

The Cunningham Courier

October 23, 2025
Volume 35 Number 43

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

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Photo by Josh Theis



Minutes from the Kingman County Commission

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. October 14, 2025, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Jeff Young, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor
Visitors: Dale Enyart; Jon Wollen, Kingman City Mayor; Ms. Young;
Online Visitors: AS, Caller 01, Caller 02; Caller 03; Chief Brooks.

Staff: Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Sheriff Brent Wood.

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

Chairwoman Lyon would like to add an atty-client privilege executive session.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an atty-client privilege executive session. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was

approved with a 2 for-0 against vote.

Judge Roseanna Mathis swore in Jeff Young, to fill the County Commissioner District #1 vacancy and Jamie Smith, County Treasurer for her next four-year term.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk asked for a non-elect personnel matter executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 8:38 a.m. with Carol Noblit, County Clerk and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor for an individual employee evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 8:48 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 8:48 a.m. with no decision made.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to go over September Financials with the County Commissioners.

Sheriff Brent Wood was in with a monthly department report for the Commissioners review.

Sheriff Wood let the Commissioners know that they are building the office for the Emergency Management and

that the expenses are to come out of the Emergency Management fund.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 9:48 a.m. with Sheriff Brent Wood and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor for an individual employee evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:58 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:58 a.m. with no action taken.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the October 6, 2025, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the October 6, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 2-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:03 a.m. to discuss the County's position in pending mediation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act,

and that they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:18 a.m. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:18 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:18 a.m. to discuss the County's position in pending mediation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and that they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:28 a.m. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:28 a.m. with no action taken.

Chairwoman Lyon discussed the KDOT meeting that she attended and gave the Commissioners an update on the projects the State has in the pipelines.

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

Cross County Team Places 2nd in League



Coach Ingrid Ricke, Hank Adams, Will Halderson, Sean Kostner, Blake Swope, Larry Heatherman, Newt Heaterman, Kane Reid

(photo submitted by Ingrid Ricke)

(story on page 9)

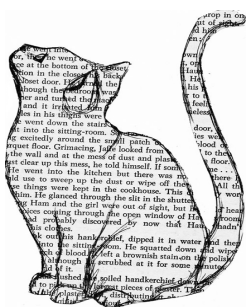
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Meanderings

So my Quin is having issues with his leg again. He is currently on pain medications. He does whine a great deal about

it hurting, but he won't let me pick him and put him on a chair or the bed. He'd rather jump up on them himself, and then whine about how much it hurts. Sheesh.

This morning was the first time he balked at taking the pills.

He saw me put the pill in the cheese, tucked his tail and left the room. So I stuck it in his breakfast food and he never even noticed. What a dork.

I guess I will take this time and space to thank folks. I have great people who support this newspaper. Subscribers who read and enjoy the paper and consistently renew on time (for the most part.)

I so very much appreciate those of you who send information and photos from events you attend. There are many artistic photographers in our community, and your

talents are very much appreciated by myself and other readers.

I cannot attend every event in this community. I would never be home if I went to every event or meeting. If we lived in a time when cameras weren't at the ready, I'd attend more functions, but everyone has a camera on their phone these days, and it is so simple to snap a few shots of the action and send them in

to the newspaper. Easy peasy.

Special thanks to Molly who attends many of the ballgames and other school events and takes photos of our young athletes and students.

Thank you to my advertisers! You make this paper happen. You really do.

A huge thanks to those folks who WRITE things for the paper. It is not an easy task, writing. It

takes a lot to put oneself out there. I know readers must get tired of my writing and having the writing of others is a nice change.

A very big thank you to the coaches (and wife) who write sports articles. You are appreciated beyond measure.

Always reading, and currently getting ready to delve into "Dead Land" by Sara Paretsky, Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,
Five years ago, my first column was about the differences between driving on the East Coast and in Kansas. And I stand by what I wrote in 2020—that the time spent on Kansas Roads is worth it because you get where you're going. You just start your engine and go. By contrast, my automobile excursions up and down the Mid-Atlantic

often simply caused me aggravation beyond description, among other things, and IF I arrived at the destination I set out to reach, I usually had forgotten why I set out in the first place.

I still prefer Kansas driving over East Coast driving. Kansas ranks fifth in the nation for total estimated road miles. I've only covered a fraction of our roadways because I repeatedly take the same routes. For example, I often visit my family by driving nearly straight West. These 252 miles have become so

familiar that the drive goes like clockwork. Including one pitstop, in either direction, this trip is reliably no more than five hours.

But this week, my trek took nine hours. I only got about 11 miles, barely out of Emporia, when my car started shaking like one of those machines at hardware store that mixes paint. And it took me nearly four hours to figure out a way to keep getting down the road.

My regular readers may recall I've had "car trouble" before. In 2023 on K-56 near Marion,

an hour from home, my Sonata just up and died. The fleet it took to get me home that day included two Marion deputies, two teams at AAA, a tow truck driver, and a neighbor. To this day, I recommend that all Hyundai and Kia owners call the closest dealership and ask if your make and model are at risk for unexpected engine failure.

Flint Hills Towing was the company that got me and the Sonata to Emporia. And then the next day, they hauled my car on to the dealership in Topeka. My friends

have suggested that they are as much a shipping company as they are a towing company. And in truth, they can get vehicles from one side of the state to another and from top to bottom.

But I did not know until this week that Flint Hills Towing is an authorized Hertz Rental Car. I was desperate when I stumbled on that tidbit of information because the four other Emporia car rental places I'd called first had had no cars available.

Flint Hills Towing did more than just rent me

a car and get me on my way. Once again, I received the most outstanding remarkable service. They helped me move my belonging from the Sonata to my rental AND navigate the AAA system and get my car to my mechanic. Most of all, they kept me laughing when I felt like throwing up my hands, going home and crying.

Until next week-keep your eyes on the stars and your back to the wind.

PS The Sonata's gonna be fine but that's a story for another day



A Time for Co-ops and Classrooms

Jackie Mundt, Pratt County farmer and rancher
“I am so glad that I live in a world where there are Octobers.” That beloved line from “Anne of Green Gables” has always captured how I feel about this season. Growing up in Wisconsin, October meant crisp mornings that hinted at winter's approach and warm afternoons that illuminated a canvas of orange, yellow and red across the countryside. It was the month

of cranberry harvests, football games and the simple beauty of small-town fall.

