

The Cunningham Courier

June 5, 2025

Volume 35 Number 23

photo by

Teresa McClendon

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

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Wildcats Compete at State

Congratulations to the Cunningham state track participants on a great meet for the 2025 season and a great end to the season. State participants: Nate Sterneker, Will Wegerer, Skyler Thimesch, Kyra Morgan, Emily Ogg, Stephen Kerschen and Andrew Kerschen.

Some special thanks to all the assistant coaches for all their help. We have a great coaching staff that really cares about the kids, their development, success and character. Thank you coaches, Lance McGuire, Collin Little and Nicole Kerschen. Also thank you to Aimee Ogg for all the office communication facebook and online presence. To Wes Harden and Justina Kostner for rehabbing Andrew, Will and Skyler. To admin Cody Dunlap and Bart Ricki for your support and all the staff and parents, thank you.

State track in Kansas is always a special event. Known as the largest track meet in the nation, it never disappoints. This season was something else! So much talent in the state this year, I don't know how many kids broke state records but it seemed like every other event there was some record going down. Unofficially 47 state records! Our Cunningham kids didn't disappoint either and came out to perform!

The state track meet is a 2 day event, this year Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31st. We started off with Andrew Kerschen in the Javelin. Andrew is a freshman this year. He threw very well and peaked at regional with a PR of 165' 9" to catapult him to the state meet. After his regional throw Andrew suffered from sore ribs and couldn't practice like we wanted, so rehab it was. At state, Andrew started off conservatively throwing his 1st throw with a distance of 145' 7" being a little cautious about his ribs. Andrew bettered his next throw with 149-7. After crunching some numbers Andrew needed 159'10" to break into finals. On his last throw Andrew put out a good effort of 159'8" just missing out on the finals. This throw turned out to be his 3rd best all season so we couldn't be too upset. Andrew finished in 10th place overall in 1A. Congratulations.

Next event on the day was senior Nate Sterneker in the shot put. Nate has had a breakout year, medaling in almost

every meet this year and winning several. Nate at regionals produced a season best of 46' 2.5" qualifying to the state meet for the first time. All week Nate was locked in and threw 2 great throw sessions putting several throws out in the 47' range. Feeling good about his chances of setting a new personal best and advancing to the finals! Starting the competition Nate warmed up really well but his competition throws didn't produce anything far enough for advancement into finals or setting a PR. I think with a little bit longer warm up and a few more good throws he would have found the throw he needed. To advance into the finals Nate would have had to throw 46' 5.75" which he had been throwing all week. Nate's best throw on the day was still a good throw for him for the season, throwing 44' 10.25" finishing in 12th place overall in 1A. Congratulations.

Our last event on the day was Skyler Thimesch in the 200m dash. Skyler has been dealing with a groin injury this season which has caused him to need to sit out a couple meets and not be able to perform at his best. Skyler was diligent with his rehab and was able to run a huge PR at the regional meet to get him to state as well as breaking the old school record in the 200m dash. Skyler ran his time at regionals in 22.49 new school record and 2nd place behind the state #1 sprinter.

Coming into state Skyler's time ranked him in 2nd overall. Right off the bat at the state meet out of the blocks there was trouble. A slip or a trip caused Skyler to get out of sync and couldn't quite recover. Coming around the curve Skyler was still in a position to do well but his running form started to tighten up which caused him to slow. Skyler just missed out of the finals finishing in 9th place in 1A running 23.07. Believe it or not, with the slip and his running form tightening up this time still would have been a PR on the season if it wasn't for his incredible regional run. Pretty amazing.

Saturday was going to be a bigger day with more kids participating and boy was it fun! Loads of good performances and medals galore. We started off with an early morning leave time from the school to get Emily Ogg to the stadium in time to run her 100m dash

prelims. Emily just set a new personal record at Regionals the week before running a time of 13.22 for 2nd place and a first time trip to the state meet. In the prelims at state Emily got an 'ok' start and ran a time of 13.25 just .03 off her previous PR. This time wasn't fast enough to advance her to the finals but still a great time for her at 8:30am. It is very hard to run fast that early. Emily finished 12th in 1A. Congratulations.

Next up was Kyra Morgan in the Shot Put. Kyra is a junior and this was her 3rd year to the state meet. Kyra participated in the state meet as a freshman in the discus, her sophomore year in the shot put just placing outside of a medal finishing in 9th. This year's goal was to make finals at state and medal. Kyra started off the season right where she left off the year before, pretty much matching her PR in the first meet of the season.

After a slump in the middle of the season, Kyra started coming back strong. Kyra threw a new PR at the regional meet with a throw of 37' 1.25" to get her to state. Even with this PR throw, Kyra was ranked down a bit and had to throw in the 1st flight of 2. She had to win the flight to go to finals.

During the preliminary throws Kyra launched a 37' 7.25" to take the win in the 1st flight and place her 6th in the state after finals. We met our goal with a state medal and finished the season with a personal best! Congratulations Kyra!

At the same time Kyra was throwing, the 1A pole vault was also getting underway. We are very fortunate to have the #1 and #2 jumpers in 1A and in Cunningham history.

Will Wegerer, school record holder and defending state champion, was primed and ready to jump high. Will, like Skyler, was dealing with a nagging injury and had to sit out a couple of events throughout the season to help rehab his hamstring. Will did a great job getting back and healthy thanks to his family and therapists who helped him rehab. The competition was great!

Both Skyler and Will jumped personal bests securing the #1 and #2 spot. Skyer jumped a PR of 14' 6" and Will came away with the title for the 2nd time and a PR vault of 16' 1" this also is the new school record. The current 1A record holder Darrin Bryant from

Burrton in 1986, was there to watch Will compete and hopefully break his long standing record. The record is 16' 7". Will took several good attempts at 16' 7.25" in hopes to break the state record but couldn't quite get there. The record still stands by Darrin Bryant but what a nice gesture to be there and talk with Will to cheer him on. Congratulations Skyler and Will!

The last event on the day was Stephen Kerschen sophomore in the Discus. Stephen has really come along this season throwing good throws and blowing away my expectations. Last season Stephen finished just outside of making state with a personal best of 136' as a freshman at the regional meet. This season Stephen started off 'hot' throwing in the 140s right away. After a few weeks of working out the kinks Stephen finally hit the 150 mark moving him up the rankings. Stephen was able to put a few more good sessions together then at HOPL league he threw a mark of 160' 10" moving him up the rankings again. This year's 1A discus was stacked with great performances around the state with several 160's and 170's. Now we needed Stephen to continue to rally and find good throws in the next two weeks. With a rough regional performance Stephen was just able to squeeze into qualification with 151' 0". This throw seated Stephen in 8th. After 2 good opening throws in the prelims of state, Stephen popped off a huge PR of 169' 6" in the third round throw, moving him into 2nd place! This throw also broke the school record!

During the finals in the 6th round throw, Quinters Caedmon Bridges hit a big 171' 3" to overtake Stephen and move Stephen to 3rd place. What an exciting event and outcome. Very proud of Stephen. Congratulations.

The boys team, after 24 quick points, held on to 2nd place for a long time. Eventually at the end of the meet enough teams passed us and knocked us out of contention for a state plaque. Either way, great performances by all the kids! What an awesome season. The boys finished 7th place as a team in Kansas 1A!

--Coach Kerschen
(photos on page 7)

Tornado Damage



A EF3 tornado made its way across Kansas farms and communities on May 18.

This photo was sent in by Kevin Schwertfeger. On page 4, there is an article he wrote about visiting the devastated areas with other Kansas legislators.

did you know?

A SPORTS PHYSICAL IS INCLUDED IN THE WELL-CHILD VISIT?

Get a jump start on your summer by scheduling your child's annual check-up now. Avoid the rush in August when you are busy with other back-to-school tasks.

