

The Cunningham Courier

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May 14, 2026
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photo by Teresa McClendon

Minutes From April BOE Meeting

The West Kingman County Board of Education meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2026, by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Travis Thimesch, Jason Osner, Nick Rogers, Katie Hellman; Superintendent, Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster and Guests, Grant Urban, Rebecca Huelskamp and Sebastian Huelskamp.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

President Brent Miller turned the meeting over to Grant Urban of B&G Consultants. Grant went through a final construction document review and answered questions from the board. B&G will get the plans ready to submit for bids. They will host a question-and-answer session for potential bidders on April 20th at 3:00 pm at USD 332. Bids will be due to the USD 332 office by May 11th at 5p.m. when they will be unsealed and read.

Guest Shawna Sterneker arrived at 5:33 p.m.

Guest Bart Ricke arrived to the meeting at 5:54 p.m.

Board member Abby Bock and guest Amanda Prim arrived to the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Guest Amy McGuire arrived to the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

President Miller called for a break at 7:00 and return to the board room at 7:05p.m.

Guest Grant Urban left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Guests Jane Neufeld, Tera Fox, Shannon Mattal, Mike Mattal, and Eric Kerschen arrived to the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Cody recognized Jane Neufeld, Tera Fox, and Shannon Mattal for the outstanding job they do to not only feed our children good tasting nutritious meals but also for the care they show to them and staff.

Guests Jane Neufeld, Tera Fox, Shannon Mattal, and Mike Mattal left the meeting at 7:11p.m.

Dr. Arnberger turned the meeting over to Mr. Kerschen to share information with the board about the CHS powerlifting program. Mr. Kerschen gave an overview of what the program consists of and answered questions from the board about the program.

Guest Eric Kerschen left the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Motion made by Nick Rogers, seconded by Bjorn Halderson, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026 Regular meeting and March 26, 2026 Special meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve the payment of bills and the financial reports as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Arnberger shared results of the state financial audit and some legislative updates. He also shared planned summer facility repairs and updates. Dr. Arnberger talked about the

Honor Roll students' trip to Mosley in April. He also reviewed calendar items, giving options for Parent teacher conference options for next year and confirmed that May 15th will be the last day this year. He asked the board to think about graduation and diploma hand out. Lastly, he commended Shawna Sterneker and the Education Foundation for a great Trivia event that will benefit our students.

Principal Dunlap discussed state assessments, In-Service Love & Logic training, and Accreditation updates. He shared there are 57 honor students going to Mosley. He then mentioned upcoming events including Community Service Day, Tiny House Auction, and Graduation.

Abby Bock reported that all 3 directors' contracts were extended 2 more years, Skyline has added the Gifted Program which will adjust Cunninghams portion of the assessment, and the COOP has out sourced Nursing services to better service the students.

President Brent Miller declared a break at 8:11 p.m. until 8:15 p.m.

Guests Shawna Sterneker left the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Motion made by Katie Hellman, seconded by Travis Thimesch to go into executive session with Superintendent Arnberger, Principal Dunlap, and Bart Ricke at 8:15 p.m. to discuss personnel performance matters under the KOMA non-elected personnel exception and return to the board room at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Bart Ricke left the executive session and the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 8:45 p.m.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Nick Rogers to go into executive session with Superintendent Arnberger and Principal Dunlap at 8:45 p.m. to discuss personnel performance matters under the KOMA non-elected personnel exception and return to the board room at 9:00 p.m. YMotion carried 7-0.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 9:00 p.m.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Abby Bock to go into executive session with Superintendent Arnberger and Principal Dunlap, at 9:00 p.m. to discuss personnel performance matters under the KOMA non-elected personnel exception and return to the board room at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 9:05 p.m.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Abby Bock to go into executive session with the board and administration at 9:07 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations under the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and return to the board room at 9:17 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 9:17 p.m.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Nick Rogers to go into executive session with the board and administration at 9:17 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations under the exception for employer-employee negotiations
continued on page 3

Fourth Graders Present "Wax Museum"



The 4th Grade put on their annual Wax Museum on Thursday, May 7th, in the Cunningham High School gym. The 4th graders all worked extremely hard memorizing their parts and they had some amazing props. There were also some very interesting characters this year, we had some new ones that were different from the past. These 4th graders did an outstanding job.

On the Front row: (Left to Right) Mrs. Vahsholtz, Miles Becker - Sam Walton, Orval Riggs- Theodore Roosevelt, Christopher Hartley - Alexander Hamilton, Carson Burch - Tony Sarg, Grant Dunn - Albert Einstein, Avery Gwinn - Mozart, Henley Randell- Betty White, Dausin Dent - Lane Frost,

Second Row: (On Stage Left to Right) Gracelyn Becker - Princess Diana, Jade Preisser - Beverly Cleary, Oakley Panek - Dolly Parton, Hadlie Tyler - Anne Frank, Everett Ruckle - Milton Hershey, Sloan Thimesch - Ruth Wakefield, Rhett Albers - Babe Ruth, Konner Fischer - Steve Irwin.

-submitted by Carrie Vahsholtz -

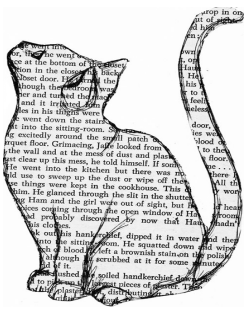


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Meanderings

For you folks who enjoy cat stories, I have another one. It seems my life these days is all about cat stories.

This past week has been a trial with beasts. Eddie Fisher requires two types of medicines. Ned limped around almost too long, and one evening, I thought, I really probably need to get him to the vet. The next morning, there was no limp. No vet visit!!

Brando still isn't eating like he did before all the sores in his mouth. But he IS eating, and he prefers the expensive gravy envelopes. So that's what he gets.

I had decided, for the most part we were all on the mend. (No thanks to Annoying Ned

Nederlander.)

I had a great day at the HPCO Heart Homegrown Market Swap in Harper on Saturday. I sold 40 or so cards, made some grocery money to get through the month and was feeling pretty pleased with the day.

I arrived home about kitty dinner time. I called for kitties. But my Lucky Day didn't show. I went looking. I found him about 20 minutes later lying in the flower bed against the deck. He could not or would not get. When I tried to lift him, he cried. I knew trouble was ahead.

He does not cry. He is a very quiet companion. Even when he does let out a mew, it is very quiet and almost impossible to hear.

I picked up my hefty fella and set him down outside the patio door while I opened it. He walked into the house but cried with every step. I put him on the bed and felt back and legs, he didn't give a cry at all. He could not walk.

He curled up on the bed and that was it. When I went to bed, he managed to move a bit and curled up behind my knees and every time I checked on him during the night, he was there.

Sunday he wouldn't eat or drink anything. He did get up long enough to pee. That was it. That afternoon, I saw him trying to lick his back foot. When I checked it, I found the problem. One of the pads on his back foot was very swollen and cracked and just looked painful. The other pads on his feet were cracked but not swollen. I checked his other feet. The other back foot was a bit odd looking, but it didn't look painful.

Shortly after he cleaned his foot, he started with the salivating and drooling. What a mess!

I called Dr. Swaney first thing on Monday, and we headed over that afternoon. When I walked in the exam room, she said, "Hello, again!"

My vet knows her stuff. But after check-

ing Lucky Day over, she shook her head. No idea what could be causing this.

Environmental? she wondered. No, I didn't think so. He doesn't go anywhere the other cats go. As matter of fact, they roam around the yard and he just goes from the bedroom to his deck chair. He is rather lazy.

She also noticed his tongue was very red and sore looking, thus he didn't want to eat. I'm feeling bad because he's probably had some discomfort for some time, and when he limped, I just thought that was his gait because he's so fat.

I left him there with her, and she took samples from his paw pads to send in to see if we can get some answers.

He's home now, feet bandaged, and a cone around his head. Two oral medicines and one solution to mix with water to wash his feet every day. Yeehaw!

Lucky Day did eat his supper. Eating is always a good sign. But for the

most part, I am not optimistic about the outcome of this latest crisis. Not very hopeful, either.

** Now get this, Monday night while Lucky Day was at the vet, Quin roused me FIVE times to go outside. FIVE.

The first time I told him "No! You just pottied an hour ago."

The second time I let him out, and he just ran around the yard with his nose to the ground. The other times he started banging on the blinds, I just told him to go to bed.

I know he was missing his Lucky Day. They are good buddies. They usually sleep together and Lucky Day grooms Quin regularly, and Quin absolutely loves to have a cat lick his head. He's weird. Poor confused Quin.

Tonight should be better, even with Lucky Day's head cone. We will see. I may have to put him in the spare room.

*** I don't want to be a total downer, so I do have some good news.

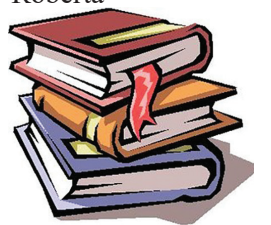
There's been a piece of paper laying in my front yard for about a week or so. When I would pull into the drive, I'd see and think "I need to go and pick that up" and then I'd pull into the garage, close the door and forget about it.

Saturday evening, I was spraying the weeds and noticed that paper was still there. Turned out to be a 20-dollar bill!! Woo-hoo! More money for the vet!

I did have it checked at the bank, and it was real.

** Be sure to check out Gloria Gaynor's photo on page 10. Isn't she a sweet-looking kitty? ***

Always reading, and currently reading, "Stuck" by Michael Frederick, Roberta



Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, A few months ago a family member who resides in Las Vegas decided to plan a visit to the Flint Hills. I was so excited when he'd booked his trip, I didn't even bat an eye when he told me he'd be arriving at the Kansas City Airport on a Monday at midnight. As airports go, MCI's not that bad but I could fill a book with reasons why I think airports in general are no fun. But this week I happily prepared for

an airport trip because I couldn't wait to pick up the man for whom the Precious Egg in my life is named.