Now that I call Kansas home, October feels a little different. The fall colors aren't quite as bold, and sweater weather arrives fashionably late. But the season still carries its own charm. Combines hum steadily through fields, tractors plant wheat and grain trucks crisscross the highways. The landscape may look different, but the same spirit of productivity and community fills the air.

In my role as director of communications for our local cooperative, October has taken on additional meaning: it's National Co-op Month. Across the country, cooperatives celebrate this

time by recognizing the strength of the cooperative business model and the values that drive it — member ownership, local leadership and shared success.

One of my favorite ways to mark the month is by visiting agriculture classrooms in high schools across our trade territory. It's an opportunity to talk with students about how cooperatives work and why they play such an important role in rural communities.

During these visits, I lead an activity that illustrates how co-ops differ from other business structures. Students “shop” at various types of businesses — corporations, sole proprietors and cooperatives — and then we discuss where the profits go. The students representing

cooperative members are the only ones who end up with money back in their pockets at the end of the exercise. It's a lighthearted demonstration, but it effectively shows how cooperative members share in both the risk and the reward of their organization's success.

Before our merger last year, I typically visited three or four schools each October. This year, I plan to visit 10. That growth is encouraging on its own, but what's even more remarkable is eight of those schools didn't have agriculture programs when I moved to Kansas 15 years ago.

This expansion of agricultural education reflects the dedication of teachers, administrators and community leaders who understand its

importance. In many of these communities, agriculture isn't just an elective — it's the foundation of local life and livelihoods. These programs provide students with hands-on learning, leadership development and real-world skills that open doors to meaningful careers.

This year, I also joined the Kansas FFA Foundation Board, an organization that has been instrumental in supporting and expanding these programs across the state. Through grants, scholarships and teacher support, the foundation helps ensure that students and educators have the resources they need to thrive. Seeing this momentum firsthand gives me immense optimism for the future of agriculture.

While Kansas may not offer the vibrant autumn palette I remember from Wisconsin, October here holds its own kind of beauty. It's a season of harvest, of education and of community connection. Anne Shirley's words still ring true for me — not because of the changing leaves, but because of what the month represents.

October reminds me to be grateful: for the cooperative spirit that strengthens our rural towns, for the educators shaping the next generation and for the farmers whose hard work sustains us all. I am, indeed, glad to live in a world where there are Octobers.

Poetry From Daily Life

edited by
David L. Harrison,
Missouri's Poet Laureate

Poetry from Daily Life: Just imagine — and don't be afraid to be preposterous

By Nancy Bo Flood
This week's guest on "Poetry from Daily Life" is Nancy Bo Flood, who lives in the Navajo Nation in Colorado. A writer for 25 years, her favorite subjects include folktales, history, and the Navajo region. She says, "I believe that stories help heal our hearts and give us new eyes to see others and ourselves. I write

to celebrate the courage of children as they cope with challenges — the first day of school, the loss of a parent, or perhaps displacement because of war, discrimination, or having different abilities. A well-told story can crack open our hearts and see beyond our own judgments or stereotypes. But best of all is having a child shyly say, 'I am in this book.'”
~ David L. Harrison

Just imagine
I recently read this quote from William

Blake, “The world of imagination is the world of eternity.”

First, I frowned, but then I began to think about it and let the walls of “get real” crumble. “Just imagine.”

It is a known phenomenon that science fiction is about impossibilities, but then those impossibilities become real. Science fiction writers follow the trajectory of events and carry it beyond today into their imagined future. When I was in graduate school a computer took up two floors of a university building. We laughed about the possibilities of having a computer in our office and another in our home. It never occurred to any of us that we might have a computer in our car, around our wrist, or in our shirt pocket. Just imagine.

But eternity? What did Blake mean “the world of imagination is the world of eternity?” I'm still pondering that statement. But I'm not dismissing it. Einstein implied something similar when he stated that imagination was more important than any skill or ability. John Lennon sang about our world and

humanity and imagining what is possible. Imagine peace.

Perhaps we need to write more from our imagination. I've been having fun lately writing preposterous poems while thinking about the importance and power of imagination. As I continue these wonderings and wanderings and cope with the ups and downs of life, I try not to despair. I imagine. Poetry can help us go beyond sadness, grief, and cynicism, and imagine what is possible.

“Imagination is not a state: it is human existence itself,” William Blake wrote.

I invite you to remember John Lennon's song, “Imagine.” Listen to it again or just hear it in your mind and ... Imagine! — a terrific way to open our hearts and minds to possibilities.

Take a Poem

It's yours.
Choose one that cracks
Your heart open,
That tickles your brain.
Take a poem.

◆◆◆

I've been writing preposterous poems. Try this one ... and imagine!

Night Window

Last night I woke
and could not sleep.
Soundlessly, like a cat
I crept
To the window to watch.
There! Yes, there she is
again,
A lone doe
Nibbling
Sunflower seeds.

Was she imagining
spring,
Or something else?
Moonlight cast her blue
shadow
Across the snow.
She continued munching
seeds
Meant for blue jays and
chickadees.

Perhaps next
She will try
To fly.
Perhaps
So will I

◆◆◆

And one more ...
preposterous!

Next Time ...

A full moon last night so I
Pedaled
My new blue
bicycle
Up, up, past mountain

peaks
Onward
Into space
Wearing a no-atmosphere
safety suit,
Snorkel, mask, helmet
238,855 miles
Arrived!
whew,
landed on the dark side of
the moon
oh so quiet,

No Wars Allowed
Alone
I sat,
a zillion stars silently
smiling overhead like
happy fireflies
Sh-h-h-h,
If you tell any earthlings
They'll politely smile and
mutter, preposterous.
Next time, you come too.
We'll soar together.
Magic happens
Every blue moon.

◆◆◆

Books for young readers by Nancy Bo Flood have received numerous awards including the White Raven International Award for stories that encourage compassion and offer cultural understanding. Learn more about Nancy and her work at <https://nancyboflood.com/about/>.

The Cunningham Courier

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Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, October 23

4:00 p.m.

JH VB - HOPL Final
Four at Central Christian

Friday, October 24

Kansas Commissioner
of Education
visits district

6:00 p.m.

HS FB at Tescott

Saturday, October 25

HS Cross Country
Regionals

HS VB Substate

Monday, October 27

4:30 p.m.

Parent-Teacher
Conferences

Meeting for CHS
trip to DC

Tuesday, October 28

Rep. Schwertfeger
and Dennis McKinney
visit USD 332

Wednesday, October 29

ESSDACK
Career Expo

4:30 p.m.

Parent/Teacher
Conferences

Book Club

Thursday, October 30

HS FB to be announced

Halloween Party
sponsored by KAYS

2:00 p.m.