KHC Family Clinic
620-532-0295

KINGMAN
HEALTHCARE CENTER

Cunningham Clinic
620-298-2397

Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, June 5 HS/JH Weights	Wednesday, June 18 JH/HS Weights
Monday, June 9 HS/JH Weights *** BOE Meeting	Thursday, June 19 JH/HS Weights
Tuesday, June 10 HS/JH Weights	Monday, June 23 HS/JH Weights
Wednesday, June 11 HS/JH Weights	Tuesday, June 24 HS/JH Weights *** 5:00 p.m. JH GIRLS BB Open Gym *** 6:00 p.m: HS GIRLS BB Open Gym at Skyline
Thursday, June 12 HS/JH Weights	
Saturday, June 14 Flag Day	
Monday, June 16 HS/JH Weights	Wednesday June 25 HS/JH Weights
Tuesday, June 17 HS/JH Weights	Thursday, June 26 HS/JH Weights

The Community
Calendar is sponsored by

nvalleybank.com

Member FDIC

101 E. First Street
Cunningham, KS
620-298-2511

- WANTED -

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

School Board
Will Meet
Monday

AGENDA
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 9, 2025
7:00 P.M.
104 W 4th St.,
Cunningham, Kansas

Call to Order
Approval of Agenda
(AI)
Guest Recognition
Approval of the min-
utes of the May 12, 2025
regular meeting. (AI)
Approval of financial
reports and payment of
bills. (AI) Reports
Reports
Superintendent Report
-Kelly Aramberger
Principal Report-Cody
Dunlap
Special Education
Report -
Old Business
Review Project fund/
projection
Handbook Approval
New Business
Review KASB Policy
updates
Executive session for
personnel.
Approve positions
(AI)
Executive session for
negotiations
Approve Negotiated
agreement (AI)
Approve School Fees
25-26 (AI)
Approve Classified
Staff
Approve
Administration
Adjustments
Approve USD 332
Food Service Agreements
& policies for 25-26
Set July board-meet-
ing date. (AI)
Adjournment

CHS Class of 1955 Holds 70th! Reunion

Although the class of 1955 was 29 strong, only four were able to attend their 70th reunion over the recent Memorial Day holiday.
Pictured above are Johnna (Cooley) Freund, Bob Sterneker, Barbara (Johnson) Swinson, and Karen (Whitmore) Elliot.

Avery Beat Places in State Level Competition

Second grader, Avery Beat won 2nd place in the Kansas Farm Bureau Saftey Poster Contest at the state level.
In addition to the certificate she is holding, she was given a Kailey's Ag Adventure series anthology, a congratulatory letter and a check for \$150 from the KFB.
Her teacher received a \$75.00 gift certificate to be used for classroom supplies.

Stay out of Grain
Safety is Always in style
Stay away from animals
Stay away from PTO's
Stay out of the way

courtesy photos

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

Museum Hours
Tuesdays, Thursdays,
and Saturdays
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
or contact
Angie Mertens at 620-532-4354 or
Alan Albers at 620-298-2725 or
Mike McGovney at 620-770-9503
(Volunteers Needed at the museum)

Kingman Historic Theatre
Free Summer Movie Series
June 10
The Bad Guys
Rated PG
2:00 p.m.

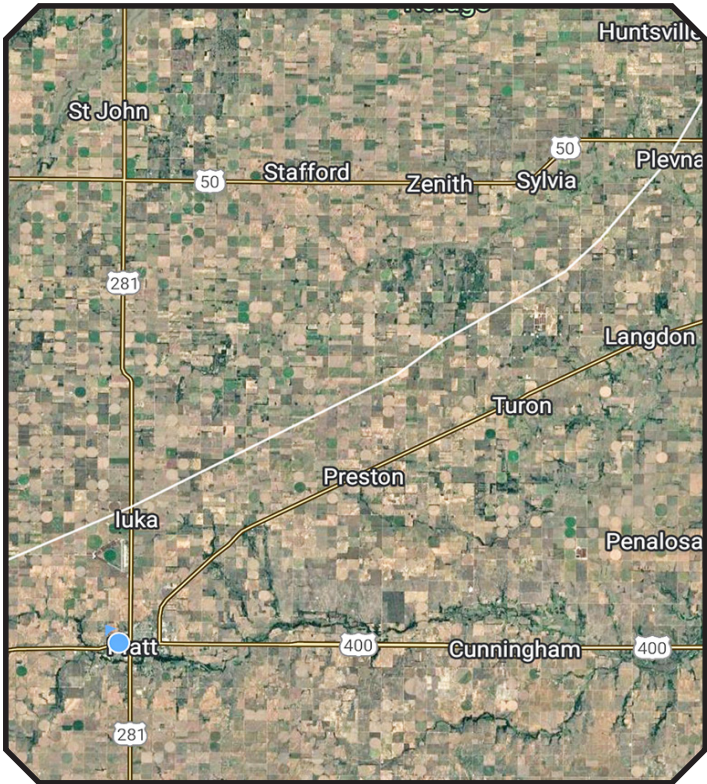
Kingman Historic Theatre
Sweet Treat Thursday
June 5th
Apple Nachos
(Birthday Cake Dough/
Worms 'n' Oreo/Fluffernutter)
1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.
\$5.00 Each

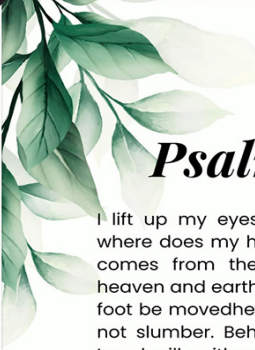
Thank you for
Supporting
The Courier

Kingman Historic Theatre
Free Summer Movie Series
June 12
The Goonies
Rated PG
2:00 p.m.

Kingman Historic
Theatre
237 N. Main in Kingman
(620) 532-1253
http://www.
kingmantheatre.org/
June 6 - 8
Mission Impossible:
The Final
Reckoning
Rated PG-13
Showtimes:
Saturday at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Thank YOU for supporting YOUR
Kingman Historic Theatre.

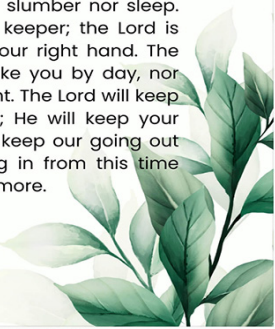
Legislators Tour Tornado-Damaged Sites





Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep our going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.



This last Saturday I was called to help lead a Tornado Damage Tour: Pratt to Plevna.

We are hoping to influence relief from a Declaration of Disaster from the current Governor Kelly’s office and/or a Federal Ag Emergency Declaration.

In the Tornado Tour’s attendance was former Governor Jeff Colyer, Kansas House Assistant Majority Leader Kyle Hoffman, Senator Michael Murphy & Mrs Janice Murphy, Rep. Brett Fairchild and Kurt Fairchild, Rep Joe Siewert, Rep Samantha Poetter Parschal, former KLA President Shawn Tiffany, Mark Fisher, Serena Colyer, B.J. Hayes, Pratt Co Emergency Mgmt, Morgan Trinkle : Pratt co Commissioner, Rep Kevin Schwertfeger

We were saddened to see the losses experienced by our friends & neighbors.

We want to Thank all the Volunteers who have came to people in their time of need, volunteering

time, equipment, people power, donations, prayers, and giving their all.

Together we will get thru these difficulties.

We recognize the resilience of fellow Kansans. Its about helping our neighbors.

As the State’s motto reads: To the Stars , thru Difficulties. Ad Astera per Aspera.

God is good. & God is good ALL the time !

Thank You.

Its about helping people.

Kevin Schwertfeger

Tuesday evening update from Kevin: I sent a personal appeal to the Governor to ask for a Declaration of a State of Emergency for Tornado victims.

A second letter was drafted by Gov Colyer and Legislative leaders asking for action.

The Tornado proceeded the flooding Disaster in Wichita. I am hoping she acts soon.



An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. “Where would you like to sit?” he asked politely.

“The front row

please.” she answered.

“You really don’t want to do that”, the usher said, “The pastor is really boring.”

