

The Cunningham Courier

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May 21, 2026
Volume 36 Number 21

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

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(620) 298-2659

photo by Teresa McClendon

WKCEF Announces Scholarship Recipients

The West Kingman County Education Foundation (WKCEF) was established in 2000 to provide scholarships and other educational benefits for the students and alumni of Cunningham High School. Including this year, over \$381,000 in scholarships has been awarded through the Foundation. Community support for our recent fundraisers has been outstanding, and the Board of Directors is extremely grateful!

The valedictorian this year was Emily Ogg, who was awarded a scholarship for that achievement from Ninescah Valley Bank. WKCEF presented the salutatorian scholarship to Sean Kostner.

Additional WKCEF scholarships were presented to seniors:

Grace Hageman
Dylan Halderson
Logan Kinsler
Kyra Morgan

Kendall Rogers
Andrew Schultz
Blake Swope
Skyler Thimesch and 17 alumni:
Ada Adams
Luke Albers
Ava Bock
Trey DeWeese
Julia Hageman
Lane Halderson
Emma Harden
Maranda Lohrke
Ellie McGuire
Luke McGuire
Keiden Mills
Kelden Mills
Lexie Murphy
Elizabeth Paris
Dagim Reed
Nate Sterneker
Will Wegerer

The following individual/family scholarships are also given through WKCEF. The Foundation wishes to thank all the people who sponsor these scholarships for their interest in our

school and education, and their generous donations toward the students' higher education.

Anonymous Scholarship: Sean Kostner

Don Becker Memorial Scholarship: Kendall Rogers

Bradley Scholarship: Emily Ogg
The Bug Guys Scholarship: Skyler Thimesch

Class of 1955 Scholarship: Kendall Rogers and Skyler Thimesch

Class of 1994 Scholarship: Emily Ogg and Andrew Schultz

Jack and Eileen Crick Family Scholarship: Dylan Halderson, Lane Halderson, and Maranda Lohrke

CHS Alumni Scholarship: Emily Ogg

Dale DeWeese Family Scholarship: Dylan Halderson and Skyler Thimesch

Ann Fewin Memorial Scholarship: Luke McGuire

Kenny and Marilyn Glenn Family Scholarship: Logan Kinsler

Kevin Huffman Scholarship: Dylan Halderson

Bob and Jeanette Kerschen Scholarship: Kyra Morgan

Velma E. Lauterbach Scholarship: Grace Hageman and Kyra Morgan

Warren Meireis Family Scholarship: Skyler Thimesch

Jack and Jane Meyers Family Scholarship: Sean Kostner and Emily Ogg

Dee Mills Scholarship: Kyra Morgan
Dennis Raney Scholarship: Grace Hageman

Alvin J. Rohr Scholarship: Dylan Halderson, Sean Kostner, Emily Ogg, and Skyler Thimesch

Helen and Shorty Rose Scholarship: Kyra Morgan, Ava Bock, Elizabeth Paris, and Maranda Lohrke

Leroy J. Schnittker Scholarship: Grace Hageman and Blake Swope

Bob and Mary Stackhouse Scholarship: Luke McGuire and Lexie Murphy

Swander Scholarship: Logan Kinsler

Robert and Patricia Zrubek Family Scholarship: Kendall Rogers

Kingman County Commission Minutes

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. May 11, 2026, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Jeff Young, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor
Visitors: Dale Enyart; Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief; Grace Schneider, Extension Agent; Melissa Thimesch, Extension Agent.

Online Visitors: DH; Peter Pan; AS
Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning Director and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

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

Chairwoman Lyon would like to add an atty-client privilege executive session; paper purchase request and updates from meetings.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an atty-client privilege executive session; paper purchase request and meeting updates. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon asked for public comments.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer wanted to remind the County Commissioners that the Ambulance meeting is today at 1:30 p.m.

Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief let the Commissioners know that all the Fire Chiefs in Kingman County will have a meeting at 7:00 p.m. May

12th, 2026, in the Kingman Fire Station meeting room.

Grace Schneider and Melissa Thimesch, Extension Agents were in with updates of what has been done; their direct contact numbers and future plans were discussed with the Commissioners.

Ms. Thimesch submitted the budget request for 2027 with a \$20,000.00 increase from last year request of \$100,000.00 to the County Commissioners.

Gerald White discussed that the agents don't get enough recognition for all they do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 8:49 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 8:59 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

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

Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning Director was in with an update for the County Commissioners on the road vacation request and that she has called KCC about a subdivision.

Ms. Stucky let the Commissioners know that there will not be a Planning/Zoning meeting in May.

Ms. Stucky discussed property that was sold and the acreage will need to go through process to allow building.

Commissioners discussed a complaint from last week about a fence and would like Ms. Stucky to contact the business and let them know about the complaint.

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

Pickrell Drilling Company Inc-Road crossing-petroleum line between Sections 17 & 20, Township 27, Range 05W (Evan).

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that the bid letting for the FAS 359-SW 170 Ave-Hot Mix Overlay is set for May 18th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted May 4th, 2026, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve May 4th, 2026, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the purchase of 80 cases of paper from Office Plus in the amount of \$3432.00 to be paid out of the General Fund. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners discussed the City of Kingman RHID and the hearing this Thursday, May 14, 2026.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 10:11 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 9:32 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:37 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:37 a.m. with no action taken.

Tiffany Aumiller, Benefits Administrator was in with two vacation extensions and one vacation payout for the Commissioner's approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve two vacation extension forms. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve a vacation payout form as presented. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the change of status form received for part-time to full-time. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Jamie Smith, Health Nurse was in to let the Commissioners know that the second half of taxes are due by May 11th as May 10th is on the weekend.

Ms. Smith discussed Professional Office Services.