Trick-or-Treat Street

Friday, October 31

HS VB State
Tournament

Saturday, November 1

HS Cross Country
State Meet

HS VB State
Tournament

Monday November 3

4:00 p.m.

HS Scholars Bowl
at HOME

PICKIN' PUMPKINS

The Community
Calendar is sponsored by

nvalleybank.com

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- WANTED -

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

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

Cunningham Public Library

Book Sale and Basket Raffle

Sat., Oct. 25, 9-1 p.m.

Come enjoy a cinnamon roll, choose some books,
and enter for a chance to win a basket!

Write-In
Nick Rogers for
School Board on
November 4.

Nick Rogers is asking for your
write-in vote for the
Cunningham Unified School
District 332 Board of Education.
Nick is dedicated to supporting students,
teachers, and families while keeping our
schools strong and community-centered.

It's Time for Penalosa's Soup
Tasting Extravaganza

With the season of fall upon us, we can probably
agree that it's also soup weather. You are invited
to the Penalosa Community Building on Saturday,
November 1st from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. to sample a
variety of delicious homemade soups and vote
for your favorite. There will also be sandwiches
and homemade pies and desserts to try. The cost
is a freewill donation which will be used by the
Penalosa UWF to support local missions. Some
of our missions include the Hands of Hope and
Kingman food bank, Christmas gifts for the Angel
tree in Kingman County, the Kingman Core minis-
try to help end the cycle of poverty,
and the Cunningham and Kingman
project proms. Please tell your
friends, and we hope to see you in
Penalosa on November 1st!

Costume Parade & Trick-or-Treat Street!

Thursday, October 30th

Downtown Cunningham at 2:00 p.m.

Park your car and watch the costume parade!
Or bring your little ones to Trick-or-Treat down the
street!

CUNNINGHAM
LION'S CLUB
INVITES YOU TO DINNER

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4th 6:30
CUNNINGHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Come enjoy a meal on us, learn about the Lions
Club, and see if joining might be for you.

Please RSVP
by October 26

JOIN US FOR
BREAKFAST!

OAK HEART FOUNDATION
invites you to our

FUNDRAISING
BREAKFAST BUFFET

Sunday, November 2nd • 11:00 AM

OAK HEART
FOUNDATION

Come enjoy a delicious breakfast and take a moment
to learn more about the heart behind our foundation
and the work we're doing in the community. ♥

Cunningham Community Center

We ALWAYS need
photos for the paper!!

Kingman Historic Theatre

October 24-25

Cody Canada
LIVE

with the Fairchilds
and Logan Mize

Friday and Saturday 6:45

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR
Kingman Historic Theatre.

Upcoming Auctions

Saturday, October 25, 2025 1:30pm,
Gun & Ammo Auction, Hamm Auction

Monday, October 27, 2025 1:30 p.m.
281 +/- Acres Pratt County, KS Dryland

Saturday, Nov 1, 2025 - House
& Personal Property Auction
106 N Logan St, Attica KS
9:30 am start, house sells at 1:00 pm.

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

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

Cunningham Historical Society Musuem is Still Open. Visit Soon!



QR codes are now at the museum. If you scan this one, you will get a short tour of the museum. Sometimes tecnology is wonderful.

James 3:18 NJV

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.

--quote submitted by Alan Albers

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Marci Adams Stepping Down as 4-H Leader



The Cunningham 4-H club met on September 21, 2025. The roll call was “what is your favorite fair food” and was answered by 22 members. Our club got reserve Grand Champion for our cookie jars that go to college scholarships at the county fair this year.

In the October meeting our club will swear in the new officers that were elected last meeting. This year will be doing a fundraiser for the Texas Road House rolls, so if you want rolls or want to support our club, contact a 4-H member to get them.

In October for the new 4-H year, our club leader Marci Adams will be stepping down out of the position. I asked her for a quote about the 3 years she has been a leader and she said “I

have 2 big highlights as one of the 4-H leaders for 3 years. One is watching the older kids mentor the younger ones with their projects. The other is seeing self-confidence explode as the youngsters grow from shy to eager through their 4-H experiences.”

The entire 4-H club would like to thank Marci for her time and the effort she has put into our club. We presented her with a plaque to show her our appreciation. Our new leaders for our club

are Katie Helman and Jennifer Neywick.

October will be a busy month because this week is 4-H week and we have our 48 hours of service, also 4-H Sunday and the Achievement Celebration hosted by our club. Finally, the meeting was adjourned by Ethan and seconded by Ty.

Brody Bock

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 needsThis institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Giving Opportunities in our Community

4C Day Care Leave a donation with the Methodist Church.

West Kingman County Education Foundation
Use your Dillon's Card! (to donte contact 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
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

St. John, Zenda
Saturday 4:00 p.m.

St. Leo
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627

St. Peter Willowdale
Sunday 10 a.m.
620-246-5370

Lutheran Churches

First Sunday of the month service is at St. John;
third Sunday of the month service is at Trinity

St. John, Nashville
620-246-5220
Sunday School & Bible Class
8:45 a.m.
Worship Service
10 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.

Church of Christ

Penalosa
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

First Christian Church
Cunningham

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Jr High Youth Group 4:00 p.m. Sunday
Sr High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Sunday
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.
Pastor Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

United Methodist Church

Penalosa
Worship 9:15 a.m.

Cunningham
Worship 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki
620-298-2090

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

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1965

November 4, 1965 - The fifth annual Alumni Banquet of Nashville Rural High School will be held in the high school gym, Saturday evening, Nov. 27, at 6:30 o'clock.

All graduates, teachers, and former teachers are invited to attend.

A dance, featuring the music of the "Midnighters," will follow the banquet. Banquet tickets are \$2.50 per person, and reservations should be made with Mrs. Lloyd Dicke of Nashville, by November 15.

The first snow of the 1960-1961 winter fell last Sunday, October 30. The snow was very wet and much of it melted as soon as it hit the ground, but estimates place the snowfall at about two inches.

Monday October 31, after school, Cunningham Cub Scout No. 759 distributed over 200 "door bells" for the "Get-Out-the-Vote" campaign to homes in Cunningham.

This project over the United States was carried out by over four million young boys, and was sponsored by the Get-Out-the -Vote Foundation and Scouting of America.

