



photo by Ben Albers

\$1.50

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

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 (620) 298-2659

May 28, 2026
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The glorious irises in the mast-head are being grown in Vermont by Ben Albers. These are some of Anna Dafforn's irises from here in Cunningham. They are truly lovely.



Meanderings

**
 I have nothing special planned for this, my last edition, of the paper. Nothing at all.
 I do enjoy this job, but it is time I set it aside and let someone else take up the pages that is our little newspaper. I can't wait for next Monday. You will, no doubt, hear a sigh and a giggle as I wake up and reach for that book I'm reading instead of getting up and clearing out last week's news, changing the dates, downloading puzzles and articles and columns and other minutiae that happen each week to begin a new edition.
 No more trips to the Carnegie Library to get 'old news'. No more every-Wednesday trips to Hutchinson to pick up the papers. Now I can go any day of the week. And I will traverse that direction as my good friend, Jane, lives there, and I like to shop their thrift shops for crafts.

**
 And about crafts... today I received two books in the mail. I didn't even look to see who they were from, as I've ordered THREE this last week from paperbackswap.com, I assumed they were from someone on that site.

I was SOOO incredibly surprised when about a dozen vintage hankies fell out of the first package!!! And a book! WooHOO!! The hankies are for me to use with my cards. I have been looking for hankies recently. You can buy some on Amazon, but I'm not sure how 'vintage' they are. I still have some here, but sometimes a crafter just needs more pretty things to work with. Especially when there are orders for cards and those doll hanky cards are very popular!

THANK YOU, ANITA!
 And, Anita, the book "What's Wrong With Kansas" is still at the library, and I am going to read it this summer. ... after I'm done with this series by Carlos Ruiz Zafon.

And one more thing... I have read a couple of books by Alexander McCall Smith, and I will put this series on my list to read as well. See, my retirement time is filling up quickly and nicely!! I get excited little butterflies in my tummy just thinking about it!

continued on page 2

Minutes From City Council April Meeting

The Cunningham City Council met in a special session on Monday, April 27, 2026, at City Hall, 119 N. Main St. Present were Mayor, Aaron Murphy; Council Members, Craig Woodard, Tanner Newell, and Bryce Murphy; City Superintendent, Mesa Sallee, and City Clerk, Molly Morgan.

Guests present: Roberta Kobbe, Cunningham Courier.

Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Motion by Woodard, second by Newell to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried, 3/0.

Motion by Woodard, second by Murphy, to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2026 meeting as written. Motion carried, 3/0.

Library Board – Mary Stackhouse's two year term is ending. Cecile Sterneker is resigning after her term expires. Mayor Murphy appointed Linda Kerschen and Kerri Steffen to fill those vacancies on the library board.

Motion by Murphy, second by Newell, to approve the appointment of Linda Kerschen to the library board. Motion carried, 3/0.

Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to approve the appointment of Kerri Steffen to the library board. Motion carried, 3/0.

Tim Schultz arrived at 5:04 p.m.

Maintenance Report – Mesa presented the quote from R. Thimesch Construction to replace concrete in four areas. Three areas are the locations where water main repairs have been made (First & Main, South Ohio, and Second and Douglas.)

Motion by Woodard, second by Schultz, to approve the quote in the amount of \$10,914.00 for areas one, three, and four as presented on the quote (attached to the minutes.) Motion carried, 4/0.

Mesa reported that before the meeting Ken Kerschen had reported a hole near Sacred Heart Church. The hole was marked for safety and Mesa will investigate further. *Materials have been purchased to repair the pump room door. *Service lines have been replaced and meter pits have been moved on Fourth Street in preparation for the improvements to begin. The sewer line that crosses under Fourth Street will also be replaced soon. Service lines will also be updated on Leiter Avenue. *Nitrates have been under thresholds set by KDHE. It is possible that the maximum levels may be lowered. *Old fire truck used by mowing personnel has new spark plugs and carburetor kit and is running much better.

Executive Session - Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, for the governing body to meet in executive session with the superintendent and the clerk to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the person(s) to be discussed, the justification being the non-elected personnel matter exception [K.S.A. 75-34319(b) (1)(a)], an individual employee's performance, with the Council meeting to resume in open session in ten (10) minutes. Motion carried, 4/0.

The above met in executive session from 5:23 p.m. to 5:33 p.m., at which time the meeting resumed in open session and Mayor Murphy stated that no action had been taken during the executive session.

Motion by Murphy, second by Newell, to approve 75 cent per hour raise for Mesa Sallee. Motion carried, 4/0.

Motion by Schultz, second by Woodard, to approve a 75 cent per hour raise for Molly Morgan. Motion carried, 4/0.

KWO TA Grant Account – Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to open a "Reserves to Resilience" two signature account with Aaron Murphy, Jason Ruckle, and Molly Morgan being authorized signers. Motion carried, 4/0.

KWO Grant Agreement – Motion by Newell, second by Murphy, to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement, including accompanying documents, with the Kansas Water Office to accept the TA grant award. Motion carried, 4/0.

Hometown Grants Agreement – Motion by Woodard, second by Schultz, to approve the Hometown Grants management contract for the KWO TA Grant Award. Motion carried, 4/0.

The Governing Body will continue to review the Hometown Grants management contract for the KDOT Cost Share Grant Award.

EBH Engineering Agreement – The clerk reported that the contract was not available earlier and engineer, Matt Cramer, was not available to be present for this meeting. Motion by Newell, second by Murphy, to table the approval of the Contract for Engineering Services for the KWO TA Grant from EBH Engineering. Motion carried, 4/0.

Motion by Woodard, second by Newell, to approve a special meeting to review the engineering contract with the engineer present on Monday, May 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Planning & Zoning – Motion by Murphy, second by Schultz, to approve permit 2026-04 for a fence at 321 N Logan. Motion carried, 4/0.

Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to approve permit 2026-05 for a detached garage at 307 E First

Street. Motion carried, 4/0.

Motion by Woodard, second by Murphy, to table permit 2026-06 for an accessory gymnasium at Cunningham Schools. Motion carried, 4/0. The Governing Body will discuss this permit again when plans for an access road on the north side of the building are complete.

Executive Session – Motion by Schultz, second by Woodard, for the governing body to meet in executive session with the City Clerk to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the person(s) to be discussed, the justification being the non-elected personnel matter exception [K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1)(c)], with the Council meeting to resume in open session in ten (10) minutes. Motion carried, 4/0.

The above met in executive session from 6:08 to 6:18 p.m., at which time the meeting resumed in open session and Mayor Murphy stated that no action had been taken during the executive session.

Jason Ruckle arrived at 6:20.

Motion by Schultz, second by Newell, to hire Kane Reid as a lifeguard. Motion carried, 5/0.

Motion by Woodard, second by Ruckle, to hire Caden Johnson as a lifeguard. Motion carried, 5/0.

Motion by Murphy, second by Schultz, to hire Bryan Mead as a lifeguard. Motion carried, 5/0.

Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to hire Whitney Mead as a lifeguard. Motion carried, 5/0.

Bond Interest Payment – Motion by Newell, second by Murphy, to approve paying the G.O. Bond interest payment online in the amount of \$880.00. Motion carried, 5/0.

Financial Report – Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to approve the financial report and pay the bills as presented. Motion carried, 5/0.

Adjournment – Motion by Murphy, second by Newell, to adjourn. Motion carried, 5/0. Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Minutes From City Council Special Meeting

The Cunningham City Council met in a special session on Monday, May 18, 2026, at City Hall, 119 N. Main St.