I cleaned several months of accumulated Road X dust and cat paw prints from the interior and exterior of the car. I packed the cooler of water and pop all Pikes travel with. And finally, right before I headed out I checked my phone's weather app radar because the 6 p.m. news had said we might have "a shower or two." Skies along my route were clear and predicted to stay that way. Good deal! Plus, at this hour, there'd be no Kansas City traffic so I

figured zippin' up and back I-35 would be a breeze.

Navigating the MCI arrivals loop was the carnival it always is but all frustrations were forgotten once our guy was plucked from the surprisingly large crowd of weary night-owl travelers. We were in high, boisterous spirits as I pointed the car towards home. I noticed the first flash of lightning way off yonder about seven minutes later but I didn't think much about it. Even if it turned into one of those little showers the weatherman had said might pop up, I didn't think it I'd run into it. But two minutes later

I smackdab did. More accurately, IT clapped down on me.

The light show cranked up, thunder roared and it rained like there was a gushing water main break in heaven that the angel utility crew was unable to get under control. Two years ago when we had torrential rain, a farmer told me his mathematician/physicist son calculated that in six hours we got more than 1.5 million gallons of water dumped on us, weighing nearly 7,400 tons. And that the release of energy was that of a "3.5 kiloton nuclear bomb."

I cannot say if the young man's reported

computations are correct. I can tell you that the rain the other night felt like THAT. I slowed the car to a crawl because the only time you could see the road was when lightning and thunder rattled the sky. I kept thinking I'd drive out of it or that the rain would let up. When it became apparent neither was likely to happen, I pulled into the next truck stop for a breather. And I was not the only one ready to get out of that car.

As we ran for the door the prototypical Brian James shouted, "I can't remember the last time I felt rain like this on my head."

All I could muster as I squished and slid toward the ladies' room was, "Me either, dude."

All told that storm added more than an hour to our typical 100-minute travel time between the farm and MCI, nearly as long as his entire flight from Vegas. Poor guy had no idea when he planned his visit that he was signing up for the Kansas (slightly terrifying) version of the three-hour Gilligan's Island tour.

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



Bigfoot Visits Ohio

"A guy like me is hard to find." Bigfoot

I have family in Ohio. The last time I visited there the scariest thing I saw, besides a Pileated woodpecker the size of a housecat, was a feral family shaving their back hair before breakfast in a Bob Evans restaurant parking lot. Ohio is a fun place. And it seems that recently for some residents there, the volume of excitement has been turned way up.

Apparently, Bigfoot has come to visit.

For those who don't often ponder strange and mysterious happenings in the world and need a Bigfoot refresher, these particular cryptids are unverified creatures, sometimes referred to as Sasquatch, said to inhabit the fields and forests of North America and beyond.

Bigfoot is most often described as a large, muscular, bipedal human or ape-like creature covered in black, dark brown, or dark reddish hair, standing between six and nine feet in height. Bigfoot is often said to emit a foul dead animal or skunk-like odor. Allegedly authentic footprint casts have been made showing feet as large as 24 inches

long and eight inches wide, hence the name Bigfoot.

Many indigenous cultures across North America have shared stories of mysterious giant hair-covered wild men. And as early as the 16th century, European explorers in the New World related tales of giant hairy beings prowling the forests. These stories and reported sightings continue today, most recently in Ohio.

Last month there were eight reported sightings across northeastern Ohio within just four days. All described black-haired or brown-haired creatures walking upright with long arms making "grunting" noises and looking for trouble.

The first sighting occurred near Mantua, a small village in northern Portage County near the Cuyahoga River, 25 miles northeast of Akron. An unidentified researcher for the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) described seeing a nine-foot-tall male creature. He was hiking when he spotted the critter standing about 120 yards away. It appeared to know he was there. The man paused, and then calmly retreated back to his car to change

his pants.

The next day, Mantua resident Dylan Obney reported seeing an eight-foot-tall brown creature about 11 p.m. While hiking a trail near the edge of the woods Obney heard heavy un-human like footsteps and deep vibrating grunts. He originally thought he was hearing a deer or another person walking. But he said the steps were slow, spaced out, and much heavier than a human would make. Obney noticed movement minutes later. About 50 yards from where he was standing, a tall figure stepped out from between two trees. He described the brute as seven to eight feet tall, with long arms dangling low at his sides, covered with dark brown hair. Obney said the creature walked upright and seemed aware of his presence.

"The craziest part was the sound it made, a deep grunt that echoed through the woods before it stepped back behind the trees and disappeared after that," he said.

Two more intense sightings were reported to the Sheriff's Department the next day in Garrettsville, Ohio. Jacob Taylor and his friend (who asked to re-

main anonymous) recounted their encounter while hiking Headwaters Trail. Just before noon, Taylor and his friend noticed movement in the trees approximately 30 feet ahead of them. Suddenly, they saw a giant figure covered in black hair standing and watching them. The duo froze and looked on in awe. They said the monster had broad shoulders and unusually long arms. It walked upright on two legs, and must have been heavy, because the ground shook slightly as it passed between the trees.

"We also noticed a strong, musky smell in the air. It turned its head toward us, let out a deep, grunt-like noise, and then quickly stepped back into the trees. We were both pretty shaken up and didn't approach the area any closer. It all happened so quick," Taylor's companion said.

Garrettsville is in Portage County. Portage County Sheriff Bruce Zuchowski said they'd received reports from ten individuals in the area who had sighted the creature. Many reported smelling a musty odor before the animal scampered back into the woods.

Another incident occurred around 6 p.m. in the evening near the town of Windham. An elderly lady looking out her living room window saw something unusual running from the woods onto her neighbor's property. She described a creature about six feet tall, completely brown, and moving with long strides.

"I know what I saw, but I don't know what I saw," the woman said.

Another encounter was reported the next day in Newton Township. In an emotional interview a man recounted that he'd let his German Shepherd out at 4 a.m. The dog immediately started "freaking out" and lunged towards some trees. In the commotion, the man described seeing a very large 9-10-foot shadow crashing away through the woods. When the man finally brought his dog inside, it was scared and shaking.

With all of these recent reported sightings in Ohio, Bigfoot enthusiasts have been flocking to the state. If you are so inclined and find yourself in the woods with a Bigfoot in sight, please grab your phone and take a picture. We would all love to see it...

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Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, May 14 JH/HS League Track Meet at Norwich: No School	Friday, May 29 State FFA Convention *** HS State Track Meet at Wichita State University
Friday, May 15 Last Day of School Early dismissal at 11:30 a.m.	Monday, June 1 Weights Class Begins *** Morgan Meyers BB Camp *** HS VB open gym
Monday, May 18 Drivers' Education Begins	Tuesday, June 2 Weights Classes *** HS VB Open gym *** Morgan Meyers BB Camp
Tuesday, May 19 Lions Club	Wednesday, June 3 Weights Classes *** Morgan Meyers BB Camp
Wednesday, May 20 Shop Guild	Thursday, June 4 Weights Classes *** JH VB practice
Thursday, May 21 Regional HS Track Meet	Monday, June 5 Weights Classes *** HS VB open gym *** 7:00 p.m. BOE Meeting
Tuesday May 26 State FAA Convention	
Wednesday May 27 State FFA Convention	
Thursday, May 28 State FFA Convention	



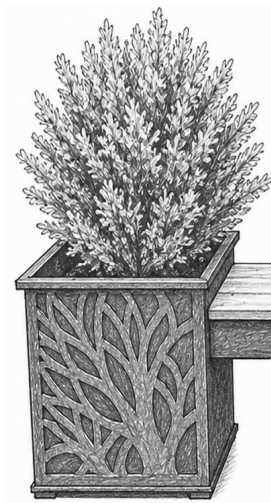
Minutes From April BOE Meeting

continued from front page
 tions under KOMA and return to the board room at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.
 President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 9:30 p.m.
 Motion made by Abby Bock, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to accept the resignation of Cassie Johnston as Teacher at the end of the 25-26 School Year. Motion carried 7-0.
 Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Bjorn Halderson, to accept the resignation of Cortney Wilson as Teacher at the end of the 25-26 School Year. Motion carried 7-0.
 Motion made by Katie Hellman, seconded by Nick Rogers, to accept the resignation of Anthony Fischer. Motion carried 6-1
 Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to approve Heather McCurry as Bus Driver. Motion carried 7-0.
 Motion made by Katie Hellman, seconded by Abby Bock, to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

2026 SCCF \$250 Teachers' Grant Cycle Open

South Central Community Foundation is excited to announce the \$250 Teacher's Grants are now open and accepting applications until June 30th.
 This grant is available to K-12 Classroom Teachers in Barber, Comanche, Kingman, Kiowa, Pratt, Rice, or Stafford County. This grant is for \$250 for any classroom need, including but not limited to classroom books, calculators, science experiments, or STEM supplies. Recipients will be announced in early August to allow teachers to best plan their school budgets.
 All other SCCF grant opportunities including the \$5,000 Children's Health Grants, Community Grants, and other county specific opportunities will be open from June 1st to August 31st, with recipients being notified by mid October.
 For more information or to apply, please visit our website at sccfks.org or contact Program Director, Hannah Brummer, at hannah@sccfks.org.

