

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**CITY TO PICK UP STORM DEBRIS MARCH 26**  
 The City of Garnett will pick up storm debris from the March 10 storm including tin, shingles, lumber and other non-general refuse items next Thursday, March 26th. Residents with storm debris to be removed should pile those items separately at curbside for pickup by the prior Wednesday evening. Crews will start on the north side of town and will not double back. The pickup is free of charge but limited to storm debris only. Brush and limbs will be picked up on Friday March 27th.

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

**WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE APRIL 4**  
 The Garnett Chamber of Commerce will host a women's self defense course April 4 from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Garnett Recreation Center. Contact the chamber office at (785) 448-6767 or director@garnettchamber.org for ticket information and to RSVP.

**VFW THANK YOU CELEBRATION**  
 VFW Post 6397 is planning a Thank You Celebration for VFW Vietnam veterans. It will be held on Saturday, March 28 at the post. Social hour is at 4 p.m., dinner & program beginning at 5 p.m. Vietnam veterans and their families are invited to attend. No RSVP required.

**FREE YOGA CLASS**  
 A 6-week introductory yoga for arthritis class to start March 23rd. Must be at least 60 years old. It will take place at the Garnett Rec Center at 10 a.m. on Mondays from March 23rd - April 26th. This class is sponsored by ECKAAA. Yoga for Arthritis helps reduce pain, increase range of motion and flexibility, reduce stress and help you sleep better. Contact Jodi Smith 785-418-2419 for any questions.

**WOMEN'S FAIR 3/28**  
 Women's Fair is Saturday, March 28th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Garnett Rec Center. Come join us for a great day of education and vendors. You have the opportunity to win \$10 to spend at one of the vendors on this day. Food truck Buon Appetito, Italian Food will be at the event. Any questions or register a booth, contact 785-448-8745.

**VFW SETS CORNHOLE TOURNEYS THURSDAYS**  
 Every Thursday there will be a cornhole tournament at the Garnett VFW, 1507 S. Elm St. It is a family friendly event open to everyone. Registration begins at 6 p.m., tournament begins at 6:30 p.m. Entry fee is \$15.

**CREST UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 479 Board Meeting Minutes March 9, 2026**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education of Crest Unified School District #479 was held at the Crest Board Office, Colony, on Monday, March 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Travis Church.

**Roll Call**  
 Board Members Present – Nathan Beckmon, Travis Church, Jamie Henderson, Westin Holloway, Kevin Nilges  
 Board Members Absent – Seth Black and Laura Schmidt  
 Others Present – Superintendent Shane Walter, Elementary Principal Stephanie Edgerton and Board Clerk Elizabeth Donnelly.

**Approval of Agenda** – It was moved by Mr. Kevin Nilges and seconded by Mr. Nathan Beckmon to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: 5-0 (Yes/No)  
**Approval of Consent Agenda** – It was moved by Mr. Nathan Beckmon and seconded by Mr. Westin Holloway to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the February 9th regular board meeting, bills in the amount of \$557,949.49, Enrollment Report and Budget Expenditure Report. Vote: 5-0

**Information Items**  
 ANW Special Education Minutes – The minutes of the February 11th, 2026 ANW Special Education Cooperative meeting were reviewed.

**Superintendent/Principal Report** – Mr. Walter reported that spring sports numbers are up; Participation will include two Southern Coffey County (SCC) High School students on the softball team and two on the baseball team.

Mr. Walter noted that Spring Break for students will be March 13 – March 22.  
 Mr. Walter shared that Friday, March 13 will be a professional development day for teachers with a focus on KESA (Kansas Education Systems Accreditation) on standards alignment.

Mr. Walter discussed how At-Risk funding is calculated.

**Items of Business**  
 Facility Improvements – Mr. Walter shared photos of the

remodel, taken by Loyd Builders and will be used for a brochure. The photos may also be used for newspaper articles, social media, or other promotional materials.

Mr. Walter presented a quote from Vision Communications KS, Inc. for the purchase and installation of Cat6 cabling totaling \$11,400.00. Most of the cost will be covered through Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) funding. Motion by: Mr. Nathan Beckmon 2nd by: Mrs. Jamie Henderson to approve the purchase of Cat6 cabling and install from Vision Communications KS, Inc. Vote: 5-0

Mr. Walter shared that he will be seeking bids for the greenhouse that will be purchased with funds from the Patterson Grant that was awarded Fall of 2025.

Mr. Walter shared a list of items that still need completed by Loyd Builders; contractors will be working on front office area over spring break.

Mr. Walter shared that Track Renovations will begin work on replacing the track at the end of May 2026.