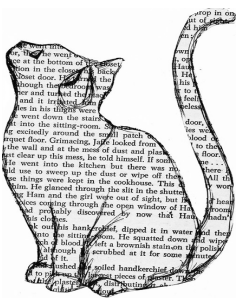
Present were Mayor, Aaron Murphy; Council Members, Jason Ruckle, Tim Schultz, Tanner Newell, and Bryce Murphy; City Superintendent, Mesa Sallee, and City Clerk, Molly Morgan.

Guests present: Matt Cramer, EBH Engineering.

Mayor Murphy called the meeting

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29th Annual KHCF GOLF TOURNAMENT
Kingman Healthcare Center Foundation
June 13, 2026
 Scan the QR code or visit kingmanhc.com for more info!



Meanderings

continued from front page

The other book I received was from my book buddy friend in Indiana. He sent me a novel from series by Senor Zafon. Fred was recently looking for recommendations and, although I haven't read the books,

I heard very good things about them, so I recommended this series called "The Cemetery of Forgotten Books" by Senor Zafon. Originally published in Spain, the books have been translated into English.

After Fred read the first book, "The Shadow of the Wind", he wrote to me, "I have not enjoyed a book that much in a long time." And Fred probably reads more than I do. I am excited to start this series. But I need to get the newspaper business wound up first.

It was certainly a

lucky day for me.

And about Lucky Day. He is finally healing. No more foot baths (thank goodness I don't have to go through THAT trauma again), and his cone is off. He still has medications to take, but he can walk and get around pretty well. I will just have to keep an eye on him as this autoimmune disorder can be recurring.

I have heard from some of you sending best wishes for a great retirement. I do appreciate all those wishes.

I am keeping my courier email at this time. There are many accounts and such tied to it, and it is easier to navigate than my personal email.

Feel free to reach out to me for reading suggestions or to say "Hey, how are you doing? Are you bored yet in your retirement?"

If you have news for the paper, you can NOW email it to:

jasonjump@kcnon-line.com

If it gets here to me, I'll forward it along to Jason.

TheNewCunningham

Courier FaceBook page will shut down on Sunday, and when the Jumps are ready to start their own, they will let you know.

Same for the cunninghamcourier.news website.

I will be shutting it down Sunday evening and it will start back up when the Jumps are ready to start it.

I have some work to do on it yet, and as soon as I have those tasks done, I will hand it over to them.

Well, this is it.

I'm not a bit sad,

or melanchol. I am retiring!!!

Best to all of you! And thanks to all of you!! It's been a wonderful eight years because of your support!

Always reading, except not reading anything now until this newspaper work is done.

But will soon be reading.....

many, many, many books!

Roberta



Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, Over the years, I have grown comfortable with the many things I am not or don't do well. Conversely, my respect has grown for those who possess attributes or talents I lack. For example, I admire my gardener neighbor whose roses line her driveway with blooms and, no matter the weather conditions, each summer shares her abundance of berries and veg-

etables. Regular readers know my lofty "green thumb" aspirations result in accidental miracles at best and at worst violent tragedies. And my gardening this week has been a bit of both.

Of course, I believed this year would be different. In my defense my optimism was based not in self-delusion but in the fact that I began the week with ten healthy, vibrant ground-ready luffas I'd tenderly nurtured from seeds. I'd researched the when and how to plant my luffa starters. And I spent long hours online trying to learn how

gardeners protect their "babies" from the savages free-ranging chickens are known to be. I had neither the materials nor skills to implement the preferred method, a garden fence, so I settled for something simpler—swaddling each seedling in burlap, an item I just happened to have on hand.

As the appointed planting day approached, my excitement grew as did my confidence in my swaddling plan. It wasn't as easy as it had looked in YouTube videos but then, whatever is? I'm sure glad nobody was filming

me. My knees are not as young as they used to be so rather than creaking up and down, I crawled along the row to get my luffas planted. As I settled each one in, I wrapped a burlap scarf around its little stem.

I was not surprised when the chickens joined me. It's not uncommon for at least some of them to follow me around whenever I step outside. Although their attention during each planting was a tad alarming, I was pleasantly surprised to see them lose interest as soon as I placed each sackcloth pashmina.

And I breathed easy the rest of the day because chickens continued to leave my luffas alone.

Before I let the flock out the next morning I decided to check on my babies. I knew this next stage of life is always a bit of a shock, but it had been a mild night and locked in the coop, the chickens were no threat. So finding the luffas mangled was the last thing I expected was to find. I provided what critical care I could for the sole survivor. And then I put on my detective hat.

Turns out raccoons LOVE burlap. For one

thing, masked marauders have highly sensitive nerve endings in their paws and think the texture of burlap is groovy. For another, to these notorious scavengers, burlap typically means "easy food."

In fairness I can't call the luffa deaths homicides. But the fact that raccoons have strangling hands rather than murderous hearts is of little comfort, because I'm the one who put those luffa necks in burlap nooses.

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

How I Ruined Music for My Husband

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this post are mine alone. If you disagree, I'll still respect you, even if you're wrong.

My husband and I were in the car when the song, "Lay, Lady, Lay" came on the radio. I said, "Unbelievable."

He said, "What is?"

"That Bob Dylan could win a Nobel Prize for Literature and not know the difference between lie and lay. Lay, lady, lay isn't grammatically correct. Lay means to place something. I'm sure he means lie,

recline." "Lie, lady, lie wouldn't sound right." He's a fan. Of course he'd stick up for Dylan.

"Everyone would be used to it by now," I argued. "And I think there'd be less confusion about lie and lay among Bob Dylan fans if he'd done it right."

He turned off the radio.

And that's how I ruin music for him and a lot of other people too. I'm a word person. I can't help but pay attention to lyrics. And not just to the grammar either.

Every time "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" comes on the radio, no matter who I'm with, I say, "I wish that

song had a happy ending." When I hear Carly Simon sing the words, "You're so vain. You probably think this song is about you," I say, "He may be vain, but he's also right." Every Christmas, I point out that Celine Dion says "pee-pel" instead of "people" in "Don't Save It All for Christmas Day." And every time Queen's "Fat Bottomed Girls" comes on the radio, I say, "I love everything about that song—except the title and the lyrics."

"What does that leave," asked a friend as we drove across town.

"The music! It's catchy. But doesn't it concern you that a young boy was left alone in his nursery with Fanny the

naughty nanny?"

She said, "Thanks for ruining that one for me."

Then "Under My Thumb" came on the radio and I accused the Rolling Stones of being misogynists.

"I like that song," she said.

"So do I. But you wouldn't want to be under anyone's thumb would you?"

"No I wouldn't," she said. "And I wouldn't want to take a cross country road trip with you either."

Just because I editorialize doesn't mean I don't like the song. In fact, I usually do. That's why I'm happy to offer suggestions on how it could be better. For example,

one day, I told my husband that while I think Neil Diamond did a really nice job on "I Am...I Said," I think he got a little lazy when he wrote the words, "no one heard at all. Not even the chair." "The chair? Really? He could have said, "no one was aware" or "nobody cared."

"And nobody does... except you," he said.

Frankly, I'm concerned that more people don't pay attention to song lyrics. Grammar errors, forced rhymes, disrespect and misogyny seep into everyone's unconscious while they're humming along. Someone has to point it out.

That's why when

Norman Greenbaum sings, "Never been a sinner, I never sinned," in "Spirit in the Sky" I can't help calling him a liar. When I hear Gary Puckett sing, "Run girl, you're much too young girl," I remind anyone in hearing range that they probably don't want him hanging around their children. And every time I hear Paul Simon sing, "Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard" I say, "Whatever they were doing down by the schoolyard must be pretty bad if they can't even say it on the radio. Also, it should be Julio and I."



The Best Baseball Glove

"People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring."