Legacy in Action: Main Street Bench Planters Honor a Loved One • Beautify Main Street • Leave a Legacy



our community while celebrating someone special or representing your family or business. Legacy in Action is proud to introduce beautifully crafted bench planter combinations designed to enhance the charm of Main Street. These durable, maintenance-free features provide both seating and

seasonal greenery—offering function, beauty, and longevity for years to come.
 Bench planters are available for purchase in memory of a loved one or as a meaningful tribute from families or businesses. Similar to the commemorative lamp posts found throughout

Dafforn and Lions Parks, each piece becomes a lasting part of our town's history.
 You can view a sample bench planter in front of Cozy's Pizza.
 Quantities are limited, and to keep costs affordable, orders must be placed by May 31st.
 To learn more or reserve yours, please contact Casey Renner at 913-244-8612 today.



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 Closed for Holidays
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 Saturday:
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 Sat. : 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
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Kingman Historic Theatre

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Caden Wilson and Band with Harper Lynn

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Kingman Historic Theatre

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Rated PG
 Showtimes

Friday at 7:30 Sunday at 2:00 and 5:30 p.m.
 No movie on Saturday

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A Column by Dean Marple

Gardening

Leo was a small, quiet man who loved black and white films, getting letters in the mail and his garden. Hayden was young, brash and a true admirer of the latest iPhone technology, self-driving cars and the massive potential of artificial intelligence. Were they friends? No. Acquaintances? Kind of. Next door neighbors? Definitely.

“Hey, Leo,” Hayden shouted across the yard. “What do you think of this beauty?”

“What?”
“I said. . .”
“What?”
“Just wait a minute, and I’ll shut ’er off.” She was a brand-new, bright-red Toro Dual Direction Tiller that sounded like a plane about to land. “Just got ’er after checkin’ with my AI assistant.”

A confused, “AI?” was Leo’s only response as Hayden shook his head and wondered, What’s with this guy? How dumb is he?

“Come on, man, you know. Artificial Intelligence. I got up this mornin’,” Hayden gushed, “and decided I’d plant a garden. Pulled out my phone and fired up the old AI. It said March was a good time

to dig a garden and plant potatoes, so I bopped over to the market and grabbed me a bunch of fancy French Fingerling potatoes. Bought me this little red cutie to dig a spot where I could plant them. So, what do you think? Pretty cool, eh?”

Leo’s brain and his mouth took two different paths. His mind warned, supermarket spuds are the wrong kind of potatoes to plant, and besides, tilling in this wet ground will just produce hard clods, but his mouth only muttered, “Yep.”

Most men would have expected more of a response, but Hayden was the type of man who only heard his own voice and paid little attention as Leo

shuffled away toward his own garden, the one he tilled last fall.

Time passed, the days lengthened, and Leo enjoyed peace and quiet, until early May when a shadow fell across his hands as he planted tomatoes.

“Hey, are you nuts?” Hayden asked. “Why are you cuttin’ off the branches on your tomato plants?”

“I’m cutting off the bottom branches so I can bury the plants deeper. The tomatoes will grow roots all along the stem and make for a stronger, more productive plant.”

“That’s the weirdest thing I ever heard of, chopping a plant to make it grow better. You need

to get AI like me, so you know what to do. I just picked up my phone and told my good buddy AI that I wanted great big, luscious green tomato plants, and bingo, it told me to give ’em lots of nitrogen. I don’t know what that is, but the green house place sold me a big bag of it, and I’m going to pour it on mine.”

“That’s not a good idea,” Leo started to say before Hayden cut him off.

“So, what, you’re mister expert now? You’re smarter than a computer? Come on, Leo, get with it. AI is the way to go.”

So, Leo did get with it. He got with it to the point that in late summer his kitchen counter was

covered with tomatoes and potatoes. He got with it to the point that the local food bank thanked him for all the vegetables he delivered. In fact, he barely had time to sit on his porch and watch as Hayden gingerly stepped over and around the dirt clods in his garden as he tended to his eight-foot-tall tomato plants, the ones with very few tomatoes. Excess nitrogen produced growth, not fruit.

Maybe, Leo pondered as he sat on his porch, the young man needed less AI and more CS—Common Sense.



The First Planter

Jackie Mundt, Pratt County farmer and rancher

Planting season has begun, and it has the feel of opening day of a long-awaited sports season. Months of preparation lead to this moment. Equipment has been inspected and repaired. Seed has been selected.

Crop nutrient plans are mapped out. Weather forecasts are studied with the intensity of a coach reviewing game film. When conditions are just right, the plan is put into motion.

Spring planting, wheat harvest and fall harvest all carry the same sense of urgency and excitement that fans feel before kickoff. Farmers know what it means to prepare for a big season.

A few weeks ago, I saw a video that made me laugh out loud. A farmer was driving his planter

around “the neighborhood” with no intention of planting that day. He was simply trying to prank his neighbors into thinking it was time to start. Once one planter hits the field, everyone else suddenly feels the urge to do the same. It becomes an unspoken competition.

Now imagine those same farmers are coming off a few losing seasons.

Farmers know better than anyone that success is never guaranteed. They can make every correct decision and still face drought, hail, disease, breakdowns or market swings beyond their control. They can invest heavily in a crop only to watch circumstances change overnight. Yet

every spring, they climb back into the tractor and begin again.

That kind of faith is difficult to explain to someone outside agriculture. Farming requires science, discipline and careful planning, but it also requires belief. Farmers must believe the seed they place into the ground today can become something far greater tomorrow. They must trust that hard work still matters even when outcomes are uncertain.

Recently, I attended the funeral of a local farmer and community pillar. I don’t think I will ever forget the analogy used by the officiant. He spoke about his life not in terms of accomplishments, but in terms of

his investment. His kindness to strangers was an investment. Teaching young people was an investment. Supporting community events, organizations and schools was an investment. He spent his life pouring time and energy into things he believed would matter long after he was gone.

He lived his life as a farmer of more than crops.

Every acre planted is an investment in the future. Farmers invest money, labor, time and hope into something they cannot fully control. They do it because they believe there will eventually be a harvest worth gathering.

That lesson applies far beyond agriculture. Communities do not thrive by accident. Strong families, healthy towns and meaningful relationships all require someone willing to invest first. Encouragement is an investment. Mentorship is an investment. Showing up for neighbors and supporting local organizations is an investment. Like farming, many of

those efforts do not produce immediate results. Sometimes the payoff is not visible for years.

Still, we keep planting.

That may be why planting season resonates so deeply, even with people who have never driven a tractor. It reflects something universal about human nature. We all want to believe that what we do today can create something better tomorrow.

Farmers understand that better than anyone. Every spring, they demonstrate resilience in its purest form. No matter how last season ended, each planting season brings fresh determination and renewed hope.

That is the real lesson of planting season. The actions that we take today are seeds that will yield a better tomorrow — and all it takes is one person willing to start investing for others to follow.

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau

Cards by Roberta Kobbe
Handmade Greeting Cards for sale.
Shop for cards at **Country Girl Bakery and Market in Harper, N’Cahoos in Pratt, Cleo’s in Kingman, Ye Olde General Store in Norwich, and Treasures Three Fabrics in Pratt** or contact me. Will mail or deliver. Cards and stamps make nice gifts for shut-ins.
620-298-2659



Cleo's Flower Shop
229 N. Main in Kingman
[kingmankflorist.com](http://kingmank florist.com)
(620) 532-3883

Sheila Jayne, Owner/Operator



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! OR to donate contact Shawna Sterneker

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)

Mathew 7:15 NIV
Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheeps clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.
submitted by Alan Albers

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

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

Catholic Churches		First Christian Church	
 Sacred Heart, Cunningham Sunday 10:00 a.m.	St. John, Zenda Saturday 5:30 p.m.	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	
St. Leo Saturday 4:00 p.m.	St. Peter Willowdale Sunday 8:30 a.m.	† † † † † † †	
Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627	620-246-5370	United Methodist Church	
† † † † † † †		Penalosa Worship 9:15 a.m. Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki 620-298-2090	
Lutheran Churches		† † † † † † †	
 St. John, Nashville 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday 620-246-5220 Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	Trinity, Medicine Lodge 1st and 3rd Sundays 620- 886-3397 Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 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	
Rev. Timothy Schmeisser			
† † † † † † †			
Church of Christ			
 Penalosa Sunday 11:00 a.m.			

YEARS AGO IN

THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1971

May 13, 1971 -The annual dinner and meeting of the Cairo Co-op Equity Exchange was held in Cunningham last Saturday evening.

Four hundred and forty-four members and guests of the co-op enjoyed a fine supper served in the school lunchroom by the ladies of the First Christian Church, after which the meeting was held in the school gym-auditorium.

Duane Bush of Isabel, was re-elected to a three-year term, on the co-op's board of directors, and Lee Hamm of Cairo, was also elected to a three-year term on the board. Mr. Hamm succeeds Don Hayes of Glendale. Other board members are Galen Barker of Pratt, and Roy Wetherall and Alva Hellar, both of Cunningham.

The co-op reported total 1970-1971 sales of almost two million dollars—\$1,980,000. Savings of about \$90,000 were returned to shareholders.

Don Becker of the Union Equity Co-op at Enid, Okla., was the guest speaker.

Door prizes included two four-day sightseeing tours to Houston, Tex. They were won by Mr. and Mrs. Dean Dyche, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fischer, all of Cunningham. Lawn chair winners were Don Schnittker and Dr. T. L. Waylan, both of Nashville, and Orville Shelman and C. D. (Dell) Goyen, both of Cunningham.

