Sunday School 10am  
Sunday Service 11am  
305 E. 2nd  
Garnett, KS  
(785) 521-1594  
Pastor - Michael Lobdell

**Strong churches make strong communities. Join a church family in the local area today!**

**Advertise here.**  
**Call (785) 448-3121**

**SONIC**

Hwy 59 in Garnett, KS  
**(785) 448-6393 or (785) 448-6494**  
Call-ins Welcome!

**GSSB** FDIC

Serving The Area Since 1899  
GOPPERT STATE SERVICE BANK  
Garnett • Colony • Hepler • Ottawa • Pomona • St. Paul • Walnut

**This listing of local places of worship paid for by the businesses you see here. Show your appreciation with your patronage.**