Rogers Hornsby

My true affection for baseball began in 4th grade. After a solid

school day and long walk home from the bus stop, most afternoons I would retire to our "shop" – a corrugated tin shed that rested behind our house. There I tinkered with my bicycle – or I should say bicycles, plural, for I had a few. Smelling of WD-40, with a crescent wrench in my hands, I spent many afternoons working on my battered bikes while listening to Vin Scully broadcast Dodger games. Our sterling neighbor Mrs. Williams loved baseball and kept her radio positioned next to an outdoor PA system so she could

hear games while she worked outside. The whole neighborhood got to listen, and that was a good thing. For me, the sound of baseball was intoxicating.

At about this same time in school we began to play baseball in earnest (we actually played softball – but we called it baseball). From early spring through the end of the school year, we played baseball with abandon, at P.E., during recess, and on weekends in the dirt fields at home. At school, I was the only kid who didn't have a baseball glove of my own. I always had to borrow one when we played. One day, out on a shopping trip with my dear mom (we were prowling the aisles of what we used to call a "Dime Store"), I found a glove. I begged my mom to buy it for me. She did, reluctantly.

The next day my triumphant entry into the world of elementary school baseball glory was met with ridicule and shame. The other kids teased me mercilessly, for my new glove was nothing more than a cheap

toy, unfit for the rigors of baseball in the 4th grade. I was crushed. But soon things changed...

A week later my dad came home from work with a surprise for me – a real baseball glove. The best baseball glove that I'd ever seen. It was a second-hand J. C. Higgins brand Bob Allison Signature Model 1646. I believe Dad got it from a friend of his at work. Well broken-in with an old-school leather patina, it looked like it had already caught a thousand fly balls. I loved it! At school it gained me instant respect from the other boys. When I took to the field with this seasoned glove on my hand, I looked like I'd been playing ball for years. And I was in heaven.

That glove became my most valued possession. With a black marker I wrote my name on it in large letters. All was good until my glove was stolen later when I was in 6th grade. I had left it at school, and during our annual Halloween Carnival some low-life yobs infiltrated our

classroom and nabbed it along with some other baseball equipment. I was heartbroken. After the word went out that my precious glove had been stolen, another student saw my glove in his hooligan neighbor kid's backyard, and he stole it back for me (I will always be grateful - thank you Raymond Laye).

In recent years I've done some research on my vintage glove. J. C. Higgins was a brand name used by the Sears & Roebuck Company beginning in 1908. The brand name was used on much of Sears sporting goods up until 1961. John Higgins was an actual Sears employee, working as a bookkeeping manager and company comptroller until retiring in 1930. For some reason Sears' executives liked his name and asked to use it, adding the "C" since Higgins did not have a middle name.

My glove was a Bob Allison signature model. Bob Allison played 13 seasons in the Majors (from 1958 to 1970) with the Washington Senators and the Minnesota Twins.

He was the American League Rookie of the Year in 1959, and was named to the All-Star team three times, in 1959, 1963, and 1964. I believe my Bob Allison signature glove is a 1960 model.

I loved my old baseball glove. I used it playing ball all through elementary school, then in junior high, and finally in high school my sophomore and senior years. My daughter even used it for a time when she played ball. And she and I carried it to Texas Ranger's games, always arriving early to watch batting practice while enjoying our hot dogs, with gloves at the ready just in case a fly ball flew our way.

That old glove sits on my desk right now as I type these words – loving leather soaked in warm personal history. The memories are so thick I have to brush them away from my face.

Thank you Dad – I love you.

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Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, May 28 State FFA Convention	Monday, June 8 Weights Classes ***
Friday, May 29 State FFA Convention ***	HS VB open gym ***
HS State Track Meet at Wichita State University	7:00 p.m. BOE Meeting
Monday, June 1 Weights Class Begins ***	Tuesday, June 9 Basketball Camp ***
Morgan Meyers BB Camp ***	Weights classes ***
HS VB open gym	HS VB open gym
Tuesday, June 2 Weights Classes ***	Wednesday, June 10 Basketball Camp ***
HS VB Open gym ***	weights classes
Morgan Meyers BB Camp	Thursday, June 11 Weights Classes ***
Wednesday, June 3 Weights Classes ***	Basketball Camp
Morgan Meyers BB Camp	Monday, June 15 Weights Classes ***
Thursday, June 4 Weights Classes ***	HS VB open gym
JH VB practice	Tuesday June 16 Weights Classes ***
	HS VB open gym
	Wednesday June 17 Weights Classes ***
	6:00 a.m.
	HS VB Open gym ***
	8:00 a.m.
	JH VB Practice



ETIQUETTE Class
GOOD MANNERS. LASTING IMPRESSIONS.

Monday JUNE 15
6:00 PM

FOR STUDENTS
2ND GRADE - 12TH GRADE

AT THE LIBRARY
Learning. Growing. Connecting.

This etiquette class will help students build confidence and learn proper table setting and good manners.

\$10 PER STUDENT

LIGHT DINNER WILL BE SERVED

CHICKEN MASHED POTATOES VEGETABLE DESSERT BREAD SIDE SALAD

Learn it today. USE IT FOR A LIFETIME.

Minutes From City Council Special Meeting
continued from front page

to order at 6:30 p.m.
Motion by Ruckle, second by Newell to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried, 4/0.
Matt Cramer discussed the scope of the Kansas Water Office Technical Assistance Grant Award. His packet is attached to the minutes.
Motion by Newell, second by Ruckle, to approve the engineering agreement with EBH Engineering for technical assistance for the water office grant. Motion carried, 4/0.
Adjournment – Motion by Murphy, second by Schultz, to adjourn. Motion carried, 4/0. Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.




MEET THE CANDIDATES: PART 3
JUNE 6TH @ 5PM

PICNIC @ CUNNINGHAM LION'S PARK
PULLED PORK, SERVICE & WATER PROVIDED
BRING A SIDE OR DESSERT & A LAWN CHAIR!

US SENATE: JASON HART KEVIN LATZ SANDY SPIDEL NEUMANN ANNE PARELKAR NOAH TAYLOR	US CONGRESS DISTRICT 04: CHRIS CARMICHAEL RYAN GILBERT KATY TYNDELL
GOVERNOR: MARTY TULEY	KS ATTORNEY GENERAL: CHRIS MANN
	KS SECRETARY OF STATE: JENNIFER DAY

HOSTED BY KINGMAN COUNTY DEMOCRATS
ALAN ALBERS, CHAIR // FAYE MARTIN, VICE CHAIR

Thank you for Supporting The Courier



Thank you, Advertisers!

I could not have continued this paper without your support! Our subscribers also appreciate you. Without your advertising dollars this paper could not exist. You are appreciated by myself and our readers.



Thank you, Subscribers and Readers!

Without you, this paper could not exist. You are appreciated beyond measure. I hope you continue to support the paper through the next ownership.

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



Thank you, Molly Morgan!!!

I could not have done this paper without your photographic experience! Everyone appreciates your commitment to this newspaper and to our community.



Thank you, Contributors!

I can't tell you how much your photographs and articles helped keep this paper going. So many glorious and beautiful photos!! All those wonderful and interesting articles! All important to this paper.



Kingman Historic Theatre
237 N. Main in Kingman
(620) 532-1253
<http://www.kingmantheatre.org/>

May 29, 30, 31
The Mandalorian and Grogu
\$3.00 Tickets Rated PG-13
Showtimes
Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 5:30 p.m.
Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

"There are people who look forward to spending their sunset years in the sunshine; it is my own retirement dream to await my death indoors, dragging strangers up dusty staircases while coughing up one of the most thrilling phrases in the English language: "It was on this spot..." My fantasy is to one day become a docent."
— Sarah Vowell, Assassination Vacation

Community-Wide Vacation Bible School



June 1- 5th
8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Cunningham Christian Church

Pre-K* thru 8th Grade
(grade for next school year)
***Pre-K kids must have already had 1 yr of preschool**

Questions: Tammy Beat 620-491-0292; Judy DeWeese 620-491-0997; Lisa Raney 620-388-1190; Brittany Esposito 620-532-9385

Join Us for Free Summer Fun!

CUNNINGHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH COOKOUT & MOVIE NIGHT

We invite you to come kickoff summer and our Community-wide Church VBS - Emerald Crossing!
 VBS Date: June 1-5 8:45 am-11:30 am

SATURDAY, MAY 30
COOKOUT AT 5:00 PM • MOVIE AT 6:00 PM
SERVING HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS, CHIPS & COOKIES

1st 50 Kids will receive a free Chick-fil-a kids meal card

Food • Fellowship • Family • Film
Registration is encouraged but not required

Featuring Angel Studio's "David"
 A family-friendly animated movie!





Scan to Register!

The Case For Making Prison Phone Calls Free: New Data, Real Results

For decades, a phone call home from prison could cost a family several dollars a minute. That wasn't an oversight. It was the business model.

A growing number of state prison systems and county jails have moved to make calls free, arguing that regular contact with family is one of the more reliable tools for reducing harm during and after incarceration. A new report from Worth Rises, a nonprofit that monitors the prison industry, now has numbers on what actually happened.

The numbers are larger than expected

The report covered six state prison systems, California, New York, and the federal system among them, plus more than a dozen county jails across Los Angeles, New York City, and Massachusetts. When agencies negotiated contracts directly with telecom providers rather than routing deals through revenue-sharing arrangements, costs dropped. By a lot: about 62 percent for state systems, 68 percent for jails.

Across those systems, incarcerated people and

their families have saved more than \$622 million. Most of those savings went to Black and brown families, who are disproportionately represented in the incarcerated population.

Call volume went up sharply. Daily use per person in prisons rose from roughly 25 minutes to nearly 45 minutes once calls became free. In jails, it more than doubled, from about 27 minutes to nearly 57 minutes a day. In total: an estimated 600 million additional calls and 6.4 billion more minutes of connection.

What people talked about changed, too

When calls cost money, families ration them: emergencies, financial logistics, urgent updates. When cost disappears, so does the rationing. People call to check on children. They talk through housing plans before release, work out job details, or pass along the ordinary family news that doesn't feel urgent enough to justify three dollars a minute.

Researchers have tracked where reentry breaks down, and family ties keep coming up. People who stay connected during incarceration are more likely to find stable housing and work after release, and less likely to return. Worth

Rises didn't produce that finding; it's fairly well established in the literature. The report just shows how much contact was being suppressed by cost.

Correctional staff at the facilities studied reported something similar from inside. Tensions dropped. Safety improved for staff and incarcerated people.

A practical argument for a values question

Advocates for free prison calls have long argued from a human rights position: incarcerated people should be able to stay connected to their families. That argument is sound. It also hasn't moved policy as fast as anyone hoped.

The cost argument lands differently. Free calls, properly contracted, actually run cheaper than what came before, because direct contracts cut out the revenue-sharing arrangements with private providers. For legislators weighing budgets, that removes the need to resolve a values debate before acting.

About 330,000 incarcerated people, or roughly 15 percent of the two million people in American jails and prisons, now have access to free calls, video calls, or messaging.

BY THE OPTIMIST DAILY EDITORIAL TEAM

A Correct Assumption



A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten The red light by

accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and

looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a hold ing cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door.

She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I

noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, Naturally... I assumed you had stolen the car."



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 donte 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)

John 4:21
Whoever loves God must also love his brother.
 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.

<h4 style="text-align: center;">Catholic Churches</h4> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Sacred Heart, Cunningham Sunday 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>St. Leo Saturday 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>St. John, Zenda Saturday 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>St. Peter Willowdale Sunday 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>620-246-5370</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <h4 style="text-align: center;">Lutheran Churches</h4> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>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.</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Trinity, Medicine Lodge 1st and 3rd Sundays 620- 886-3397 Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Timothy Schmeisser</p>	<h4 style="text-align: center;">First Christian Church Cunningham</h4> <p>Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Jr High Youth Group 4:00 p.m. Sunday Sr High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Sunday Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 p.m. Pastor Mike McGovney 620-770-9507</p> <hr/> <h4 style="text-align: center;">United Methodist Church</h4> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Penalosa Worship 9:15 a.m. Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki 620-298-2090</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Cunningham Worship 10:45 a.m.</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <h4 style="text-align: center;">Zenda Methodist Church</h4> <p>Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: Children 8:30 a.m. Adults 10:00 a.m. Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953</p>
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Track Notes from Coach Kerschen

Congratulations to the high school boys on their regional championship win!



Sage Thimesch, John Paul Kerschen, Skyler Thimesch, Weston Rogers



Stephen Kerschen, Jack Harden, Newt Heatherman, Skyler Thimesch
These young men posted the fastest time in a 4 x 400 relay race in the 1A class: 3:30.28

Wildcats Athletes Going to State

Seniors	Skyler Thimesch 100 200 4x400 Pole Vault	Kyra Morgan Shot Put Discus	Emily Ogg High Jump 100	Grace Hageman Long Jump	
Juniors	Stephen Kerschen 100 4x400	Jack Harden 4x400			
Sophomores	Andrew Kerschen Javelin	Cole Hageman High Jump	Weston Rogers Pole Vault		
Freshman	John Paul Kerschen Pole Vault 4x400 alt.	Liam McGuire Triple Jump 110 Hurdles 300 Hurdles 4x400 alt.	Kaiden Keasling 300 Hurdles	Sage Thimesch Pole Vault	Newt Heatherman 4x400

photos submitted by Coach Kerschen

Minutes from Pratt County Commission

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 18, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, please state your name and title when speaking. Public comment will be allowed to the extent that it is on topic. Persons participating via ZOOM are currently muted. If you have a comment, please let Mark know via the chat function. Mark will then inform Chairman Trinkle, who can take up the comment in a manner that does not disrupt the agenda. In the event an executive session is needed, it will be muted when recessed and turned

back on when they return from executive session.

Economic Development Update – Heather Morgan
Neighborhood Revitalization Program Update

Heather provided an update regarding participation in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program from smaller entities. Drafts can be provided as example documents to assist. A June 1 deadline for communities to confirm participation was set.

Business Development and Economic Incentives

Heather reported receiving inquiries from two businesses during the week. An existing business owner planning to open a new business and another existing business pursuing a significant expansion project. Heather informed the board that she has offered to guide the businesses through the incentive process and connected the business with an additional vendor who may assist with the expansion efforts

Pratt Area Economic Development Corp

Heather reported that the PAEDC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday. Agenda items for the meeting include launching small group discussions with developers interested in participation in the housing incentive grant program and reviewing progress on two outstanding PAEDC grant projects.

Pratt County Extension Budget Request

Jodi Denton, Jeremy Doggett and Jenna Fitzsimmons with Pratt County Extension Office presented their budget request. They requested \$231,500, a 3% increase over last year. Commissioners acknowledged the financial challenges facing the county and stated there is uncertainty regarding where the final budget will ul-

timately land. The Board expressed appreciation for the work performed by the Extension Office and acknowledged the organizations value and importance to the county.

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 for 15 minutes at 2:15 p.m. made by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 2-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 2:29 p.m. with no action taken.

Battery Energy Storage Agreements

Motion to approve the Contribution, Decommissioning & Road Use & Maintenance Agreements for the

Ninnesch Flats Energy Storage, LLC Project made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 2-0.

Comprehensive Zoning Plan Engagement Letter

Motion to approve the engagement letter with Adams and Jones for comprehensive zoning plan services for \$25,000 - \$30,000 made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 2-0.

Election Material Disposition Appointments

Motion to appoint Sherry Wenrich and Holly Howell to supervise the destruction of 2025 City and School Election Materials in accordance with Kansas Retention Schedules made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 2-0.