YEARS AGO IN

THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Nancy Briggeman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1976

May 13, 1976 - Prescott, Ariz. - Stacie Parker, 8, died early Saturday morning, May 8, 1975 in Phoenix, Ariz., following a long illness. She was born September 12, 1967 at Pratt and lived for several years at Iuka.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Parker, Prescott, Ariz.; brother Darren Parker of the home; grandparents: Mrs. Orval Parker, Iuka; Mr. and Mrs. John Vermillion, Cunningham; great grandmother, Mrs. John Rhea, Sawyer. One sister, Rene, preceded her in death August 7, 1962.

Florence Osborn is now residing in the Green Acre's Trailer Court in the west trailer.

The Cunningham United Methodist Church will be hosts for an open house honoring Miss Viola Mitchell and Mrs. Mary Eichorn Sunday, May 23 at 8 p.m. in the Methodist Church basement.

Miss Mitchell, first grade teacher in the Cunningham Grade School, is retiring from teaching and will make her home in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Mrs. Mary Eichorn, third grade teacher in the Cunningham Grade School, will make her home in Irving, Texas soon after school is out.

Hostesses for the occasion will be Mrs. Arlene Bradley and Mrs. Bob Long.

A large crowd of parents and friends gathered with students and teachers at the annual PlayDay which was held at the Cunningham track. Willowdale, St. Leo, Zenda, Nashville and Cunningham Grade Schools students participated in various track events. The results of the PlayDay will be in the next issue of the Clipper.

A soft candlelight ceremony on Saturday evening, April 3, united Miss Cindy Mantooth and Mr. Kent Anthony in marriage. Officiating at the 8:00 p.m. double ring ceremony in the St. Leo Catholic Church were Rev. Dick Redding, brother-in-law of the groom and Rev. Jim Spexarth.

Cheri Mantooth took third in the high jump competition to be the only Cunningham girl to place in

the 1A Regionals here Friday.

The final results of the meet were Norwich 62, Lewis 52, Skyline 44, Coldwater 30, Trinity 29, Fowler 28, Pretty Prairie 24, Bushton 22, Claflin 20 an Ashland.

In honor of their wedding anniversary Mr. and Mrs. Harold DeWeese entertained with a dinner at Don's Servateria at Pratt last Thursday evening. Guests were Mrs. W. H. DeWeese, Mrs. Eddie Tharp and Stacie, Mrs. J. E. Brady, Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Fitzsimmons, Mr. and Mrs. Dale DeWeese and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Fitzsimmons and family and Mr. and Mrs. Dwane DeWeese and family.

Eddie Tharp joined the group later and the remainder of the evening was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dwane DeWeese of Pat. Mr. and Mrs. DeWeese served ice cream and cake to their guests.

YEARS AGO IN

THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Florine Kampling

1981

May 14, 1981 - One of the greatest things about having an Open House, is that it gives us a chance to have a drawing. Just for stopping in and signing your name, you can win one of the 20 five dollars Savings Accounts we are giving away. If you already have a savings account, we will add the five dollars to your account. If not we will gladly open one for you.

You can also choose from a variety of free prizes. One sure to please. You can pick one of the following: Rain gauges, trivets that can be used as a hot plate or decorated, or a fine pen. And, the youngsters can have a free flying wheel. Of course, coffee and cookies will be served.

The First National Bank of Cunningham is proud of our free checking service. You are required to have no minimum balance, there is no limit to the numbers of checks you can write, and you can use free checks.

If you want to have your check personalized, which is preferred by so many businesses these days, you will receive the first 200 checks free. You can also have your choice of check styles, and a free check cover.

To help celebrate our Open House we are giving away free carnations to the first 225 ladies that stop in and say hello.

It is always fun to wear a carnation, and it's even more fun when it's a gift. So be sure to attend our Open House.

1986

May 15, 1986 - Members of the speech class put to practical use their talents as story-tellers by each telling a story to the first grade class.

Darlene Schreck and her 18 first graders listened attentively as each story teller told a story, using the illustrations in an appropriate book as a visual aid.

Those telling stories were David Harbert, Andrea Holcomb, Tom Mertens, Dana Murphey, Bill Murphy, Jim Patton, John Rosenbaum, Tom Theis, and Tamara Wiesender.

The next project is to interview older people in the community and to report their findings to the class.

More than 550 Kansas teachers were honored by the University of Kansas this spring for their long-term teaching service.

KU's School of Education annually awards certificates to teachers with careers of 25 years or more.

Area teachers honored this year, their home addresses, school districts and years of teaching in Kansas schools are: Judy Almond, Cunningham, Anna Jane Goetz, Zenda, and Larry Vierthaler of Zenda who presently teaches at Cunningham.

Suzanne Stillwell of Madras, Oregon, was a Tuesday caller at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stillwell. Additional Tuesday visitors were Dave and

Pauline Norton.

Mary Zrubek of New York, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Zrubek, Sr. accompanied a group of scientists from Arizona, for a trip to the Galapagos Islands near the Equator. The group left Tuesday the thirtieth and will return on the twenty-eighth of May.

The Cunningham High School photography class took a field trip to Medicine Lodge to view the photos of Jim Bertloglio on April 24. Mr. Bertloglio has accompanied the National Geographic team on a recent tour of Kansas. He described the procedures involved in each photo in the exhibit.

Students making the trip were Kevin Simon, Mark Thimesch, Debbie Soeller, Stacie Peck, and Rod Holcomb. There were accompanied by photography teacher Larry England.

Cindy Becker, an eighth grader from Cunningham Grade School, recently participated at the Tri-State Music Festival held in Enid, Oklahoma. For the contest Cindy played the piano solo "Second Waltz," by Godard, and was awarded a I rating. This contest is known for its high quality of performances, and Cunningham Schools congratulate Cindy for this high honor. Cindy studies piano with Mrs. Marian Epp of Pratt.

Monday, May 26, 1986, the City will have complimentary coffee and doughnuts at the Community Center starting at 7:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. the public is invited. Visitors here for the ceremonies at the cemeteries are welcome and invited to meet and visit with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Neises of St. Leo are the proud parents of a daughter born April 15, 1986, at Wesley Medical Center. She was named Angela Joe and weighed 6 lbs. 4 ozs. She has two brothers Shawn and Mark.

Grandparents are Pauline Depenbusch, Zenda, and the late Ben Depenbusch, and Florence Neises of Pratt, and the late Norbert Neises.

The meeting of the Cunningham 4-H Club on Monday, May 5, was short and sweet. Roll call was the "Most Dreaded Household Chore." There were many interesting answers. The one most used was cleaning my room.

Becky Huffman brought two dolls which belonged to her other for Show and Tell. Ryan Kerschen gave an interesting talk on rockets.

The Petz family served ice cream bars for refreshments.

Anna W. Steffen, 89, died Friday, May 9, 1986 at Pratt Regional Medical Center.

Services were conducted at 2 p.m. Monday at the St. John Lutheran Church in Nashville, of which she was a member. The Rev. Burton Betow officiated. Burial was in the Maud Cemetery in Cunningham.

She was born Anna W. Harms on Feb. 25, 1897, in Paullina, Iowa. She married John C. Steffen on Nov. 20, 1917, in Newton. He died April 27, 1942.

Museum Hours

Saturday:

Morning 10:00 - 12:00

Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00

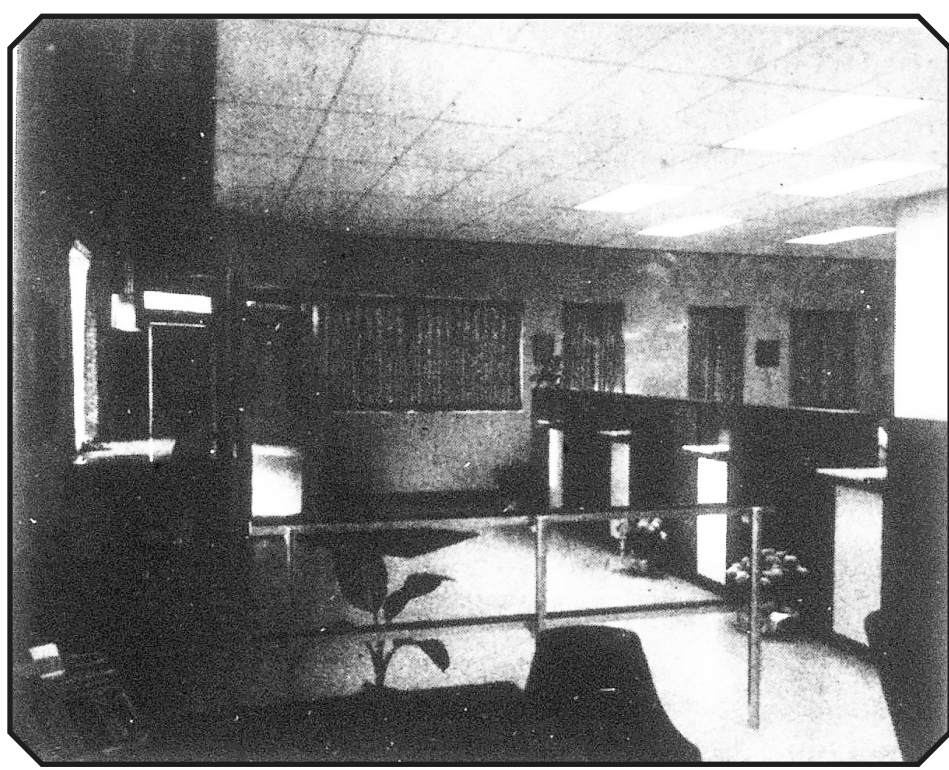
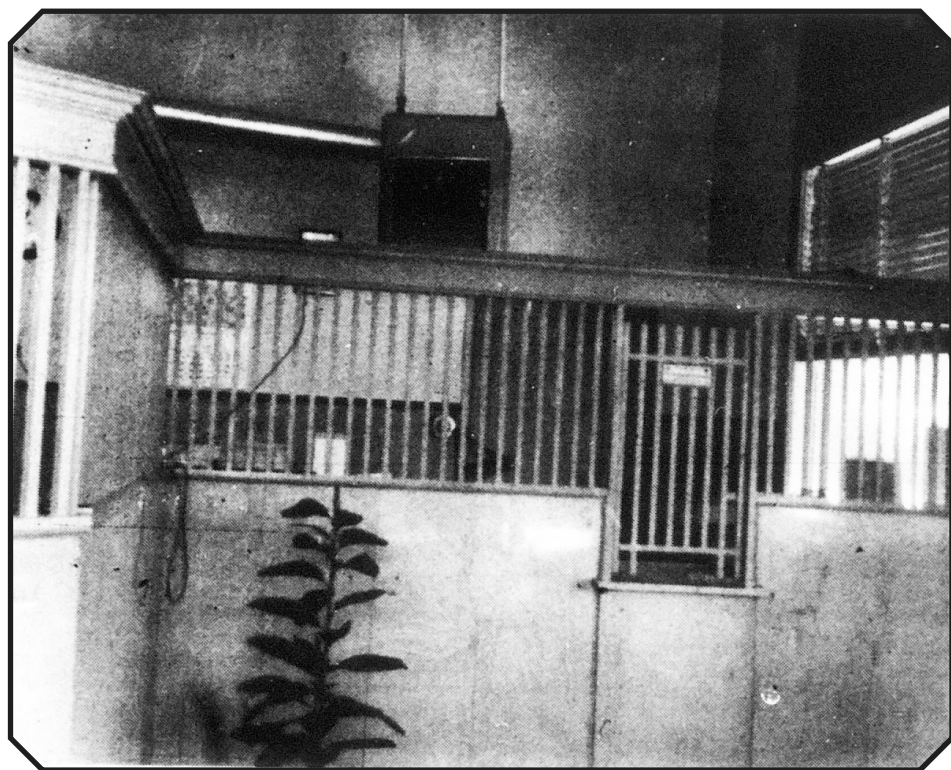
For guided tours call

Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

Joe Sterneker 620-243-2534

Alan Albers 620-243-2553

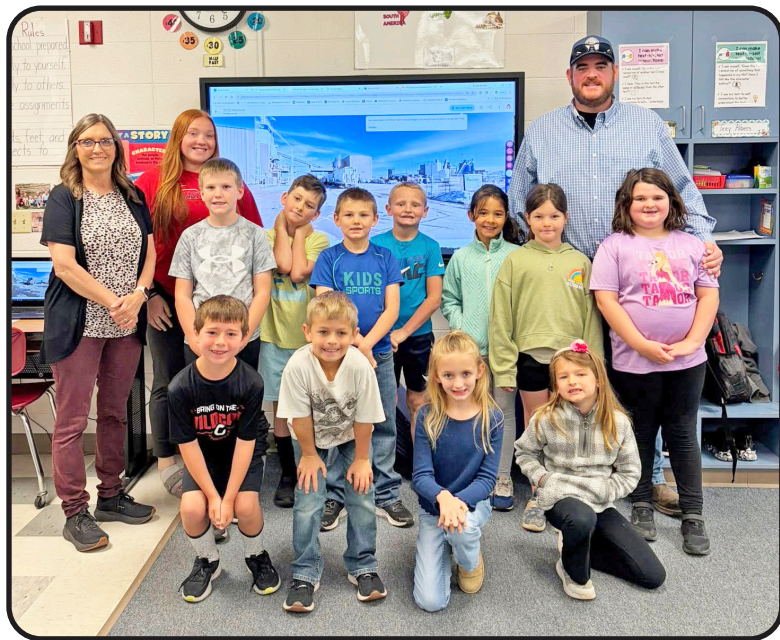
Photos of the bank before the 1981 remodel.



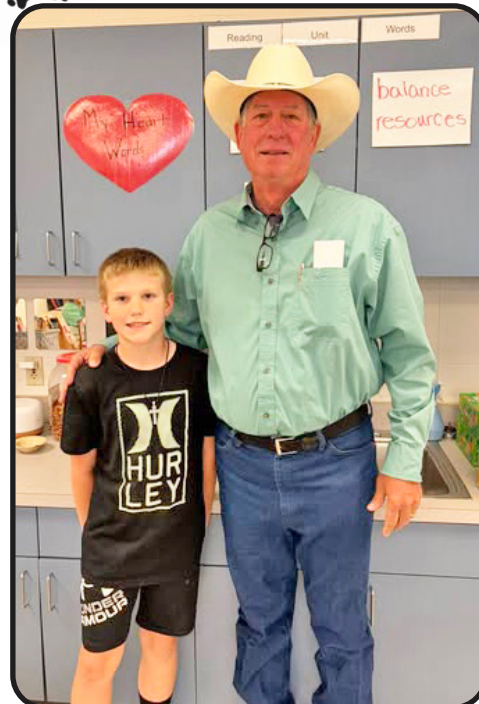
Second Graders Love Their Service Workers

photos and captions submitted Ingrid Ricke

Thank you to Derick Tyler, Operations Manager from Pearson Ready Mix, for teaching us all about your service job as a manager and how showing us how concrete is made. It was interesting to hear about the invention of cement and we learned a lot from the slide show. The kids got some great hands on experience helping make the concrete blocks. We appreciate your time sharing the love of your service job with us!



Thank you Jamie Meiklejohn for teaching us all about your mail carrier service job! The students had fun hearing about how you drive from the middle of your truck to deliver to the 286 mailboxes on your 118 mile route. We learned a lot about what you do and appreciate you answering all the questions!! Thank you for sharing the love of your service job with us and for the fun letter, stamp, and coloring book that included everyone's name!



The 2nd grade had Auctioneer Dennis Wendt from Parker Kansas in today. Mr. Wendt taught the students all about what it takes to be an auctioneer, the schooling he took, and fun facts like The New York Stock Exchange is the biggest auction. We told us a few fun tongue twister chants he learned when going to school and we ended the presentation with an auction they took part it. Thanks Sheena Albers for getting the auction items all set up and Dennis and Gail Wendt for making the trip to share your love of your service job with us. The kids really enjoyed getting to bid and spend money!

Thank you Chad Carpenter, Accountant and Co-owner of Central Mechanical Wichita (CMW), for presenting to our class. We learned about being an accountant and all the different tasks and roles you are responsible for as a business owner. The students enjoyed your presentation and learned a lot from you. Thank you for answering all of their questions and sharing your love of your different service jobs with us!



Notes from Coach Kerschen

Congratulations to the HS track teams on their wins today at the Stafford track meet. Individual results on the meet sheet. Great Job! Next week HS travels to Jetmore on Tuesday and Bucklin on Friday.

Girls 1st place with 196 points winning by 111 pts

Boys 1st place with 200.5 points winning by 130 pts

Congratulations to all the JH track kids on their successful meet on Thursday 4-30-26 at Fairfield! All the teams competed well and came away with the win.

Boys 1st place

Girls 1st place

Some notable performances:

Shandi Romine 1st 3200

Carly McGuire 1st 100 hurdles, 1st 200 m hurdles, 1st triple jump

Landon Green 1st 100 m dash, 1st long jump

Alyssa Osner 1st 400 m dash, 1st 800 m run, 1st high jump

7th grade girls 4x200 1st AnnMarie Kerschen, Amarey Sickles, Elsie Ruckle, Avery Kinsler

8th grade boys 4x200 1st Grady Smyth, Lucas Theis, Ethan Koestner, Justin Swope

Brody Halderson 1st triple jump, 1st javelin

Addyson Huffman 1st shot put

AnnMarie Kerschen 1st discus

Leah Rogers 1st javelin



Presenting.... Cunningham 4-Hers Presenting Presentations.



Amara Prim



Kendall Rogers



Ethan Kostner



Evie Prim



Aspen Lammon



Leah Rogers



Weston Rogers



Canyon Lammon

photos by Katie Hellman



Connor Hellman



Ty Schultz



Daniel Hellman



Maverick Schultz



Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, May 3

Burglary 2700 Blk SE Murdock Ave, Murdock
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Disturbance/Arrest 200 Blk E Grant Ave, Kingman
 Motorist Assist 2500 Blk S Hwy 14, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint NE 20 St & N Hwy 14, Murdock
 Harassment 1200 Blk SE 150 Ave, Cheney

Monday, May 4

Traffic Stops 1
 Civil Paper Service 7
 Damage to Property SE 20 St & SE 60 Ave, Murdock
 Suspicious Person 100 Blk S Main St, Kingman
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Miscellaneous 1200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman

Tuesday, May 5

Traffic Stops 3
 Civil Paper Service 2
 Disabled Vehicle 2000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Arrest 600 Blk W A Ave, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint NW 20 St & N Berry Ave, Kingman
 Suspicious Activity 700 Blk NW 170 Ave, Cunningham
 Check Welfare 200 Blk E D Ave, Kingman

Wednesday, May 6

Traffic Stop 1
 Civil Paper Service 1
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Accident/Arrest 1700 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Disturbance 2700 Blk NE 150 Ave, Cheney

Thursday, May 7

Traffic Stops 3
 Non-Injury Accident 7000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint W D Ave & N Main St, Kingman
 Disabled Vehicle S Berry Ave & SW 40 St, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 6000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Accident 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 17000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
 Warrant Service/Arrest 200 Blk E F Ave, Kingman
 Disabled Vehicle 5000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
 Alarm 16000 Blk SW 10St, Cunningham
 Agency Assist/Miscellaneous 3000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman

Friday, May 8

Traffic Stops 3
 Miscellaneous 600 Blk S Morningside St, Norwich
 Miscellaneous 500 Blk S Main St, Norwich
 Traffic Complaint 10000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
 Disabled Vehicle E Hwy 54 & NE 70 Ave, Kingman
 Suspicious Person/Activity 1800 Blk N Main St, Kingman

Saturday, May 9

Traffic Stops 3
 Traffic Complaint 3000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
 Disturbance 300 Blk S Somerset St, Norwich
 Warrant Service/Arrest 400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
 Warrant Service/Jail 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Kingman County Commission Minutes

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. May 4, 2026, 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: Dale Enyart; Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Andrea Polf, Arrowhead West; Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief

Online Visitors: Tammy; Caller 01; AS; Luke Skywalker; DH

Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning; Sheriff Brent Wood; Undersheriff Sowers and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director

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

Commissioners would like to have an atty-client privilege executive session added to the agenda. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda with

the addition of an atty-client privilege executive session. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon asked for public comments.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer let the Commissioners know that the Ambulance meeting scheduled for today has been re-scheduled for next Monday at 1:30 p.m. because the new Kingman City Manager starts today.