Cunningham boys helping out were David Stone, Mark Maier, Earl Stark, Geronimo Kaster, David Steffen, Mike Hutchison, Rex Dunn, Jerry and Larry McMillian, Frankie McClellan, Dennis Dellinger, Harold Lee Stark, Layne Harris, George Kampling, and Monte Rose. Den Mothers assisting were Mrs. Eddie Maier, Mrs. Edwin Steffen, Mrs. Albert Harris, Mrs. George McClellan, and Mrs. Floren Rose.

1970

October 29, 1970 – Kris Sheldon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Sheldon of Cunningham, was crowned Football Queen for 1970, in pre-game ceremonies. Larry Eskew, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Eskew, of Penalosa, was named Football King of 1970. The queen's attendants were Jill Rose and Cathy Simon. Their escorts were David Schnittker and Alan Rohr. Terry Elliot and Kerry Welch were the crown bearer and flower girl.

Kent Scripsick scored twice as the Cunningham Bees downed the Partridge Bees, 14-6, at Partridge, Monday night.

"Avenue of Flags" for Maud Cemetery: American Legion Post No. 114 of Cunningham, which is also the newest post in Kansas, is sponsoring this ambitious project. So far the labor and metal bases have been donated to the project. The flag poles and flags will cost approximately \$10.00 each.

There are 36 veterans buried in Maud Cemetery, and it is hoped that all the flags will be flying on Veterans' Day, November 11.

Lunchroom personnel in Unified School District No. 332 are Mrs. Elva Glenn, Mrs. Velma Yarberry, and Mrs. Rachel Doherty, Cunningham. Mrs. Elfrieda Lampe and Mrs.

Emma Adelhardt, Willowdale; Mrs. Geraldine Walker, Nashville; Mrs. Rose Theis and Mrs. Marie Greiving, St. Leo, and Mrs. Cecilia Batt, Mrs. Pauline Morris, and Mrs. Goldie Hensiek, Zenda.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

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

1975

October 23, 1975 – The High School Marching Band played the song "For All We Know" as the queen candidates were being driven around the field. The cars were provided by George Kampling, Mike Scripsick, and Paul Goertz; and were driven by Brooks Mantooth, Brian Schnittker, and Gene Panek.

The king candidates: Mark Schnittker, Kenny Simon, and Kris Osborne escorted the queen candidates; Donna Theis, Connie Armstrong, and Kathy Kampling on to the field, where Kathy Kampling was crowned queen by King Kenny Simon.

Halloween was the theme as the Cunningham 4-H Club met for their October meeting. President Melva Oller called the meeting to order with the flag salute and 4-H Pledge. Linda Sterneker read the minutes. Roll call was answered with a Halloween costume or mask.

Michelle Albers was introduced by Linda Sterneker as a new member.

Melva Oller gave a demonstration, "Showing Your Dog at the Fair." She showed Jake, her Irish Wolfhound. Linda Sterneker have a project talk, "How to Grease Pan for Various Baking Projects." Matt Oller lead the group in "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" for music.

Trick or treat candy and kool-aid was served by the Oller family. Matt Oller, reporter

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

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

1980

October 23, 1980 – The Cunningham High School will celebrate the Fall Festival at the football game with Lewis on Friday night, Oct. 24. Game time is 7:30 p.m. Crowning of the queen and king will take place during the half – approximately 8 p.m.

Queen candidates are Donna Beat, Bonnie Fischer, and Shery Schnittker. King candidates are Stan Adelhardt, Mike Parsons, and Wade Ruckle. The student council is in charge of the festivities.

Richard L. Krug, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Krug of Cunningham, has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of senior master sergeant.

Sgt. Krug is a resource plans superintendent of RAF Mildenhall, England.

Bonita G. Thornhill, Cunningham, is among the new enrollees at the Brown Mackie College, Salina. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Thornhill

and is enrolled in the General Sciences Program.

Mary Kampling and Stan Parsons were united in marriage at Holy Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Kingman on Sept. 27, at 2 p.m. in the afternoon. Father Patrick Larkin officiated at the double ring ceremony.

A double ring ceremony Aug. 2 united in marriage Marilyn Fischer and Dan Gupton. The Rev. Jim Spexarth officiated in the St. Leo Church. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fischer of St. Leo and Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Gupton of Wichita.

1985

October 24, 1985 – The Senior Boys Home Economics Class prepared three different meals last Friday and served them at properly set and decorated tables. The menus included: steak, eggs, biscuits, gravy and juice; spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, French bread and strawberry sundaes; and pizza, salad and apples.

The class consists of Brett Deemer, Scott DeWeese, Dennis FitzSimmons, Dennis Hageman, Greg Hageman, Brian Henning, Rod Holcomb, Matt Oller, Kurt Rohlman, Ryan Ruckle, and Chuck Thimesch. The teacher is Kathryn Zongker.

Frank and Connie McClellan of Pretty Prairie are happy to announce the birth of their new daughter, Kimberlie Ann, Oct. 16 at Kingman Community Hospital. She weighed 5 lb. 15 oz. Sisters are Kellie and Katie. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George McClellan, Cunningham, and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Krehbiel of Kingman.

The students in Mrs. Hartley's class at Cunningham Grade School are busy writing letters to their pen pals. The class is participating in the Weekly Reader Writing Pals Program. They are writing letters to a class of nine students in Speculator, New York, and they're finding out that writing assignments can be fun.

On October 22, Cub Scout Pack 759 met for its monthly pack meeting. In keeping the scouting theme of Pirate Waters the scouts were attired as pirates, my, what a crew we had with 13 members present.

The Lady Wildcats took third place in the League tourney held in Sharon on Saturday and played their best total day of volleyball in doing so.

The Ladys opened up with Sharon and quickly responded with a 15-0, 15-4 victory. Serving was the key as Vickie Becker put over 7 in a row; then Kristy Rohr finished with 6 in a row.

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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)

October 23, 1975

Groundbreaking

Several stockholders in Cunningham's new nursing home took part in a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday afternoon at the proposed structure's site on the southeast edge of town.

Participating in the crust bustin' were, left to right, Bob Long, Melvin Oak, Herman Rottering, Virginia Gray, Jilverett Swander and Harold Schreck. Stockholders not able to attend were Joe Strong, Dr. T. L. Waylan, Paul Wunsch and Gary Wegerer. Construction is expected to begin immediately with the completion date estimated for one year. Sutherland Construction of Wichita is the general contractor for the operation. The nursing home will replace the Hilltop House, presently owned and operated by Virginia Gray, which is being forced to close due to new fire safety regulations. Upon completion, the new home will benefit the present 42 residents of the Hilltop House as well as the entire area. A second groundbreaking also took place Tuesday for "Brownie Joe's" new dog-house.

