

The Cunningham Courier

"The only newspaper in the world that cares about Cunningham, Kansas"

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December 25, 2025
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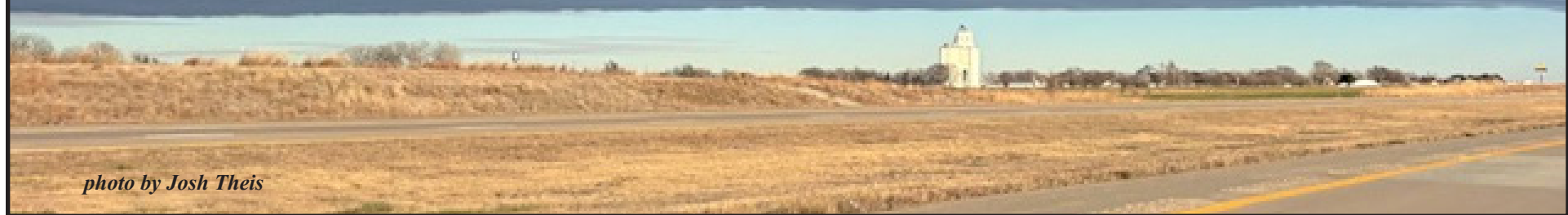


photo by Josh Theis

Minutes from the Kingman County Commission Meeting

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. December 15, 2025, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Jeff Young, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Dale Enyart; Ms. Dye; Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief.

Online Visitors: Caller 01; AS; Lucy Staff: Sheriff Brent Wood; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Tiffany Aumiller, Benefits Administrator; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Chairwoman Lyon would like to add an Executive Session.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda with an executive session addition. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Sheriff Brent Wood was in with a department update for the Commissioners.

Sheriff Wood submitted the November report.

Sheriff Wood discussed the per diem rate for State inmates.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the maximum per diem rate \$112.82 per day from the

Department of Corrections for prisoners. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Sheriff Wood let the Commissioners know as of this morning he has 11 applicants for the Emergency Manager position. The closing date is January 2nd, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Young moved to go into Executive Session at 8:49 a.m. with Sheriff Brent Wood and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor for non-elected personnel matters to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 8:59a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 8:59 a.m. with no action taken.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the status change of three employees at the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to review the November financials with the County Commissioners.

Ms. Stegman discussed the remaining funds from the pilot payments and where the Commissioners want it placed and if a fund should be set for the future Courthouse updating.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to establish a Courthouse Remodel fund and place \$272,000.00 from the remaining pilot funds received. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the

motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Tiffany Aumiller, Benefits Administrator would like an executive session for non-elect personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Young moved to go into Executive Session at 9:36 a.m. with Tiffany Aumiller, Benefits Administrator and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor for non-elected personnel matters to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:34 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 3-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session for atty-client privilege at 9:55 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss the County's position on administrative proceedings, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:00 a.m. with no action taken.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to enter into an agreement with McGowne Law Offices P.A. for potential litigation. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor discussed a contract received from iWorks for the permit processing for building permits and waste-water permits with the County Commissioners.

Commissioners decided to table the contract until next week to be able to research the company and what it can do for Kingman County.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted December 8, 2025, Commission Meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve December 8, 2025, Commission meeting minutes with one correction. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon let the Board know that she attended the Carwile Soil Meeting last Monday afternoon and it was informative on the change is value.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with a permit for the following:

C & K Operating LLC-Road Crossing-Gas line between Section 22 & 27, Township 28, Range 07W. (East Ninnescah)

Commissioners opened bids for the Surface Overlay Project NE 10th St-Old Hwy 54 for 5 miles from the following:

Kansas Paving	\$994,673.50
APAC	\$884,327.93
Pearson	\$791,412.00
Engineer's Estimate	\$1,254,574.00

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to accept the Bid from Pearson in the amount of \$791,412.00 to be paid out of Capital Improvement. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners signed abatements.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:32 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

courtesy of USD 332

On behalf of Cunningham USD 332, thank you to outgoing school board members Vicki Oldham and Megan Green for your dedicated service to our students, faculty, staff, and community. Your leadership and commitment to our district are greatly appreciated!

Thank You!



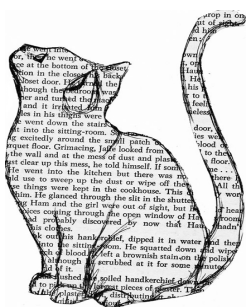


Wishing you and your dear ones a joyful and Merry Christmas.

We are grateful for the opportunity to care for you and your family.



Cunningham Clinic
620-298-2397



Meanderings

A bit of a Christmas present to myself: a very short meanderings.

The caroling fairies came this week (a.k.a. 4-H).

Quin was beside himself with excitement. I cracked the door so we could hear, and he whined and growled just a bit, then whined a bit

of a howl. He was enchanted, to say the least.

My felines wish you a "Meowy" Holdiay season, they hope you receive all the catnip and kitty treats you deserve. (They do know what they like, and if you don't like yours, they would be happy to take them off our hands.)

Quin, bless his little canine heart, wishes you a Merry Howliday and hopes you get all the soup bones and treats and belly rubs you deserve.

We are contented lot here at Kobbe's Cabana and Cafe for Cats and Canines. We don't ask for much from Santa, treats, soup bones, catnip, and belly rubs.

**

I would like to wish all my readers a Merry Holiday season.

Not all who celebrate this sacred and blessed time of year can be with those they love, due to circumstances beyond their control. So make your memories with care and love.

May those memories

you experience stay with you for a lifetime and beyond.

Always reading, and currently reading, "The Body Snatchers Affair" by Marcia Mullens and Bill Pronzini, Roberta



Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

Christmas is once again right around the corner and I'm not half ready. It's crunch time for many of us and somehow I know we will all pull it off. We always do. I've been pretty much attacking the holiday since Thanksgiving. At the time of this writing that would be about four weeks ago. That should be enough time, right?

But apparently it isn't.

Because according to the kind of people that actually track these kind of things the majority of Americans who celebrate Christmas spend about SIX WEEKS in preparation. This includes gift shopping, gift wrapping, food shopping, meal planning, receiving and sending packages, decorating, travel itineraries, and events such as office parties, church gatherings, etc. So it is no surprise that about 41% of we Merry Makers feel overwhelmed by the Holiday To-Do Lists. And about 22% of Santa's Little

Helpers will lament that they spend more time gearing up for the holidays than they do enjoying them. So that it is how it is and how it has been for a least my entire time on the planet.

Many ask why do we put ourselves through this tinsel-tossed torture year in and year out. And the answer is pretty simple. Because we care. We care about getting that particular person the perfect gift, one that says "I know what you like" or "I know what you need." We care about trimming the perfect tree so all the lights and ornaments are

in concert and not disturbing to the eye. We care to take fifteen minutes wrapping that box for that kid, with the ribbons and labels and bows. And we won't mind when that kid shreds it to pieces in about three seconds. And we even care about strangers when we make sure we have change to drop in the Salvation Army bucket.

And that is important because it is in the month of December Americans feel and are most charitable. It is estimated (again by the people who pay attention to such things) that around 30% of all

annual donations occur in December. That's truly terrific but wouldn't it be nice if we were that mag-nanimous year-round? I really wouldn't have a problem if the Salvation Army (or the dozens of other like-minded charitable organizations) would hit us up on a monthly basis. I'd keep the bell and bucket, but just change out the costume. Instead of Santa (and depending on the time of year) we could have a turkey bell ringer or a pumpkin bell ringer or a founding father bell ringer or six foot tall rabbit bell ringer. The pos-

sibilities are limitless. I have no doubt that all of you readers wouldn't think twice about donating a little something in that manner. Why? Because I know you care.

And I care about you and want you to have a healthy and happy holiday season no matter what you celebrate. And I also want to thank you for your loyal readership. It makes doing what I do immensely rewarding. So until next year...

Keep your eyes on the stars and your back to the wind.



Family Folklore

Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

We didn't have any strong tradition around trimming a Christmas tree when I was a child, at least not that I can remember. Obtaining the tree resembled a loose imitation of Clark Griswold as we ventured out to the corner of a pasture to find a red cedar that had managed to escape repeated fires.

Nearly all these adventures were rather uneventful and ended with an indoor evergreen adding a festive look and scent to our house. We'd drape lights over the boughs and hang an assortment of ornaments from the branches, carefully testing the heavier

ones against the tree's thin limbs.

Once erected and decorated, the tree was largely a stationary sentinel overseeing a growing pile of presents. It stood on duty until the packages were distributed on Christmas morning. Its mission completed after a few weeks, the tree was unceremoniously removed and disposed of before the New Year.

This was the tree routine of my childhood with the exception of one year. The only time I can remember we didn't get, set up or decorate a tree at Christmas has provided one of my family's most cherished holiday memories and likely the story that's been retold the most.

Like any good American family story, this adventure began in a vehicle – a green Toyota Land Cruiser

FJ-40 to be exact. The small, boxy, rugged vehicle wasn't designed for toting Christmas trees. I also know it wasn't built for comfort because my brother and I were relegated to the jump seats in the rear, which lacked both cushioning and seatbelts. It was, however, a vehicle created specifically to not get stuck on a hunting trip.

We were after the wrong prey, apparently, because our search for a perfect evergreen ended abruptly when we tried crossing a small draw in the middle of the pasture. The precise details of how we got stuck elude me, but the multiple escape attempts have been told and retold over the years.

When locking in the hubs to engage the four-wheel drive didn't work, the next option was the winch on the front of the

vehicle. The only problem was getting stuck in the middle of a pasture didn't offer any anchor points. Luckily my dad had packed a mobile mooring for such an occasion. After several minutes of digging, hammering and swearing, he'd secured the ground anchor and attached the winch.

