



# The Chanute Tribune

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## CASA announces Father’s Day Charitable Golf Tournament results

CASA of the 31st Judicial District held their 19th annual Father’s Day Charitable Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 14.

CASA was honored and excited to be the first tournament on the newly refurbished Allen County Country Club golf course. “The tournament is always held to celebrate Father’s Day and the important role that Fathers play in raising children,” CASA Director Aimee Daniels said. “But also to celebrate Flag Day and to have some fun while raising funds to increase the capacity of the Court Appointed Special Advocates program in this Judicial District.”

CASA serves Children through the Courts in Allen, Neosho, Woodson and Wilson County. The theme was Fathers and Flags. CASA Board President Cynthia Jacobson assumed the role of host as she is retiring from CASA soon.

“As always, Mulligans were available, you could spin for a hole-in-one, teams used best ball and bogey was your friend,” Daniels said. “Fun was the highlight as well as camaraderie, but competition was fierce in the three-flight tournament and several teams ran neck in neck throughout play.”

Nineteen teams with 74 golfers tee’d off at 9 a.m. while enjoying cool weather and a nice breeze. An afternoon sprinkle provided more relief from heat.

See GOLF, continued on page 3

DEATHS

Obituaries for the following people can be found on page 2 of today’s Tribune.

- Justin Hall
- Joy Lowe
- Vicki McKee
- Edilee Noland

LOCAL SMILES

Jackson Johnson

THIS ISSUE

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When you see news happening or if you have a story idea, call 431-4100.



Hannah Emberton | Tribune

Journalism students were recognized at the recent Chanute Public Schools Board of Education meeting. From left are: Kaanin Pontious, Dustin Fox, Kynleigh Oliver, and Jennifer May Zywiets

## Chanute Public Schools Board of Education names Cleaver as President, discusses annual business

**Hannah Emberton**  
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During their regular meeting, the Chanute Public Schools Board of Education approved many items of annual business, as well as some board position changes.

Board members voted to name Cassie Cleaver as president of the board. Brianna Leroy was voted to remain vice president for the year.

Other restructuring business included naming delegates to various committees, making appointments, and designations. Heather Guernsey was appointed to be this year’s delegate to the ANW Special Education Cooperative Board, with Jennifer May Zywiets to be the alternate.

Heather Guernsey was also appointed as the governmental relations network representative for the Kansas Association of School Boards. Tamara Slane was appointed board clerk and the official custodian responsible for the maintenance of school records; deputy clerks are Taylor Hogue and Kelly Colter. Truancy officers will be the principals and assistant principals of each building.

Other appointments include: Kurt Kluin, attorney; Jared Gilmore and Phillips PA, auditor; Dr. Heather Burris, federal projects representative and Title IX compliance; Matt Koester, hearing officer for free and reduced price lunch applications appeals and the Freedom of Information officer; Terri Markham, food service representative; Kelly Colter and Tamara Slane, district representatives for Kansas Public Employees Retirement System; Chanute Tribune, official newspaper for legal publications; and G. Mike Colay, asbestos coordinator. Bank of Commerce, Community National Bank, Emprise Bank, Commercial Bank, and Home Savings Bank were designated as official depositories of school funds.

In other business, the board adopted minor policy changes as required by state statute and approved a workers compensation and employers liability insurance policy with Accident Fund Insurance Company of America for the 2025-2026 budget year with an annual premium of \$75,213. A fee for Open Records Requests was also established, which equated to

the hourly rate of the employee obtaining information.

The previously discussed master equity lease agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management was approved, as well as the Greenbush Health Trust agreement.

The board had first readings of the updated 2025 KASB policies, the district’s student handbook, and the board’s norms and operating procedures.

Meeting dates for the year’s board meetings were set. Regular board meetings will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Most meetings will be held at the district office at 321 E. Main St. in Chanute. However, the Sept. 3 meeting will be held at Chanute Elementary School.