“Do you happen to know who I am?” the woman inquired.

“No.” he said.

“I’m the pastor’s mother,” she replied indignantly.

“Do you know who I am?” he asked.

“No.” she said.

“Good,” he answered.

"It takes courage to confront your enemies, it takes greater courage to confront your friends"

--Albus Dumbledore

by Alan Albers

NOT AFRAID

A few minutes before the church services started, the townspeople were sitting in their pews and talking. Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from evil incarnate. Soon everyone had exited the church except for one elderly gentleman who sat calmly in his pew without moving, seeming oblivious to the fact that God’s ultimate enemy was in his presence. So Satan walked up to the old man and said, “Don’t you know who I am?”

The man replied, “Yep, sure do.”

“Aren’t you afraid of me?” Satan asked.

“Nope, sure ain’t.” said the man.

“Don’t you realize I can kill you with a word?” asked Satan.

“Don’t doubt it for a minute,” returned the old man, in an even tone.

“Did you know that I could cause you profound, horrifying, physical AGONY for all eternity?” persisted Satan.

“Yep,” was the calm reply.


“And you’re still not afraid?” asked Satan.

“Nope.”

More than a little perturbed, Satan asked, “Well, why aren’t you afraid of me?”

The man calmly replied, “Been married to your sister for over 48 years.”

Sponsored by



LEGACY
IN ACTION

This week’s Caught in Kindness recipients are the Greg and Terry Meireis family, nominated for their efforts that went above and beyond in aiding their neighbors who had extensive damage and/or complete loss of property due to the tornado on May 18th. As Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department in Preston, Greg worked tirelessly through the night of the tornado and was back at it at 7am the next day. He spent a full week going back and forth between families with equipment and a helping hand. The whole family contributes in a big way to the Volunteer Fire Department and stepped up to help beyond their formal duties during this time of loss. Volunteerism like this is oftentimes a thankless job, but is nonetheless the glue that holds rural communities together. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes out to the Meireis family.

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 donate contact Janet DeWeese 620-298-2717)

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 Kerri Steffen)

Cunningham EMS (to donate, contact Monte Rose or Kathy Albers)



Catholic Churches


Sacred Heart, Cunningham
Saturday 5:30 p.m.

St. Leo
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627 620-246-5370

First Christian Church

Cunningham
Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00
Jr High Youth Group 4:00 pm Sunday
Sr High Youth Group 7:30 pm Sunday
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00
Pastor Mike McGovney 620-298-3201




Lutheran Churches

St. John, Nashville
620-246-5220
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 8:30 a.m.

Trinity, Medicine Lodge
620- 886-3397
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Pastor vacancy until further notice.




United Methodist Church

Penalosa
Worship 9:15 a.m.
Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki 620-298-2090

Cunningham
Worship 10:45 a.m.

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



Church of Christ

Penalosa
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1930

June 6, 1930 – Wilbur Lash has purchased the Cannonball Garage again in a business transaction with Dr. Ferd Burnett. Lash formerly owned the business, having sold it about a year ago to Otto Meng. It has been sold and traded three or four times during the past year.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy McNamee have moved to their farm home just east of town.

The Ford Motor Company announced a reduction in prices this week in their motor cars. The reduced prices vary from \$5 to \$25 on every 1930 automobile. The price on the tudor sedan is now \$495, and the town sedan is now priced at \$660.

1935

June 7, 1935 – Allen Washburn, 68, a resident of this community for the past forty years, passed away Tuesday.

The paving gang started laying pavement on Highway 54 near Sear’s Hill this week, and will come towards Cunningham.

Frank Allbritten and Dr. Donald Thompson were both re-elected Treasurer of the High School and Grade School Boards, respectively, at the Annual School Board Meetings last week.

1940

June 7, 1940 – Ray Schafer gave up 14 runs but Cunningham collected 22 runs off four Pratt pitchers to win their fourth South Central Kansas League baseball game here, Sunday.

The Homer Kelly farm is pictured on the cover of this month’s bulletin issued by the Kansas Industrial Commission.

Major Ralph Graham of Fort Riley, will be at the Gordon Gibbens ranch next Thursday to buy cavalry and artillery riding horses for the United States Army.

1950

June 9, 1950 – Mrs. Frank Allbritten, accompanied by her daughter, Geraldine of Wichita, left this week on a two month’s tour of Europe.

Mrs. Margaret McMichael, 87, enjoyed her first weiner roast at the Herman Hayes farm home, Tuesday evening.

1955

June 9, 1955 – The Cunningham City Council met in regular session in the City Building Monday evening, with all the Councilmen, Herman Hayes, Lon Hoagland, Edwin Steffen, Albert Ditto, and R. O. (Bob) Underwood, and Mayor W. G. (Dub) Jones present.

The governing body approved a tornado alert system, using the city’s fire whistle. Other matters discussed included the proposal to purchase a new city patrol; the cost of oiling North Main Street, and the purchase of a new siren for the fire truck. The council also approved a proposal by the Farm Bureau to re-paint the fire hydrants, with the city supplying the paint.

Councilman Underwood asked to resign from the Council, to take over the job as city street patrolman. The Council approved his resignation, and duly appointed him as City Patrolman at a salary of \$75.00 per month.

Following the paying of the bills, the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wood and family moved last week-end to Medicine Lodge, where they will make their new home. Rev. and Mrs. C. A. McDonald and sons moved into the property vacated by the Wood family, which was recently purchased by the First Baptist Church as a parsonage.

The Ninnescah Valley 4-H Club Cooking Class held an all-day meeting last Saturday at the home of their leader, Mrs. Floren Rose, during which the group planned and served a one-o’clock luncheon.

The luncheon menu consisted of hamburger patties, baked potatoes, corn, vegetable relish plate, nut bread, custard, cake, and iced tea.

Those present at the meeting were Sondra Dunn, Loma Lynn Davidson, Sharon Spain, Sharon Peterson, Lynanne Remy, Aileen, Imogene, and Louise Voss, and Mrs. Dan Cusenbary, assistant leader.

Over 3 inches of moisture accompanied by some hail and high winds, visited this area in storms last Friday and Saturday evenings. Wheat losses to hail were ranging from 40% to 80% in fields south of town.

1960

June 9, 1960 – Two improvements are to be started soon at the grade school. Two new tennis courts are to be built during the summer, and a 26-foot extension of the school lunchroom will be completed before the fall term of school.

Max Lagree has started construction of a cinder block addition to the former Ellis Derby Station. He plans to move the cleaning shop into the building upon its completion.

Dale Williams has purchased two lots from Rufus Leiter in the northwest part of town, and expects to move a house onto the property sometime next week.

The Cunningham Pee Wees split a double-header with the Kingman Pee Wees in the season’s opening games here last Friday night.

Kingman won the first game by a 2-1 score, and Cunningham captured the nightcap , 10-3.

First-game battery for Cunningham was Dan Theis pitching and Mike Meyers catching. Brad Mantooth was the winning hurler in the second game, with Ronnie Gillen doing the catching.

The Senior Class returned home last Friday evening from a week’s trip to Carlsbad Caverns, N. Mex., and Old Mexico.

Members of the Cunningham Lions Club entertained their ladies at a “Las Vegas Party” in the Lodge Hall, Tuesday evening.

Following a delicious buffet supper, a social evening was enjoyed at the gaming tables.

1965

June 10, 1965 – The U. S. Senate Friday, May 11, confirmed President Lyndon Johnson’s nomination of Dr. John A. Schnittker as Undersecretary of Agriculture.

Dr. Schnittker, a 40-year-old native of Kingman County, Kansas, has been the Director of Agriculture Economics for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and a Director of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Dr. Schnittker is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schnittker of Cunningham, and was graduated from Cunningham Rural High School in 1940.

Free movies will again be shown in Cunningham during the summer months by Woodrow Graber of Zenda, through the cooperation of participating Cunningham merchants.

Showtime is every Thursday evening at dark on South Main Street. Tonight’s show is “The Wackiest Ship in the Army,” a Technicolor comedy starring Jack Lemmon and Ricky Nelson.