Ms. Smith asked the Commissioners if they were okay with the attorney fees being raised from \$150.00 to \$250.00.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 9:55 a.m. with Jamie Smith, County Treasurer and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:04 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 3-0 vote.

continued on page 9

29th Annual

KHCF

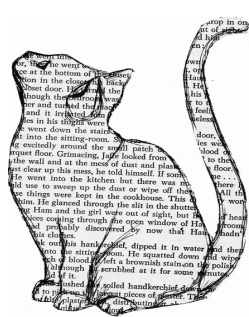
Kingman Healthcare
Center Foundation

GOLF TOURNAMENT

June 13, 2026

Scan the QR code or visit kingmanhc.com for more info!





Meanderings

Be sure to read Gaille's Tallgrass and Tumbleweed column today. Keep in mind that Gaille is only 2 years younger than I am... but a daring soul she still is. Dean Marple was most kind in his col-

umn this week -- I received a 'shout out' that makes me feel very much appreciated.

Jody Dye's column this week was informative and bit sad.

I am going to miss these columnists. I love their stories and writings and the informational bits they impart.

It's great to read other points of view and stories from folks who don't live right here. (like me). Dean lives in Ottawa, Kansas; Gaille lives in the Flint Hills; and Jody lives in Texas.

Writing is a difficult

job, and I was so happy to take on these columnists and pay their exorbitant fees (\$10.00 per column... isn't that ridiculous?) Excellent writers, all of them.

And Dorothy Rosby will be back next week. She's a humdinger.

**

I am sure some of you are wearying of the cat 'stories'. But I guess I should give an update on a couple of them for those interested. Eddie Fisher will go back in this week to have thyroid levels checked.

And my Lucky Day

has a severe case of pododermatitis, or "pillow foot". I only received the news from the vet via an email this evening. It can be treated with meds. I'm hoping it isn't so severe, things can't be fixed. I know he's feeling better, but I want him completely healed.

I have had dozens of cats in my adult life and have cared for cats through many ailments and diseases and injuries, but never has one been so difficult and frustrating as Lucky Day's.

And what is truly amazing about this cat-

-he holds no animosity towards me.

I have shoved pills down his throat, holding his jaws shut until he swallows them, I've shot liquid antibiotics into his mouth. I've locked him in a room for hours all by himself with occasional visits from me. I keep shoving a cone over his head and tying it around his neck. And worst of all, I've had to put his feet in a bathtub with about 2 inches of water and some medicated soap. You would think I was killing that cat the way he howls.

But when I sit down he is right there, loving on me, purring, laying on me, he even wraps his little injured paws around my arm and purrs like he's the happiest kitty in the world. He has to be experiencing incredible pain. But no animosity towards me whatsoever.

He's an easy kitty to love.

Always reading, and currently reading "Circe" by Madeline Miller, Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, A few days ago my neighbor informed me he was going to drain his pond. The reason being he wants to make the pond bigger than its existing 1.3 acres and in order to do that he needs to move a lot of dirt and trees and that pesky multi-million gallons of water was just getting in the way. He also said that

if we knew any anglers who'd like to fish that pond (which had not been fished in years) they'd be welcome.

And boy do I know an angler. His name is Chris and he's from Wichita and we call him Kingfish 'cause the man is a fishing fool. He drives up to fish my own pond every few weeks and unlike myself, whose idea of fishing is sitting in a chair in the sun on the dock with a beverage and waiting for a bobber to submerge, Chris is a lure-switching, bank-walking

dawn to dusk killer of largemouth bass.

So the day before the pond was to be drained he came out and verily emptied it of all viable bass, which we quickly transported over to my pond for safe-keeping and future harvesting. I told him he may have got them all and he assured me he didn't.

The next day the pumper came and in no time at all we could see the water level dropping by the minute. And even when it was down to just a foot of water there were

no more fish to be seen. But I knew there had to be and was prepared with a net and bucket to haul out as many remaining fish as I could and do it my way—meaning the lazy way.

When the pond was down to a mere puddle of its former self the turtles were all headed to higher ground as I ventured out into the mire. I knew it would be a bit muddy so I went in barefoot and rolled my jeans up to my knees. I had fifty feet of downward slope to get to that puddle filled with

flipping fishies.

About three feet in I was ankle deep in good old Kansas mud. At six feet I was up to my knees in the stuff and by 15 feet I was sucked down to my thighs. I wasn't even halfway to my quarry when I realized I was on a fool's errand. Mission aborted, I turned to leave and realized I was stuck.

This wasn't just mud. This was primordial pea soup. And, just like quicksand, the more I struggled the deeper I sank. The pond pumps, my neighbor and

Kingfish thoroughly enjoyed my frantic attempts to extricate myself, even offering to throw me a rope and pull me out with a tractor. Mortified, yet determined, using my bucket and net like crutches I managed to crawl out of there like a crippled crab. Scratch one pair of jeans and one's self-esteem. And note to self—stick to your dock and your lawn chair.

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

A Column by Dean Marple

Newspapers

Sometimes you don't know what you have until it is gone. I grew up on a farm located a few miles west of a small village called Reynolds. On a good day, when the local hog market was open, the population might have hit 500 people. It was a typical midwestern rural town, with half the residents

related to each other by blood or marriage. The other half consisted of the "newcomers" who'd only been there 20 years or so. On any given Sunday morning, the red brick Methodist church, the only church in town, rang with spirited singing. On Saturday night, a different kind of noise came from the Long Branch bar. People noticed who visited which establishment.

The pace of life was slower, and as a kid, I always looked forward to three things: my mom baking pie on Saturday,

my dog being there when I jumped off the school bus and my dad reading to me every Friday night from the Reynolds Press. The Press was a weekly newspaper first operated by Guy Pettit, and then his son, Royce. For over 60 years, the Press arrived every Friday, jammed full of local news.