The cable grew taught and the Land Cruiser rocked ever so slightly before the shallow soil holding the anchor gave way and we remained stuck. The only option was a long walk to my grandparents' house to get help while we stayed with the vehicle.

It didn't take more than an hour or so for help to arrive in the form of my grandfather driving the tractor with a grin stretching from ear to ear while my father was riding on the hay wagon

with his pride slightly defeated.

We were pulled free in short order and went home without a tree. Our presents accumulated under a small, decorative tabletop tree that year. We didn't know it then, but that was also the start of a new Christmas tradition.

The hunt for a live tree faded as my brother and I grew older and weekends got busier. The decorative tree became the centerpiece for presents, and it still serves that purpose today — only now most of the presents are for grandkids.

While it doesn't require any trimming, it still serves as a reminder of that fateful adventure so many years ago when a failed routine gave us a story and a new tradition that connects generations that never had the chance to meet.

When we retell the

story of getting stuck in search of a Christmas tree, it leads into the narratives, anecdotes and chronicles that make up our family folklore. While getting a tree was once the tradition, it's been replaced by a story. Every retelling is a reminder that planned moments matter less than the ones that stay with us long enough to be passed along.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau



The Waffle House Index

"The people are the movie. The waffles are the popcorn."

Waffle House

Truth is often stranger than fiction, and this true story begins with Waffle House.

For those who might be unfamiliar with

the wonders of Waffle House, let me explain. Waffle House is a restaurant chain with over 2,000 U.S. locations in 25 states. Most are in the Midwest and deep South where the chain has become a regional cultural icon (with a cult following). Their motto is "Good Food Fast." Favorite menu items include their famous pecan waffles and hash browns scattered, covered, smothered, and chunked (well-done and lathered with American cheese, grilled onions, and diced ham). The folks at Waffle House are involved in some serious food delivery. It is estimated that Waffle House

annually uses 2% of all the eggs used in the U.S. Food Service Industry. They are considered the world's leading server of waffles, hash browns, eggs and cheese, and grits.

Besides good food, folks come for the atmosphere. Most restaurants have juke boxes. Waffle House is big on music. They even have their own record label – Waffle Records. A number of artists have recorded songs referencing Waffle House, and these songs are often added to the restaurant playlist. My favorite, by former pro golfer and country rap artist Colt Ford, features the lyrics, "Meet me at the Waffle House / Bring me my gun."

Waffle House locations are open 24/7, 365 days a year (yes, even on Christmas and New Year's). There is an urban myth that Waffle House doors have no locks. Apparently, this open at all hour's policy is one reason Waffle House is often in the news. Regardless of race, creed, hair color, or degree of inebriation, everyone is welcome at

Waffle House. Here are a few recent examples of strange Waffle House happenings...

In Powder Springs, Georgia, a police officer helped a woman give birth in her minivan, which was parked at – the Waffle House.

An Augusta, Georgia, air-conditioning technician was summoned to a location, where he found a man living on top of the roof – at the Waffle House.

In a Nashville, Tennessee, motel room, a couple arguing in the nude, decided to take it outside – to the Waffle House. They forgot to put their clothes on first.

In Doraville, Georgia, intrepid police officers rescued an injured owl from inside a Waffle House. The officers named him "Steve." He still needs a home.

In Tampa Bay, Florida, a man, who had just been absolved of murder charges against his spouse's lover, decided to celebrate his "not-guilty" verdict in style. He did this, with his wife – at the local Waffle House.

This brings us to the

interesting development of what is known as the Waffle House Index. The index is based on Waffle House's reputation for staying open during extreme weather or reopening quickly after a storm passes. Waffle House restaurants are universally known for their 24-hour, 365-day service. Your local Waffle House will remain open around the clock, except in extreme circumstances. And we mean, extreme. This measurement is now used by FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) to unofficially inform disaster response.

The term Waffle House Index was coined by FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate in May of 2011 following the devastating EF5 tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri (damaging 8,000 buildings and killing 158 people). During this time, the two Waffle House restaurants in Joplin remained open.

Waffle House restaurants are known for their disaster preparedness. They have special "jump-teams" that facilitate fast re-opening after disasters. All locations

have emergency generators so they can operate without power when needed. They even have a cut-down menu ready and prepared for times when supplies are limited. Rarely does a Waffle House need to close. But FEMA is watching. They monitor this index, along with other factors, and gauge their disaster response accordingly

The Waffle House Index consists of three color-coded levels. GREEN designates a full-service menu, with the restaurant having power with minimal or no storm damage. YELLOW means the restaurant is operating with a limited menu and power delivered by generator. RED indicates severe damage with the restaurant closed. If the Waffle House is closed, things are really bad, and FEMA is on the move.

It's good to know that if you are hungry, Waffle House is almost always open.

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Community Bulletin Board

Friday, January 2 No School *** HS BB at Canton-Galva	Thursday, January 15 JH BB at South Barber *** HS Scholars' Bowl at Burrton (HOPL)
Monday January 5 No School *** Professional Development and work day for Teachers *** HS BB vs Kiowa County at HOME	Friday, January 16 HS BB vs South Barber at HOME Saturday January 17 HS JV BB at HOME (B Team Tournament)
Tuesday, January 6 It's time to go back to school *** HS BB vs Macksville at HOME	Monday, January 19 Boys 54 Classic at Skyline *** Teacher Professional Development: No School
Wednesday, January 7 6:30 p.m. Shop Guild	Tuesday, January 20 Girls 54 Classic BB tournament at HOME
Thursday, January 8 JH BB at Attica	Wednesday, January 21 6:00 Shop Guild
Friday, January 9 HS BB at Kinsley	Thursday, January 22 JH BB vs Skyline at HOME *** Boys 54 Classic BB Tournament at Skyline
Saturday January 10 HS JV BB at HOME (B Team Tournament)	Monday, January 12 HS FV BB at HOME (B-Team Tournament) ** JH Play Auditions *** 7:00 p.m. BOE Meeting

*The Ninnescah Valley
Bank will close at
noon on Thursday,
January 1st.
Happy New Year*



Libraries

Cunningham Public Library
Mon., Wed., Fri.
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Tues., Thurs., Sat.
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Closed for Holidays
298-3163

**Zenda
Public Library**
Monday
8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
Thursday:
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday:
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
620-243-5791

**Kingman
Carnegie Library**
Mon. & Tues. 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wed. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Fri. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sat. : 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
620-532-3061

Pratt Public Library
Mon. - Thurs.
10:00 - 7:00
Friday: 10:00 - 6:00
Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00
Closed on Sundays
(620) 672-3041

CHRISTMAS DONATION

Cunningham USD 332 extends our sincere
thanks to an anonymous donor who
generously paid PreK – 12th grade students’
negative lunch balances as of December 15th.
Your compassion has made a meaningful
and lasting impact this Christmas season,
and your generosity reflects the very best of
our small community!

Thank you!

Cozy's Pizza
115 N. Main
Cunningham, KS 67035
620-298-7000
Holiday Hours:
Dec 24 11:00 - 3:00
Dec 25 - Jan 1 CLOSED
We will reopen for normal business hours on
Friday, Jan 2 -- 11:00 - 8:00
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from
Cozy's!!

Upcoming Auctions

Merry Christmas and Happy New
Year from the Hamm Auction Center

For more information and a complete
list of auctions, see our website at
www.hammauction.com
107 NE State Road 61,
Pratt, Kansas, 67124
620-672-6996

DAYDRINKERS CAFE INC
Cunningham KS 67035

121 E. First Street
Cunningham, Kansas
Hours:
Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Closed Thursday and Sunday
(620) 589-0001

*Thank you for
Supporting
The Courier*

**Kingman Historic
Theatre**
237 N. Main in Kingman
(620) 532-1253
http://www.kingmantheatre.org/
**January 2 - 4
SpongeBob:
The Search for
SquarePants**
Rated PG
Thank YOU for supporting YOUR
Kingman Historic Theatre.

Pull Off, Lights Out: KDOT, KHP Launch

Kansas dust storm safety campaign
The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) are launching a new safety campaign sharing safety guidance for western Kansas drivers traveling through areas with blowing dust and high winds.
A public service announcement (PSA) highlighting dangers in dust storms was created as part of the safety campaign. KDOT and KHP encourage media outlets, traffic safety partners and the public to share the PSA, which can be viewed at https://youtu.be/DoDWPzY_kRM.
Dust storms often occur from December to April. The region’s flat plains, open agricultural fields, ongoing drought conditions and strong wind patterns create an environment where hazardous dust storms can develop rapidly.
“In Kansas, a windy day can turn dangerous fast. Knowing how to react properly can save lives,” said Technical Trooper Tod Hileman.
Drivers are urged to prioritize safety over speed when encountering high winds or sudden reduced visibility. The high winds can create sudden gusts and cause larger vehicles, including large trucks, RVs and trailers, to sway or lose control.
Blowing dust adds another layer of danger, with visibility capable of dropping to zero within seconds. These sudden “brownout” conditions increase the likelihood of multi-vehicle crashes.
“It’s important to remember what to do in these situations, because these steps may be the difference between safety and disaster. We want the traveling public to be knowledgeable, so they can respond when visibility is low,” said KDOT Director of Safety Troy Whitworth.
The Pull Off, Lights Out campaign outlines several critical safety steps for motorists involving dust storms, which include:
Avoid driving into or through a dust storm, if possible.
Do not wait until poor visibility makes it difficult to safely pull off the roadway — do it as soon as possible.
Turn on low beam headlights if you must drive through dust.
Never stop in a travel lane; look for a safe place to pull completely off the roadway and away from other vehicles.
Turn off all vehicle lights, including headlights and emergency flashers, while parked.
Set the emergency brake and take your foot off the brake pedal.
Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt buckled and wait for the visibility to clear.
Residents are encouraged to monitor local weather alerts and be aware of rapidly changing conditions throughout the region. For current road conditions and traffic information before you leave, visit Kandrive.gov or call 511.