Harold’s Place in Cunningham was burglarized last Friday night.

Owner Harold Schreck discovered the break-in when he went to work the next morning.

Money was taken from the music machine and the cigarette vendor, along with 20 cigarette lighters, cigarettes, and cigars. The loss was estimated at about \$100.

Entry was made by breaking the padlock on the door.

The Cunningham area, along with this section of the state, was the recipient of wrath of the skies last Friday afternoon and evening, when a downpour of rain, the first deluge estimated at four inches, the second at two inches, fell in this area.

The rain was preceded by hail and wind. Damage to the almost-ripe wheat crop will amount to thousands of dollars, as harvest was expected to get underway this coming week-end.

1970

June 11, 1970 – George E. Rose, 66, a life-long resident of the Cunningham community, died suddenly at his farm home, Monday morning, from an apparent heart attack.

Mr. Rose was born at Cunningham March 23, 1904, and was married to Ada Yarberry in 1926.

The Scripsick Standard Service Station was broken into sometime early last Thursday.

Stolen was \$50.00 in cash, and two boxes of candy.

Calvin and Raphael Eck, perennially the “first” wheat harvesters in the Cunningham area, did it again this year, bringing in the first load of 1970 wheat to the Bunge Corp. elevator, Monday afternoon.

The wheat tested 61 pounds with 14 percent moisture content.

Several other farmers are in the wheat fields, “sample harvesting,” and if the weather remains clear and the wind stays up, harvest will be in full swing by the week-end.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes
Editor: Rex Zimmerman
Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1975

June 5, 1975 – Jim England, son of Mrs. Sylvia McGovney, of Pratt, was recently accepted to enter Yale for the 1975-76 year.

England is a graduate of Cunningham High School, the Pratt Community Junior College and Washburn University.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Rohr, Karla and Janel Rohr, Marilyn Albers, Shirley Ford, Terri Simonson, Brooks

and Cheri Mantooth attended the graduation exercises of Kathy Johnson at Valley Heights High School near Blue Rapids on Tuesday evening, May 27.

Mr. and Mrs. Rohr were Tuesday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Nolte and family of Waterville and the remainder of the group were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnston and family at Blue Rapids.

Cheryl and Ramona Duell of Ellis, Kansas spent from Monday until Thursday visiting Mr. and Mrs. Alva Hellar.

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Publisher: Charles G. Barnes
Editor:Vickie Lohmann
Reporter: Florine Kampling

1980

June 5, 1980 – The Cunningham Recreation Commission and the City of Cunningham would like to continue having the July 4 Fireworks Display.

Due to the cost of the fireworks getting higher and higher each year, your comments would be appreciated as to whether you think the display should be continued or not.

The city feels that judging from the huge crowd each year, most people would be in favor of having it, and we would like to continue the tradition. If any individuals or organizations would like to help with the cost of the display, donations would be appreciated.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Newman, Ringwood, Okla. announce the birth of a son, Dustin Lee. He was born May 26 weighing 9 lbs. He has one brother, David.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fischer, Cunningham, and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Newman, Ringwood, Okla.

Great-grandparents are Mrs. Anna Detmer, Spivey, and Mrs. Hazel Newman, Enid, Okla., and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Wiggins, Ringwood, Okla.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Seiwert, Pretty Prairie, announce the birth of a baby daughter, Toni Marie. She was born June 1, weighing 8 lb., 12 oz. She has two sisters, Dana and Barbie.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Tony Seiwert, Kingman, and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy A. Kampling, Cunningham.

Great -grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stillwell.

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy A Kampling wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Evelyn, to Stanley Robert Parsons, son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Parsons, Kingman.

The bride elect is employed by the Department of Transportation and her fiancé is employed with the Kansas Power and Light Company.

The wedding is being planned for September 7.

1985

June 6, 1985 – Mark Crick and Donna Beat announce their engagement and upcoming wedding on August third. Donna is the daughter of Gilbert Beat and Theresa Beat both of Cunningham.

Mark is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Crick of Cunningham.

The bride is employed at Greenwood County Hospital in Eureka as an X-Ray Technician and the groom is employed by Lodge Chevrolet Olds Buick Inc. in Medicine Lodge.

A contest was held in Sunday School First Christian Church the past three months and the osers had to treat the winners. Clayton, Debbie, Chad, Carrie Mills, Lowell, Steven Gridley, Donna, Arnold Ahlstedt, Patty, Wayne, Chrisy Woodard, Susie, Jimmy, John, Beth Patton, Norma, Ned, Gayla Golden, guests Pat Spade, all of Cunningham. Gayland, Judy, Matthew, Timothy Miller, Wichita, and the losers Addie Wilson, Elva Glenn, Alberta, John Vermillion, Jessie, Eddie Wood, Ada Rose, Helen Rose, Sam, Martha Henderson, Sophia, George Gridley, Gail Estrell Peterson served homemade ice cream, cake, tea and pop. Horseshoes, and visiting was enjoyed by all at the park in Cunningham Sunday evening.

Nashville New: Mr. and Mrs. Dwane Hensiek and Troy of Bartelsville, Okla., were guests of Goldie and Myrna Hensiek. They attended the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Wegerer on Sunday.

Mrs. Charlotte Fiegel of Ashland visited with Mrs. Joyce Nolting of Riverton, Wyo., and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Laverentz in Nashville on Tuesday.

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Minutes from Kingman County Commission Meeting

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. May 19, 2025, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse.

Julie Lyon, Chairwoman, Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Pat Elpers, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk; Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Dale Enyart; Larry Landwehr; Andrea Polf, Arrowhead West; Christy Crews, Hometown Grants

Online Visitors: Lucy; Caller 01; Jamie Smith; Linus; ml; Viewer 1; Cody Bartel; Arnold; AS

Staff: Tonja Stamm, Courthouse Maintenance; Sheriff Brent Wood; Undersheriff Travis Sowers; Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse; Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

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

Carol Noblit, County Clerk requested NRP discussion.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the agenda with addition of NRP discussion.

Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote 3-0.

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there was any public comment.

Dale Enyart thanked the Commissioners for attending the GOP meeting. Also, Mr. Enyart discussed that he was asked why the Commissioners wanted to have all the County property records online as they were told by the Register of Deeds that the Commissioners wanted her files online.

Mr. Enyart discussed with the individual that nothing was said in any meeting that he has attended that the Commissioners wanted any files online.

Commissioners discussed with Mr. Enyart that has never been said and all they want is for the Register of Deeds to use the same IT to make things more secure and cost effective for the taxpayers of Kingman County. The IT that she is continuing to use is costing the county taxpayers \$150 per hour for their services.

Commissioners discussed the Tower Lease Agreement that USD 331 would like to have with Kingman County.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the Tower lease agreement with USD 331 for use of the tower. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote of 3-0.

Tonja Stamm, Courthouse Maintenance was in to discuss the water fountains.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the removal of the water fountain on the 3rd floor and installation of a new water fountain with bottle refill on the first floor from Red Rock Services. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners signed one abatement.

Ms. Noblit submitted quotes for 80 cases of copy paper from Quill in the amount of \$4,919.98 and from Office Plus in the amount of \$3,432.00.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the quote from Office Plus for 80 cases of paper in the amount of \$3432.00. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the May 12th, 2025, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the minutes of the May 12th, 2025; Commission meeting as submitted. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners discussed correspondence received from the

Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce was requesting a contribution from the County for the All-American Family Fun Fest.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to contribute \$1,000.00 to the All-American Family Fun Fest this year. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Sheriff Brent Wood and Undersheriff Travis Sowers were in with monthly department update and what they have been working on for the Commissioners review.

Sheriff Wood discussed that they would like to move forward with 24 Hour Law Enforcement Coverage.

Undersheriff Sowers discussed what would be needed to go to 12-hour shifts with the Commissioners.