During the superintendent’s report, Superintendent Matt Koester provided an estimated assessed valuation amount. The total estimate of assessed valuation funds is \$100,510,430, with a general fund estimate of \$73,158,015 and a capital outlay of \$5,921,686. These numbers equate to a 4.5% increase over last year, according to Koester, with a flat mill rate.

The 2024 mill rate was set at 56.678, which was increased by the county after the budget estimate to 57.904 in 2025. For 2026, Koester hopes to see the mill rate decrease to the original 56.678.

“That’s the target as we sit here,” Koester said.

Koester also noted that this fall, community groups will meet to discuss long-range planning for the district, with a report to come from Gravity::Works in December on what input they have received.

“We need all sorts of opinions on this,” Koester said, noting that what the community finds important to prioritize might not be the same issues that the board would prioritize, and that feedback is needed.

School being out for summer does not mean that no students are recognized. Several students attended Wednesday’s meeting, and many more were recognized for their recent accomplishments.

Honorees are as follows.

See BOARD, continued on page 3



Hannah Emberton | Tribune

Reece Norris, left, and Ava Teichgraeber, right are two of several softball athletes recognized at Wednesday’s Board of education meeting.

## KBI releases 2024 crime statistics

Hannah Emberton  
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The Kansas Bureau of Investigation has released the crime data for 2024.

Index crimes are specifically measured by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for data. Such crimes include violent crimes; murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault or battery. Property crimes such as burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson are also indexed.

Statewide, there were 58,161 property crimes, and 12,643 crimes were submitted in 2024.

According to KBI, the total index crimes decreased by 16.7% from the 10-year average.

The crime index rate is a measurement of index crimes per 1,000 people. In 2023, the crime index rate was 27 offenses per every 1,000 people, which decreased to 23.3 in 2024; the lowest rate reported in two decades.

When that index is further examined, it’s divided into violent crimes and property crimes. The violent crime rate index was 4.2 offenses per every 1,000 people in 2024, and the property crime index rate was 19.2 offenses.

In total, 70,804 index crimes were reported across the state in 2024; 117 cases of murder, 989 rapes, 940 robberies, 10,597 reports of aggravated assault or battery, 7,118 reported burglaries, 43,636 thefts, 7,407 motor vehicle thefts.

There were a total of 419 reported incidents of arson in 2024. Arson is included in crime data provided by KBI, but is not included in the total of index crimes. Last year held the lowest arson rate in over 20 years, according to KBI.

Statistics are also broken down by county and agency; however, this requires local police agencies and sheriff’s offices to submit data monthly. In Neosho County, data was received for all 12 months from the Neosho County Sheriff’s Office and the Chanute Police Department. The data from the Erie Police Department data is based on the nine months reported.

County-wide, the total crime rate for index crimes was 18.2 in 2024. The violent crime rate was 3.3, and the property crime rate was 6.6. These are averages of each of the county’s law enforcement agencies.

There were a total of 210 reported index crimes from the Chanute Police Department, or a crime rate of 25.1. Of the total crimes, 45 were violent crimes, including nine incidents of rape, five robberies, and 31 reported aggravated assault or battery occurrences. Property crime is more frequent, with 165 total property crimes reported in 2024. This included 52 burglaries, 106 thefts, and seven motor vehicle thefts.

Not included in the total index crime count are reports of arson. In Chanute, there were two incidents of arson.

See CRIME, continued on page 2

### AT&T MAINTENANCE PLANNED PHONE OUTAGE



AT&T planned maintenance will impact incoming/outgoing phone calls for NMRMC during the early hours of July 22, 2025. This timeframe is an estimate and may be shorter. Please note during the outage:

**EMERGENCY CALLS:**  
As always, in case of an emergency DIAL 911

**INCOMING CALLS:**  
the public may call NMRMC using the back-up line: 620-433-4455

**OUTGOING CALLS:**  
NMRMC may call out by dialing: \*805-1-(area code)+number

**Tuesday, July 22, 2025  
between 12am - 6am**