Clipper photo

Junior High Wildcat Sports Spotlight



courtesy photo

Assistant Coach Jennette Rogers, Addyson Huffman, Carly McGuire, Vaughn Preisser, Jalynn McGuire, Elsie Ruckle, Parker Miller, Amerey Sickles, Lux Thimesch, Mackley Glenn, Avery Kinsler, Jessica Dittmer, Shandi Romine, Willow Preisser, AnnMarie Kerschen, Leah Rogers, Paisley Westerman, Alyssa Osner, Coach Sarah Thimesch.

Head Coach: Sarah Thimesch
Assistant Coach(s): Jennette Rogers

#	First & Last Name	Grade	Height
1	Mackley Glenn	8	5' 0"
2	Shandi Romine	7	5' 2"
3	Avery Kinsler	6	4' 9"
4	Lux Thimesch	8	5' 1"
5	Jessica Dittmer	7	4' 10"
7	Elsie Ruckle	6	5' 3"
8	Willow Preisser	6	5' 2"
9	Parker Miller	6	5' 1"
10	Jalynn McGuire	6	5' 3"
11	Vaughn Preisser	8	5' 4"
12	Carly McGuire	8	5' 7"
13	Paisley Westerman	8	5' 5"
14	Alyssa Osner	8	5' 8"
15	Leah Rogers	7	5' 3"
17	AnnMarie Kerschen	7	5' 3"
18	Amerey Sickles	7	5' 0"
19	Addyson Huffman	7	5' 8"



photos by Molly Morgan

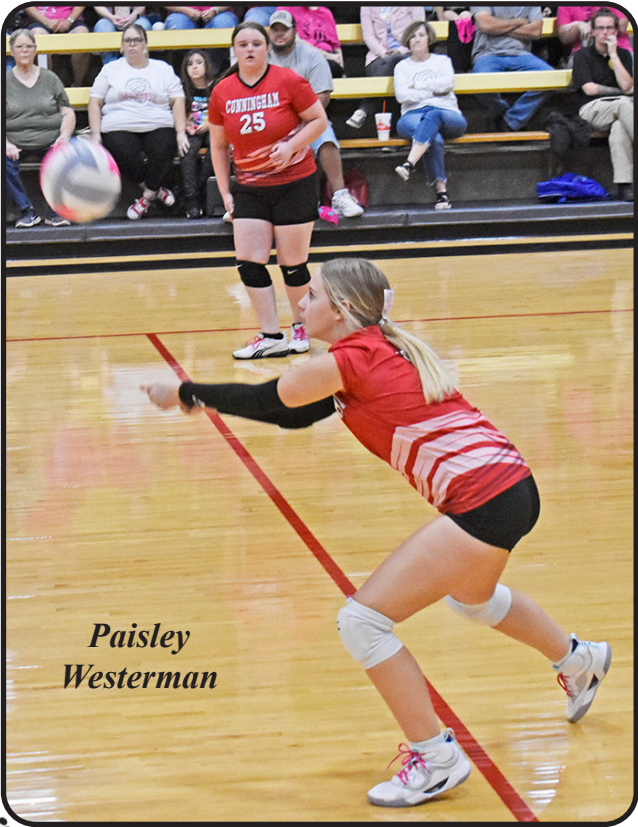
Amerey Sickles



Elsie Ruckle



Jalynn McGuire



Paisley Westerman



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Junior High Wildcat Sports Spotlight



courtesy photo

Head Coach: Bart Ricke
Assistant Coach(s): Colin Little

4	Wade Preisser	7	105
5	Jace Oldham	8	90
10	Casyn Miller	8	82
11	Jax Thimesch	7	86
12	Brody Henning	7	85
20	Brody Halderson	8	150
21	Cooper Neufeld	8	120
22	Grady Smyth	8	85
24	Landon Green	8	145
32	Bryer Barber	8	127
33	Ty Schultz	7	93
34	Landen Hageman	8	130
40	Kalvin Fischer	8	144
44	Holden Meireis	7	125
50	Bryce Simon	7	150
66	Bowen Bock	7	180
72	Gage Dunn	7	191
77	Ethan Kostner	8	180

Managers: Bentley Strohl and Asher Bestgen

Molly Morgan photos



Brody Halderson



Cooper Neufeld



Jace Oldham



Landon Green



Marcy Allbritten
Leroy Panek
Louise Armstrong
Johnna Freund
Jane Meyers
Liz & Steve Miller

Bill Thome
Lois Becker
Kathy & Alan Albers
Mary & Bob Stackhouse
Kathy & Doug Griffis
Molly Morgan & Family

Jeanette & Bob Kerschen
Helen & Chuck Holcomb
Eilene & Jack Crick
Marilyn and Kenny Glenn
Patty & John Huffman
Deanna & Bill Parker