Commissioners asked Sheriff Wood and Undersheriff Sowers to get what the overtime total that was paid out in a year to see what the comparison is to be hiring two new officers.

Sheriff Wood and Undersheriff Sowers left the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse was in with a department update for April for the Commissioners.

Ms. Schwartz discussed that the Health Department is doing accelerated vaccines for 6- to 11-month-old kids to help guard against the

measles.

Ms. Schwartz discussed that she has received a quote for vent installation in west exam room where most foot-care is done. The cost is under \$750 dollars and can be paid with grant funds.

Ms. Schwartz let the Commissioners know that the Surface Pros she had purchased are in service and have been used.

Ms. Schwartz let the Commissioners know of upcoming engagements that she will have coming up.

Andrea Polf, Arrowhead West was in to discuss the services that they have provided the past year. Ms. Polf let the Commissioners know that there is a local case manager for Kingman County for the first time in over 30 years.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the removal of individuals from the NRP program that did not pay their taxes on time. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 2 for and 1 against vote. Commissioner Thimesch voted against.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to have Commissioner Elpers and LaDawn Stegman attend the Kingman EMS Advisory Committee meeting at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner

Thimesch moved to not have a Commission Meeting the week of Memorial Day and the next meeting will be June 2, 2025. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Christy Crews with Hometown Grants was in with a presentation of the grant recommendations she has for the requests that she has received and could have good fits for applications.

MOTION: Chairwoman moved to have Commissioner Thimesch as point of contact and to move forward on the siren project and the others. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with the Capital Needs Assessment report that Steve Bachenberg, County Engineer put together.

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that the FAS 359 Hot Mix Overlay bid opening is scheduled for June 2, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:04 p.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.



Wheat Tour 2025, Day 1

About 67 people from 21 U.S. states and six countries, traveled in 17 cars on six routes between Manhattan and Colby, Kan., Tuesday, stopping at wheat fields every 15-20 miles along the routes, as part of the Wheat Quality Council's 67th Annual Hard Winter Wheat Evaluation Tour.

These tour participants included flour millers and industry professionals from domestic and international mills. U.S. Wheat Associates

sponsored six participants who work in flour mills in Central and South America. These grain buyers, flour millers and quality managers were from Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica and Venezuela. Several had the opportunity to meet and ask questions of a farmer while evaluating a field and even sit in a combine and ride in equipment.

More than half of the attendees were first-time participants. They were shown how to take yield measurements from tour alumni, using the formula

provided by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This formula is based on 2015-2024 Kansas wheat objective yield data. Farmers can calculate their own field estimates using the same formula with instructions at ksk.org.

Every tour participant makes yield calculations at each stop based on three to four different area samplings per field. These individual estimates are averaged with the rest of their route mates and eventually added to a formula that produces a final yield estimate for the areas along the routes. While yields tend to be the spotlight of the Wheat Quality Tour, the real benefit is the ability to network among the 'grain chain.' This tour gives Kansas farmers the chance to in-

teract with and influence their customers around the globe, on the tour, as well as at the #wheat-tour25 hashtag.

Tuesday's cars of wheat tour scouts made 196 stops at wheat fields across north central, central and northwest Kansas, and into southern counties in Nebraska. They met Tuesday evening at Frahm Farmland in Colby, where they discussed what they had seen during the day and heard from an Extension expert panel including Romulo Lollato, Lucas Haag and Jeannie Falk-Jones. Most of the participants reported seeing the Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus complex and drought conditions.

The calculated yield is based on what scouts saw at this point in time. A lot can happen between now and harvest. The

calculated yield from all cars was 50.5 bushels per acre, however the northern routes were well below this average, while the southern routes had a higher average. Day 2 of the tour will travel through southwest and south central Kansas.

Statewide, based on May 1 conditions, Kansas' 2025 winter wheat crop is forecast at 345 million bushels, according to NASS. Average yield is forecast at 50 bushels per acre. Acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 6.9 million acres.

For the week ending May 11, 2025, Kansas winter wheat condition rated 7% very poor, 15% poor, 30% fair, 42% good and 6% excellent. Kansas winter wheat jointed was 92%, near 96% last year and 90% for the five-year average. Headed was

71%, near 70% last year, and well ahead of 47% average.

In addition to Kansas reports, scouts from Nebraska and Colorado met the group in Colby to give reports from their states.

Royce Schaneman from Nebraska Wheat Board reported that the Nebraska crop is estimated at 34 million bushels. Yield is estimated at 40 bushels per acre.

A report from Colorado estimated the crop at 65 million bushels, based on a yield of 35 bushels per acre and 2.1 million acres planted.

These estimates are for this year's hard winter wheat crop during this current snapshot in time.

Wheat Tour 25 continues Wednesday with six routes between Colby and Wichita, Kansas.

May Total Tax Collections Over \$657M;
31.7% Above Estimate

TOPEKA – The State of Kansas ends May 2025 with total tax collections at \$657.7 million. That is \$158.3 million, or 31.7%, above the estimate. Total tax collections were down 0.2% from May 2024.

“Surpassing estimates this month is a positive indicator, but we remain diligent and focused on maintaining long-term financial health,” Governor Laura Kelly said.

Individual income tax collections were \$314.7 million. That is \$144.7 million, or 85.1% above the estimate, and up 3.1% from May 2024. Corporate income tax collections were \$29.2 million. That is \$840,880, or 2.8% below the estimate, and down 26.8% from May 2024.

Combined retail sales and compensating use tax receipts were \$282.1 million, which is \$11.1 million, or 4.1% above the estimate, with no change from May 2024.

View the May 2025 revenue numbers at https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/KSOG/2025/06/02/file_attachments/3279686/11_May_Revenue_FY2025_06-02-2025_Final.pdf

HE WHO
LAUGHS LAST
DIDN'T GET IT

“Anything with the power to make you laugh over thirty years later isn’t a waste of time. I think something like that is very close to immortality.”

— Stephen King, *Hearts in Atlantis*

Wildcats Compete at Regionals

(story on front page)



Andrew Kerschen



Nate Sterneker



Stephen Kerschen
(on third place podium)



Emily Ogg



Kyra Morgan



Will Wegerer



Skyler Thimesch



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Comfortably Dumb

by Bruce Quast



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QUAST

“Didn’t I mention this is a hobby farm?”

Gant Opportunities Now Available at South Central Community Foundation

The 2025 South Central Community Foundation (SCCF) Competitive Grant Cycle is now open and accepting applications! SCCF is offering six different opportunities to their seven-county service area which includes Barber, Comanche, Kingman, Kiowa, Pratt, Rice,

and Stafford Counties. These grants are open to nonprofits, cities, schools, and churches. The list of opportunities is below, and a complete overview of each opportunity is available at sccfks.org. The deadline for the following grant applications is August 31st, 2025.

COMMUNITY GRANTS -- Available to all counties.

\$5,000 CHILDREN’S HEALTH GRANT -- Available to all counties for project/programs relating to children’s health. **One recipient will be selected for each of the seven counties SCCF serves.*

LEADERSHIP GRANT -- Local leadership programs or projects in **Barber, Comanche, or Harper County.**

PRATT COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT PLACE -- YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANT -- For projects/programs that aim to help children/youth in **Pratt County.**

GREENSBURG FUTURE FUND GRANT -- This opportunity is available to any nonprofit, school, or church located in

Greensburg, KS.

MAJORIE GILLIG GRANT -- Projects/programs impacting the following areas: Music and Arts, Primary Education, Senior Activities, Community Organizations, Church Programs, or Mission Trips in **Pratt County or City of Kiowa, Kansas.**

In 2024, SCCF awarded over \$170,000 in its competitive grant cycle. For questions or help through the application process, contact the Foundation at (620) 672.7929 or hannah@sccfks.org.



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Minutes from the Pratt County Commission

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, May, 27, 2025 at 2:00 pm in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director.