Motion to appoint Sherry Wenrich and Holly Howell to supervise the destruction of the Presidential Preference Primary Election Materials in accordance with Kansas Retention Schedules made by Commissioner Shriver; motion passed 2-0.

Road Crossing Application

Motion to approve the Road Crossing Application for Northern Natural Gas on Northeast 13th Avenue made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 2-0.

Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of May 11, 2026.

Commissioners unanimously approved the vouchers for May 18, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.



I've heard it takes 10,000 hours to master a skill set, but I don't think that's right. I've been an adult for way more than 10,000 hours and I still don't know what I'm doing.

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4-H Visits Hilltop Manor



4-H sponsor, Marianne Dittmer, sent me these photos in mid-April, and I thought I'd run them when I got the minutes from their meeting, but I've not yet received them, and this is my last chance to share them.

These delightful photos of kids and parents and senior citizens at Hilltop Manor are the essence of what makes small communities so wonderful. Everyone seems to be having fun, and it is obvious the kids are caring young people.



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, from 8:00 - 5:30 (except during lunch 12-1) on Wed., from 8:00 - 12:00 Call for Saturday hours. 1015 East U.S. 54, Kingman, KS

"Animal lovers are a special breed of humans, generous of spirit, full of empathy, perhaps a little prone to sentimentality, and with hearts as big as a cloudless sky"
— John Grogan, *Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog*

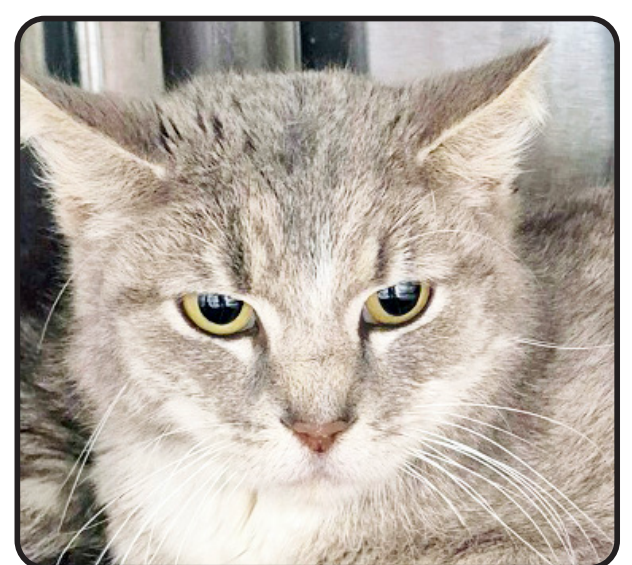
KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Bellaluna

Sponsored by Baker Accounting

Birdie

Kathy and Alan Albers



The pets at Kingman County Humane Society are in need of the following items:
13-gal. kitchen trash bags
dry cat and kitten food
clumping cat litter
canned dog food
Purina Puppy Chow
long-lasting chews
stainless steel flat-sided water buckets
paper towels
bleach
liquid laundry detergent
poop bag rolls
disposable gloves (large)
The items can be brought to KCHS at 811 East C Avenue in Kingman
Monetary donations can be sent to KCHS P.O. Box 103
Kingman KS 67068

Bellaluna is a sweet-looking Lab/Pyrenees mix. She is about 6 years old and weighs in at about 65 pounds, not a lightweight, but not overly large, either. She's been at the shelter since May 19, but wants a new home and new person to call her own. This is what the shelter has to say about this sweetie: "Wow! This is a great dog. So soft, gentle and loving. She needs lots of reassurance right now because she doesn't understand why her owner has left her. She walks great on leash and is very well behaved. She has a sweet tooth - loves donuts (me too). Someone is going to get a great dog. She's not asking for much...She just wants someone to love and to love her back."

Birdie looks like I do when I've just awakened from a nap. A bit grumpy, a bit discombobulated, and I suspect she is both because she'd just been dropped off at the shelter. She's been there about a month now, and most likely the grumpy, confused look has mellowed somewhat because she wants a home, and a kitty can't get a home if she looks grumpy. Birdie is about 2 1/2 years old and can be adopted for \$40.00. Visit soon and take this no-longer-grumpy girl home with you.



**YEARS AGO IN
THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER**

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes
Editor: Nancy Briggeman
Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1976

May 27, 1976 – Julie Govert, A KSU junior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Govert, Kingman, will serve on the summer citizenship staff of the National 4-H Center, Washington, D.C.

Miss Govert is a former member of the Kingman County Willowdale Pathfinders 4-H club and was president of the county 4-H junior leaders club.

In Washington she will assist with discussion groups, programs, and tours for 4-H members from throughout the nation.

First grade: Todd Rohr brought lemonade cookies for all his classmates. Todd's sister made the delicious cookies. Andrea Graves' mother made sugar cookies for the whole class.

Mark Thimesch had his seventh birthday, Thursday, May 20. Each classmate received a balloon, Sugar Babies, a box of "Hot Tamales" and a foot long stick of "Bub's Daddy" bubble gum. We sang "Happy Birthday" to Mark. Michael Fischer, Todd Rohr, Dawn Alley, Vickie Becker, Andrea Graves, and Dana Murphey had perfect attendance the last six weeks.

Third grade: Caroline Adamson had perfect attendance this school year. Other who had perfect attendance the last six weeks besides Caroline were Dean FitzSimmons, Deanna FitzSimmons, Edwin Park, Kevin Smith, and Robbie Sterneker.

The students had a surprise farewell party for Mrs. Eichorn on Monday afternoon. Lovely refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Ewing Hosted a luncheon Wednesday noon for the Cunningham teachers.

Hey kids – School is out and weather permitting the 'ole' swimming pool will open this Sunday, May 30 at 1 p.m.

Prices will be 40 cents for children 12 under 12

and 60 cents for 12 years and over. Season tickets will be \$15.

The Cunningham Saddle Club attended the Abbyville Rodeo May 22-23. Twelve members were present and rode in the parade. In the afternoon some of the members participated in some activities. Bruce Sterneker received a 4th place in racing his horse to one end of the arena and leading him back as fast as he could. Chris Meyers placed 6th in the same event as Bruce. Rick Sterneker placed 4th in riding to one end of the arena and grabbing a flag off a barrel. In the evening Chris Meyers, Bruce, Rob and Rick Sterneker rode in the Grand Entry before the rodeo. Rick Sterneker, reporter.

Zenda – Brad Mantooth, Pratt, was Saturday overnight guest of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edd Nichols.

Mr. and Mrs. Edd Nichols attended Alva College Graduation Sunday evening. Mrs. Ken Anthony, Coldwater, was one of the graduates.

Mrs. Rose Cunningham was Tuesday dinner guest of Mrs. Lester Zeigler, Kingman.

Justin Batt, Haven spent the weekend with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Batt.

The Junior-Senior Banquet and Prom was held in the gym Friday evening. The theme was "Time of Our Lives."

**YEARS AGO IN
THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER**

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes
Editor: Florine Kampling

1981

May 28, 1981 – Memorial Day Services held at local cemeteries by Legion members and Auxiliary began with the Advance of the Colors of Carter-Luce Post 114.

Introduction was presented by Vernon Spade, commander. The address and benediction at St. Leo was given by Father Jim Spexarth. At the other three cemeteries, Father John Curran presented the address and benediction.

Bugler Naola Thimesch and drummer David Thornhill performed their duties. A three volley salute,

taps and retiring of colors completed the ceremony.

A Comrade in Arms who has joined the Avenue of Flags is Joseph Kampling at Sacred Heart.

The Color Guard consisted of Jack Crick and Jack Meyers who carried the flag, and Mike Scripsick and Bill Ogden as Color Guard.

