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Anderson County Review



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Dyche avoids attempted murder charge in alleged knife attack

Law specifies "intent" in attempted murder definition; four other felonies filed in case

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

RICHMOND - The Iola man initially held on suspicion of attempted murder after a stabbing incident last week at a Richmond business is formally charged with four felonies including aggravated battery and attempted aggravated robbery in connection with the incident.



Dyche

Twenty year-old Phillip James Dyche was charged in Franklin County District Court in connection with the March 12th incident, in which investigating officers say he attacked 33 year-old Dustin Goodell, an employee at Richmond Body Works, when Goodell surprised Dyche upon finding the alleged assailant in his vehicle. Dyche allegedly stabbed and cut Goodell several times with a blade before he was subdued by other employees and held until officers arrived.

Dyche's charges include felony counts of aggravated battery and attempted aggravated robbery, as well as felony interference with law enforcement, felony unlawful distribution of marijuana and a misdemeanor charge of having no Kansas drug tax stamp. Dyche is being held on \$100,000 bond in the Franklin County jail. An analysis of Kansas the "attempt statute," KSA 21-5301, provides a definition for prosecutors between a charge of attempted murder and the lesser felony of aggravated battery. A successful conviction on attempted murder demands

SEE DYCHE ON PAGE 3

McGhee won't seek re-election

County commissioner who helped decide wind, solar, Covid mask policy bows out

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT - 1st District Anderson County Commissioner Les McGhee says he won't seek a fourth four-year term in office after his current term expires next January, opening up the seat for interested takers anxious to engage burgeoning costs for county road maintenance and ongoing political pressure to ease property taxes.



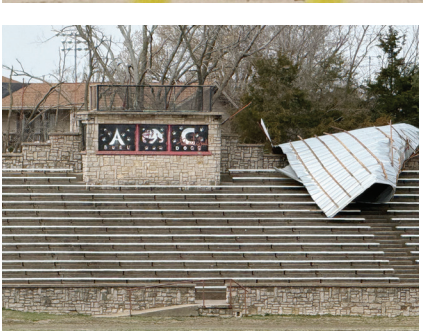
McGhee

McGhee spoke publicly about his decision for the first time at Monday's commission meeting. "Twelve years is long enough," McGhee told the Review yesterday. "It's time for somebody younger."

McGhee ran as an independent when he won his first term in 2014, defeating incumbent Republican Jim Johnson, then changed parties to Republican when he filed to run again in 2018. He was integral in the county's adoption of restrictive wind farm regulations in 2017 which effectively cur-

SEE MCGHEE ON PAGE 12

COUNTING THE PIECES



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 3-19-2026 / DANE HICKS

Local officials, insurance agents and area residents spent the past week counting up the damage from the March 10 downburst that smashed roofs, snapped light poles and shut off power to the Garnett area. At top the former Country Peddler location lost its roof, below from left, winds swept away the city maintenance shed roof at

Garnett Stadium and dropped it on the seating section; field lighting poles were snapped and the north goal post bent; a post and fence at the south ballfield were damaged, and a City of Ottawa electric technician helps reconnect power lines west of Garnett on 1700 Rd.

Winds up to 85 mph did more damage in area than first thought

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT - County officials and local insurance providers were working this week to get a handle on damages caused by the Tuesday, March 10 windstorm that hammered the area with wind speeds up to 85 mph.

Throughout Garnett and the surrounding area damage was widespread though fairly moderate in intensity with the major victims being tin building roofs, trees and limbs, fences and unsecured objects, and light poles either withered by age or whose base in the soil was softened by recent rains as they yielded to the wind force. Regardless, a drive down about any Garnett street or surrounding area roadway found evi-

dence of wind damage. Anderson County Emergency Management Director Sara Burkhart said her office was still in the process of gathering scattered damage reports before any estimate of overall storm impact could be made. "I'm still in the process of gathering verified information," Burkhart said Tuesday. "At this point, we don't receive automatic reports from insurance companies, and most

claims data isn't available to us until much later in the process." Garnett Agency West representative Courtney Tucker said she'd received around 10 actual claims so far, with numerous other calls looking for estimates before filing claims. "The highest claim so far was \$15,500 out of my office," Tucker said.

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Tax-delinquent properties on auction bloc March 30

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT - More than 20 properties across Anderson County are slated to go up for public auction later this month as part of the county's annual tax foreclosure sale, offering a mix of residential homes, vacant lots and rural tracts to the highest bidder.

The sale is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 30, at the Anderson County Extension

Office, 411 S. Oak Street in Garnett, and will be conducted by the Anderson County Sheriff under an order from District Court.

The auction is the result of a legal process targeting properties with multiple years of unpaid property taxes, typically three or more. Once taxes remain delinquent for that length of time, the county initiates foreclosure proceedings to recover the unpaid revenue.

County officials say approximately 20 to 22 parcels are currently scheduled for sale, with properties located in communities including Garnett, Kincaid, Lone Elm, Westphalia and Welda.

The amount owed on the properties varies widely. Some parcels carry delinquent tax bills of less than \$100, while others exceed \$10,000, reflecting years of accumulated taxes, penalties and interest.

Among the higher-dollar properties listed in the legal notice are:

- 511 S. Oak Street, Garnett, with more than \$12,000 owed
- 200 N. Grace Street, Kincaid, with nearly \$9,800 owed
- 19047 SW Ransom Avenue, Welda, with more than \$10,000 owed

County officials note those totals may increase due to addi-

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Groups line up with dollars to fight election of judges in August vote

BY DANE HICKS THE KANSAS INFORMER

TOPEKA - A coalition of Kansas advocacy groups has begun staffing up for a political campaign aimed at defeating a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow Kansas voters to elect justices on the Kansas Supreme Court.

The amendment, expected to appear on the August 2026 primary ballot, would replace the state's current merit-selection

system with direct statewide elections for justices.

According to research compiled by Kansas policy analyst Earl Glynn, the advocacy coalition Kansas United for Impartial Courts (KUIC) began reviewing applications in early March for several campaign positions designed to organize opposition to the amendment. Glynn reported that KUIC advertised two positions paying \$8,000 per month and another

paying \$6,500 per month to build campaign infrastructure. A campaign manager position listed earlier in the year offered \$12,000 per month, and the role appears to have already been filled.

"On Monday Kansas United for Impartial Courts started reviewing applications for three positions to oppose a constitutional amendment to allow the direct election of Supreme Court Judges in Kansas," Glynn

wrote in his March 3 analysis of the campaign's early activity.

According to the job postings Glynn reviewed, the coalition's field director will be responsible for hiring three additional field organizers as part of a statewide voter outreach effort ahead of the August referendum.

Coalition of advocacy organizations
The KUIC coalition includes

SEE JUDGES ON PAGE 10