When John Kennedy won the 1960 presidential election, he earned a few lines in the paper. When a local miss got married, the Press devoted four paragraphs to describing how the bride's mother

made her dress, the material used, the bridesmaids' hairstyles and who the flower girl was. When a nearby farmer was laid up after a crippling kick from an angry cow, the Press sounded the alarm, and his neighbors came in to pick his corn. The whole community knew who received their Eagle Scout award, when the Busy Bees 4H club met and what the weekly special was at our three-aisle grocery store.

The only thing we didn't know was that nothing lasts forever.

Guy Pettit passed away, Royce grew old, and the Reynolds Press was no more. For those who still wanted a newspaper, there was the Rock Island Argus. Published in a town of 50,000 people, the Argus was a daily paper based several miles away from Reynolds.

Later the Argus was combined with another newspaper, the Moline Dispatch, becoming the Dispatch-Argus. This combined paper served several counties with a combined population of over 300,000 people,

and did an excellent job covering international, national, and state news as well as newsworthy events in the cities of Rock Island and Moline. News about Reynolds? Not so much. I guess we didn't need to know who the flower girl was.

The next time you see Roberta Kobbe, say thank you. Thank her for the newspaper she provided in the past and the future she's arranged with the Jump family. Their continued local control is appreciated.



Typewriter Soldier

"I love the infantry because they are the underdogs. They are the mud-rain-frost-and-wind boys. They have no comforts, and they even learn to live without necessities. And in the end, they are the guys that wars can't be won without."

Ernie Pyle

Few people have blessed the world like Ernie Pyle. Considered the most loved American correspondent of World War II, his words connected a nation with their

boys fighting a world away. With typewriter in hand, he slogged through the war-torn battlefields of North Africa, Italy, France, and finally the far-away South Pacific. His job was telling stories, real stories. He wrote about the tired men he loved. Called the "voice of the American soldier," there will never be another Ernie Pyle.

Ernest Taylor Pyle was born on a small farm outside of Dana, Indiana on August 3, 1900. Growing up, he developed an aversion to farm life and determined that he would see the world. After high school, during World War I, he joined the U. S. Naval Reserves, but the war ended before he saw any action.

In 1919 Pyle entered Indiana University with

dreams of becoming a journalist. Since the university did not offer a degree in journalism at the time, Pyle majored in Economics while taking as many journalism classes as he could. While in school, he worked on the campus newspaper, the Indiana Daily Student, becoming the editor during his junior year. Here Pyle developed his simple storytelling writing style.

In 1923, Pyle left school before graduating to take a job as a reporter for the Daily Herald in La Porte, Indiana. Soon after, he moved to Washington, D.C. to join the staff of The Washington Daily News, a Scripps-Howard newspaper. In 1927, Pyle began working on an aviation column, becoming well known in the flying community.

In 1935, Pyle began writing his own national column as a roving reporter for the Scripps-Howard syndicate. Traveling with his wife Jerry (they had met at a Halloween party in 1923, and he dubbed her "that girl who rides with me") and his beloved Shetland Sheepdog Cheetah, Pyle wrote about the people they met and the places they saw. They traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, as well as Central and

South America, recording their sundry adventures along the way. Pyle's columns were published under the title the "Hoosier Vagabond." Known for their "Mark Twain" quality, the columns were a big hit with the reading public.

Pyle's column writing laid the foundation for his work later as a war correspondent. In 1940 he traveled to England to cover the Battle of Britain. While there he witnessed first-hand the bombing of London. His poignant writing revealed the desperate plight of the British people under attack by Germany.

Beginning in 1942, Pyle labored as a war correspondent for the Scripps-Howard newspapers, landing first in North Africa and embedding with the Army's 1st Infantry Division. With his quiet demeanor, honest prose, wry smile, and iconic Jeep cap, Pyle endeared himself to the soldiers he lived with and the readers he wrote for.

During the war, Pyle's column appeared in over 700 newspapers nationwide. It is estimated that over 13 million readers read his column every day. Pyle had a unique literary style, injecting his personality into his writing. He rarely took notes, except to jot down names and dates. Instead,

he would mentally catalog observations, talking with the men for days before holing up somewhere and pounding out columns on his battered portable typewriter, a Corona Model 3. He would write from memory, producing stacks of copy and dozens of columns at one time.

Perhaps his most famous column—The Death of Captain Waskow—is a masterpiece. Written in January of 1944 from the front lines in Italy, where he was embedded with the 36th Infantry "Texas" Division, Pyle tells the story of soldiers retrieving the body of their beloved captain.

In the moonlight, Waskow's men pack several bodies down from the mountains by mule, laying them on the ground in the shadow of a low stone wall alongside the road. As the unburdened mules move off to graze among the olive trees, Pyle listens. He can hear the men as they, one by one, move close to their dead captain and tenderly say goodbye. Pyle writes some of the most moving words I have ever read. In 1944, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his wartime writing. No one has ever deserved it more.

After the Normandie invasion and the liberation of Paris, Pyle trav-

eled back to the States for some much-needed rest before launching himself again, this time "war-horsing" around the Pacific as he described it.

During the last major campaign of the war, the battle for Okinawa, Pyle was embedded with the 77th Infantry, going ashore on the small island of Ie Shima. On April 18, 1945, Pyle was riding in a Jeep with four officers when a concealed Japanese machine gunner opened fire. After successfully bailing out of the Jeep and taking cover in a roadside ditch, Pyle raised his head to check on his comrades. With a second burst of machine-gun fire, Pyle was hit. He was killed instantly. In loving tribute to their friend, the men of the 77th Infantry erected a monument that still stands at the site where he fell. Its inscription reads, "At this spot the 77th Infantry Division lost a buddy, Ernie Pyle, 18 April 1945."