Sgt. Of Arms Jim Holt led the Firing Squad Marion Lackey, Vic Renner, Wes Brown, Henry Hart, Danny Phillips and Ralph Baber.

The University of Kansas School of Education has announced the names of more than 500 Kansas teacher including Rubie Cusenbary, Cunningham, who will be honored by the school this spring for longtime service to their profession.

The school annually awards certificates to teachers in Kansas schools who have taught 25 or 50 years.

Randall Johnson, great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stillwell, was mentioned in Wichita Eagle-Beacon write-ups for his pitching abilities. Johnson, 16, attends Goddard High School. In the regional championship games he and Ken Greenwood pitched a shutout 2-0 over Derby and 9-0 over Augusta, at Westside Athletic Field.

Another article says Randy Johnson pitched a five-inning no-hitter against West Thursday afternoon enroute to a 7-0 Goddard victory in a game shortened because of the run rule.

Mike McGovney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert McGovney of Cunningham, has been awarded a scholarship by Pratt Community College. McGovney is a graduate of Cunningham High School and plans to major in music at PCC.

1986

May 29, 1986 – May 24, 1986, Cunningham Girl Scout Brownie Troop 131 and Junior Troup 133 gathered at the Cunningham City Park to bury their time capsule as part of Wheatbelt Area Girl Scout Council, Inc. Thirtieth Anniversary celebration. Brownies present were Sharon Harris, Barbara Miller, Sandy Ormiston, Nikki Theis, and Kim Thimesch. LeeAnn Fischer, Barbara FitzSimmons and Misty Ormiston were the junior members present.

Lou Miller, Neighborhood Chairman, was in charge of the ceremony. After the girls led the flag salute and repeated their promise, Rev. Gail Peterson led those present in prayer. Lou Miller welcomed those attending and gave a history of girl scouting in the Wheatbelt area.

Representative Robert S. Wunsch of Kingman, was present to dedicate the time capsule. He brought sunflowers for the girls as well as some for the time capsule. He told the girls of the importance of this event regarding history related to their personal efforts to participate in this event.

Diana Bonham, field representative for Wheatbelt Area spoke briefly to the girls concerning their reward of participation in girl scouting. As the scouts placed their document in the time capsule, Lou Miller read the contents.

The scouts appreciated the participation of Representative Wunsch, Rev. Peterson and Diana for the support of girl scouting. Others who participated were Elmer Hamilton, Gray Miller, and A. J. Schafer.

A plaque and cover for the capsule will be installed at a later date.

The Cunningham Special Education SMH classroom enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at the Jack Crick farm. They arrived just in time to help bottle feed two of the baby lambs. They also cuddled the new kittens. They ended the visit with a social time in the cozy kitchen with Mrs. Crick and Brenda as hostesses.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stillwell accompanied Mrs. John Luther, Pratt, to western Kansas on Friday. They visited with Mrs. May Watt at Minneola, and with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jordan, Lloyd Chipman and Mr. and Mrs. Roman Finkeldei at Fowler.

Janice Kay Stillwell of Penalosa is among graduates of Baker University graduating Cum Laude in Spanish and Elementary Education.



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



Surprise party

The Cunningham first graders held a surprise going away party for their teacher, Miss Mitchell,

who is retiring from teaching after 27 years of teaching in this school district. Miss Mitchell received a planter from the students. First graders this year were: Andi

Graves, Donice Kitson, Mark Thimesch, Mike Fischer, Todd Rohr, Vickie Becker, Heather Routh, Dawn Alley and Dand Murphey.

May 1976

Members of the Avenue of Flags: Memorial Day 1976

MEMBERS OF THE AVENUE OF FLAGS			
MAUDE CEMETERY - Cunningham, KS		SHELMAN CEMETERY Cunningham, KS	ST. LEO CEMETERY St. Leo, KS
CIVIL WAR	WORLD WAR I	CIVIL WAR	WORLD WAR I
William Baunam	William A. Bradley	James H. Crick	Frank Albers
Christopher Blessing	Arthur J. Bowhay	George A. Hewes	Robert Panek
Z.C. Branstetter	Albert L. Cooper	Christian Immer	Casper Schnittker
George Brownell	Albert B. Ellison	Nathan Mathis	Edward Temple
Jonathan C. Clouse	Thomas Hart	Holland Meyers	
Frederick Critzmacher	Donnelly B. Howell	Thomas L. Sales	WORLD WAR II
Joseph Elder	Rufus Leiter	Arloch Smith	Albert Adelhardt
Robert M. Kelly	Vernon Long		Oliver Baber
Sam C. Long	Roy Henry McGeorge	SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR	Roman Heimerman
William Lynam	Arthur Nossaman	George W. Pollard	Theodore Holcomb
Baldwin P. McNamee	Perry L. Shafer	Jessie P. Mitchell	William Lubbers
Joseph McPeck	Carl Elmer Shoap		Norbert J. Neises
Isam Maxedon	John C. Steffen	WORLD WAR I	Melvin Schulte
Thomas Morton	John Paul Walker	Claude R. Crotts	
Isaac Charles Price	Luther Walker	John Hughes	EUROPEAN THEATRE
Marion Rouse	William W. Whetstone	James W. Luce	Norbert Theis
Alexander M. Smith	Martin L. Ratlief	Archie T. Scott	
Evan Tapp	William Mercer	Ward Sutton	KOREAN WAR
Edward T. Watkins		Harry Tredway	Daniel Blasi
Hamilton Watkins	WORLD WAR II	John F. Voss	Eugene Ricke
Morrison W. Wilson	William E. Bradley	William D. Voss	
Joseph Woodford	Lester LeRoy Carter	Roy Arthur Wilson	SACRED HEART CEMETERY Cunningham, KS
	Tommie Francis		WORLD WAR I
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR	Lionell M. Gardner		Gene P. Annett
Edward H. Long	Clyde Hamilton	WORLD WAR II	
George Gordon Talbott	Edwin Calvin Hook	Carl H. Baumgartner	WORLD WAR II
David Lawhead	A. B. Jones	Alvia Taylor Luce	Ivan Willinger
	Russell LeRoy Lash	Austin E. Luce	Lawrence Zrubek
WORLD WAR I & II	William E. Morton	Kenneth L. Oller	
John Francis Kaster	Fay Oller	A. Duwayne Oller	
	Willard F. Petrie, Jr.	Harry D. White	
PACIFIC THEATRE	Lynn Spencer		
Shirley A. Hart	Robert Bruce Underwood		
	William V. Wright, Jr.		
	Ernest Bishop		
	Wilbur Muck		
	Frank B. Brewer		

Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, May 17
 Traffic Complaint 100 Blk S Spruce St, Penalosa
 Miscellaneous 400 Blk E B Ave, Kingman
 Check Welfare 15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
 Miscellaneous/Jail 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint NE 60 St & Cheney Lake Rd, Cheney
 Animal Complaint E Hwy 42 & S Hwy 14, Rago
 Non-Injury Accident 1100 Blk N Main St, Kingman

Monday, May 18
 Fraud 300 Blk N Dresden St, Cunningham
 Court/Inmate 130 N Spruce St, Kingman

Tuesday, May 19
 Civil Paper Service 3
 Fire/Tree 2200 Blk N Chariton St, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 300 Blk N Dresden St, Cunningham
 Theft 300 Blk N Joliet St, Kingman
 Abandoned Vehicle 5000 Blk E Hay 54, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
 Court/Inmate 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Fire/Tree 14000 Blk SE 160 ST, Norwich
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Suspicious Persons N Main St & N Spruce St, Kingman