Martha & Ron Albers
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Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, October 5			Follow Up	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Stops			Miscellaneous	13000 Blk E Hwy 42, Norwich
Civil Paper Service			Non-Injury Accident	SE 10 St & SE 70 Ave, Kingman
Motorist Assist			Disabled Vehicle	SE 60 St & SE 80 Ave, Murdock
Animal Complaint			Sunday, October 12	
Follow Up			Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Animal Complaint			Abandoned Vehicle	NE 10 St & NE 40 Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist / KMPD / Arrest			Follow Up	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Animal Complaint			Traffic Complaint	1500 E Hwy 2, Norwich
Monday, October 6			Suspicious Person	100 Blk W A Ave, Kingman
Burglary			Miscellaneous	600 Blk W A Ave, Kingman
Follow Up			Monday, October 13	
Follow Up			Traffic Stops	1
Warrant Service / Jail			Civil Paper Service	8
Warrant Service / Jail			Miscellaneous	100 Blk N Valley St, Cunningham
Miscellaneous			Miscellaneous	600 Blk N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Person/Vehicle			Non-Injury Accident	SE 150 St & N K2 Hwy, Norwich
Unlock Vehicle			Tuesday, October 14	
Follow Up			Traffic Stops	1
Traffic Complaint			Civil Paper Service	1
Non-Injury Accident			Agency Assist / Medical	13000 Blk SE Main Ave, Rago
Check Welfare			Disabled Vehicle	9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Theft			Warrant Service	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist / KHP / Arrest			Animal Complaint	400 Blk S Main St, Nashville
Tuesday, October 7			Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Transport Inmate			Follow Up	N Elm St & W H Ave, Kingman
Damage to Property			Follow Up	400 Blk E E Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint			Check Welfare	300 Blk W C Ave, Kingman
Warrant Service / Inmate			Debris in Roadway	5000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Warrant Service / Inmate			Suspicious Person	400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous			Wednesday, October 15	
Miscellaneous			Traffic Stops	3
Animal Complaint			Civil Paper Service	2
Non-Injury Accident			Transport Inmate	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Wednesday, October 8			Agency Assist / Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Stops			Disabled Vehicle	SW 170 Ave & Sw 20 St, Cunningham
Traffic Complaint			Agency Assist / Miscellaneous	1800 Blk E Kansas Ave, Kingman
Harassment			Court / Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Court / Inmates			Miscellaneous	200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
Traffic Complaint			Miscellaneous	400 Blk E E Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous			Thursday, October 16	
Non-Injury Accident			Traffic Stops	2
Thursday, October 9			Civil Paper Service	2
Traffic Stops			Court / Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Civil Paper Service			Court / Security	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Animal Complaint			Suspicious Vehicle	7900 Blk E Hwy 42, Rago
Transport Prisoner			Check Welfare	2500 Blk SE Viney Ave, Murdock
Suspicious Vehicle			Court / Inmates	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint			Court / Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Court / Inmate			Miscellaneous	500 Blk S Edwards St, Kingman
Miscellaneous			Friday, October 17	
Trespassing			Traffic Stops	1
Animal Complaint			Civil Paper Service	2
Agency Assist / KMPD / Disturbance			Transport Prisoner	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Friday, October 10			Animal Complaint	NW 150 St & NW 90 Ave, Cunningham
Traffic Stop			Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle			Unlock Vehicle	NW 50 Ave & W Hwy 54, Kingman
Animal Complaint			Accidental 911 Dial	4700 Blk NE 150 Ave, Cheney
Agency Assist / KHP			Fraud	300 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Animal Complaint			Saturday, October 18	
Animal Complaint			Disabled Vehicle	2200 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident			Non-Injury Accident	15000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Court			Suspicious Person	2700 Blk SW 80 Ave, Cunningham
Miscellaneous				
Saturday, October 11				
Traffic Stops				
Traffic Complaint				
Warrant Service x3				
Non-Injury Accident				
Debris in Roadway				
Animal Complaint				
Abandoned Vehicle				

The Pratt County Commission minutes were not available this week at press time.

This week's Sudoku can be found on page 4.

Statepoint Crossword

Theme: Halloween

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11					12				13	14	
15					16				17		
	18			19					20		
			21					22			
23	24	25				26			27	28	29
30				31	32	33			34		
35			36		37				38		
39				40				41		42	
43				44				45	46		
			47			48	49				
	50	51				52				53	54
55						56			57		58
59						60			61		
62						63			64		

ACROSS

1. Eye affliction

5. Nickname

8. Christmas tree variety

11. Not we

12. Use a whetstone

13. Lyric poem

15. New Haven University

16. Unrivaled

17. Buenos follower

18. *Number one pumpkin-grow-ing state

20. Phishing attack

21. Dead to the world

22. Albanian money

23. *"One, two, ____'s coming for you"

26. Harasses

30. Bloodshot

31. System of newsgroups on Internet

34. Muscular strength

35. Not odds

37. Zedong of China

38. Do penitence

39. Form of wrestling

40. Certain Native American dwelling

42. Cleopatra's cause of death, supposedly

43. * ____ O'Rourke of "Poltergeist"

45. *Silver ammo, useful against werewolves, sing.

47. Rooster's girlfriend

48. Seattle's ____ Needle

50. Sportscaster Andrews

52. *One of two first ever fun size

candy bars

55. Unbroken mustang

56. In ____ of

57. Lash mark

59. Missouri River tributary

60. Chooses

61. *Rice of "The Vampire Chronicles" fame

62. " ____ the fields we go"

63. Turkish title of respect

64. Oxen's harness

DOWN

1. Hog haven

2. Like certain ice tea

3. Holler

4. Pupil protector

5. Driver's license sticker

6. Dark

7. #63 Across, pl.

8. Forum, pl.

9. Previously mentioned, acr.

10. Hi- ____ monitor

12. Pooh's repast, pl.

13. Drawing support

14. *Bobby ____ of "Monster Mash" fame

19. River in India

22. Auction batch

23. Like classic TV's Prince

24. Variety show

25. a.k.a. dropsy

26. *What witch's familiar says

27. Sandbar

28. Sometimes it's perfect

29. Hid under a rug

32. Independent chieftain

33. Old horse

36. *What Michael Myers says

38. Without self-control

40. Skin cyst

41. Manual calculator

44. From this time on

46. Wiggle room

48. Kind of wading bird

49. Religious devotion

50. Gaelic

51. Big cat sound

52. No neatnik

53. City in Nevada

54. Did like the Titanic

55. *What ghost says

58. Bruce or Spike

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High School Sports Action



Emily Ogg



Grace Hageman



Kyra Morgan



Rylee Miller



Morgan Oldham



Andrew Schultz



Wildcat offensive line

Cross Country Team Places 2nd in League

The Cunningham boys cross country team competed at league and came away with a 2nd place team finish! Newt Heatherman got a new personal best of 19:16 for 7th place. Will Halderson was 11th in 20:10. Blake Swope finished 12th at 20:14. Hank Adams was 19th in 22:39. Larry Heatherman got a personal best of 22:55, placing 20th. Sean Kostner was 21st in 22:57 and Kane Reid was 25th in 27:53.

For Junior High, Colton Zwierzychowski got a new personal best of 6:41 and placed 7th in the mile.

I was extremely proud of all the these boys and their efforts. The high school boys will compete in a tough regionals on Saturday, October 25th at the Prairie Ridge Park in Hutchinson at 11:45.

-Coach Ingrid Ricke



Stephen Kerschen

JH Football Wildcats Drop Two Before Finishing Season with a Win

The Cunningham Jr. High football team completed their season with a 64-32 win over Pretty Prairie on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at home.

Prior to that victory the Wildcats traveled to Inman and Argonia (A&A) and lost both games. In the Inman game Cunningham led 12-6 at halftime, but were outscored by the Teutons 22-12 in the second half, for a final score of 28-18. Touchdowns vs. Inman were scored by Brody Halderson on a 4-yard run and Landon Green scored two touchdowns

on runs of 3 yards and 12 yards.

In the A&A game the Wildcats struck first on a 2-yard run by Green that was set up by a pass play from Casyn Miller to Cooper Neufeld. The Titans would answer with a score of their own to tie the game 6-6. The game remained tied until the second half when A&A would score 20 unanswered points and held the Wildcats scoreless to bring the final score to 26-6.