Economic Development Update

Storm Recovery and Assistance Efforts

Heather Morgan reported multiple businesses reached out for assistance with losses due to the recent storm. Heather commended BJ for his efforts during and the after the weather event. Heather has contacted several agencies for support. The most promising option is the Industrial Revenue Bonds. They allow tax-exempt rebuilding and financing. She will be following up for more information. Some available programs are the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program via FSA for hay and grain storage and low-interest loans from SBA and USDA for uninsured losses. Representative Hoffman offered support in connecting with relevant state resources.

Sawyer Gas Project

Heather reported that Representative Hoffman met with the Kansas Corporation Commission and she also spoke with the Mayor and City Clerk of Sawyer. A key meeting this week will determine next steps. Sawyer's City Commission meets Monday. They are currently in a holding pattern, pending outcomes.

Pratt Area Economic Development (PAED) Update

PAED met last Wednesday to discuss a new housing incentive program. The initial plan to allocate PAED funds for multi-unit, non-owner-occupied housing. Discussions also included support for job retention for businesses affected by the storm.

Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

Motion to move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss a position opening with Darcie Van Der Vyver for 5 minutes at 2:08 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Motion to move to come out of executive session at 2:13 p.m. with no action taken made by Commissioner Jones; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Heath Department Personnel Request

Motion to move to give Darci authority to hire an Insurance Biller starting at \$15.00 to \$17.00/H. based on experience made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Health Department Update

Darci reported her staff attended the Immunization Conference which focused on the current measles outbreak and vaccination efforts. Pratt County is a bordering county to affected areas in Dodge, Kiowa and Pawnee counties. Educational materials and updated vaccine guidelines have been shared with the public. Darci presented two quotes for window replacement at the Health Department office.

Motion to move to approve Elvove to replace 16 Window at the cost of \$15,224 made by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion passed 3-0.

Darci reported their copier will no longer be serviced due to age. She presented two quotes.

Motion to move to approve Bolen's Office supply quote for a copy machine in the amount of \$2,400 made by Commissioner Jones; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Emergency Preparedness/Communication

Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

Motion to move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas

Open Meetings Act to discuss applications with BJ Hayes for 20 minutes at 2:38 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Motion to move to come out of executive session at 2:58 p.m. with no action taken made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Motion to move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss applications with BJ Hayes for 20 minutes at 2:59 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Motion to move to come out of executive session at 3:16 p.m. with no action taken made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Executive Session – Attorney Client

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss zoning with BJ Hayes for 5 minutes with at 3:17 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Motion to move to come out of executive session at 3:22 pm with no action taken made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; Motion passed 3-0.

Road Department Update

Doug Freund presented a road crossing permit for SC Telecom

Motion to approve road crossing permit from SC Telcom on SE 80th Ave made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Doug Freund presented a personnel request for a 6-month raise.

Motion to approve a 6 month pay raise for Charles Thimesch from \$17.51/Hr to \$18.50/Hr. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Doug presented a

quote to replace a road grader.

Motion to approve purchase of a road grader from Foley in the amount of \$310,251.52 made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion passed 3-0.

Appraiser Personal Request

DJ McMurry requested new hire approval.

Motion to hire Jerrilynn King at \$16.00/hr for Appraiser's Office made by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner ; motion passed 3-0.

Public Comment

Chris Rohling asked if the lot beside the old PRRC building would be available. Selling the property is possible but would require appraisals and public bidding if valued over \$50,000. It may also be a part of the Hospital master plan.

Clerk's Comments

Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk asked how the new account for Freedom Claims should be set up, specifically the name of the account and the amount they would like to transfer. Cescha will check with FCMI to find out amount and it was suggested to name the account Freedom Claims Reserve Fund or similar so it's identifiable. Cescha also got approval for the joint City/County meeting Agenda that will include LEC Building Discussion, Budget Overview and Executive session for Attorney-Client Privilege.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of May 19, 2025, made by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Vouchers

Motion to approve the vouchers from May 27, 2025, made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Recess

Motion to recess meeting until Thursday May 29th at 9:00 a.m. made by Commissioner Jones; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Joint City/County Meeting

The Pratt County Commissioners met in recessed joint session on

Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building. The following county members were present: Thomas W Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director. The following City members were present: Kyle Farmer, Mayor, Doug Meyer, Vice Mayor, Monte Hostetler, Gary Schmidt, Commissioners, Brianna Garten, City Clerk, Regina Goff, City Manager, Joe Ohler, Interim Chief of Police and Cody Smith, City Attorney. Jeanette Siemens was not present.

Call To Order

The recessed meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones.

Law Enforcement Center Agreement

Regina Goff, City Manager reported the target move-in date as early 2026. Construction will begin in the next few months. Joe Oller, Interim Chief of Police is preparing a CAD drawing of the community center to assist with construction, planning and the bid process. The final agreement will require coordination between Joe and the Sheriff's office to ensure alignment on operational needs. The LEC Board and the 911 Committee Boards may need revised to take care of some of the overlapping and have representation from both County, City, Emergency Management, Rural Fire, Police and Sheriff Departments.

Dispatch Operations and Staffing

Both County and City reaffirmed shared funding responsibilities of 50/50. Regina Goff reported Interviews are being conducted for a new Director of Dispatch. The Director's salary is not yet factored into budget projections but the current staff are working significant overtime. The addition of a director should decrease overtime and balance the cost of an additional director salary.

Pratt Area Economic Development

Chase Galle reported the PAED is currently focused on housing development, commercial development and business retention and incentives.

The housing program is designed to kickstart residential development. The new incentive proposal is 5% reimbursement of project cost upon completion. The program is targeted to small builders and infill development, especially in Sandy Creek. Chase reported they currently have \$180,000 available and have a pending \$150,000 reimbursement from the PRMC daycare project for a total potential balance of \$330,000. There will be spending caps to preserve flexibility of the program. PAED is transitioning to a reimbursement-based model and long-term return.

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program will need to renewed and the renewal preparations were encouraged soon due to state requirements. PAED has no current plans to hire a full-time director as the existing Chamber partnership is sufficient for now. Mayor Farmer stated that \$43,000 of the \$60,000 budget currently goes toward administrative costs. Chase said he would need to look into those cost and evaluate the situation. Regina reported the City passed a resolution to initiate a Land Bank Program and a five-member committee is being formed. The city has taken the lead on the program but Chase stated they may provide support in the future. Chase stated they are putting an emphasis on preparedness to respond to developers quickly with clear, ready to go programs and properties. Commissioners from both County and City thanked Chase for his leadership and progress.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Shriver, commended Mayor Farmer for open communication and building strong relationships between County and City. Mayor Farmer also thanked the Commissioners for the open conversations.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 a.m. made by Commissioner Jones; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.



The Power of Community

Jackie Mundt, Pratt County farmer and rancher

The recent tornado that stretched from Greensburg to Plevna went right through the middle of our farm, missing our house and the farm shop by about a mile. The destruction of neighbors' homes and loss of livestock is incredibly sad, but our entire community has rejoiced that no human lives were lost. Things can be replaced people can't.

Many Kansans have

unfortunately experience storms that have left a lasting terror. In almost every conversation about the most recent tornado, locals have reference having that sick-to-stomach feeling of dread because they saw the tornado headed toward Greensburg and feared the worst again. I moved to Pratt about three years after the Greensburg tornadoes; I have seen pictures and heard many first-hand accounts, but I don't think I will ever understand the trauma people in Greensburg and surrounding communities felt through those horrific nights.

Some people enjoy the thrill of storms. Storm-chasing vehicles are commonly seen in our area each year during storm outbreaks. I always

thought of these people as hardcore "weather nerds" but last year's "Twister" sequel showed another type of chaser. There is no doubt storms inspire awe with their massive ominous clouds, powerful winds or raging lightning. I just struggle to see the appeal for people to travel to Kansas to watch storms destroy our communities as a sort of adventure.

About a year ago the emergency management team in Pratt County started live broadcasting during storms on Facebook from their command center. The response in our community has been pretty incredible because in that short time it has built a huge local following. It is like being a fly on the wall, seeing the weather maps,

hearing reports from the storm spotter on the radio and knowing the most up-to-date information about what is happening in the county. People know when to take cover and that is saving lives.