Wednesday, May 20
 Traffic Stops 3

Civil Paper Service 3
 Suspicious Person N Hwy 11 & NW 60 St, Kingman
 Court/Arrest 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
 School Walk Through 200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
 Traffic Complaint 17000 Blk NW 40 St, Cunningham
 Traffic Complaint 12000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham

Thursday, May 21
 Traffic Stops 1
 Civil Paper Service 3
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Transport Inmate 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Friday, May 22
 Traffic Stops 6
 Animal Complaint 14000 Blk SE 70 St, Norwich
 Traffic Complaint 5000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
 Agency Assist/Check Welfare 800 Blk NE 20 Ave, Kingman
 Warrant Service/Arrest 100 Blk E 3rd St, Cunningham

Saturday, May 23
 Traffic Stops 8
 Civil Paper Service 1
 Miscellaneous 300 Blk E Washington Ave, Kingman
 Miscellaneous S Main & E 6th St, Kingman
 Suspicious Activity 2000 Blk SE Murdock Ave, Murdock
 Disabled Vehicle N Coronado St & E G Ave, Kingman

Byways and Backroads

Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

Summer starts on Memorial Day, even though the solstice is about a month later. Schools are out, it's warm enough to stay out late and it's the beginning of road trip season. Whether its families packing the station wagon (or modern equivalent) for vacation or an individual making a short journey, now is when the open road beckons.

No doubt these travelers will rack up millions of miles along interstate highways this summer. Sometimes it's not the journey, but the destination that counts. The

interstate will get you there faster than any other road, but the time savings comes at a cost.

The interstate system, thanks to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, is a marvel of engineering and efficiency. Its effectiveness is its downfall, however, for experiencing the joy of driving.

Long straightaways and gentle grades, coupled with wide lanes, generous shoulders and one-way travel create a sterile and monotonous experience. The monotony of hurling down the road at a constant speed is imprinted on the faces of tired travelers at roadside rest stops.

It's far different from how driving evolved along U.S. Route 66, the

so-called Mother Road, which turns 100 this year. Its pavement connected Chicago to Santa Monica, though imaginations and travelers mostly headed west.

Though it still lives on, including the 13-mile stretch in southeast Kansas, Route 66's glory days are long gone. Its legacy lives on as the first corridor of roadside commerce, fueling the growth of motels, restaurants and service stations all catering to cars.

The car culture it created still exists, but it seems to be headed to the same fate as the manual transmission. There are still paths out there that are worthy of drivers who understand driving is as much about the road as it

is about the surroundings and the vehicle you're in.

Kansas Tourism has a helpful guide of our state's more traveled byways. Yes, Route 66 is included, as is the stretch of K-177 between Council Grove and Cassoday, which offers some unrivaled Flint Hills vistas. Other hills to explore via designated byways include the Glacial Hills in the northeast and the Gypsum Hills in the south-central part of the state.

Out west is the "Land and Sky" route along K-27 which cuts through Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace counties. At the southern terminus in Sharon Springs, head east on U.S. 40 and you'll be on the "Western Vistas"

trail that features Kansas' badlands.

There are two byways dedicated to fencing, the aptly named "Native Stone" from Manhattan to Dover and "Post Rock" between Lucas and Wilson.


I've traveled on all of these and can vouch they're all worth driving if you want to feel like part of the landscape as you navigate narrow lanes with mirages shimmering on the blacktop, float a little as you crest hilltops a little too fast and feel the rush of the

unknown around the next corner.


Sometimes the destination is more important than the journey, but every now and then it's worth the extra effort to take the slow way. Whether it's a backroad or byway, summer is a good time to buckle up and enjoy the drive.

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau



Cozy's Pizza
 115 N. Main
 Cunningham,
 KS 67035
 620-298-7000
Hours:
 Tues., Wed., & Thurs. - 11:00 to 7:30
 Friday and Saturday - 11:00 to 8:00
 Closed Sunday and Monday



DAYDRINKERS CAFE INC
 Cunningham KS 67035

121 E. First Street
 Cunningham, Kansas
 Hours:
 Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Closed Thursday and Sunday
 (620) 589-0001

B-29 Museum
 is open on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
 Pratt Army Airfield - 82 Curran Road
 Visit them on Facebook at www.prairie-bombers.org for more information. If you would like to visit the museum at another time call 672-8321, 672-2444 or 620-797-2919 to schedule an appointment!

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	5			3	8

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Statepoint Crossword
 Theme: Candy

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- Family room staple
- Refrigerator sound
- *One of original Life Savers flavors
- Diabolical
- Supernatural life force
- Dust allergy triggers
- Magnesium silicate
- Thor's father
- Audience's approval
- *Coconutty candy bar (2 words)
- Baltimore player
- Dip a _____ the water
- Acronym, abbr.
- *"The Freshmaker" candy
- Deck painter, often
- Flight info
- Russia's plain
- Nat of Jazz
- N in RN
- Across, in verse
- *Inspired by "Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory"
- Under the weather
- Lipase or sucrase, e.g.
- Part of a match
- English traveling courts
- Ones with title
- ____ Aviv
- Sign of life
- Between Phi and Kappa
- *Once known as Chicken Feed (2 words)
- Trollop, in the olden days
- Eyeball rudely
- "I _____ wed"
- Opposite of fires
- Bear's den
- Gives a hand
- Between ids and super-egos
- Symbol of industriousness
- *Dad's _____ Beer Barrels

DOWN

- _____ good example
- Like West Wing's office
- 35mm, e.g.
- "Little Men" author
- Mecca pilgrim
- Teamsters group
- "Out of _____, one"
- *Good & Plenty flavor
- It will
- Animal protein
- Is, in France
- Unassuming
- Muhammad's birthplace
- Gallows loop
- *Polished off candy, e.g.
- High IQ society
- Lady's pocketbook
- Narcotics agents
- Light on one's feet
- Relating to Scandinavia
- Village V.I.P.
- Catches one's breath
- Ages and ages
- *Pfefferminz, for short
- *"Taste the Rainbow" candies
- Broadway's news boy
- Ray-finned fish
- Decompose
- Ardors
- Bee's favorite drink
- Like a Druid
- Without illumination
- Place for mutinous sailor
- France's currency
- *Other Rocket Fizz product
- Kent State state
- Do over
- Hatchling's home
- Café alternative

Effective October 1, 2024: Ads are \$6.50 per column inch. Front page ads are \$11.00 per column inch. All ads are subject to approval of this paper, which reserves the right to edit, reject, or properly classify any ad. Note: The views and opinions expressed in advertisements in The Cunningham Courier do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Courier or staff. Errors will be corrected when brought to my attention.
Classified Ad Rates
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 • Presents violations to the council at the monthly meetings

Help Wanted

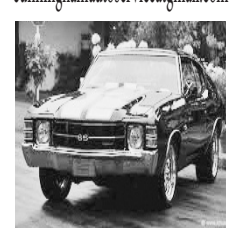
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Public Notice

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 Tetric, 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 Tetric, Executrix
 Brandon T. Ritcha, #25768
 ATTORNEY AT LAW
 349 North Main, P. O. Box 113
 Kingman, KS 67068
 (620) 532-3103
 Attorney for Petitioner

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 Kingman, KS 67068
620-532-0110
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 Cunningham, KS 67035
620-298-2397
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Optometrists

Troy Maydew, OD
 Seth Thibault, OD
 Andrew W. Piester, OD
 216 S. Oak
 Pratt, Kansas 67124
 620-672-5934
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M - F
 604 N. Walnut
 Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104
 620-886-3222
 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 Seth Thibault, OD
 Andrew W. Piester, OD
 104 West C Ave.
 Kingman, KS 67068
 620-532-3154
 1-800-371-3154
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Monday - Thursday
 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Friday

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Bill Parker



William Glen Parker ("Bill", "Whiskey Poppa", "WG")
February 6, 1938 - May 19, 2026

William Parker (Bill) was born on the 7th child of Orval and Ermal (Tillery) Parker on a farm 3 miles NW of Iuka, Kansas. Bill was born on the 6th of February 1938. He grew

up on this farm with his brothers and sisters. Bill attended Antrum grade school for first grade in 1944. In 1945 he was transferred to Byers grade school starting 2nd grade. Bill graduated from Byers in 1956.