In the Pretty Prairie game scoring was not a problem for the Wildcats as they would score 32 points in each of the first quarters to take a 64-24 halftime lead. Pretty Prairie scored the game's only second half touchdown to bring the final score to 64-32.

Landon Green led the scoring for the Wildcats

with 5 touchdowns, four on runs of 54 yards, 38 yards, 36 yards and 40 yards, his fifth touchdown was a 45-yard pick-six. Green also added four of the PAT runs. Brody Halderson scored two touchdowns on runs from 28 yards and 33 yards, he also added two PAT runs. The final touchdown for the Wildcats was scored by Landon Hageman when he intercepted a Bullpup pass and ran it back 45 yards for a pick-six touchdown of his own. The Casyn Miller to Cooper Neufeld PAT connection added two more of the scores.

The Wildcats completed their season with a 5-2 record. The team would like to thank all those who supported them during the season.

-Coach Bart Ricke

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You can't tell it in this photo, but Ms. Bootsie is a bobtail kitty, but that doesn't mean she isn't lovable and sweet. She does need a home with someone who enjoys the elegance of tuxedo felines and would only have her for that special pet.

Bootsie is about 1 ½ years old, has been at the shelter since April when she was brought in with a passel of kittens. She's now been spayed and vaccinated and waiting for that special someone to come and adopt her for \$40.00.

Drover

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This cutie is Drover. He's a wirehaired terrier/German shepherd mix. He is about 7 months old and weighs 35 – 40 pounds. He's been at the shelter since September 5, and can go home with you when you pay his adoption fee of \$200.00.

“What Drover lacks in training he makes up for with good looks, charm and general goofiness. Fortunately, he's only six months old so he's at a perfect age for some basic puppy training classes. In just a few weeks, he will be walking on leash, coming when called and sitting for his treats. The good looks, charm and goofy personality will last a lifetime. Drover is a keeper!”

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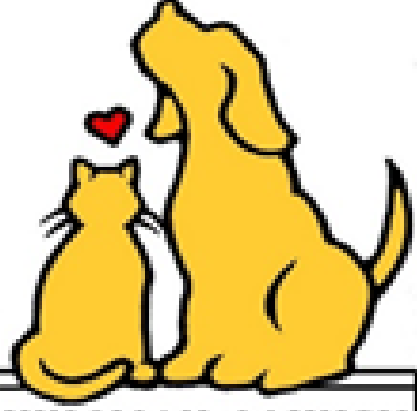
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Public Notice

First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, October 9, 2025. (3t)

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

BERNIECE MARIE ROWLAND, Deceased.

Case No. KM 2025 PR 17

(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 October 7, 2025, a Petition was filed in this Court by Brent Lee Rowland and Michael Eugene Rowland, duly appointed, qualified and acting Co-Executors of the Estate of Berniece Marie Rowland, deceased, praying Petitioners acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled

thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioners be finally discharged as the Co-Executors of the Estate of Berniece Marie Rowland, deceased, and the Petitioners be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before October 28, 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.

Brent Lee Rowland and Michael Eugen Rowland, Co-Executors
Matthew W. Ricke, #20995
ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC
349 North Main, P. O. Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
(620) 532-3103
Attorney for Petitioners

Help Wanted

The City of Turon is looking for a part-time sub-clerk, if interested please call 620-497-6443.

Public Notice

First Published in The Cunningham Courier, Thursday, October 23, 2025.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

GARY J. ROHLMAN, Deceased.

CASE NO. KM-2025-PR-47

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on October 14, 2025, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary was filed in this Court by Tracy A. Rohlman.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Tracy A. Rohlman, Petitioner
Matthew W. Ricke
Ricke & Ritcha Law Office
349 N. Main, PO Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
Attorney for Petitioner

Public Notice

First published in The Cunningham Courier, Thursday, October 23, 2025

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

BRUCE I. KINSLER, Deceased.

CASE NO. KM 2025 PR 19

(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 Heather Kinsler, duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator of the Estate of Bruce I. Kinsler, 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 November 10, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., in the District Court, 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.

Heather Kinsler, Petitioner
Matthew W. Ricke
Ricke Law Office
349 N. Main, PO Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
Attorney for Petitioner

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Raymond Lawson

Raymond Lawson, 85, passed away Sunday, October 19, 2025 at Grand Plains Skilled Nursing in Pratt. He was born on January 18, 1940 on his family farm near Cunningham to Norvin E. and L. Agnes (Crosley) Lawson. Raymond married Frances (Linker) Lawson on July 17, 1964 and she preceded him in death on September 12, 1999. He later married Ruby (Linker) Lawson on June 17, 2000 in Corsicana, Texas. She preceded him in death on February 14, 2005.

Raymond graduated from Cunningham High School and Pratt Junior College. He served in the United States Navy from 1961 - 1963. He worked as a truck driver. He was a member of Church of Christ. He also served as the custodian, assisted in the clothing room and could always be counted on to take care of the church. He enjoyed lending a helping hand to people, driving a grain truck, fishing and attending dances in Hutchinson.

He is survived by his daughter, Annette Ramin of Park City; sister, Linda Dunsworth of Pratt; grandchildren, Katlin Ramin, Haley Ramin, Preston Ramin and Austin Ramin; step-grandchildren, Katie O'Bryan, Rachel O'Bryan, Megan Bass and Bobbie O'Bryan; and several great-grandchildren.

Raymond is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Beverly Snyder; wife, Frances Lawson; wife, Ruby Lawson; and companion, Bertha Lear.

Visitation will be Wednesday, October 22, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, October 23, 2025 at Church of Christ with Pastor Steve Triplett and John Hamm presiding. Cremation will follow and inurnment will be at a later date at Maud Cemetery, Cunningham.

Memorials may be made to Church of Christ or Rivercross Hospice. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.



A Column by Dean Marple

Editor's note: Dean did warn me that this was a darker, creepier, and longer story than he usually writes. I assured him that some of my readers enjoy a good creepy story. (Happy Halloween!)

Sadie

The window was open just a little, allowing the cool night air of early fall to seep through dingy curtains. Downstairs in the living room, a newspaper was draped over the arm of the small recliner, some of the middle pages crumpled on the floor. She'd been reading, then dozing, in the dark. The back of her short gray hair was still matted where it rested against the nubby fabric. When she woke and stood up, the paper slipped from her lap. Walking a little unsteadily to the stairs, she recalled the paper's stories. Her arthritic hand found the railing and she sighed: Unusual weather, accidents, home invasions. The world had changed so much. *Everything* had changed so much. Her eyes landed on the framed pictures of her grandchildren lining the stairwell. A normal family to outward appearances. The grinning little towheads were now in their thirties and forties, but they still brought a smile to her face each time she climbed the stairs.