Commissioner Thimesch will attend the Ambulance meeting. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 8:36 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 8:51 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 8:51 a.m. with no action taken.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to approve payment of the discounted medical claim for an

employee as negotiated by USI. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Tonja Stamm, Courthouse Maintenance was in with quotes for a new split unit for the Register of Deeds.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Eck's quote for the replacement of the Register of Deeds vault mini-split for \$3890.00. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Stamm submitted the quotes received for the cleaning of 12 mini-splits and 2 units.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the quote from Redrock Services in the amount of \$2376.65. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning Director was in with the following building permits:

Kent Anthony for a lean-to for bedroom in Section 33, Township 30, Range 09W.

Jerry Klausmeyer for a cell tower in Section 11, Township 30, Range 09W.

Beckman Family Trust for a New Home in

Section 4, Township 28, Range 06W.

Matthew Wright for an Ag Building w/office in Section 25, Township 28, Range 05W.

George Wise for an Ag Building in Section 29, Township 30, Range 05W.

Bolen Properties for an Equipment Shed in Section 36, Township 27, Range 06W.

Nicholas Becker for an in-law suite in Section 2, Township 27, Range 06W.

Darren Headley submitted a request for an extension of his NRP project.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the NRP extension for Darren Headley for one year. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Stucky submitted pictures for the plant in Cunningham and discussed the original Special Use Permit that was 10 years ago for the Commissioner's review.

Ms. Stucky asked the Commissioners a question about how many feet a landowner can build from an existing oil well. Land has been purchased and they want to build a home on their 20 acres purchased.

Ms. Stucky let the

Commissioners know that the Mylar Map for the Subdivision has been filed.

Sheriff Wood and Undersheriff Sowers were in with a quote prepared by Reach IT for additional desktops for the Sheriff's Department. MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the quote from Reach IT for the Lease of computers from the Kingman Capital Equipment fund for the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Thimesch

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

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the April 27, 2026, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the April 27, 2026, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with the contract (cont on page 9)

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

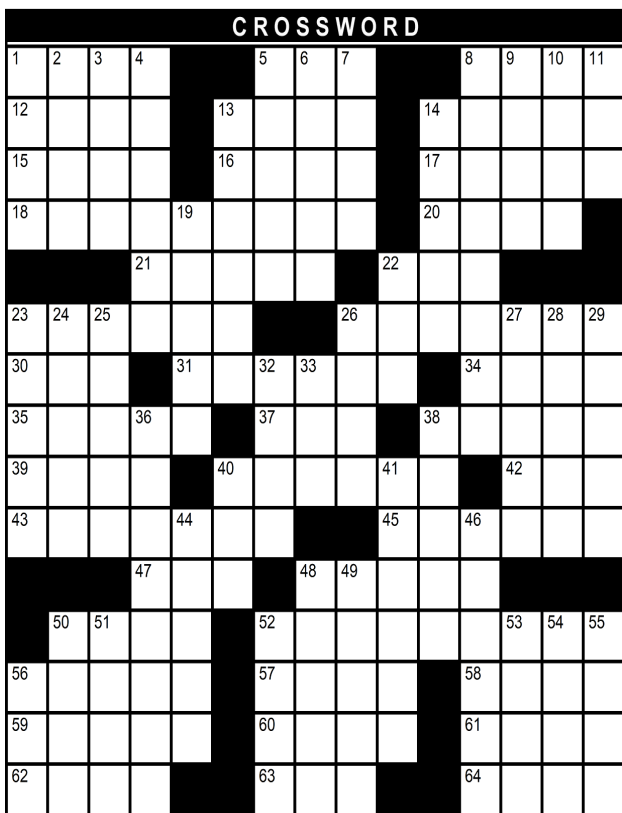
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With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 008299 0082445

3					9	5		
	9	7			8	6		
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				9	2			
				4		7		1
		3				9		
5				1	3			
	7							4
		9						5

© StatePoint Media
 Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every

Statepoint Crossword Theme: Mountains



ACROSS

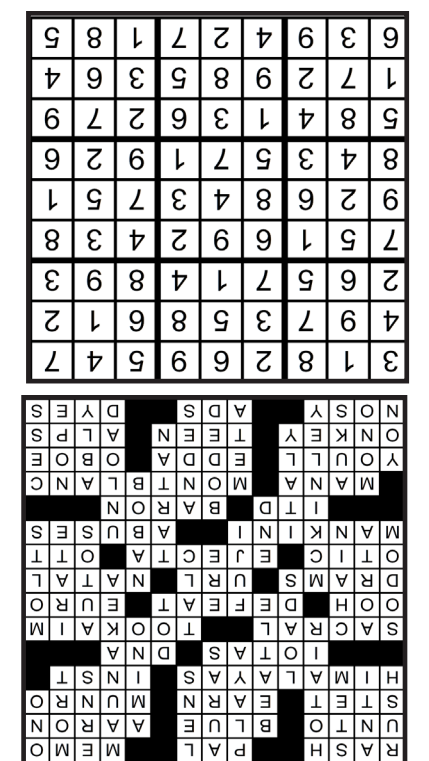
- Ill-considered
- Mate
- "I didn't get the ____"
- Biblical preposition
- Down in the dumps
- Rodgers of NFL fame
- Proofreader's mark
- Get bacon?
- *Any mountain over 3,000 feet, in Scotland
- *Mount Everest mountain range
- Research facil.
- Itsy-bitsy bits
- Forensic evidence, acr.
- Relating to sacrum
- What Cupid did (2 words)
- Amazement interjection
- Not victory
- Eurozone money
- Whisky measure, pl.
- Dot-com address
- Birth-related
- Auricular
- Volcanic ash, e.g.
- Pro baseball's "Master Melvin"
- Borat's swimsuit
- Cruel treatments
- It would
- Munchausen's title
- Supernatural life force
- *Mountain inspiration for a pen name (2 words)
- You will
- Icelandic epic
- Double reed woodwind instrument

- Like a good singer (2 words)
- Not quite an adult
- *Matterhorn site
- Like a busybody
- Commercial break contents
- Coloring substances

DOWN

- *Mount ____ more, South Dakota
- A in ABS
- Opposite of stern
- Balloon filler (2 words)
- "Vamos a la ____"
- Saintly glows
- Carl Zeiss' product
- *Tallest mountain from base to peak (2 words)
- European sea eagles
- Dead, in France
- Yoko of music fame
- #11 Down's late husband, e.g.
- Kind of acid
- Dump truck quantities
- Email period
- Bible's wicked city
- Blood circulation artery
- ____ gang
- Baby powder ingredient
- Sting Rays and Mustangs
- Angry
- Sheds skin, as in snake
- *World's most climbed mountain
- Before, poetically
- *Denali, 1917-2015
- British East India Company millionaire

- Fairy tale's last word
- Scottish clan identity
- *Vesuvius location
- Take care of cargo
- Foreshadowed
- *World's longest mountain range
- As opposed to stereo
- Puffins and guillemots
- Facebook's parent company
- Competently
- Uh-uh
- British tax
- Old-fashioned "far"



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Kingman County Commission Minutes

(con't from page 8) from Kirkham Michael for the SNBI Bridge inspections.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the Kirkham Michael contract for SNBI Bridge inspections required by the State of Kansas. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The

motion was approved with a 3-0 vote. Mr. Arensdorf submitted correspondence from Steven K. Bachenberg, Consultant Engineer letting the Commissioners know that he will not be

renewing his contract with Kingman County that ends May 31, 2026, so that he can enjoy his retirement. Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that the FAS 359 HMO

Bid letting will be May 18, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Andrea Polf, Arrowhead West was in with an update for the County Commissioners. Commissioners made comments.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Pratt County Commission Minutes for April 27 & May 4

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 27, 2026 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 – Heather Morgan

Legislative Updates

Heather provided an update regarding the current status of the state tax bill. The Governor has until Thursday to take official action. Heather reported that the Governor announced funding for the Pratt Airport through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Aviation Improvement Program. They will receive \$30,000 for the purpose of resealing the runway and repairing damaged concrete areas.

KGS Pipeline Project Heather informed the Commission of an upcoming meeting scheduled for Thursday with representatives from the City of Sawyer and KGS. The purpose of the meeting is to review the status of the ongoing pipeline project and how to handle funds if the project is completed under budget.

Horizons Mental Health Quarterly Update Vikki Mader pre-

sented the Commission with a quarterly update for Horizons Mental Health. Client utilization continues to increase across all counties served. The Mental Health Intervention Team program places mental health liaisons in schools to coordinate care, therapy, and case management.