Ernie Pyle was obsessed with telling stories, and he told them well. He is one of my personal heroes—a man who made this world a better place with his words. RIP Ernie—with love from a grateful nation...

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Community Bulletin Board

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| Thursday, May 21 Regional HS Track Meet | Wednesday, June 3 Weights Classes *** Morgan Meyers BB Camp |
| Tuesday May 26 State FAA Convention *** City Council Meeting | Thursday, June 4 Weights Classes *** JH VB practice |
| Wednesday May 27 State FFA Convention | Monday, June 8 Weights Classes *** HS VB open gym *** 7:00 p.m. BOE Meeting |
| Thursday, May 28 State FFA Convention | Tuesday, June 9 Basketball Camp *** Weights classes *** HS VB open gym |
| Friday, May 29 State FFA Convention *** HS State Track Meet at Wichita State University | Wednesday, June 10 Basketball Camp *** weights classes |
| Monday, June 1 Weights Class Begins *** Morgan Meyers BB Camp *** HS VB open gym | Thursday, June 11 Weights Classes *** Basketball Camp |
| Tuesday, June 2 Weights Classes *** HS VB Open gym *** Morgan Meyers BB Camp | Monday, June 15 Weights Classes *** HS VB open gym |



Take me
OUT
to the
Ballgame

What was it like to play or watch men's fast pitch softball games in the 1950s?
Come to Kingman library Thursday, May 28 at 2:00 p.m. and relive the Rago story in "The Glory Days of Summer."

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.

Oak Heart Foundation

Trying to Tidy Up a Bit

My tenure with this newspaper is quickly drawing to an end. A couple of things to help you and me and the Jumps transition through this move:

Any subscription renewals you send in BEFORE June 1st can be sent to me. Subscriptions sent in AFTER June 1st need to be mailed to The Cunningham Courier P.O Box 353 Kingman, KS 67068

If you do send them here after the date, I'll forward them on to the new address. No big deal.

Advertisers: This month's billing will be the last you receive from me and should be sent to my address here in Cunningham. Everything published after June 1st will be billed from the new office and you can send your payment to them. If it happens to end up in my mailbox, I'll forward it on to Kingman.

There was a glitch in my mailing program about a month ago, and several folks' accounts lost payment information, and your accounts were marked 'expired'. I received about half a dozen calls from subscribers not getting their papers. I THINK I now have everyone updated again. If you have been missing papers, please let me know before June 1st. I can't fix it on that day or any day after that.

If anyone needs to go to the new office, the physical address in Kingman is 140 North Main Street.

-Roberta-

In observance of Memorial Day, Ninnescah Valley Bank will be closed Monday, May 25th

We ALWAYS need photos for the paper!!

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
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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

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

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

*"Movies will make you famous;
Television will make you rich; But theatre will make you good."*
— Terrence Mann

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

May 21, 22, 23
The Mandalorian and Grogu
Rated PG-13

Showtimes
May 21st at 4:00pm May 22nd at 7:30pm
May 23rd at 7:30pm May 24th CLOSED

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

Upcoming Auctions

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

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

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

Living isn't that easy.

It seems we have to do everything over and over and over.

**I just took a shower yesterday.
I just ate this morning.
I just slept last night.
I just breathed 4 seconds ago.**

The repetition is both enjoyable and annoying.

le with mematic I.A.Krylova, Karl Pavlovich Bryullov, 1799

Thank you for Supporting The Courier

The Good Life Requires Two things, Self-Knowledge and Friends: You Can't Have One Without the Other

By Ross Channing Reid

Friends can see and know you in ways that you yourself never can.

Friends can help us with all kinds of things in life. How could I forget moving that piano for friends in Chicago? Fortunately, none of us ended up in the ER.

One of the most important things friends do, though, might seem surprising: They help us get to know ourselves.

Both in their 50s, Cindy and Ann had been friends since the second grade. Year after year, they never missed a birthday. Cindy would give Ann gourmet popcorn or maybe a sweatshirt from her alma mater, while Ann would give Cindy a special book on a topic that interested her, or maybe an old batch of family recipes. At one point, it dawned on Cindy just how thoughtful Ann's gifts were. It wasn't about the cost. "She really thinks about my life and what I'm doing," Cindy said. "It's amazing. Ann is just really thoughtful."

Cindy had always imagined herself as a thoughtful person, too. But in comparing the kinds of gifts they sent to each other, she realized that she was not thinking about Ann in the way that Ann was thinking about her. And so began her deliberate process of becoming more thoughtful – as a result of the self-insight she had gained

from her friendship with Ann.

As a philosopher and philosophical counselor, I've noticed the pronounced connection between friendship and self-knowledge in my counseling practice. Cindy and Ann are one example among many. I've come to the conclusion that to really know yourself, it's necessary to have good friends.

The link between self-knowledge and friendship was key for Aristotle, too, more than 2,000 years ago. "Eudaimonia" – roughly translated as living well, or happiness – often remains elusive, yet Aristotle believed it didn't have to be. Eudaimonia is largely within people's control, he said, so long as they aim at the right targets.

Two of those targets are knowing yourself and having good friends. The two are tied together – you can't develop self-knowledge in a vacuum. Happiness, for Aristotle, can never be a solitary pursuit.

Knowing – and befriending – yourself

Humans have a highly developed capacity to think about their thinking. This is possible because of a split in human consciousness: There is consciousness, and there is consciousness of consciousness – what is known as reflection or metacognition. Metacognition allows us to step back and note our thoughts and feelings, analyzing them almost as if they belonged to someone else.