**We ALWAYS need
photos for the paper!!**

- WANTED -
Old Photos from our communities
Call (620) 298-2659 or email to
couriernews@yahoo.com

Ryan Hower

Ryan Dean Hower, 44, died Dec. 21, 2025.

He was born Aug. 6, 1981, at Kingman the son of Lanny and Veronica Pool Hower. A lifetime resident of Norwich, he was a Tooler for Textron Aviation.

Ryan is survived by his son Cainin; his parents Lanny and Veronica; and sister Jamie Hower.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, at the Norwich Methodist Church. Burial will be in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery outside Norwich.

Memorials may be made to the Norwich EMS and sent in care of Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.



Bonnie Ruth Swindler, 94, passed away December 21, 2025. She was born October 22, 1931 in Pratt to Noble and Ina (Gooch) Hurt. Bonnie married Eugene Swindler in December 23, 1948 at the Lutheran Church in Pratt. They were married for 65 years. He preceded her in death on June 12, 2013.

Bonnie graduated from Pratt High School in

Bonnie Swindler

1949. She was a member of The Christian Church in Ulysses and lead worship and praise for many years. Bonnie opened and ran a Christian Book and Gift Store in Ulysses for 15 years. Her faith was one of the biggest parts of her life. She was a member of Music Club and President of the Women’s group at church. She was an excellent seamstress and crocheted afghans for family members, enjoyed spending time with her husband riding motorcycles, camping in Colorado and traveling to Ireland and Israel. Bonnie loved music. She played the organ, piano and guitar and loved to sing. Bonnie loved spending time with her children

and grandchildren, decorating her house and the yard, and growing her flowers out in the yard. She was a caregiver who loved cooking and having people stay at her house. She is survived by her children, Danny (Kathy) Swindler of Pratt, Donna Smith of Pratt and Joyce (Willie) Schmidt of Greensburg; grandchildren, Dana Mantey, William (April) Swindler, Wendy (Dennis) Queal, Shannon (Sam) Sterling, Brandon Smith, MaKenzie (Chad) Gerwick, Donovan (Laurie) Smith, Bronson (Amy) Smith, Beth Ann (Thadd) Kistler, and Rebecca (Michael) Grantham; 31 great-grandchildren and 14

great-great grandchildren. Bonnie is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Eugene Swindler; siblings, Robert Hurt, Phyllis Jordan, Donald Hurt, Jerry Hurt and Dot Hurt; son in-law, Kent Smith. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 26, 2025 at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Rd, Pratt with Keith Dellenbach presiding. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Interim Hospice or Pratt Health and Rehab. Online condolences may be made at www.larrison-mortuary.com.

Letting God Choose

By Marilyn Meiners
“Joseph?” Mary gently touched Josephs’ arm as her dark, pleading eyes looked into his. “I have some news to share with you. I hesitate to tell you.”
“What is it Mary?” Joseph asked guardedly. Licking her lips with her tongue, she whispered, ever so softly, “I’m going to have a baby.”
“What? No! Please tell me this isn’t so,” Joseph nervously cried.
“It’s true, Joseph. I’ve been faithful. Honest, I have. This baby is God’s Son, conceived within me by the Holy Spirit.” Joseph starred wide-eyed at his betrothed.
“Is this true God?” Joseph whispered. “Jehovah, please, what do I do now?”
That evening as Joseph was laying down

to sleep, an angel appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will have a son and you will name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”
Mary spoke the truth. She had been faithful. Joseph couldn’t wait to tell Mary ‘Yes, I’ll marry you.’
The couple eagerly anticipated the birth of this precious boy, even though people in Nazareth ridiculed them and condemned them for what was assumed the couple had done.
As Mary approached her ninth month, Joseph received a notice that he would have to leave Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem to register, as ordered by Quirinius.
“Do we have to go?” plead Mary.

“Yes, I’m afraid so. I’ll try to make the trip as easy for you as possible, Mary.”
Early the next morning they began their seventy-mile journey to Bethlehem. “We have about four days of travel,” sighed Mary. “I’m as big as a house, and we have to go to Bethlehem!”
“Yes, but you are a beautiful ‘house’ Mary. I’ll take Peppi, our donkey. You can ride him when you get tired.”
Mary uttered no complaint on the four-day journey, but Joseph could see the pleading in her eyes as she grew weary with each step she took or each bounce on the donkey’s back. How he longed to ease her discomfort, but they needed to keep traveling if they would reach Bethlehem by nightfall.
“Look Joseph! I see Bethlehem in the dis-

tance. We’re almost there!” exclaimed a joyful Mary. “My back is hurting, I’m tired, and I can’t wait to crawl into a warm bed.”
Joseph smiled as he walked proudly beside his brave wife who endured a very difficult trip under trying circumstances; with little complaint. He couldn’t imagine her plight.
Approaching an Inn Joseph knocked on the door. When the door opened Joseph said, “Good evening sir. I’m looking for a room for my wife and I for the night...” Before Joseph could finish his sentence the innkeeper said “sorry, no room.”
“But my wife is pregnant,” plead Joseph. “She needs some rest.”
“No room, sorry” were the last words Joseph heard before the door slammed shut.

Joseph tried three other Inns, receiving the same reply - “no room”. Now what would they do? Where would they go?
“Don’t worry, Joseph,” a weary Mary replied. “God will take care of us.”
Silently, in her heart, Mary plead with her Father, “Please help us find a place to rest. I know your Son is coming tonight and we need a safe place for him. You have provided in the past, I know you will provide tonight. Open our eyes to see your plan. Thank you.”
As she whispered “amen” she spotted a cattle stall and manger in the distance. “Joseph!” she cried. “God has provided. Look! Over there. That’s where God’s baby will be born. It is safe. It is warm. It is God’s best.”
“A cattle stall? Mary are you crazy. You want

God’s Son to be born there?”
“Yes, Joseph. It is what God has provided for us. Whether His Son is born in a cozy inn or a cattle stall, he will be loved and protected. Remember, this is God’s Son, and if God wants him to lay in a manger bed, who are we to argue. I plead with God to provide, and this is his provision.”
That evening, a beautiful baby was born. Wrapping him in swaddling cloths, Mary laid him in the manger. Joseph named him Jesus. Mary called him God’s Son. The shepherds worshipped him, and the angels sang “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men.”
God’s greatest Gift was born this night.
Scripture from ESV, Matthew chapter 1

Zechariah 7:8-8:8 NIV Show
kindness and mercy to one another,
do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor.
quote submitted by Alan Albers

Check the Blessing Box east
of the Methodist Church.
Anyone can give or take from the
Blessing Box at any time.

Free Groceries
at the
Cunningham Methodist Church
2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays

Cunningham Hands of Hope, Inc.
Who: A Not-for-Profit (501c3) organization providing assistance through donations and volunteers.
Who we serve: Residents within the USD #332 school district
What: Food
When: First Tuesday of the month
2:00-5:00 p.m.
Where: 117 N Main (Old School Board Office)
Why: To provide food assistance to those in need.
How: Attend weekly distribution. Adult of household must be present.
Do you need assistance outside distribution hours?
Please call 620-770-9507 for immediate food assistance needs This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Giving Opportunities in our Community
4C Day Care Leave a donation with the Methodist Church.
West Kingman County Education Foundation
Use your Dillon's Card! to donte contact Shawna Sterneker
Hands of Hope (contact any church)
Cunningham Alumni Scholarship Fund
(send checks to the West Kingman County Education Foundation)
Cunningham Community Center (leave donation at the bank)
Lions' Club
Cunningham Museum (to donate contact Alan Albers or Mike McGovney)
Cunningham Public Library (to donate, contact Debi Dunlap
Cunningham EMS (to donate, contact Monte Rose or Kathy Albers)

<p>Catholic Churches</p> <p>Sacred Heart, Cunningham Saturday 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>St. Leo Sunday 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627</p>	<p>St. John, Zenda Sunday 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>St. Peter Willowdale Saturday 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>620-246-5370</p>	<p>First Christian Church Cunningham Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Jr High Youth Group 4:00 p.m. Sunday Sr High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Sunday Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 p.m. Pastor Mike McGovney 620-770-9507</p>
<p>† † † † † † †</p>		
<p>Lutheran Churches</p> <p>First Sunday of the month service is at St. John; third Sunday of the month service is at Trinity</p> <p>St. John, Nashville 620-246-5220 Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m.</p> <p>Trinity, Medicine Lodge 620- 886-3397 Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor vacancy until further notice.</p>	<p>United Methodist Church</p> <p>Penalosa Worship 9:15 a.m. Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki 620-298-2090</p> <p>Cunningham Worship 10:45 a.m.</p>	
<p>† † † † † † †</p>		
<p>Church of Christ</p> <p>Penalosa Sunday 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Zenda Methodist Church Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: Children 8:30 a.m. Adults 10:00 a.m. Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953</p>	

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1975

December 23, 1965 - The Becker Family enjoyed a pre-Christmas dinner in the Sacred Heart School Hall last Saturday evening.

Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Kerschen and sons of Kingman, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Schwartz and family of Zenda, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cooley and family, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Becker and sons, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zrubeck and Debra, all of Wichita, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Orth and family of Minneola, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Becker and family of Hardtner, Walter Becker of Manhattan, and Mrs. Rosa Becker and Don, Mr. and Mrs. William Becker and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Dyche, and Ed Becker, all of Cunningham.