Not a lot of good comes out of the destruction of tornadoes except maybe the reminder of good people in our community. When we came up from the basement after the tornado, text messages poured in from friends and neighbors checking on our safety. We jumped in the truck to go find out if any neighbors needed help and if any of our damage needed immediate attention.

Driving around felt strangely like a warped block party. There were people keeping traffic away from downed pow-

er lines, checking for injured people and animals and getting supplies needed for people with the worst damage. Our local emergency management, storm spotters, first responders, law enforcement and utility workers all deserve gratitude for the way that they selflessly serve and protect people during tornadoes and other storms.

In the days following the storm, the power of community has been on display in our neighborhood and across the footprint of the tornado. Families connected through 4-H, church or other community organizations taking animals to their homes to be cared for, sorting through rubble looking for important family mementos; local businesses donating

supplies and showing up with heavy equipment to move tree limbs and debris; utility crews from across the state working to get power lines back up.

Severe weather and tornadoes are an unavoidable part of living in Kansas. Most people know what it is like to experience loss and know it could happen to them next. This reality of disasters and loss has made the people in our communities compassionate, giving and resilient. When bad things in Kansas, you can be sure of one good thing: friends and neighbors will be there to help.

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau

KCHS Pets Ready
for Adoption

Ari

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



There is nothing that melts a heart like a dog with puppy-dog eyes and large upright ears that anyone can see the pup will never grow into. Dogs like Ari are just too cute for words.

She is a bonded German Shepherd (I believe her BFF is Stella, another German Shepherd to be featured next week.) Ari is about 1 year old, weighs a mere 23 pounds. She's been at the shelter since May 6, and really wants a home, especially if that home can also accommodate her bonded companion. Her adoption fee is \$200.00

This little miss is good with kids, dogs, and people. "Ari is very smart and treat motivated so training will be a breeze! She loves to go on walks but needs some work on leash manners. She may be timid at first but once she knows you, she's fun, goofy and outgoing."

Davina

Sponsored byThe Cunningham Courier



This is another lovely, bonded pet. Davina is a bit less than 1 year old and has been at the shelter since April 4. She is bonded to Oliver, who will be featured next week. They are a handsome couple, these two cats. Davina's adoption fee is \$50.00.

Because of her gorgeous looks and lovely demeanor, she needs to be an indoor cat only.

A Column
by
Dean Marple

Girls

He felt the strong hand on the back of his neck before he heard the voice.

"You little jerk, just what do you think you're doing? Get off your knees and quit trying to peek in there."

He knew the voice, a cross between the low rumble of thunder and a big semi. Rumor had it the girls' PE teacher used to play linebacker for the Chicago Bears. There was a reason why students nicknamed her Mrs. Thunder Thighs.

"Ah, well, uh, I dropped my pencil and was just bending down to get it."

"Pencil? What pencil? Where is this mysterious pencil?"

"Gee, I don't see it. Might have rolled un-

der the door. Maybe we should open the door and see if it's in the locker room? What do you think?"

"Think? I don't have to think because I know you're trying to sneak a peek at those girls taking a shower in there. Just like every other junior high boy in this building, you've got the wrong thing on your mind."

Before he could reply, he had to jump back quickly as the locker room door swung open and several girls exited, headed for class. Just as quickly, another stream of young beauties came from the opposite direction and poured into the locker room. He stood there, the feminine glory around him striking him speechless.

Unfortunately, the imposing adult female standing next to him had not forgotten why they were there. Rumbling, the loud voice asserted,

"If you think I'm going to give you a detention, and you're just going to sit in detention hall, you're so wrong." With that, the girls' PE teacher grabbed his arm, marched him into the empty boys' locker room and gave him a stiff wire brush.

"There are 12 stinking urinals in here. When I come back at the end of fourth hour, I want to see 12 very clean and fragrant urinals. Do you understand me, bub?"

Yes, he very clearly understood. He understood that she would depart, leaving him alone mere feet from the girls' locker room. Muttering to herself, Mrs. Thunder Thighs stomped out of the locker room as he picked up the brush obediently. He scrubbed for two or three minutes, waiting for her footsteps to fade, and then began his master plan.

Step one: As planned, picking up a bench and placing it next to the urinals.

Step two: As planned, climbing on top of the urinals and grabbing the water pipe that ran from the ceiling to the urinal.

Step three: As planned, climbing the water pipe,

pushing up one false ceiling panel and peeking over into the girls' locker room. Oh, so close.

Step four: Not as planned, the urinal water pipe breaking loose from the main water line in the ceiling.

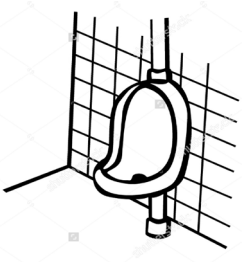
Step five: Not as planned, water pouring everywhere, first flooding the ceiling, then causing the soaked ceiling tiles to collapse.

Step six: Not as planned, holding tight with his hands as the pipe slowly bent in a U and gently set his feet on the floor.

Step seven: Not as planned, the U-bent pipe ripping the attached urinal off the wall.

Step eight. Not as planned, but certainly not a surprise, one angry principal, two outraged parents and three months of mandatory labor to pay for damages.

Years later, they say you can still hear the sound of water dripping from the ceiling.



KCHS Donation Wish List

The pets at Kingman County Humane Society are in need of the following items:

- 13-gal. kitchen trash bags
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- poop bag rolls
- disposable gloves (large)

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Public Notice

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT, KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

SCOTT BEARD, Plaintiff,
VS.
2001 BIG TEX TRAILER, VIN #4K8GX202811373882, KURT RAVENSTEIN, DUSTIN BROWN, and KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, Defendants.

Case No. KM 2025 CV 13
(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60)

NOTICE OF SUIT
STATE OF KANSAS TO:
Kurt Ravenstein, Dustin Brown, and any and all other persons who are or may be concerned:
You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Kingman County, Kansas, by Scott Beard praying for title to be quieted and given to the Plaintiff regarding a **2001 BIG TEX TRAILER, VIN #4K8GX202811373882.**

You are hereby required to plead to said petition on or before July 23, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., in said court, at the Kingman County Courthouse, Kingman, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course on said petition.

Scott Beard, Petitioner
Matthew W. Ricke Attorney at Law, LLC
349 N. Main, PO Box 113
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(620) 532-3103
Attorney for Plaintiff

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Public Notice

First published in The Cunningham Courier, Thursday, May 22, 2025. 3t

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Alice K. Sander, deceased.
CASE NO. KM-2025-PR-000022

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Alvin B. Sander, heir of Alice K. Sander, deceased, requesting:

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

A tract of land in the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-seven (27) South, Range Five (5) West of the 6th P.M., Kingman County, Kansas, commencing at the Southeast corner of said Southeast Quarter; thence along the East line of said Southeast Quarter N 00°24'00" W 1428.81 feet to the South line of U.S. Highway 54; thence along said U.S. Highway 54 right-of-way (ROW); thence long said ROW S 89°36'40" W 40.00 feet; thence along said ROW N 06°09'09" W 155.52 feet to a Point of Beginning; thence along said ROW N 06°15'17" W 145.99 feet; thence along said ROW N 09°37'57" W 476.34 feet; thence N 89°49'57" W 376.35 feet; thence S 00°24'01" E 614.52 feet; thence S 89°49'51" E 467.24 feet to the Point of Beginning.

TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR

INGRESS AND EGRESS described as follows:
A tract of land in the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section 30, Township 27 South, Range 5 West of the 6th P.M., Kingman County, Kansas, commencing at the Southeast corner of said SE/4; thence N 00°24'00" W (assumed) along the East line of said SE/4 of 1398.81 feet to the point of beginning; thence S 89°36'00' W. FOR 70.0 feet; thence N. 06°07'00" W for 185.94 feet; thence S 89°53'22" E for 33.03 feet to the West right of way line of US 54 Highway; thence S 06°07'00" E along said US 54 Highway right of way for 155.49 feet; thence N 89°36'00" E along said US 54 Highway right of way for 40.00 feet to the East line of said SE/4; thence S 00°24'00" E for 30.0 feet to the point of beginning.