This split makes reason, self-knowledge and morality possible. We can deliberate about our thoughts, feelings and potential actions.

A faded painting shows two bearded men

in robes, one of whom has gray hair, walking and gesturing side by side.

A detail from 'The School of Athens,' by Raphael, shows Plato and Aristotle, his student, deep in discussion. Apostolic Palace/Web Gallery of Art via Wikimedia Commons

Self-knowledge isn't the same as being intellectual or even intelligent. Instead, it's about using self-awareness and reason to develop character.

In Aristotle's view, character arises from developing habits that lead to intellectual and moral virtue, so that personal integrity is possible. This, in turn, builds self-trust and self-respect, as you learn to rely on yourself to do what is right – what Aristotle called "enkratēs," or continence.

In other words, self-knowledge is developing a good relationship with yourself. In your own internal dialogue, you become another trusted friend to yourself, based on what you've seen in your friendships: virtues like generosity, courage, truthfulness and prudence. Self-knowledge and moral development are tied together and realized in community, as underscored by Aristotle scholar Joseph Owens.

Friendship based on character

Aristotle recognized three types of friendship. Some are based on utility, like a study-group friend. Others are based on pleasure, such as friends in an antique car club.

The third and highest form of friendship, which can last a lifetime, is based on virtue, or "arete."

In these situations, Aristotle wrote, a friend

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!

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)

becomes "another self." These friendships are based on mutual goodwill and love for the other person's character; they are not fundamentally transactional. Instead, they are anchored in care and concern for the other.

Such friendships are few, but foster self-knowledge. As philosopher Mavis Biss emphasizes, a good friend has a perspective on you that you yourself do not. You can step back and analyze your desires, thoughts and feelings, but you can never actually observe yourself.

That means self-knowledge always has a social dimension. True friends enhance each other's insight and capacity

for virtue. As you get to know your friend, you get to know yourself – and are challenged to become a better version of yourself.

"To perceive and to know a friend, therefore, is necessarily in a manner to perceive and in a manner to know oneself," Aristotle wrote in the "Eudemean Ethics." The friend is a mirror that helps refine our thinking, perception and moral understanding.

Aiming at the good life

In the end, what makes eudaimonia – the good life – possible? For Aristotle, it's using reason to become our best selves. Knowledge and self-knowledge are

the most desirable of all things, Aristotle argued: "One always desires to live because one always desires to know, and because one wishes to be oneself the object known."

And there's no way to get there without good friends. A trusted and respected friend shares perceptions, enhances self-knowledge and magnifies life's pleasures.

The desire to know and be known is part of the quest for happiness. Knowledge of self, others and everything else is interconnected. For Aristotle, relationships are a portal into the realms of the vast and mysterious universe.

Psalm 106:6 NIV

We have sinned, even as our fathers did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly.

submitted by Alan Albers

| | |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Catholic Churches</p> <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> <p style="text-align: center;">† † † † † † †</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lutheran Churches</p> <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> <p style="text-align: center;">† † † † † † †</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Church of Christ</p> <p>Penalosa Sunday 11:00 a.m.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">First Christian Church</p> <p>Cunningham Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Jr High Youth Group 4:00 p.m. Sunday Sr High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Sunday Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 p.m. Pastor Mike McGovney 620-770-9507</p> <p style="text-align: center;">† † † † † † †</p> <p style="text-align: center;">United Methodist Church</p> <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> <p style="text-align: center;">† † † † † † †</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zenda Methodist Church</p> <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> |
|--|---|

YEARS AGO IN

THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1966

May 26, 1966 - The Christian Women's Fellowship met in the church undercroft last Thursday afternoon, with Mrs. Ruth Cooley and Mrs. Lee DeWeese as hostesses. President Mrs. Merle Cunningham opened the meeting with the poem, "The Model Church," followed with prayer by Mrs. Everett Hauser.

During the business meeting, Mrs. John Vermillion was re-elected to the office of secretary. Mrs. Daisy Harris presented the lesson, "The Best Is Yet to Come Retirement," and Mrs. Ray McIlvain gave the devotions, using the same topic. During the fellowship hour, each member contributed a utensil to the church kitchen. The meeting was closed with prayer by Mrs. Bob Stillwell, after which the hostesses served refreshments of jello salad, tea, and coffee to 11 members.

1971

May 20, 1971 - A recent meeting of the Cunningham 4-H Club, Janet Rohling gave an interesting talk on cooking, Mary Kampling gave a demonstration on how to make a Christmas candleholder, and Suzanne Steffen gave a parliamentary report on how to address the president of an organization. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pelzl served delicious refreshments. - Kathy Kampling, Reporter.

Commencement exercises for 24 Seniors of Cunningham High School, will be held this evening (Thursday, May 20) at 8:00 o'clock in the school gym-auditorium.

Claude M. DeVorss of Wichita, Past President of Lions International, will deliver the commencement address. Mr. DeVorss also delivered the commencement address to the Nashville-Zenda High School graduates at their commencement exercises at Zenda last night (Wednesday, May 19).

At the Cunningham commencement exercises, Cindy Mantooth will play the processional and recessional, and Rev. Raymond McDaniel, pastor of the First Christian Church, will give the invocation and benediction. Supt. Richard H. Turner will introduce Mr. DeVorss, and Principal Harry Johnston will present the class for graduation. The diplomas will be awarded by Waldo Graves and Evan Thornhill, Unified School District No. 332 Board of Education members. Music will be provided by the Girl's Glee Club, under the direction of Calvin Buller. They will sing "Climb Every Mountain" and Halls of "Ivy."

Twenty-eight Seniors received their diplomas from Nashville-Zenda High School in commencement exercises at Zenda last night (Wednesday).