Mr. and Mrs. John Baber and Jack, Mrs. Jane Kaster, Kay and Geronimo, Jerry Huffman, David Amick, Randy Sheldon, and Misses Cozette Taylor and Betty Amick attended the wedding of Joan Zimmers and Joe Baber in Powhattan, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Cooley took Mrs. Daisy Harris to Wichita, Monday, where she boarded a jet plane to Chicago, Ill., to spend the Christmas holidays with her children and grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Harris Jr. of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Cox, and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Harris, Lynnette and Mark, of Rochelle, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cox of Ashton, Ill., and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bartkus of Byron, Ill.

The Cunningham Wildcats won their fourth and fifth straight victories of the current season during the past week, bowling over Partridge, 59-44, and Norwich, 69-32. The Wildcats have lost one game-their season opener to Alden.

The game with Partridge here last Friday night was a tip-and-tuck affair for 29 minutes, but the Wildcats put on a 17 point scoring spree in the final three minutes to gain the Ninnescah League victory.

Jim Cain paced the Cunningham scoring attack with 20 points. The Wildcats trailed 22-21 at half-time.

The Wildcats had things pretty much their own way in their game with out-classed Norwich here Tuesday night.

The Eagles kept within range during the first period, but Cunningham put on a 23 point scoring splurge in the second quarter to post a 42-16 lead at half-time.

Cain with 20 and Ronald Murphey with 19, paced the Wildcat scoring attack.

Cunningham’s second team continued their domination over their second-string rivals, winning from both Partridge and Norwich by lop-sided scores. The Wildcat second team is undefeated in six games.

Duane Schnittker’s 13 points and Jim McCune’s 12 helped the Cunningham seconds to an easy 52-28 victory over the Partridge seconds, and McCune’s 16 points paced the Wildcat second team to a 40 point win, 63-23, over the Norwich “B” team.

The grade school boys dropped a thriller to the Willowdale boys here last Thursday afternoon. The final score was 34-32.

Open installation services will be held tonight (Thursday) for the new officers of Ivanhoe Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, following the close of the regular stated meeting in the Lodge Hall.

Mrs. Julia Wilson will be the installing Worthy Matron, with Mrs. Ethel Thompson as installing Marshal, Herman Hayes as installing Chaplain, and Mrs. Iona Shafer as installing organist.

The new officers to be installed are Elizabeth DeWeese, Worth Matron; Lee DeWeese, Worthy Patron; Betty Amick, Associate Matron; Bob underwood, Associate Patron; Zola Pearson, Secretary; Esther Davidson, Treasurer; Frances Nossaman, Conductress; Kathryn McIlvain, Associate Conductress; Bess Hauser, Marshal; Julia Wilson, Marshal; Iona Shafer, Organist; Adah, Bonnie Stark; Ruth, Ethel Thompson; Esther, Vera Watkins; Martha, LaVerna Bradley; Electa, Inez Lewis; Warder, Faye Cooley, and Sentinel, Ray McIlvain.

1970

December 24, 1970 - By Editor Bill Bradley

A very Merry Christmas to all our readers from the folks at the Clipper-Arlene, Bill, Kandi, and LaVerna Bradley, and Charles Greenwood.

You are requested to save your cancelled Christmas stamps, and give them to the First Christian Church in Cunningham.

According to Mrs. Seth Whitmore, who is in charge of the project, the stamps are sold to a collector, who donates the proceeds to needy children in the United States and in foreign countries.

Two “leaves” are connected with this project-leave quite a bit around each stamp, and leave them in a box

at the church.

Business Sponsors: The First National Bank of Cunningham, Eaton Barber Shop, McCune’s APCO, Dafforn Appliances, Patton’s Service Station, Mary’s Fantasy Salon, Hilltop House Care Home, Scripsick Standard Service, Cunningham Grocery, B & H Electric, Ace Cleaners, Raney’s Truck Service, Bob’s Repair Shop, Baber’s Sundries, Mary’s Hi-Way Café, Wegerer-Kincheloe Implement Company, Jones Café and Confectionary, Rose Garage, Style-Rite Beauty Shop, Virginia’s Café, Cairo Co-op Equity Exchange, Kingman Manufacturing Company, Thornhill’s Fina, Bunge Corporation, The West Café, Cunningham Repair, Knotty Pine Motel.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Rex Zimmerman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1975

December 24, 1975 – The last Bible slip for those donated for the Christmas Parade Day has been turned in. There had been a little “mix-up” as to who had won one of the Bible, however, finding this last slip has straightened things out. Charley All, a resident at Hilltop House Care Home, won the Bible donated by Etta Mae and Dean Cooley, and Ron Deviney won the Bible donated by Helen, Bob and Scott Long.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Crick, Deb and Mark, hosted a surprise 11th birthday party Monday evening, December 15, in honor of Brenda Crick.

Those attending were Richie Adamson, Virginia Beat, Becky Kerschen, Steve Mertens, Allison Meyers, Danny Norrish, Della Osner, Janet Rhodes, Mari Rohr, Raymond Thimesch, David Thornhill, Miss Mary Cook, and Mrs. Jack Davis, and Jimmy and Mrs. Dalmer Crick.

The group enjoyed games and Fruit Basket Upset and Bingo, and refreshments of ice cream and cake.

Hilltop Manor: Olin S Northrop and “Brownie Joe” Northrop, the bulldog, wish their many friends and relatives a very “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.” Many of “Brownie Joe” Northrop’s friends have been good to him during this Christmas season. If I have failed to thank anyone for what they have sent us, it’s because I didn’t think of it.

The Student Council and Kays were in charge of the Christmas party which began December 23 at 12:15. The students enjoyed a movie entitled “The Secret War of Harry Frigg.” Popcorn and pop were served to the entire student body and faculty during the intermission.

A gift exchange between students and between teachers followed the movie. It was a great send-off for the Christmas vacation.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor:Vickie Lohmann

Reporter: Florine Kampling

1980

December 24, 1980 – Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wegerer are the proud parents of a son, Douglas Mathew. He was born Dec. 15, weighing 7 lbs, 11 oz.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Matt Wegerer and Mr. and Mrs. John Albers, all of Cunningham.

Great-grandparents are Minnie Hageman, Kingman and Martin Scripsick, Sharon.

Seniors in the Home Economics Department prepared and served a traditional Christmas dinner to the Cunningham High School faculty and to the other seniors Friday noon, Dec. 19. All present enjoyed the good food prepared by the seniors under the direction of Ellen Garten. The meal consisted of turkey, dressing, gravy, potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls and a variety of pies.

Cooks were Deb Mills, Bobbie Ross, Donna Beat, Gayla Golden, Stan Adelhardt, Mike DeWeese, Mark Crawford, Joe Harbert, Rusty Walter, Mike Parsons, and Scott Huhman.

Cunningham completed the pre-Christmas part of their schedule with a 64-35 triumph over the Lewis Spartan girls’ team last Friday night, dec. 19. The victory enables the girls to go into the break with an undefeated 6-0 record.

Cunningham received double digit scoring from Rhonda Ruckle and Donna Beat with 21 and 12 points, respectively. Barbara Harbert contributed 8, Sherry Schnittker, Mari Rohr, and Becky Kerschen, 5 oints each, and the scoring was rounded out by Kerry Welch and Debbie Beat with 4 points apiece.

Leading rebounders were Sherry Schnittker, Donna Beat, and Kim House with 7 caroms apiece.



Santa Claus makes his visit at the children's program Monday night.

1985

December 26, 1985 – The adult photography class under the sponsorship of Pratt Community College and held at Cunningham High School, is finishing the semester with an in-class photography contest in January. The fifteen class members will be competing for a prize given by the instructor. The photos will be judged on basic principles of composition. The class is instructed by Larry England.

It began with an idea that Rev. Gail Peterson had last year that some of the members of his congregation of the Christian Church in Cunningham just might like to present a live Nativity scene for two nights just before Christmas.

Norma Golden was chairman of the event last year and the weather didn’t cooperate very well and Mrs. Golden wasn’t able to accomplish all that she wanted to in the time allotted.

The 985 Christmas season proved to be a different story. Mrs. Golden was again chairman of the event slated for Dec. 20 and 21.

Letha Jones came up with the idea of driveways and the scene lighted with luminaries, candles based in sand place in two liter containers. Church members have saved these empty containers since July and August and Mrs. Jones helped place them and came each evening to light the candles.

John Baber built the stable last year and it is kept for this purpose, as the Live Nativity is expected to exist for many years.

Norma appointed Sunday School teachers to help her with all parts of the activity and notes that it all went very smoothly as each did their own part and it was much easier than trying to do it alone; all concerned really enjoyed the fellowship.

Debbie Mills was in charge of publicity.

Wayne Woodard placed signs in neighboring towns.

Gail Peterson was in charge of the lighting for the project.

Gayla Golden conducted persons to portray characters, each for 15 minutes at a time. All characters were church members except for Mr. and Mrs. albert McGovney. Mrs. Golden was in charge of getting the animals for the scene. “Betty” Burro and a calf belong to Alan Albers; the sheep and lambs were animals of Lowell Gridley, and some children bottle fed the lambs; a pony also belongs to the Gridleys, and Norma Golden furnished the chickens.

Word has been received of the death of Crystal Dutcher, wife of the former Cunningham United Methodist Church pastor, Henry Dutcher.

She passed away December 9, at Irwin Army Hospital, For Riley.

The memorial service was held in the First United Methodist Church in Manhattan, and was conducted by Chaplain Grey of Fort Riley.

Interment was in Greenville, Mo.

Museum Winter Hours

Saturday:

Morning 10:00 - 12:00

Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00

For guided tours call

Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

Joe Sternreker 620-243-2534

Alan Albers 620-243-2553

Kansas County Farm Bureaus partner with Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry

How hunting provides food to Kansas communities and the ways Farm Bureau stepped up to help

The tradition of hunting in Kansas is strong with generations of families. Conservation of many hunted species is vital to the landscape in Kansas. Deer populations, specifically, are imperative to control to reduce destruction of farmers’ crops, stymie vehicle collisions, improve funding for conservation programs through hunting licenses and permits and overall promote a balanced, healthy ecosystem.