Mr. Walter reported that Lankford Flooring provided options for repairs that could help extend the life of the main gym floor. No action taken.

**Curriculum Discussion**  
 Mr. Walter recommended that one or two board members participate in the Site Council meetings in April and June of 2026.

**Open Enrollment Discussion**  
 Mr. Walter shared Enrollment Projection & Non-Resident Enrollment Report.

**Resignations**  
 It was moved by Mr. Nathan Beckmon and seconded by Mrs. Jamie Henderson to accept the following resignations:

Caitlin Callaway as High School Student Council Sponsor  
 Bree Walter as High School Assistant Girls Basketball Coach & High School Assistant Volleyball Coach

Steve Zimmerman as High School Head Girls Basketball Coach  
 Vote: 5-0

**Negotiations – Executive Session**  
 It was moved by Mr. Travis Church and seconded by Mr. Kevin Nilges to enter into executive session to discuss board/

teacher negotiation items pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, the open meeting was to resume in the board room at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Walter and Mrs. Elizabeth Donnelly were invited to attend. Vote: 5-0

The open meeting reconvened in the board room at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Nathan Beckmon and Mr. Westin Holloway volunteered to represent the board for upcoming negotiations.

**Personnel – Executive Session**  
 It was moved by Mr. Travis Church and seconded by Mr. Nathan Beckmon to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing district staffing. The reason for the session was the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA. The meeting was to resume in the board room at 8:47 p.m. Mr. Walter and Mrs. Edgerton were invited to attend. Vote: 5-0

At 8:35 p.m., Mrs. Edgerton exited the executive session.

At 8:47 p.m., the open meeting resumed in the board room and it was moved by Mr. Travis Church and seconded by Mrs. Jamie Henderson to extend the executive session until 9:02 p.m. with Mr. Walter reentering the executive session. Vote: 5-0

The open meeting reconvened in the board room at 9:02 p.m. and it was moved by Mr. Nathan Beckmon and seconded by Mr. Kevin Nilges to hire:

Miranda Sigg as Daycare Aid  
 Vote: 5-0

**Administrative Contracts**  
 It was moved by Mr. Nathan Beckmon and seconded by Mr. Kevin Nilges to extend the contracts of Principal Edgerton for 2 years thru June 2028. Vote: 5-0

It was moved by Mr. Nathan Beckmon and seconded by Mrs. Jamie Henderson to extend the contracts of Superintendent Walter and Principal Hermeck for 1 year thru June 2028. Vote: 5-0

Adjournment –  
 It was moved by Mrs. Jamie Henderson and seconded by Mr. Nathan Beckmon to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Vote: 5-0

**ANDERSON COUNTY JAIL ROSTER (as of February 9, 2026)**

Shi Leilani Kinney was booked into jail on August 29, 2025.  
 Trenton Rudy Parker was booked into jail on October 14,

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

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

Stephen Ray Putthoff was booked into jail on December 11, 2025.

Brenday Dean Bunnell was booked into jail on December 21, 2025.

Jeremy Douglas Lankard was booked into jail on December 29, 2025.

Benjamin Ashley Page was booked into jail on February 5, 2026.

Raisa Irina Hayden was booked into jail on February 8, 2026.

**ANDERSON COUNTY JAIL FARM-INS (as of February 9, 2026)**

Darius Justin-Craig Martin was booked into jail on February 5, 2026.

**ANDERSON COUNTY TRAFFIC CASES FILED**

Sheyenne Faith Scharschell has been charged with speeding 90 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Lance William Jacob has been charged with speeding 75 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Drew Roy Mcelwain has been charged with speeding 45 mph in a 35 mph zone.

Angie Rashell Morton has been charged with speeding 84 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Erika Gomez has been charged with operating a motor vehicle without a license and operating a vehicle without registration or an expired tag.

Makhi Anthony Butler has been charged with speeding 75 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Hannah Grace Hazlewood has been charged with speeding 75 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Shannon Nicole Johnson has been charged with speeding 45 mph in a 35 mph zone.

Hunter Scott Davis has been charged with speeding 75 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Duncan Jarrod Kristian Walla has been charged with speeding 83 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Christopher Nakaidinae Perez has been charged with speeding 84 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Lea Danielle Gayle has been charged with speeding 85 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Michael Ray Riley has been charged with driving while suspended and improper driving on laned roadway.

Tara Janette Winkler has been charged with operating a vehicle without registration or with an expired tag.

Coby Rex Reese has been charged with speeding 87 mph in a 65 mph zone, passing on left with insufficient clearance and driving on left in a no-passing zone.