Bill enlisted with the Kansas National Guard in 1956, staying active for 8 yrs. He was proud of his service, as he should be. His dad didn't want him to enlist in any of the armed forces, since all of his brothers had been fighting wars for a couple of decades. He was also a proud longtime member of the Pratt, KS, Elks Lodge.

Bill attended Pratt Junior College for awhile, majoring in billiards and women.

In September of 1957, at the Kansas State Fair, he met Deanna Vermillion, his special angel. Bill's life would change that day. They started dating in November, became engaged on December 8th and they got married on June 8, 1958, six months later. Their love story would continue for over 68 yrs. Bill and Deanna welcomed a baby girl, Rene, to their family in July of 1960. That precious little girl would gain her angel wings two years later. In July of 1963, a son, Darren, would make his debut and in August of 1968, they adopted a daughter, Stacie. After a long,

hard fought battle with leukemia, Stacie joined her sister in heaven in May of 1976.

Bill farmed with his dad, drove a school bus and pumped gas at Pratt Regional Airport until he landed his dream job. He started his career with the Federal Aviation Administration in 1969. Being an avid pilot, it was a dream come true. Deanna and Bill would make their home in Olathe, KS; Pierre, SD; Prescott, AZ; Hayward, CA; Prescott, AZ, again; Las Vegas, NV; Tempe, AZ; Oklahoma City, OK; Hurst, TX; San Antonio, TX, finally retiring in 1994 in San Angelo, TX. Bill really didn't retire though, they moved back home, to Pratt, KS and he became the Manager of the Pratt Regional Airport and Industrial Park. He would retire for a second time in 2006. Bill and Deanna moved to Laughlin, NV for one year in 2011 to be closer to their son, Darren, and then would come back to Kansas in 2012. Upon their return they set-up house on Deanna's family farm, just SE of Cunningham, KS. The farm had been homesteaded by Deanna's Great Grandfather in 1880. This would end up being their final move. They had finally made it home, completing the circle of life.

Bill was an amazing artist. A passion that he would pass down to his son, Darren. He started an advertising business during the 1960s. Bill was also a pilot, taking several family members on their first plane ride. You would find Bill with a book nearby most of the time, especially in the car, while Deanna was shopping and socializing. His favorites were Western novels, which he often shared with friends. Sitting on the front porch with Deanna, watching jets take off from Wichita and pass overhead, while enjoying a Miller Highlife, was a favorite past-time, as was a competitive game of pitch. He and Deanna loved spending time playing dominoes. Every minute, of each day, was their time. They religiously had date night every week.

He also spent hundreds of hours researching the family history of his and Deanna's families, finally

publishing a book based on his research.

Bill was reunited with his "Special Angel", and his precious daughters on March 19th, 2026. We all know that it was a glorious reunion. It had been two months, five days and five hours since he had last seen his beautiful wife. He missed her terribly and now they're together again for eternity.

William "Bill" Parker, is survived by his two sons, Darren Parker and Morgan Griffiths, his little girl JoJo, and grand-pups, Gunner and Koda, all of the home. He leaves behind his sister-in-law, Rita Parker of Eldorado, KS and a brother-in-law, Jack Vermillion of Newton, KS. One Aunt, Farol Tillery of Hutchinson. A God son, Garrett Briggeman of Wichita and several nephews, nieces and cousins.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife and daughters, his parents, his four brothers (Shirley "Pat", Duane, Bob, and Ramon), and two sisters (Ovaleen Post and Wanda Thompson), niece Rita Pritchett, and nephews Kenny Parker and Bill Hager. Plus several close cousins and dear friends.

Bill was the best dad that a person could ever ask for. A good friend to many and a faithful servant of God. He stood for the flag and bowed his head in prayer. Bill loved hard, long and unconditionally. He was a hopeless romantic, leaving love notes for Deanna around the house for almost 70 years. Their deep love was undeniable and envied by many. Bill will be missed terribly and loved forever. He was one of the good ones. Amen.

Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m., Friday, May 29, 2026 at the Cunningham Christian Church. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m., to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28, 2026 also at the Cunningham Christian Church. Burial will be in the Iuka Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials to the Cunningham Museum or the Pratt B-29 Museum and made be mailed to the Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.

Bud Jones

Dennis "Bud" W. Jones, 64, passed away on May 21, 2026, in Pratt. He was born on December 17, 1961, in Bismarck, North Dakota to Glenn and Leona (Rath) Jones.

Dennis graduated from Skyline High School in 1980. He was a past member of the Masonic Lodge, and he served in the Kansas and Michigan National Guard. He loved working on trucks, gardening, and woodworking.

He is survived by his children, Janet (Michael) Beurle of Eaton Rapids, Michigan; William (Cheyenne) Jones of Grand Ledge, Michigan, Riley Jones of Charlotte, Michigan, and Edward Jones of Charlotte, Michigan; ex-wife, Colleen Jones of Charlotte, Michigan; siblings, Sandy Herder of Pratt, Joanne (Kenny) Bieker of Assaria, Charlie (Dixie) Jones and Ginny (Eric) Nystrom both of Pratt; 4 grandchildren.

Dennis is preceded in death by his Father, Glenn Junior Jones.

Visitation will be Thursday, May 28, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. with family receiving friends from 5 - 7 at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Rd, Pratt. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, May 29, 2026 at Larrison Mortuary, with Reverend Karen Lemon and Reverend Deacon Sandra Herder presiding. Cremation to follow.

Memorials may be made to Diabetes Research and mailed to Larrison Mortuary. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.



Life Expectancy:

I'm sure that Roberta has increased our life expectancy by providing a great newspaper and producing joy for Cunningham and others for many years but I think this will be her last copy. Thanks, Roberta, and I hope your retirement goes as you hope. Thank you for allowing me to put in my articles these last years.

Now about some information that I stumbled on while gathering information about nitrates in our rural water. On a story on my phone recently, I saw the headline, Life Expectancy of Kansas Counties.

Much to my surprise Kingman County was listed as having the lowest life expectancy of the 105 Counties in Kansas. The story stated that Kingman County had not only the shortest life expectancy, but it was the worst by 12 years. In researching the subject more I found that Kingman County is 10 years worse than the second worst County.

What?! Not trusting the internet source, I went to the County Health Nurses office and asked if this is correct. At the County Health Nurses office, I was told this was misleading. It was stated at this office that the number of early deaths was skewed by the fact that there were many deaths

from suicide and overdoses from ivermectin during the COVID days.

What?! I never heard of this fact. Did you? Why should I find out these facts from the internet? Why haven't the people who we elect or hire to look out for our health and safety doing something about this? Why aren't interested people setting up a committee of healthcare and mental health experts, religious leaders, education professionals, elected county individuals and businesses to see what is the cause and how to solve the threat.

While visiting with our son in Vermont lately he stated that he wasn't surprised about that in-

formation. Since he left Kingman County 20 years ago, he has lived in California, Louisville, Kentucky and now Vermont and he has seen no place as plagued by early deaths. He pointed out that two members of his high school class here in Cunningham died during his senior year.

If you doubt the accuracy of this information, you can Google and find these facts. I have an opinion, but I hope the needed research by people more qualified will start to deal with this threat.

Alan Albers
Cunningham

Upcoming Auctions

Saturday, May 30, 2026 - Consignment
- Hamm Auction Center, 9:30 AM

HOUSE AUCTION

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