Hunting is also a time-honored tradition with families, connecting generations with nature, promoting healthy relationships between man and the food we consume and encouraging positive, responsible practices. This relationship, and the importance of providing food for either your own family or someone else’s, is a deep-rooted part of society.

Recently, hunters, farmers and food banks created a symbiotic and meaningful effort with one goal in mind — help feed hungry people in Kansas communities. Kansas Farm Bureau’s 7th District — Barber, Barton, Comanche, Harper, Kingman, Kiowa, McPherson, Pratt, Reno, Rice and Stafford counties — joined forces with Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry (KSHFH) to

make positive impacts on food insecurity through a unique, but likely, collaboration.

HUNTERS WITH HEARTS

In 2001, Tony DeRossett read an article in a hunting magazine about a program that was using deer to supply meat to food pantries in Maryland. After a few phone calls, he joined a meeting with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to discuss setting up a similar program in Kansas. DeRossett set a plan into motion and began the nonprofit Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry the same year.

With efficiency on his side and passion in his veins, DeRossett started talking to meat processors and brought on 10 who would work with him to process game meat like deer and elk. What started out humble quickly became something popular.

“We had a goal of getting maybe 10 deer donated the first year,” he says. “I think we got 180 deer that first year.”

While that number seems positive, it presented a problem for the new entity.

When Kansas hunters have a deer carcass they want to donate, they take it to a local participating processor. KSHFH pays for processing deer into one- or two-pound packages of burger, then it gets distributed to local food pantries near where the deer or elk was originally donated. For a new nonprofit with limited funds, paying for 180 deer to be processed meant the organization was in the red financially — right off the bat.

DeRossett wrote an

article about his dilemma in the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks magazine — and a check came in the mail to cover \$10,000 in processing fees.

“You just can’t pre-judge who you’re going to touch and how you’re going to touch them,” DeRossett says. “You can’t predict how or if someone will support you.”

DeRossett says Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry gets a small grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and hunters can donate \$2 or more to the organization when they buy hunting permits, but the rest of his funding is from grants.

“Unlike other charities, promotion is a bit of a double-edged sword,” he says. “Because the more I promote, the more deer I get, regardless of my budget.”

The program only accepts deer donations during deer season, which is September through January.

“All of the deer we get donated is consumed by February,” DeRossett says. “The demand for what we do is unimaginably high.”

PROCESSOR PLIGHT

Funding hurdles aren’t the only ones coming up the track for KSHFH — finding processors who take game meat was another.

“During COVID, there was a surge of people wanting home-grown meat products,” DeRossett says. “The processors were booked out on livestock, so they quit processing deer. Some of them never went back to offering it. Then there was an issue

with the rendering plants that take the waste from deer, so they quit taking them in that situation, too. What processors we have is now very limited, but we’re searching.”

One opportunity was to incorporate a snack stick program in Kansas. Once a year, KSHFH will take donated elk to processors to be made into snack sticks. The product is shelf-stable and can be provided in various locations, which DeRossett started by providing them to a school in Bonner Springs and received “rave reviews.”

Gary Frownfelter, McPherson County Farm Bureau president carries boxes of elk snack sticks.

SNACK STICKS TAKE THE SHELVES

For Kansas Farm Bureau, creating ways its counties can participate in local initiatives to reduce food instability became apparent during COVID. The End Hunger program is a year-long fundraising campaign where funds are then provided to county Farm Bureaus as grants to make direct impacts in their communities.

In KFB’s 7th District, all 11 counties applied for grant dollars to support KSHFH snack sticks to be given to food pantries and school programs in their respective areas.

“In Pratt County, food insecurity continues to impact many local families, especially those living on fixed incomes, experiencing temporary unemployment, or struggling with the rising cost of living,” Anita DeWeese, Pratt County Farm Bureau county coordinator, says. “According to local data and feedback from the Pratt County Food Bank,

the need for nutritious, shelf-stable and protein-rich food options remains high. Protein is one of the most in-demand but least-donated food categories, often due to cost and limited availability.”

A perfect solution was the donation of elk meat snack sticks to bridge this gap. Not only do the snack sticks provide a protein source, but counties also included education about game meat to help familiarize people with this additional source of protein available to them.

In other counties, like Barton County, the Farm Bureau donated the snack sticks to a school to include in their weekend backpack program for students to take home meals for the weekends.

“In USD 428, 70 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunches,” Jerry Esfeld, Barton County Farm Bureau county coordinator, says. “These students are coming from families who struggle daily to provide food for their families, especially with the rising cost of living. These snack sticks are included in more than 40 students’ backpacks who participate in the program.”

All it took was an email to set the district in motion. An ask for \$150 or more as a donation to KSHFH for a case of 200 elk snack sticks with an opportunity to request matching funds from End Hunger brought in more than \$8,500 between all of the counties and 31 cases of high-quality, high-protein snack sticks for area food pantries and schools.

THE REAL REWARD

The impact in dol-

grasp. The real value lies in the people benefiting from these programs — the children, the elderly, our neighbors. Although deer or elk meat aren’t the obvious choice of grocery shoppers, they are options that shouldn’t be overlooked.

DeRossett says an average-sized deer will generate approximately 40-50 pounds of meat and each serving is ¼ of a pound — similar to a quarter pounder with cheese you get at your favorite drive-through — which can generate around 200 meals. When people need food, game meat is a protein-rich option necessary for nutrition.

DeRossett has been diligently working on KSHFH since 2001 while also working as a postal service employee. He admits he’s tired, but he says the thing that keeps him going are the thank you notes he’ll receive from hunters looking to connect with nature and with their family.

“I’ve gotten calls from grandfathers who say, ‘You know, I hunted when I was a kid and now that we have an outlet for the deer meat, I can take my grandson deer hunting,’” DeRossett says. “It’s things like that that really get you. And a lot of people in our state and our country love knowing they’re feeding their neighbors and helping out.”

If you’re interested in learning more about Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry, visit www.kshfh.org. Donations can be made online or at the Tonganoxie address provided on the website.

Story and photos courtesy of Kansas Living Magazine



Left to Right — Logan Hodgson, Rice County board member, Gary Frownfelter, McPherson County Farm Bureau president, Tony DeRossett, president of Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry and Roger Long, Barton County Farm Bureau board member



Barton County Farm Bureau project chairman, Roger Long, presents Superintendent Chris Thaxton with cartons of elk snack sticks.



Gary Frownfelter, McPherson County Farm Bureau president carries boxes of elk snack sticks.



Stephanie Murphey with the Coldwater/Wilmore Food Bank and County Health nurse Jerri McKnight accepted the donation of elk snack sticks in Comanche County.

JH Wildcats Take Down Trojans

The Cunningham Junior High Boys hosted the Central Christian Cougars on December 18th. The game felt like it started slow; however, the scorebook showed the Cats lit it up with 17 points in the first quarter alone. The boys were patient through a few early misses, but they found a rhythm and used transition and momentum to jump all over the Cougars in the first half with a 31-2 score. The Cats mixed things up in the second half and took the win with some younger players getting in on the action. As a team the Cats had 25 rebounds, 10 steals, and 6 assists to offset just 7 turnovers. Team ball was the example once again!

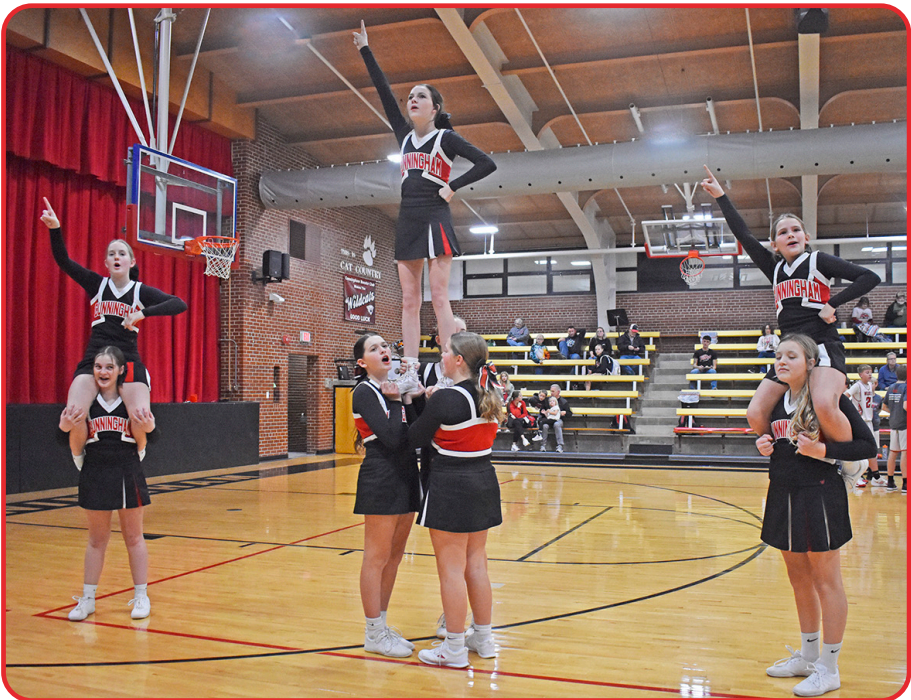
Landon pulled down 5 rebounds to lead the team with Brody and Gage both grabbing 4. Landon also led with 5 steals and Casyn chipping in 2. Cooper and Brody both had 2 assists.