Mrs. Bill Bradley played the processional and recessional, and the invocation was given by Rev. Ron Lowry, pastor of the Zenda United Methodist Church. The salutary address was given by Diane Swingle, and Supt. Turner introduced Mr. DeVorss. Sheryl Fisher gave the valedictory address, and Principal Lloyd Miller presented the class for graduation. The diplomas awarded by Dean Pagenkopf, Sylvester

Adelhardt, and Joe Dirks, Unified School District No. 332 Board of Education members. Music was provided by the Girl's Ensemble, who sang "Close To You," and the Class of 1971 sang "We've Only Just Begun."

YEARS AGO IN

THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER

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

1976

May 20, 1976 - Angela Renee was the name chosen for the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randall Shelman, Cunningham, born Wednesday, May 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Pratt County Hospital. She weighed 6 lbs and 15 1/2 ounces.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Eck and Mrs. Lester Shelman all of Cunningham. Great grandparents are Mrs. Mary H. Eck, Nashville, and Mr. and Mrs. L.F. Petz, Lyons.

Two local men, Bob Witt and Bill DeWeese have become the new owners of the Kingman Manufacturing Company here in Cunningham.

The two partners recently purchased the local industry from Harold Schreck.

"We will be operating the business much like it has been in the past, with no new policies at this time and we hope to get the business more involved in the community," DeWeese said.

Dan Cusenbary started the industry on a farm east of Cunningham in 1961. Schreck purchased the business from Cusenbary in 1972.

Livestock feeding and handling equipment and grain drill press wheels are manufactured by the industry and are sold all over the United States and Canada.

The industry employs 15 persons during the summer and up to 25 - 30 person during the winter months.

Mr. and Mrs. Burnard Simonson of Cunningham announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Jane, to Joe Adelhardt, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Adelhardt of Nashville.

Miss Simonson, a graduate of Cunningham High School, attended Pratt Junior College and is now employed by the Chickaskia Area Training Center. Mr. Adelhardt is a graduate of the Nashville-Zenda High School and also of Kansas State University. He is engage in a family farming enterprise.

An August 14 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Doubek, Pratt, announce the engagement of their daughter, Nora Jean to Don Shorock, Cunningham. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shororck, Kearney, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Huffman returned Thursday, May 13, from a weeks trips to visit their son and family, Jerry Huffman, Kim and Lori in Marietta, Georgia, and their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams in Raleigh, North Carolina. They also visited other friends and relatives along the way.

HILLTOP: "Brownie Joe" Northrop, our bulldog, enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner Wednesday noon. Debbie Crick is a new employee of the Hilltop House on the 8-4 shift. We are glad to have her.

YEARS AGO IN

THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes
Editor: Florine Kampling

1981

May 21, 1981 - The Junior High Band traveled to Norwich on May 13 to participate in the Junior High Music Festival. Schools attending were Sharon, Nashville-Zenda and Cunningham, along with the host

school Norwich.

Those competing from Cunningham and their ratings were as follows: The Band received a 1; Scott DeWeese, alto saxophone, I-; Beth Patton, clarinet, I-; Orin Stillwell, Tuba II; and Kristi Rohr, Piano II.

Shawn Rohr of Cunningham has been awarded a \$500 Newspaper Carrier Scholarship from the Wichita Eagle and Beacon Publishing Company for 1981.

To be eligible the nominee must be a carrier for the Wichita Eagle and Beacon and a High School Senior.

An Awards Committee selects the recipients on the basis of school activities and their news carrier record including length of service on their paper route.

District No. 332 Play Day was held on May 5 at Cunningham with Cunningham, St. Leo, Nashville and Zenda Grade Schools participating. The weather was cooperative and competition was keen. Ribbons were awarded on an individual basis. Lonnie Theissen was in charge of the arrangements and grade school teachers, high school coaches, high school track students, and other grade school students assisted The CHS cheerleaders of next year operated a concession stand.

The First National Bank's open house Saturday attracted 450 to 500 people.

1986

May 22,, 1986 - It was announced by the United States Military Academy of West Point, N. Y. that Alisa Schnittker has been appointed to the academy. She is the daughter of Leonard and Lola Schnittker of Brawley, California and is a graduate of Brawley Union High School.

The annual Freund family reunion will be held June 1, at the Cunningham Community Center with a basket dinner at noon.

Monday will be the fifteenth anniversary of Memorial Day Services at this cemetery conducted by the Carter-Luce American Legion Post and Auxiliary. The primary purpose of these efforts is to more firmly establish in our minds the memory of those who have passed on before us after honorably serving their country in the military.

Stop by the Cunningham Community Center Monday, May 26, 1986, between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. for free coffee and donuts and visit wit neighbors and friends here for the Memorial Day Services.

On My 13, parents, relatives and friends of the athletes of Cunningham High School gathered in the gymnasium to honor these young people and their coaches.

An outstanding event of the evening was the first presentation of the "Hall of Fame" awards. This program, instituted this year, seeks to recognize people of the USD 332 community who have been outstanding in the fields of expertise, public betterment, and community service. Recipients this year were Anna Dafforn, Bill Bradley (represented by his wife Arlene), and Dr. T. L. Waylan of Nashville (represented by his wife, Frances)

Hilltop: Stevi Thimesch, small daughter of Jackie Thimesch, was in a Wal Mart Fashion Show in Hutchinson, May 16. She made Mom real proud.

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Kampling attended the First Communion festivities for Barbie Seiwert Sunday. Other family members present were Mr. and Mrs. George Kampling and Kyle, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Seiwert, Dana and Toni, Mrs. Stan Parsons, Kingman, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kampling and David, Pratt, and Kathy Koster.