Both school districts in Pratt receive services through the program. Vikki stated Horizons is committed to continuing school-based services regardless of funding changes. The organization is currently trending in a positive direction financially. Vickki requested funding at the same level as the previous year in the amount of \$131,250. The Commissioners thanked Vikki for their services.

Resolution for Disaster Declaration and Storm Damage Update

BJ Hayes, Emergency Manager presented Resolution 2026-04-27 and information regarding a severe storm event that occurred on April 25th.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-04-27, declaring a local disaster emergency for Pratt County due to the April 25th storm made by Commissioner Shriver; 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 regulations and potential zoning application for 20 minutes with BJ Hayes at 2:20 p.m. made by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 2:35 p.m. with no action taken.

Road Crossing Applications & Personnel Requests

Motion to approve a roadway crossing application for Haviland Telephone at NW 50th St & NW 70th Ave. made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Motion to approve pay increase for 6-month evaluation for Patrick Houk from \$18.54 to \$19.54/hr made by Commissioner Shriver; motion passed 3-0.

Motion to hire Doug Ray for part time Lake Operations at \$16/hr made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Discussion Items for Joint City/County Meeting

Commissioners had no additional discussion items that needed to be added to the agenda.

Executive Session – Attorney-Client

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Zoning related documents for 10 minutes at 2:58 p.m. made by Commissioner Jones; motion passed 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:06 p.m. with no action taken.

Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center Lawn Care

The Commission discussed how to proceed with securing grounds maintenance services for the Court House and Law Enforcement Center. No bids were received for the sealed bid process. The

Commission decided to reduce the scope of services and proceed with direct outreach to potential providers and utilizing channels like social media to advertise. The board discussed the potential need for a permanent sprinkler/irrigation system.

Commissioners unanimously approved the April 20, 2026.

Commissioners unanimously approved vouchers for April 27, 2026.

Commissioners recessed the meeting at 3:19 p.m. until Joint City/Council Meeting on Monday, May 4 at 11:00 a.m.

Joint City/County Meeting

Monday May 4, 2026

The Pratt County Commissioners met for a joint City/County meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 11:00 am at Pratt County Public Safety Building. 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. Also Present: Kyle Farmer, Doug Meyer, Monte Hostetler, Jeanette Siemens, Brad Blankenship, Regina Goff, Brianna Garten, Chase Galle and Robert Walker. The joint meeting was called to order by Chairman Trinkle.

Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Mayor Farmer expressed appreciation for the collaborative effort that led to the successful passage of legislation enabling updates to the Neighborhood Revitalization Program

(NRP). Recognition was given to key contributors including Tyson Eisenhauer, Cody Smith and Heather Morgan. It was emphasized that this achievement reflects strong city-county collaboration and responsiveness to constituent concerns. The goal is to implement the updated NRP by July 1, 2026, when statutory changes take effect.

A meeting will be held with representatives from all taxing entities that would like information on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in Pratt.

Economic Development

Chase Galle provided an update regarding the current agreement with the Chamber of Commerce. The current agreement with the Chamber is set to expire on June 30, 2026. The agreement will be revised, focused primarily on administrative support and book-keeping services. This will be a temporary solution while longer term planning is completed. The Housing Incentive Program is currently on hold pending finalization of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

2027 Budget Planning

Both City and County officials discussed preliminary planning and considerations for the 2027 budget cycle. The City discussed the possibility of placing a sales tax initiative on the August ballot. The city is considering either a one-half cent sales tax or a one-cent sales tax. The primary goal of the proposal is to reduce the burden of property taxes

Pratt County Commission Minutes for May 4 and 5

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 04, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. 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 – Heather Morgan Sawyer Natural Gas Project Update

Heather reported that she recently met with representatives from the City of Sawyer and Kansas Gas Service (KGS) regarding the ongoing natural gas infrastructure project. KGS anticipates completing pipe installation by the end of the week. The system is expected to be operational prior to the upcoming

heating season this fall. Heather also reported KGS has committed to moving forward with Sawyer's connection independently so Sawyer residents can begin service sooner.

Kansas Department of Commerce Grant Opportunity

Heather provided information regarding a newly announced KDOC pilot Grant program called "IRON". It will be available to communities with populations under 50,000 and provides grants up to \$200,000. The grant intended to help rehabilitate existing industrial buildings for future business use.

Kansas Economic and Revenue Update

Heather shared information regarding the State of Kansas consensus revenue estimates and recent tax collection trends as local governments prepare for budget season. April tax collections for the State of Kansas were lower than anticipated in several areas. She emphasized these indicators may impact future revenues

and should be monitored closely during the budgeting process.

Special Use Application - Battery Storage Facility Public Hearing

Representatives from NextEra Energy Resources and associated consultants introduced themselves to the Commission including Cody Acres, Alan Anderson, Dr. Chris Olson, Spencer Culver, Cameron Zafar, Samantha Nisbet, Chris Nef, Michael Bennet, Andre Steeling, Brandon, Smith and Robert Boyer.

BJ Hayes, Pratt County Zoning Director presented the special use permit application for Ninescah Flats Energy Storage LLC. Case Number: SU-2026-02 located NW corner of SE 20th St and SE 80th Ave in Pratt County, approximately 20 acres to be used as a battery storage facility associated with solar operations.

The Commission completed the required procedural checklist including confirmation that no board members dis-

qualified themselves, that a quorum was present, that no protest petitions had been filed, review of planning board meeting minutes, and that no formal citizen comments had been received. BJ reviewed the Planning Board's findings and recommendations. The Planning Board recommended approval subject to the following conditions. Coordination with the Pratt County Road Supervisor regarding entrances, exits, and screening requirements. Coordination with the Pratt County Zoning Department for any future construction or additional special use applications and submission of updated decommissioning plans every five years to account for inflation adjustments. No public comments were presented during the hearing.

Drafts of the Decommissioning Agreement, Road Use Agreement and Contribution Agreement are pending. Before construction may begin, the following must be completed: Final

Decommissioning Documentation, Financial Sureties and Certificates of Insurance.

Motion to adopt the findings and recommendations of the Planning Board for Case SU-2026-02 and approve Resolution 05-04-2026 made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Boiler Room Update

Jared Cordes and Jeff Slater informed the Commissioners the federal breaker box in the boiler room is outdated and needs replaced. The proposed replacement panel would accommodate two starts and a capacity for a third in the future. Commissioners noted concerns regarding the age and safety of the existing equipment and breaker box.

Motion to approve the InteGreen proposal to replace the boiler room breaker box and complete associated electrical upgrades in the amount of \$13,995 to be paid out of Capital Improvement made by Commissioner Shriver; 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 PRMC lease matters and zoning regulations for 15 minutes at 2:37 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 2:52 p.m. with no action taken.

Landfill & Recycle Update and Personnel Request

Jason Winkel, Landfill Director, provided updates regarding landfill operations, recycling activities, and personnel matters. Clean up week for the City of Pratt is scheduled for May 11-16. Jason reported active movement of recyclable materials due to slight improvements in market pricing. He also provided a positive performance update regarding employee Carl Stremmel and requested a wage increase for his six-month evaluation.

continued on page 10

Pratt County Commission Minutes for May 4 and 5

(con't from page 9)

Motion to apprise Carl Stremmel's 6-month evolution wage increase from \$17 to \$18/hr made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 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

PRMC leases for 10 minutes at 3:00 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:10 pm with no action taken.

Commissioners unanimously approved the vouchers for May 4, 2026.

Commissioners recessed until the Budget Workshop on May 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order Budget Workshop May 05, 2026

Chairman Trinkle called the recessed

meeting to order May 9, 2025 at 9:00 am for Budget Workshop in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tom Jones, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk, Mark Graber, IT Director, and Scot Lyod, Loyd Group, LLC.

Presentations of Proposed Budgets

Department Heads presented 2027 proposed budgets to the commissioners. No action was

taken.

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 Senior Services and Eldercare with Scot Loyd, Tara Pagenkopf and Cheryl Phye for 15 minutes at 11:04 a.m. made by Commissioner Jones.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 11:18 a.m. with no action taken.

Presentations of Proposed Budgets

Department Heads presented 2027 proposed budgets to the commissioners. No action was taken.

Commissioner recessed at 11:47 a.m. for lunch and will resume at 1:00 p.m.

Call To Order

Chairman Trinkle called the recessed meeting to order May 5, 2025, at 1:00 pm for Budget Workshop.

The following members were present: Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tom Jones, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha

Hoffman, County Clerk, Mark Graber, IT Director, and Scot Lyod, Loyd Group, LLC.

Presentations of Proposed Budgets

Department Heads presented 2026 proposed budgets to the commissioners. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.



Goddess Gloria Gaynor: Diva Extraordinaire



This lady is ruling Kobbe's Cafe and Cabana for Cats and Canines.

I photographed her here on her throne. She sleeps here about 20 hours a day.

She occasionally gets up to play, but not often.

Dinner time... she is given a plate of food. When she cleans up every morsel, she moves to Marlon Brando's plate. He moves off with a growl.

When that plate is clean, she moves on to try a bite of food from Luther Heggs' plate. He leaves her to it. She will lick that plate clean as well.

I've tried giving her a bit more food, but she eats quickly. Luther Heggs is the slowest-eating cat I have ever known. Sheesh.

She has settled in, still startles some, but she comes when she is called, and she isn't a pest.

Brando really doesn't like her, but he may come around.... or not.

KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Helios

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In Greek mythology, Helios is the god who personifies the sun. Our friend here, does not wear a golden crown, nor does he have a chariot drawn by horses, however, he is a handsome, black Lab who looks rather skeptical of the world in general.