Wildcat Scorers	
Cooper Neufeld	12
Casyn Miller	6
Landon Green	6
Brody Halderson	6
Jace Oldham	3
Grady Smyth	2
Bryce Simon	2
Gage Dunn	1

Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	17	14	5	2	38
Central Christian	0	2	5	10	17



Adventures Around Cunningham Schools

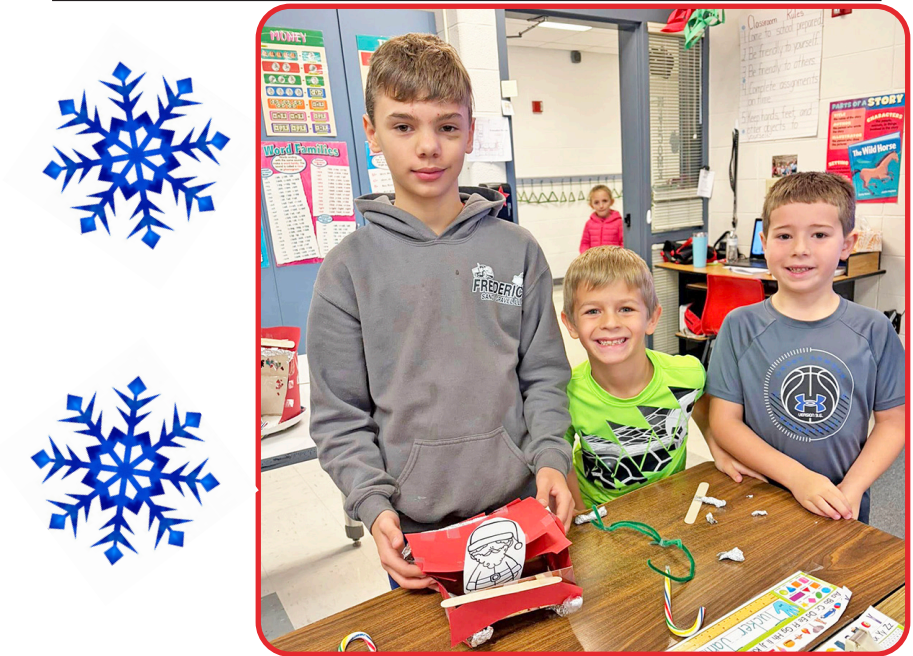


The CHS eSports team has begun their season. The team is competing in two games: Rocket League and Super Smash Bros. This year, eSports is a KSHSAA sponsored competition, so the team has faced all Kansas schools. In their latest match-up, The Super Smash Bros team won against their opponent, Troy High School.

Junior High Cheer Squad recently led the home crowd in a rousing team spirit cheer.



The sixth grade S.T.E.A.M. class (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math education) enjoyed sharing their Candy Cane Marble Mazes with the preschool. Sixth graders have learned that creating a maze might be even more difficult than solving one!



Sixth Grade Assignment for S.T.E.M.(Science, Technology, Engineering and Math): Design a sleigh that will travel the furthest distance down a ramp and not toss Santa out. Mr. Dunlap, principal extraordinaire, came and tested them.



HOWLIDAY MATCH

Every dollar is double the purrs and tail wags!
PAHS has a generous donor willing to match every dollar
donated to PAHS from now through Jan 1, 2026!

Pratt Area Humane Society

Sunday, December 14

Animal Complaint	SW 90 Ave & W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Miscellaneous	2600 SE 90 Ave, Murdock
Theft	2400 Blk N Hwy 11, Kingman
Accidental 911 Dial	900 Blk East D Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	4000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Alarm	14000 Blk SE 60 St, Norwich
Monday, December 15	
Traffic Stops	7
Court / Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
School Walk Through	100 Blk W 4th St, Cunningham
Traffic Complaint	1300 W D Ave, Kingman
School Walk Through	600 Blk W D Aave, Kingman
School Walk Through	600 Blk N Spruce St, Kingman
School Walk Through	200 Blk W Kansas Ave, Kingman
School Walk Through	200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
Miscellaneous	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Disabled Vehicle	E A Ave & N Spruce St, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Animal Complaint	NE 40 St & NE 170 Ave, Cheney
Traffic Complaint	16000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Tuesday, December 16	
Traffic Stops	11
Debris in Roadway	E Hwy 54& NE 150 Ave, Cheney
Fire / Vehicle	11000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Wednesday, December 17	
Traffic Stops	5
Check Tag	1200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Follow Up	5000 Blk NE 150 Ave, Cheney
Disabled Vehicle	10000 Blk W Hwy 53, Cunningham



Abandoned Vehicle	9000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Traffic Complaint	16000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Thursday, December 18	
Traffic Stops	3
Civil Paper Service	1
Traffic Complaint	9000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Court	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist / Medical	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Court / Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	E Hwy 54 & NE 70 Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	10000 W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Friday, December 19	
Traffic Stops	5
Traffic Complaint	E Hwy 2 & SE 160 Ave, Norwich
Traffic Complaint	NE 10 St & NE 100 Ave, Murdock
Transport Inmate	120 N Spruce St. Kingman
Follow Up	5600 Blk SE 100 St, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle	E Hwy 42 & SE 140 Ave, Norwich
Follow Up	300 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	600 Blk N Main St, Spivey
Animal Complaint	700 Blk SW 40 St, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	2600 Blk NE 10 St, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	SW 120 Ave & SW 10 St, Cunningham
Agency Assist / Medical	200 Blk W B Ave, Kingman
Abandoned Vehicle	9200 Blk SW 100 St, Spivey
Saturday, December 20	
Traffic Stops	1
Agency Assist / Medical	500 Blk W B Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
Traffic Complaint	3200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Miscellaneous	200 Blk W A Ave, Zenda
Suspicious Activity	E Hwy 42 & SE 40 Ave, Rago
Unlock Vehicle	12000 Blk NW 50 St, Cunningham

Those of you who know me know I had an Uncle Freddy. While Freddy had many attributes, and I liked him greatly, this is not the Freddy I write about today. My subject today is Freddy Meisner.

My dad, John, liked to bring me along as he traveled to do errands. As a young boy he brought me to Freddy Meisner's ranch south of the Kingman County State grounds. Dad and Uncle Shorty did conservation construction. They made the concrete drops that let the running water in the fields down slowly to reduce soil erosion. Freddy wanted dad to come to this ranch and talk about building some of these

drops on his farmland. Dad and Shorty did later built these structures on his land.

After dad had introduced me to Freddy, we left the ranch. On the way home dad told me an interesting story about Freddy. I was familiar with the heavy German accent Freddy used, because I knew the Kemp brother at St. Leo. Freddy also had the heavy German accent of a recent immigrant as the Kemp's did.

Dad liked to tell the story of Freddy. The story I heard was how Freddy, after serving in the German army in WWI, left his homeland and moved to the US. When WWII took place he was safely in Kingman County making a living

in agriculture.

In visiting with a young woman who now lives on the old Meisner ranch I found out some more about the Freddy Meisner story. She wasn't sure about the fact that Freddy had served in WWI. I found his date of birth though and he would have been 19 at the start of WWI so I'm going to believe dad's story was correct.

Let's call the present owner of the Meisner ranch "S". S filled in that Freddy actually came to Cairo, Kansas first. He was sponsored by an unknown person from Cairo and lived there for a while. He later met and married a woman from Wilmore. He saved money and he and his wife were able to buy his

ranch during the “Dust Bowl’ days”.

The part of the story that S filled in was that Freddy tried to get his brothers to follow him to Kansas. S thought that at least one of his brothers died in WWII fighting for Germany. My take on the Freddy story changed at this information. The fact that Freddy saw the danger that was present in Germany in the 1920's and escaped and warned family members of the danger only to be ignored is playing out today here. Those of us who have been warning friends and family about the movement away from democracy toward authoritarian government have been labeled as alarmist. I think that history will show our alarm about the di-

rection of the present
relationship (dictator) direc-
tion being displayed will
prove we all need to step
up to save democracy.
Freddy's disbelieving
family paid the ultimate
price for their lack of ob-
servation. Continuing to
put our heads in the sand

and saying this is OK will lead us all down the road of regime change from freedom to submission. I think we're seeing what Freddy saw.

-Alan Albers



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- ACROSS
1. Hot Springs and such
 5. ____ Bell and ____ Barker
 8. Wharton degree, acr.
 11. Artist's inspiration
 12. *Move head to show attention
 13. Angry growl
 15. Shamu, e.g.
 16. Diva's number
 17. Put on fancy dress (2 words)
 18. *Making facial expression showing pain
 20. Mine passage
 21. Single-handedly
 22. Assistance
 23. Made according to specifications
 26. Economizes
 30. Biochemistry acr.
 31. Aerie baby
 34. Genesis skipper
 35. Leaves out
 37. *Some look up and to the right when telling one
 38. Watcher
 39. "The Forsyte ____" by John Galsworthy
 40. Forty winks
 42. Fraternity letter T
 43. *Said "easy peasy" with fingers
 45. Like a weight lifter, usually
 47. Weasel-related onomatopoeia
 48. Undo laces
 50. Helicopter sound
 52. *Showing low self-esteem or boredom
 56. 100 centimes
 57. Purl partner
- DOWN
1. Urban haze
 2. Make like a cat
 3. Ascus, pl.
 4. Same as sea moss (2 words)
 5. Rice wine
 6. Dress with a flare
 7. Rudolph, when older
 8. Famous Christmas guests
 9. Like some champagnes
 10. High mountain
 12. Toyota truck model
 13. Part of flight
 14. *Showing agreement
 19. Healing plants
 22. Be in a cast
 23. *Show anger with arms
 24. Unnerve
 25. Eurasian antelope
 26. "____ but not heard"
 27. Much, in Italy
 28. Song of praise
 29. *"I don't know" move
 32. *One's smiling because one's ____
 33. Intoxicated
 36. *Showing impatience with fingers
 38. Like retina and brain connect-

- ing nerve
40. Large edible mushroom
41. Keen
44. Nice place for a rocking chair
46. Reuse ideas
48. Forearm bones
49. Hustle and bustle sound
50. Sandwich alternative
51. Stay out of its way!
52. Place at angle
53. Gung-ho about something
54. Close by
55. Gwyneth, for short
56. Opposite of #54 Down

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The smell of oven-fresh bread and the conversations around it have defined Cindy Falk’s career for 40 years. As she retires from Kansas Wheat, Falk leaves behind a legacy built on education, outreach and a strong connection between Kansas wheat farmers and the consumers who use their product.