Museum Hours

Saturday:

Morning 10:00 - 12:00

Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00

For guided tours call

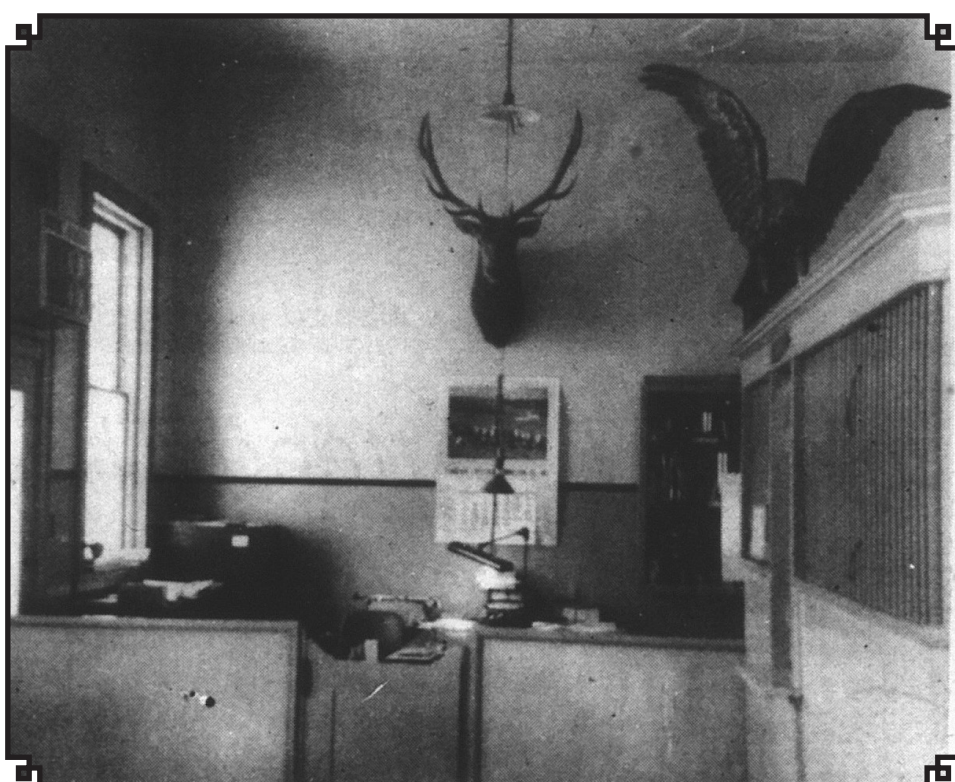
Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

Joe Sterneker 620-243-2534

Alan Albers 620-243-2553



*Charles Rinke presenting a plaque to Jack Meyers while Walter Rosenbaum, George C. Lemon, and Home DeVault look on.
May 14, 1981 edition of The Cunningham Clipper*



(circa 1966) Mr. Leiter's 'private office' commonly referred to by this endearing term because by 1966, it was anything but private.

Second Graders Meet Another Community Service Worker

photos and caption submitted by Ingrid Ricke

Thank you Tyler Bernhardt from AllMetal Recycling for teaching us about your service job. It was interesting to learn about the roll-off trucks and transfer trucks and how the process of gathering scrap metal works. We appreciate your time in teaching us and showing us the transfer truck! Thank you Tyler!!



A Few Highlights from the Spring Concert



Weather and Presence

Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

Another school year has wrapped up for my children and summer on the farm has officially begun. My husband and I saw major growth in both of our kids this year personally, academically and athletically.

We saw our kids experience successes in their

classrooms, perform in concerts, march in parades, discover new activities of interest, build friendships and saw how consistent hard work during practices pays off during competition.

It was a fantastic school year for both children, and I'm thankful that my husband and I were able to see and experience so much of it together with them even though that wasn't what we had planned for at the start of the school year.

We had not planned for my husband to attend the majority of my son's football games this year given our typical fall farming demand and

schedule. Instead, we had planned for his presence during winter events when the farming schedule is generally calmer than in the fall, spring and summer.

We figured that he'd be watching a number of the games online from the cab of a tractor or combine. But because of an incredibly wet fall, which kept everyone in our area out of the fields for extended periods of time, my husband got to sit in the bleachers of every home game and all but one of the away games this fall.

The unusually wet fall also allowed my husband to join me for

other school activities like watching our daughter participate in a special concert with other students from schools throughout our region. I don't think any of us expected to see my husband at so many of the kids' school activities, but it's safe to say that we were all thankful he could.

Following a winter of attending a lot of basketball games, my husband and I again prepared for a typical spring farming schedule that would prevent my husband from attending the majority of our kids' activities.

However, now a lack of rain has allowed my husband to attend every

single track and field meet this spring. It's been too dry to get everything planted. We've been waiting for the spring rains that have simply not come.

An unusual year of weather gave our family the precious gift of presence we didn't plan for. But what this atypical weather means for a summer wheat harvest, haying season and getting our fall crops in the ground is something that continues to concern us.

Over the years, I've learned many lessons about being a farm family. This year has reiterated that we are not in control and all we can

really do is make adjustments based on what the season presents. We also have to recognize the gifts we are given and continue to fervently pray for rain.

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

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau



Track Notes from Coach Kerschen

Wow! What a season for Wildcat track and field. I don't know where to start. Thank you everyone for encouraging their kids to participate in sport, especially track. Thank you to all the staff administration and the track coaches, Lance McGuire, Collin Little and Nicole Kerschen for sharing your time and talents with these kids. A special thanks to Amy McGuire for your extra help at track meets managing the kids and having an extra set of eyes at the track meets.

Track is such a sport that most kids can find something that they like and develop it as they grow as an athlete. Track also pushes kids a little harder physically and mentally than other sports which carries over into life. Sometimes in life we have to do hard

things that we don't want to do, but it makes us stronger after doing it. We go through the hard times and we come out thinking, "that wasn't so bad." I am so grateful for these kids and what they have accomplished this season.