Anthony Michael Beccera has been charged with speeding 75 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Lonnie Edgecomb has been charged with speeding 65 mph in a 55 mph zone.

Macey J Lewis has been charged with speeding 75 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Amanda Diana Lantis has been charged with speeding 80 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Joquita Ann Hastings has been charged with failure to wear a seatbelt.

Jeffery Allen Neal has been charged with failure to wear a seatbelt.

Maxamillion Donte Ortiz has been charged with speeding 75 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Abby Kay Reid has been charged with speeding 75 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Mohammed A Allabani has been charged with improper passing of a school bus.

Haley E Reavis has been charged with speeding 65 mph in a 55 mph zone and for vehicle liability insurance required.

JaJuan Devin Nathan has been charged with driving while suspended and passing on the left with insufficient clearance.

Conner Alexander Smith has been charged with speeding 80 mph in a 65 mph zone and for a defective tail lamp on motor vehicle.

Kevin Dawan Blair has been charged with speeding 43 mph in a 30 mph zone.

Jessica Nicole Duncan has been charged with failure to wear a seatbelt, child passenger safety and vehicle liability insurance required.

Daniel James Schultz has been charged with operating a vehicle without registration or with

SEE RECORDS ON PAGE 10

## Tyson: Property tax cap amendment stalls in house as session clock ticks

*Legislative Update by State Senator Caryn Tyson March 13, 2026*

**Property Tax Relief:** A historic opportunity is in Topeka to provide real property tax reform and certainty, but the clock is ticking. While the Senate and House worked in good faith toward a comprehensive solution, a key piece of the puzzle, SCR 1616, the CAP Amendment, which would cap individual assessment increases at 3% per year, providing the predictability homeowners have been pleading for, stalled in the House and was sent back to the Tax Committee. The Senate passed the CAP Amendment with a strong bipartisan vote of 30 to 10. However, despite ongoing negotiations, the House has yet to pass the measure, favoring a revenue limit instead. We need both to truly "reign in" an out-of-control system. The Assessment Cap (The Senate Plan): Protects individual homeowners from "valuation shock" and ensures transparency by requiring local governments to explicitly raise the mill levy if they want more revenue. The Revenue Limit (The House Plan): Would help control overall government spending. While helpful for the big picture, it doesn't protect the individual homeowner from being priced out of their home. Last

year, a Constitutional Amendment was passed in the House using a rolling average, but that unfortunately locks us in at today's record-high valuations. We need the CAP Amendment to provide a real ceiling. Because of how the Kansas tax code is structured, the CAP Amendment is a Constitutional change. Passing it doesn't make it law—it simply puts it on the ballot, allowing the people of Kansas to vote on it.

We have a powerful precedent for this: In 1975, Kansas voters amended the Constitution to change how agricultural land is valued (moving from market value to "ag use" production value). This saved countless farmers and ranchers from losing their land to high taxes. Today, Kansas families are facing that same threat. Polls show that 75% of Kansans support a 3% assessment cap. While the House and Senate continue to negotiate, the goal remains clear: protect our homes and provide lasting relief. There is still time to pass both the assessment cap and the revenue

limit. Let's finish this and give Kansans the protection they deserve.

Ethanol Fuel Tax Credit would be established in SB 498, for the sale of E-15 or higher blends for three years. The bill was amended on the Senate floor to create a tax credit on the purchases of lockable gun and ammunition storage for tax years 2026 through 2028. It also repealed some unused tax credits. It passed 38 to 1. I voted yes.

Active Shooter Drills would be established in schools if SB 263 is law. It passed 38 to 1. I voted yes.

Mandatory Recess for K-8 grade students if SB 339 becomes law. It would prohibit withholding recess for disciplinary reasons. It's one of those bills you can see both sides. After consideration, I voted yes. It passed 24 to 15.

Cattle, Horse, and Ag Equipment Theft would become a level 5 nonperson felony and forfeiture of contraband property used in the theft. It would result in significant penalties, including imprisonment, depending on the thief's

previous record. HB 2413 passed unanimously.

Grain and Hay Theft penalties would become a level 6 nonperson felony if HB 2422 becomes law. Punishment will depend on the thief's criminal history. It passed unanimously.

Wildlife and Parks would be allowed to set fees through rules and regulations if HB 2568 becomes law. It was controversial and only passed 23 to 16. I voted no.

Governor Emergency Powers would be expanded during the World Cup (soccer) in Sen Sub for HB 2212. The state gave \$28 million for infrastructure changes for the World Cup and now they want emergency powers to suspend our laws for security concerns. Where will it end? I voted no. It passed 38 to 2.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your 12th District State Senator.

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