Falk began working with the Kansas Wheat

Commission in 1985 when she received a phone call, asking her to become a volunteer Speak for Wheat spokesperson. That role grew into a full-time career focused on promoting wheat foods, home baking and science-based nutrition through classrooms, fairs, test kitchens and national organizations.

A central part of Falk’s work was the Kansas Wheat Commission recipe booklet. Beginning in 1988, she contributed to 37 editions, continuing a tradition that dates back to 1966. The booklets became a widely recognized Kansas Wheat resource, distributed across Kansas and nationally to represent wheat farmers and Kansas agriculture.

“I’ve thoroughly enjoyed this job, or I wouldn’t have continued for 40 years,” Falk said. “That one phone call truly changed my life.”

In addition to her work in Kansas, Falk played a major role in domestic wheat promotion through her leadership with the Wheat Foods Council. As public perceptions of grain foods shifted and fad diets gained attention, her priority continued to be science-based education and accurate nutrition information.

Raised on her grandparents’ wheat farm near Laclede, Kan., Falk brought a personal understanding of agriculture to every outreach effort. Whether working the Kansas State Fair booth or welcoming international visitors into the test kitchen, her goal was to help consumers better understand where wheat

comes from.

“Consumers want to hear from the wheat farmer,” Falk said. “People like to ask questions and learn directly from the people involved.”

One of Falk’s most visible accomplishments was helping grow the Kansas Festival of Breads into the National Festival of Breads. What began as a state baking contest evolved into the nation’s only amateur yeast bread competition, drawing hundreds of entries from nearly every state and thousands of attendees during its in-person years in Manhattan.

The event paired baking with education, giving finalists the opportunity to tour wheat farms, ride in combines during harvest and visit mills and elevators. Those experiences helped turn bakers into ambassadors for wheat and Kansas agriculture. The contest has continued as a fully remote baking competition. Participants submit recipes via email, and recipe testing and judging are conducted at the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center in Manhattan, Kan.

As Falk enters retirement, she plans to spend more time with family, travel and continue teaching baking and food skills in her community. While her role with Kansas Wheat is ending, her connection to the wheat industry remains strong.

Listeners can hear directly from Kansas Wheat legend Cindy Falk on the Feb. 3 episode of the Wheat’s On Your Mind podcast at wheatsonyourmind.com.

Nationwide CSP, EQIP Application Deadline Set for Jan. 15

LYONS, NEBRASKA – Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) have until Jan. 15 to submit initial paperwork.

Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation

Service (NRCS) programs allow for continuous sign-up, the agency is implementing this national batching period to ensure producers have access to funding and support following the government shutdown.

Administered by NRCS, CSP and EQIP provide financial and technical assistance for producers implementing conservation practices while maintaining agricultural production.

“CSP and EQIP are voluntary programs designed to help producers meet their conservation goals while maintaining

their bottom lines,” said Andrew Tonnies, policy associate with the Center for Rural Affairs. “The financial support provided through these programs is especially important given the tight profit margins producers are facing.”

CSP is designed to reward producers for new and existing conservation activities across an entire operation. To be eligible, applicants must demonstrate they are currently addressing priority resource concerns on their farm or ranch and a willingness to implement additional practices.

EQIP offers assistance

for single practices or projects to help producers address a particular resource concern. Several structural practices, such as terraces, can be funded through EQIP as well.

Through both programs, the applying producer will develop a conservation plan with support from local NRCS staff to ensure the implemented practices benefit natural resources and meet the applicant’s conservation goals.

Clay Govier, a corn and soybean producer from Broken Bow, Nebraska, has used CSP and EQIP to help imple-

ment no-till practices, cover crops, and nutrient management, and install moisture meters.

“CSP and EQIP have been great programs to help cover some of the cost of adopting practices that have an upfront expense, but a long-term benefit,” Govier said. “The local NRCS office has been helpful and easy to work with to develop a conservation plan that works for my farm.”

Farmers interested in applying for either program are encouraged to contact their local NRCS office. Applications for the recently launched

Regenerative Pilot Program will also be accepted during this time. A list of local offices can be found at nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center.

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, nonprofit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

Wheat Scoop: Kansas Commodity Classic Set For Jan. 30, 2026 in Salina

MANHATTAN, Kan. (Dec. 17, 2025) - The Kansas Corn, Wheat, Soybean, and Sorghum associations today announced the date for the 2026 Kansas Commodity Classic, the premier annual convention for the

producers of the state’s four top crops. The event is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 30, 2026, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina, and will kick off at 8:30 a.m., with registration and breakfast prior.

The one-day event is designed to equip Kansas farmers with actionable insights on critical issues impacting their operations, including market trends, long-term weather outlooks, and federal and state legislative actions. The Kansas Commodity Classic is free to attend, thanks to the generous support of industry sponsors, and includes a complimentary breakfast and

lunch for all registered attendees.

Featured presentations include a market outlook from Tanner Ehmke of CoBank, as well as an economics and policy session featuring Kansas State University’s Robin Reid and Dr. Jennifer Ifft. Ross Janssen will provide a weather outlook as part of the program. Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam will deliver opening remarks, and farm broadcaster Greg Akagi of WIBW 580 AM will serve as the event emcee.

“The challenges facing Kansas farmers evolve every year—especially this year—but the

need for reliable, up-to-date information remains constant,” said Kansas Sorghum Producers CEO Adam York. “The 2026 Kansas Commodity Classic will deliver high-level situational awareness and policy briefings directly from the experts, ensuring our state’s producers are better prepared to navigate challenges and opportunities in the coming year.”

Pre-registration for the Kansas Commodity Classic is strongly encouraged for planning purposes and is available at kansascommodityclassic.com. Growers can also register to attend commodity organization

events scheduled around the Commodity Classic. Two events, the Kansas Corn Symposium and Kansas Sorghum Producers Annual Membership Meeting and Reception, will both be held on Thursday, Jan. 29. The Kansas Soybean Celebration will be held Friday, Jan. 30 following Commodity Classic.

The Kansas Association of Wheat Growers annual meeting will be held prior to Commodity Classic on Jan. 16, 2026, at the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center in Manhattan, Kansas, at 10 a.m. Zoom invitations will be

emailed to members prior to the event.

The Kansas Commodity Classic is the annual joint convention of the Kansas Corn Growers Association, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Sorghum Producers Association, and the Kansas Soybean Association. It serves as the leading forum for education, policy updates, and networking for the state’s commodity producers

Written by Maddy Meier for Kansas Sorghum

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Some of the Many Faces of The Mighty Quin (Kobbe)



KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Hunter

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Oma

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Hunter is a Rottweiler mix and looks like he is barely tolerating this photo shoot. He has business to attend to, and all those silly photos are not necessary. He’s trying to find a home for the holidays.

Four-year-old Hunter is a people-friendly dog, weighs about 65 pounds and can be adopted for \$180.00.

Don't you want a Hunter for Christmas?

She’s a pretty one, Ms. Oma. A Russian Blue princess. She is about four years old, weighs about 8 pounds, and has been at the shelter since November 10.

Even though she is a princess, the KCHS website said she is very shy around strangers, has never been around small children, and would fit best into a quiet household.

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Public Notice

(First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, December 18, 2025.)

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: PATRICIA E. KOON, Deceased.

Case No. KM 2025 PR 56

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Leslie D. Koon, an heir of Patricia E. Koon, deceased, praying:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate, situated in Kingman County, Kansas:

Building at Spring Acres: Cabin #3 in the West Half of the Southeast Quarter (W/2 SE/4) of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Twenty-nine (29) South, Range Seven (7) West of the 6th P.M., Kingman County, Kansas.

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before January 20, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the city of Kingman, in Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Leslie D. Koon
Petitioner
BY: Matthew W. Ricke
349 N. Main, PO Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
(620) 532-3103
Attorney for Petitioner

Public Notice

(First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, December 18, 2025.)

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: MARY KATHLEEN WHITMER, Deceased.

Case No. KM 2025 PR 26

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on December 15, 2025, a Petition was filed in this Court by Montie Wayne Whitmer, duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Estate of Mary Kathleen Whitmer, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Executor of the Estate of Mary Kathleen Whitmer, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before January 20, 2026, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Montie Wayne Whitmer, Executor
Matthew W. Ricke, #20995
ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC
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Attorney for Petitioner

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Public Notice

(First Published in The Cunningham Courier on Thursday, December 25, 2025)

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: VERNON HENNING, Deceased.

Case No. KM-2025-PR-24

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF KANSAS ss:

COUNTY OF KINGMAN

Matthew W. Ricke, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, on oath, states:

I am the attorney for the Petitioner. I served a copy of the following:

1. Notice pursuant to K.S.A. 59-2209 and 59-2211;

2. Petition for Final Settlement; by depositing the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, on the ____ day of December, 2025, and within seven days after the first publication of notice, addressed to the following persons:


Name	Address
Geneva Henning	9075 SW 100 Ave. Spivey, KS 67142
Stanley Henning	426 West E Ave. Kingman, KS 67068
Sharon R. Nowak	9418 SW 110 th St. Zenda, KS 67159

such persons being the heirs, devisees and legatees of Vernon Henning, deceased, all guardians and conservators thereof, and guardians ad litem, whose names and addresses are known to the Petitioners or to this affiant.