Helios is about 3 years old and has been at the shelter since just after Valentine's Day.

He is a happy dog: good with kids, good with adults, high energy, but should only be the only dog in the household. His relationship with cats is unknown, but if he needs to be an only pup, chances are, he won't put up any nonsense from a cat.

Helios would love to go home with you and make your home a warm, and bright and radiant place to be.



Solana

Kathy and Alan Albers



Solana is a Spanish word associated with sunshine, energy, and a radiant personality.

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What more could anyone need to know about this lovely lady.

Solana is about 1 1/2 years old and can be adopted for \$40.00. It would probably be the best money you've ever spent to bring positivity into your life.



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Public Notice

First published in the *The Cunningham Courier*, Thursday, May 14, 2026.
 IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
 JEANNE E. HOLLIDAY, Deceased.
 Case No. KM 2025 PR 36
(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)
 NOTICE OF HEARING
 THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
 You are hereby notified that on May 7, 2026, a Petition was filed in this Court by Melissa Tetrick, duly appointed, qualified and acting Executrix of the Estate of Jeanne E. Holliday, 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 Executrix's fees and 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 Executrix of the Estate of Jeanne E. Holliday, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.
 You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before June 9, 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.
Melissa Tetrick, Executrix
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 ATTORNEY AT LAW
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Georgine Beat

Georgine Rose Beat, 88, a devoted Catholic, compassionate caregiver, gifted food service professional, and loyal friend, passed away peacefully surrounded by the faith and values that guided her throughout her life on May 1, 2026. Born on November 2, 1937, in Kingman, Kansas, Georgine was the daughter of George August Beat and Madaline Goetz Beat. Her mother Madaline had passed away when Georgine was only six weeks old. Esther Nieves Beat helped her father George with the children after her mother's untimely death, and they later married. Raised on a farm in St. Leo, Kansas, she developed a strong work ethic early in life while caring for animals, milking cows, helping with chores, being picked on by her older brothers, and discovering a lifelong love of cooking and serving others alongside her "Momma" Esther.



Georgine attended school in St. Leo and Great Bend, Kansas, before entering the Immaculate Conception Convent in 1953 at the age of seventeen, joining the Dominican Sisters. Inspired by her faith and by the caring example of one of her teachers, Sister Beatrice, Georgine dedicated herself to helping others through service, compassion, and hospitality. In 1968, Georgine spread her wings and moved to Riverside, California.

For more than two decades, Georgine worked in food service leadership roles throughout Kansas and California. Her career included service at St. Catherine's Hospital in Kansas, San Dimas Convalescent Hospital, Magnolia Convalescent Hospital, Parkview Community Hospital, and later Riverside County Medical Center. She earned an Associate of Arts degree in Dietary Sciences from Chaffey College and became a certified Dietary Technician Registered (D.T.R.), dedicating her professional life not simply to food preparation, but to caring for people.

Those who knew Georgine will remember her unwavering faith, her resilience, her generous spirit, and her deep loyalty to family and friends. She was especially devoted to her dear friend Margaret Mary Kinzel, whom she lovingly cared for during years of illness. Georgine found joy in simple pleasures — camping along the California and Oregon coasts, sharing meals, serving others, when family would come and visit, her love of beach, cheering on the Los Angeles Dodgers, and participating in church life.

Georgine was preceded in death by her father, George A. Beat; her mother, Madaline Goetz Beat; her stepmother, Esther Nieves Beat; her brothers, Leonard Beat and Kenneth Beat; and her beloved best friend, Margaret Kinzel.

She is survived by her brothers, Gilbert Beat of Cunningham, Kansas; Don Beat of Kingman, Kansas; and Eugene Beat of Las Vegas, Nevada; her sisters, Doris Ann Harbert of Kingman, Kansas, and LaRita Beat of Leoti, Kansas; along with numerous nieces and nephews across the country who will cherish her memory and the example of faith, kindness, and service she leaves behind.

A lifelong and devout Catholic, Georgine requested a simple Catholic Mass of Christian Burial and remained steadfast in her faith until the end of her life. She believed deeply in kindness, dignity, and caring for others without expectation of reward.

Funeral Mass will be held at St. Francis De Sales Parish Roman Catholic Church in Riverside, CA and burial will be at Mission San Luis Rey De Francia in Oceanside, CA. Dates are to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Georgine's name to Mission San Luis Rey De Francia or to the Alzheimer's Association.

Georgine's memory will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed by her compassion, friendship, humor, and quiet strength.

May she rest in eternal peace.



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Gary FitzSimmons

Gary Paul Fitzsimmons, 86, passed away Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at South Wind Home. He was born on September 21, 1939, in Pratt to Paul S. and Evelyn (Millsap) Fitzsimmons. Gary married Mary Lucille (Crosley) Fitzsimmons on August 19, 1961, at Cairo Methodist Church. She preceded him in death on April 18, 2023.



Gary graduated from Pratt High School in 1957. He went on to travel around the midwest building grain elevators with his brother in-law, Burnard. He also worked seasonally at Pratt Feeders for 5 years. He was a member of Cunningham Methodist Church where he was also a Senior High Youth Sponsor. He was also a member of Cunningham Saddle Club, Cunningham Lions Club, Cairo Cemetery Board, Cairo Co-op Board, Pratt County Fair Association and 4-H Woodworking Superintendent. He enjoyed farming, country dancing with Mary, socializing, reading the newspaper and farm publications and spending time with his great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his children, Paula (Michael) Gates of Kansas City, Missouri, Dean (Jerree) Fitzsimmons of Cunningham and Deanna (Sean) Aspedon of Wichita; sister, Mary Katherine Webster of Cunningham; grandchildren, Ashley (Nathan) Smith, James (MaKala) Fitzsimmons, Jenna Fitzsimmons, Nikki Scott and Austin Scott; and great-grandchildren, Jack Paul Smith, Amber Jean Fitzsimmons, Amy Jo Fitzsimmons, Rose Evelyn Smith and Judd Ray Fitzsimmons.

Gary is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Mary Fitzsimmons; sister, Coleen Simonson; and brothers in-law, Burnard Simonson and Richard Webster.

Visitation will be Wednesday, May 13, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. with family receiving friends from 5-7 at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 14, 2026, at Cunningham United Methodist Church with Pastor Mathew Musyoki presiding. Burial will follow at Cairo Cemetery, Cairo.

Memorials may be made to Cunningham FFA Greenhouse Project, 4C Daycare Center or Pratt County Fair Association. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

Marilyn Kettering

West Plains, Missouri - Marilyn Joy Kettering, 84, passed away Wednesday, May 6, 2026. She was born on May 13, 1941 in Pratt to Cecil Earl and Dora (Riley) Kettering.




Marilyn worked as creditor in finance. She enjoyed following sports and drinking flavored coffee.

She is survived by his brother, Leroy Kettering of Hershey, Nebraska; niece, Terri (Fred) Spina of West Plains, Missouri; and 4-legged Companion, Angie Kettering.

Marilyn is preceded in death by her parents; and brother, Vernon Kettering.

A Graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 15, 2026 at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Pratt Area Humane Society. Online condolences may be left at www.larrisonmortuary.com.



**Happy Belated
Birthday
Wishes,
Blaz McGinnis**

Stephen Floyd

Stephen Leek Floyd III, 61, passed away May 7, 2026 at his home in Pratt. He was born September 25, 1964 in Kansas City to Stephen Leek Jr. and Sherry (Reynolds) Floyd. Stephen married Amy (Keltner) Dillard-Floyd December 8, 2023 at Las Vegas, Nevada. They were married for 3 years.




Stephen graduated from high school and went on to college to wrestle. While at Northwest Missouri State, he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. Steve spent his career in sales where he could sell anything put in front of him. He worked as a Key Account Manager for Gallagher Animal Management Solutions for many years. After Gallagher, he went to Powerfields where he was the Vice President of Sales. Steve loved his AA Group members that supported him and his many work friends and colleagues. Steve loved Duke Basketball, Chiefs Football and Royals Baseball. He was very athletic and a huge sports fan. Steve worked very hard and tried his best to be successful in everything he did.

He is survived by his wife, Amy Dillard-Floyd of Pratt, Kansas; stepchildren, Blake Dillard of Pratt, Kansas, Chloe Haffley-Saalfeld, Grace Haffley and Grant Haffley all of Wichita, Kansas; stepmother, Robin Floyd; sister, Yvette Floyd; nephew, Shane Tennant.

Stephen is preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Cremation has taken place and no services are planned at this time.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Wounded Warriors and mailed to Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt, Kansas. 67124.



Thank you

*To family and friends who helped me celebrate my retirement - thank you!
And thank you for all my cards, messages, and gifts... your presence was all that mattered, but these were just icing on the cake. Take care and God bless!
--C C Sterneker--*



Thank you

*To all of our friends and family, We would like to thank everyone for the delicious nourishment, beautiful flowers, heartwarming cards, wonderful visits and overwhelming donations to mom and dad's chosen charities. Your friendship, love and prayers are sincerely appreciated. Please accept our sincerest heartfelt gratitude.
The family of Deanna Parker*

Upcoming Auctions

HOUSE AUCTION
Monday, June 1, 2026 - 1:30 PM
Sale on site: 422 S Oak St, KS
67035-\$225,000 Opening Bid

For more information and a complete list of auctions, visit our website at www.hammauction.com

107 NE State Road 61,
Pratt, Kansas, 67124
620-672-6996



Pratt Support Group

Survivors of domestic violence & sexual assault

Monday Nights,
5:30 - 7 pm

Family Crisis Center office - 400 Main, suite #101

Transportation, childcare, & meal provided

Contact our office with questions! 620-672-7435





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