In the bedroom, shadows cast by tree branches swayed on floral wallpaper in time with the soft ticking of a wall clock. The ornate clock, with its black walnut carvings, was a long ago present from her late husband. Back and forth the pendulum labored...tick tock, tick tock, tick tock. When the 3:00 a.m. chimes rang, they sounded tired. A bottle of ZzzQuil stood on the lace doily that covered the nightstand. Since her husband had passed away, she hadn't slept as well as she once did. In their 57 years of marriage, Sadie McDonell always felt so safe wrapped in his arms. Tonight, most would assume she should have been more concerned for her safety.

Outside, a human form slowly moved, completely wrapped in the darkness of night. The shadow's hands lightly followed the dented aluminum sid-

ing of Sadie's house; his hands were very experienced in finding small openings. Avoiding a basement window well, he stayed between the house and several overgrown lilac bushes that gave him cover until he found the open crack in the window. Giving a small upward tug, he gained a slightly larger opening—but his reward was offset by the sharp squeak of the window opening. "Damn," he softly muttered to himself. "I hate these old wooden windows." He much preferred vinyl clad windows with their smooth sliding action, perfect for his quick entries and even quicker exits. Nevertheless, he began a repetitive process he'd used many times before. Tug, squeak, wait, listen. Tug, squeak, wait, listen. Ten minutes passed before he had created enough room to boost himself through the window.

Moving with the type of speed that comes from experience, the shadow man searched the downstairs. Nothing. There were no billfolds, no purses, no checks to forge, not even any loose change. He found absolutely nothing of value in desk drawers, bookcase shelves, kitchen cabinets. Silently he cursed, then looked toward the stairs and began his slow climb up. Like Sadie, his eyes traveled over the pictures on the wall. The family portraits spanning several decades brought comfort to Sadie, but they just told him that old people lived here. He liked old people. They never put up much of a fight. A burglar, more interested in money than harm, he only used violence as a last resort when someone in the house unexpectedly woke up. The black Ozark Trail knife he carried in his front pocket worked nicely. Folded, the knife was less than four inches long; with a one-handed flick, a three-inch blade appeared. Small, deadly, silent. Old people were usually more afraid of knives than guns.

One at a time, he climbed the stairs and then paused. Nothing. The process was simple: step and listen, step and pause, step and look around, repeat until the upstairs landing slowly came into view. His hand slid up the railing until it rested on the upstairs banister. He took stock of the layout. To the left was an open view of the living room be-

low, while a hallway and three doorways appeared on the right. Two doorways framed partially open doors that looked as though someone didn't have the strength to completely open them. Only the third room, the farthest door, was entirely closed. He liked closed doors. They usually hid something valuable.

Feeling the carpet runner under his feet, he silently shuffled to the first partially open door. Putting his hands on either side of the doorframe and leaning forward, he balanced himself as he used his toe to gently nudge the door open. He grimaced. A linoleum floor worn thin in front of a pedestal sink, a hand towel hanging dejectedly from the plain wall, a toilet with its chipped lid raised. There was nothing there to find except the smell of Bengay and poor personal hygiene.

Drawing his toe back from the door, he turned to his right and felt his way to the second doorway, carefully peeked around the door, and entered. Apparently, it was a bedroom that had gone unused for some time. Even the floral pillows arranged at the head of the bed looked tired and deflated. He quietly lifted the limp bedspread and got down on his knees to look under the bed. Boxes tucked under beds sometimes held things he wanted. His cheek was nearly pressed against the floor as his left hand slowly slid under the bed, blindly exploring. He felt a worn wicker basket, then a soft blanket, and then sudden sharp pain.

Jerking his hand back and his head up, he heard a growl and saw the wide-eyed stare of a frantic Pomeranian. The little dog did not appreciate being wakened by a stranger and showed his disapproval by sinking his tiny teeth into the flesh of the shadow's hand and refusing to let go. Stumbling to his feet, he waved his hand in an arc over his head, the dog soaring with it. It was a strange dance in the moonlight: The man stumbling about, trying not to scream, the dog growling but unable to bark with his mouth firmly clamped on the hand. In another context, it might look like a comedy. But it was not funny to the shadow man. It was noise, and noise was not acceptable. His body thrashing about, the dog's growling. It was noise that had to stop, and it did when the knife came out.

He stopped, listened, and tried to calm his wheezing. Someone must have heard the commotion. Surely some angry husband would burst in the room in the next few seconds. He stood motionless, felt the sweat drip down his back, listened, waited. A minute passed, then three, then

five. There was no angry husband; there was no sound. *Thank heaven for old people*, he thought to himself. *They're so damn deaf.*

With careful steps, he slowly left the room, edged along the hallway, and approached the third closed door. He gently twisted the tarnished doorknob and slid into the room. To his right he saw what he expected, an old lady covered by a thin sheet on the bed. Her chest rhythmically rose and fell, and her mouth was open as if laboring to catch every breath. He grinned when he saw the bottle of ZzzQuil on the nightstand next to her, and then spotted the wooden dresser with a mounted mirror to his left. Twice glancing back at the sleeping granny, he moved to the dresser and pulled the top drawer open, a small white jewelry box right on top. Gently pushing the lid up and back, he saw a jumble of rings, watches, and earrings. Most of it was junk but one ring caught his eye. Diamonds, real diamonds, surrounded the setting and his fingers felt a tiny inscription on the back. Probably something sappy about an anniversary or a birthday. He didn't care what it meant to the old lady; it meant money to him. Finally, something to make up for his aching hand dotted with doggie teeth marks and the disappointing smell of Bengay still lingering around him. Dropping the ring in his pocket, he turned to leave but stopped as every muscle in his body tightened. His breath quickened as he saw the old lady gazing at him with cat-like green eyes and a corded phone within reach on the nightstand. He couldn't let her make that call.

Moving forward without taking his eyes off her, the knife flipped open. He didn't even have to think as his left hand reached out to yank her head up. He found it strange that she showed no sign of fear, even mockingly smiling at him as if she were expecting him. He only had time, before the darkness descended, to hear a high-pitched cackle.

Perhaps he should have chosen a different house.

This is a work of fiction. Names and characters are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons or events is entirely coincidental.



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