Notice was served by depositing the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid.

Matthew W. Ricke #20995
Attorney at Law, LLC
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Melvin Jeske

Melvin Emil Jeske, 83, passed away Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at Pratt Regional Medical Center. He was born on March 5, 1942, in Eldora, Iowa to Marvin Emil and Jennie (Meints) Jeske. Melvin married Becky (Evans) Jeske on June 30, 1972, at St. Paul Lutheran in Eldora, Iowa. They were married for 30 years and divorced and remarried 2 years later for a total of 50 years.



Melvin graduated from New Providence, Iowa High School in 1961. He worked for Farm Service for 20 years, Eldora School for 2 years, R&R Manufacturing in Pratt for 20 years and The Noxious Weed Department for 5 years. He was a member of Peace Lutheran Church and formerly on Emergency Squad in Iowa and was an Elder at Peace Lutheran Church in Greensburg. He enjoyed vegetable gardening and being outside.

He is survived by his wife, Becky; children, Michael (Rita) Jeske of Iowa, David (Kelly) Jeske of San Diego, California, Melody (fiancé Michael Senyard) Ellis of Ogallala, Nebraska, Mandy (Michael) Truhlar of Kingman and Daniel (Kimi) Jeske of Manter; sister in-law, Judy Jeske of Eldora, Iowa; 15 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

Melvin is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Loren Jeske.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, December 29, 2025, at Peace Lutheran Church, Greensburg with Pastor David McCloskey presiding.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society.

Phyllis Wehling

Phyllis Jean Wehling, 85, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on December 16, 2025. She was born on November 20, 1940 to LaVern “Red” and Louise (Merriman) Eckles in Pratt Kansas.



Phyllis was raised on a farm just north of Isabel Kansas and graduated high school in Isabel in 1958. After attending Southwestern College in Winfield KS, she married her high school sweetheart, Richard “Dick” Wehling on March 20, 1960 at the Isabel Methodist Church. Phyllis and Dick had three children, Tim, Randy and Rhonda. The Family spent 10 wonderful years in Stratton Colorado, where they made both lifelong friends and many memories. Phyllis looked at the family’s time in eastern Colorado as one of the happiest in her life. In 1979, the family returned to Isabel to take over the Eckles family farm and ranch.

Phyllis had a lifelong love of animals, beginning with 4-H in high school and continuing throughout her life. Her other interests included quilting, reading, genealogy, crafting, and being an extraordinary “Mimi” to her “favorite” granddaughter Samantha. She moved from Pratt to Hutchinson in 2018 to be more involved with her daughter and granddaughter.

Phyllis is survived by sons Tim, Jamestown North Dakota; Randy and husband Jeffrey, Boston MA; daughter Rhonda and granddaughter Samantha Ramsey, both of Hutchinson KS; brother Mike and wife Lori, Woodhaven MI; sister-in-law Beth Rose, Pratt KS and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by both parents; husband Dick; brother-in-law Darrell Wehling and wife Rose; brother-in-law Clyde Wehling and wife Ruth; sister-in-law Shirley Boots and husband Ed; and brother-in-law Merle Rose.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 23, 2026 at Larrison Mortuary, Pratt, with lunch to follow. Pastor and lifelong friend John Hamm will preside. Inurnment will be at 3:00 p.m. at Ellenwood Cemetery, Sawyer, KS, on Friday May 22nd. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Hospice House of Hutchinson, or the Pratt Area Humane Society.

Please mail all contributions to Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt KS 67124.

Marguerite Johnson

Marguerite Carolyn Johnson, 94, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at Grand Plains Skilled Nursing surrounded by family. She was born on February 24, 1931, in Glenwood, Iowa to Charles Franklin and Reatha Mae (Wiles) Buffington.



Marguerite grew up on a farm north of Glenwood, where she attended country school at West Liberty and later graduated from Glenwood High School in 1948. After graduation, she went to work for North Western Bell Telephone Company in Glenwood as a telephone operator. Following her marriage and the arrival of her children, she devoted her life to being a homemaker, raising her family, and later enjoying a full and blessed retirement. On August 29, 1951, Marguerite married Marion C. Pixler in Glenwood, Iowa. After his passing, she later married Don Johnson on January 11, 1984, in St. Francis, Kansas. He has preceded her in death. She helped with AWANAS at The First Baptist Church and delivered Meals on Wheels both in Pratt. Marguerite was talented with her hands and spent many happy hours cooking, sewing, knitting, crocheting, making rag rugs, and quilting. She and her sisters spent many hours creating heirlooms for their families and making sure that the family had wonderful things to eat. She cherished time with her children and grandchildren, enjoyed staying connected with classmates and friends, and especially valued gatherings that brought her family together. Her collection of family photos was her greatest treasure.

She is survived by her children, Mark (Diane) Pixler of Phoenix, Arizona, Barbara Manis of Pratt, Bryan (Susan) Pixler of Pratt and Monte (Jen) Pixler of Peoria, Arizona; sister, Caroleen Wyant of Council Bluffs, Iowa; brothers, Brice (Jean) Buffington of St. Francis and Mike (Deann) Buffington of Silver City, Iowa; grandchildren, Ruthger (Ashley) Stover of Phoenix, Arizona, Ashlee (Chad) Warner of Phoenix, Arizona, Tyler (Sam) Heather of Phoenix, Arizona, Darrel Manis of Kansas City, Missouri, Heather Gottshall of Kansas City, Kansas, Kristen (Nathan) Stanley of Rossville, Tristen Manis of Hays, Carrie (Scott) Goodheart of Topeka, Zachary (Sam) Pixler of Hays, Hayden (Evan) Burke of Hamilton, Montana, Chelsea (Corey) Charbonneau of Surprise, Arizona and Makayla Pixler of Phoenix, Arizona; and great-grandchildren, Garrett (Makayla) Stover, Kate Stover, Kamrin Jordan, Tanner Warner, Jaxin Stover, Chloe Warner, Rowen Heather, Olivia Pixler, Zellie Goodheart, Lorynn Goodheart, Freddy Pixler, Evelyn Burke, Charlotte Charbonneau and Luna Stanley.

Marguerite is preceded in death by her parents; first husband, Marion C. Pixler; husband, Don Johnson; sisters, Yvonne (Luke) Lueschen and Jonnie (Kenny) Hammer; and brother, Dale Buffington.

Marguerite will be remembered for her quiet strength, gentle spirit, warm heart, and unwavering love for her family. Her skills, stories, and traditions will live on through those who knew and loved her.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date for Spring of 2026. Inurnment will be at Cemetery District #2 of Cheyenne County, St Francis, Kansas.

Memorials may be made to Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation, PO Box 967, St. Francis, KS 67756

Please note “Marguerite C. (Pixler) Johnson Memorial” on the memo line.

or Online at cckcf.org selecting the donate tab on the home page. Go down the page and find St. Francis Educational Foundation Fund, click donate, make donation and note “Marguerite C. (Pixler) Johnson Memorial” in the comment section. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

Wanda Luthi

Wanda L. Luthi, 95, died Dec. 16, 2025 at the Prairie Sunset Home, Pretty Prairie.



She was born Sept. 26, 1930, in Graham County, Kansas the daughter of Oura and Eva Trisler Wallgren. Wanda’s mother died when Wanda was a toddler and she and her brother then went to live with their grandparents: Walter and Stella Trisler. They had a good and loving life on the farm. A Kingman resident since 1969, she was a former employee of Happiness Cards, Exxon Twine plant and former owner/operator of the Flower Cart along with her husband, Jack.

Wanda was a member of the First Baptist Church, Kingman.

On June 25, 1948, she married Jack Luthi at Logan, Kansas; he died in 2014. Survivors include daughter Rhonda Zerger; son Rick Luthi and his wife Brenda; 3 grandchildren, Katie Gardner, Jake Luthi, Matt Luthi; and 6 great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by a brother Don.

Funeral services were Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Burial was in the Walnut Hill Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Prairie Sunset Home or Traditions Hospice and may be mailed to Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.

Leon Stalcup

Orlow Leon Stalcup, 89, passed away December 17, 2025, at Parkwood Village. He was born on March 4, 1936, in Preston to Orlow Lee and Mildred (Leroux) Stalcup. Orlow married Shirley (Lewis) Stalcup on June 18, 1955, at the Baptist church in Preston. They were married for 70 years.



Leon graduated from Preston High School in 1954. He then went on to play basketball for Pratt Junior College. He worked as a District Salesman for KT Oil. He was a member of Church of Christ, the Wichita Consistory Church and the Hutchinson Masonic Lodge. Leon was President of the Sterling Masonic Lodge 171 and the 2 cemeteries in Preston.

He enjoyed farming, being a boy scout leader, playing basketball with his children and grandchildren, playing football in high school, duck hunting, and talking to everyone he came across. One of Leon’s favorite thing to do was eat peanut butter cookies and drink a Diet Pepsi.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; sons, Ronny Stalcup of Wolcott, Connecticut and Danny Stalcup of Preston; brother, Kenny Stalcup, of Joplin, Missouri; sister, Vicki Ivey of Cheyenne, Wyoming; son in-law, Dale Eisenhour of Stafford; 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Leon is preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Terri Eisenhour; brothers, Jimmy Stalcup, Tom Stalcup and Bill Stalcup; granddaughter, Shawna Stalcup.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service was held Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Larrison Mortuary, Pratt with John Hamm presiding. Inurnment followed at Haynesville Cemetery, Preston.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Association or Sterling Masonic Lodge. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

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