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 to the Petition on or before June 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Kingman County District Court, Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Alvin B. Sander, Petitioner
MANDI J. STEPHENSON, #24694
STEPHENSON LAW OFFICE LLC
(620)532-5156
mandi@stephensonkslaw.com
Attorney for Petitioner

Public Notice

First Published in The Cunningham Courier, Thursday, May 22, 2025 (3t)

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

GARY D. SHEAHAN, Deceased.
CASE NO. KM 2024 PR 48
(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 Kayla D. Sheahan, duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator of the Estate of Gary D. Sheahan, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto pursuant to the laws of intestate succession; fees and expenses be allowed; costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; the Administrator be discharged and Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before June 10, 2025, 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.

Kayla D. Sheahan, Petitioner
Matthew W. Ricke
Ricke Law Office
349 N. Main, PO Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
Attorney for Petitioner



Thanks for
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Recycle - Reduce - Reuse - Repurpose

Teresa Talarovich

Teresa Ann Talarovich, 68, passed away Sunday, June 1, 2025 at her home. She was born on April 6, 1957 in Nashville, Kansas to Bobby and Vera (Black) Sims. Teresa married Michael Talarovich on November 19, 1983 at their home in Pratt. He preceded her in death on December 18, 2021.



Teresa graduated from Pratt High School. She was a homemaker. She enjoyed coloring, crocheting, cooking, playing Bingo, going to the Casino and spending time with her family especially her grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughters, Starla (Brandon) Smithwick of Arkansas City and Hollie Talarovich of Pratt; siblings, Bobby Steven Sims, Doug (Judy) Sims and Debbie Fields all of Pratt; and grandchildren, Devin (Grace) Smithwick, Shae Smithwick, Breckin Talarovich and Keegan Talarovich.

Teresa is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Michael Talarovich; and brother, Everette Ashcraft.

Visitation will be Monday, June 9, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at Larrison Mortuary with Pastor Mike McGovney presiding. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Teresa Talarovich family in care of Larrison Mortuary.

Patty Gadbury

Patty Jean Gadbury, 87, passed away Friday, May 30, 2025 at her home. She was born on October 18, 1937, Stafford to Grover Calvin Adams and Ruby Louise (Hunt) Siebert. Patty married Fred J. Gadbury on June 15, 1955 in Lyons. He preceded her in death on April 3, 2007.



Patty graduated from Stafford High School in 1955. She worked as a secretary for Pratt Feedlot and Leisure Home in Stafford. She was also an individual caregiver to many inside their homes. While Fred was busy in the fields, Patty was tending to the many duties inside the home and on the farm. She was a member of Turon Community Church. She enjoyed crafting, sewing, needlework, quilting, gardening, doing genealogy and visiting with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Janet Joann (Keith Mathis) Albrecht of Columbia, South Carolina, Rick Alan Gadbury of Topeka and Linda Louise (Ryan) Colborn of Hutchinson; eleven grandchildren; and many great and great-great grandchildren.

Patty is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Fred Gadbury; sons, Ronnie Calvin Gadbury and Randy Lee Gadbury; an infant brother, Dale Adams; and a great-grandson, Braden Berner.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, June 6, 2025 at Langdon Cemetery, Langdon with Pastor Steve Gill presiding.

Memorials may be made to Wounded Warriors in care of Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt.



Your Gallbladder is Your Friend

“My favorite thing about being an adult is avoiding going to the doctor until I need to be hospitalized.”

Anonymous

Your gallbladder is a small, pear-shaped organ located underneath your liver, in your upper right abdomen. As part of the digestive system, it stores and concentrates bile. Bile is a vital liquid that breaks down fat during digestion and is produced by the liver. As you eat (especially good tasting fatty foods), the gallbladder contracts and releases bile into the small intestine through a series of ducts called the biliary tract. Think of your gallbladder as your friend.

To maintain gallbladder health, it is important to eat healthy fats. A low-fat diet is not good for your gallbladder (don't listen to the low-fat experts with their bow ties and clipboards). Healthy fat is good for you. Good healthy fat options include eggs (get the high-dollar free-range eggs – much higher nutritional value), grass-fed butter (margarine is poison),

grass-fed beef, extra virgin olive oil (EVOO), avocados, oily fish (try sardines), and nuts. Eating healthy fats signals your gallbladder to squeeze out bile sludge preventing gallstones.

Gallstones are pebble-like particles made of bile material that can clog up your bile ducts. These little monsters cause pain, nausea, and inflammation. Gallstones come in many sizes. Typically small, they can grow to the size of golf balls. When gallstones block bile and prevent it from leaving your gallbladder, inflammation causes a condition known as *cholecystitis*.

Cholecystitis and most gallbladder issues are treated with surgery. Gallbladder removal, known as *cholecystectomy*, has become one of the most common surgical procedures with more than 1.2 million performed in the United States each year.

Your gallbladder is a highly desirable organ, though non-essential. You can live without it. Since your gallbladder does help you digest fatty foods, if you find yourself separated from this organ, your diet will change. This can be hard, especially for carnivores (no more juicy steaks off the grill or late-night trips to KFC). In an effort to foster gallbladder health the following guidance is proffered. Note – It is recommended that you use this information as a starting point only and do your own research. And,

as always, consult your doctor regarding your primary medical needs.

First, if you are having gallbladder pain, here is an emergency tip. It is a space age acupuncture technique that really does work. Find your gallbladder – right side of your body (front), just below rib cage, approx. one to two inches off center. Then go to the *opposite side, like a mirror image*, and find the same spot – left side, just below rib cage, one to two inches off center (this is your pancreatic side). You should find a tender spot or knot there, opposite your gallbladder. Press this spot and lightly massage until pain dissipates.

Besides pain (in upper abdomen or back), if your gallbladder is in trouble, expect to experience nausea, discomfort after eating, vomiting, jaundice, and brown urine. To heal and restore your gallbladder, try the following.

Take *bile salts* in supplement form. Follow the recommended dosage (typically taken on an empty stomach and before meals). Bile salts will help break down fats, absorb vitamins, aid digestion, and eliminate toxins.

Also take *virgin cod liver oil* (one to two teaspoons a day). Cod liver oil is one of the richest sources of Omega-3 fatty acids. Cod liver oil lowers inflammation in the liver and gallbladder and will help thin out bile sludge.

Include *vitamin B9* -

folate or folic acid in your diet. Folate deficiency is common in people who have gallbladder problems. Folate is needed by your liver to make bile acids. In supplement form, recommended dosage of B9 is 1000 mcg daily. You might also include beef liver,

leafy green vegetables, asparagus, and brussels sprouts in your diet. All of these will help clean out your liver, increasing bile flow and benefiting your gallbladder.

Betaine can be added also as a supplement for digestive support.

Include *whole vitamin C* (not ascorbic acid) by eating citrus fruit, taking acerola cherry powder, or whole vitamin C supplements. Vitamin C helps your liver and gallbladder convert cholesterol into bile acids by activating an enzyme called 7-alpha-hydroxylase. Without adequate vitamin C, your bile acids will lose their concentration and cause gallstones to form in your gallbladder.

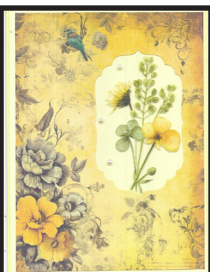
Probiotics also help your body produce bile acids. Take in liquid supplement form, or include fermented foods in your diet (Kefir, sauerkraut, kimchi, kombucha tea, etc.).

One more thing. Drink plenty of water. Dehydration can cause your bile to crystalize and form gallstones.

Take care of your gallbladder. Your gallbladder is your friend.

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