The Junior High kids had a great season this year. Let's start with the 8th grade boys. What a run in football with a strong finish to the season, a tournament HOPL title in basketball and a dominant finish to track winning every meet and finishing on top as HOPL league champions! Congratulations to the 8th grade boys team! Bryer Barber, Landon Green, Landen Hageman, Brody Halderson, Ethan Kostner, Casyn Miller, Cooper Neufeld, Jace Oldham, Grady Smyth and Lucas Theis. League

Champions: Brody Halderson in the High Jump, Javelin, and Triple Jump. Cooper Neufeld in the Long jump, and Shot Put. Landon Green in the 100m dash.

The 8th grade girls also had a very good season. While they didn't win every meet, they only competed with 6 girls! The girls finished on top winning the HOPL meet, league champs! I like to draw the parallel with this bunch and the HS state title team from back in 08 since that team only had 6 athletes as well. I hope these girls keep grinding, they have good potential. Congratulations! Mackley Glenn, Carly McGuire, Alyssa Osner, Vaughn Preisser, Lux Thimesch, Paisley Westerman. League Champions: Carly McGuire in the Discus, 100m hurdles, 200m hur-

dles, and Triple Jump. Alyssa Osner in the High Jump.

The 7th grade divisions also had a good season, developing events, learning how to run throw and jump, figuring out their neck and what they like and compete well in. The 7th grade division girls finished the season with a 3rd place finish in the HOPL and the boys finished 4th place. League Champions in the 7th division: Gage Dunn Shot Put, Ty Schultz, Jax Thimesch, Bentley Strohl, Grady Green in the 4x200 relay.

Since I coach both the JH and the HS we get to talk also about the success of the HS teams. The HS girls have had a great season finishing strong at several meets winning the Norwich meet as well as the Stafford meet in good

fashion. This HOPL league meet gave us a little trouble with minor injuries that forced us to move some things around that didn't help our running performances. The girls finished the meet in 4th place by only 1 pt. If we performed as well as we know we could have a close 2nd place performance would have been in reach. When the girls are clicking all together some pretty great results tend to happen. We are looking for redemption at regionals and are hoping to take a bigger group to state than in the past. Good job girls! League Champs: Sage Thimesch Pole Vault.

The HS boys have been having a special season. They finished the regular season undefeated! What has been fun is winning the South Barber invitational the last 2 sea-

sons which is always hard to do and winning the Jetmore meet. Jetmore is something that in my memory we have never won. Probably not since 08 or in the 90s. This year we won the HOPL league title for the 4th straight year! We are looking forward to regionals and state with a strong chance to finish as regional champs and to take a strong, big group to state. Go Wildcats! League Champs: Cole Hageman High Jump, Andrew Kerschen Javelin, John Paul Kerschen Pole Vault, Stephen Kerschen Discus, Skyler Thimesch 100 dash, 200 dash, Stephen Kerschen, Jack Harden, Newt Heatherman, Skyler Thimesch 4x400.

Coach Eric Kerschen

Results for HS track at Jetmore.

What a day! Congratulations to the Cunningham boys teams for winning the Jetmore track meet. It has been a while. The boys won by a big margin. Lots of personal records on the day. A special shout out to the boys 4x400 with a big PR of 3:34.65 to win the meet and put them in a good standing for a state medal, if we can keep the momentum going! A big congratulations to Andrew Kerschen for breaking the 23 year old javelin record! Andrew threw of bomb of 191-6 to win the event and rank him top 4 in the state for 1A. Great Job to all the athletes.

On the left: Andrew Kerschen javelin 191-6.

Right 4x400 left to right: Stephen Kerschen, Jack Harden, Newt Heatherman, Skyler Thimesch 3:34.65



photos submitted by Coach Kerschen



Something that really helps our Cunningham athletics is the kids' hard work in the weight room. Here is a look into that world. We have strong kids and I hope they all continue to stay active with their recreation this summer. Summer weights starts on June 1st! There are 4 weeks in June then a break for the holiday. We will start back up again on July 6th for another 4 weeks. HS boys 6am, HS and JH girls 7am, JH boys 8am. Go Wildcats!

Coach Kerschen



Powerlifting Notes from Coach Kerschen

200 LB BENCH CLUB

- Stephen Kerschen 295
- Skyler Thimesch 265
- Dylan Halderson 250
- Layne Green 275
- Andrew Schultz 225
- Cole Gridley 225
- Liam McGuire 210
- Cole Ruckle 210
- Andrew Kerschen 210

125 LB BENCH CLUB

- Kyra Morgan 175
- Whitney Mead 130
- Kourtnei Fischer 140

400 LB DEADLIFT CLUB

- Stephen Kerschen 455
- Skyler Thimesch 455
- Dylan Halderson 465
- Layne Green 455
- Kollin Fischer 410

400 LB SQUAT CLUB

- Stephen Kerschen 455
- Skyler Thimesch 405

225 LB DEADLIFT CLUB

- Kyra Morgan 305
- Keyonna Raney 245
- Whitney Mead 235
- Whendolyn Kinsler 225
- Kourtnei Fischer 285

225 LB SQUAT CLUB

- Kyra Morgan 330
- Keyonna Raney 230
- Kourtnei Fischer 275

WOMENS 600 LB CLUB SQUAT, BENCH, DEADLIFT

- Kyra Morgan 810
- Kourtnei Fischer 700

MENS 1,000 LB CLUB SQUAT, BENCH, DEADLIFT

- Stephen Kerschen 1,205
- Skyler Thimesch 1,125
- Dylan Halderson 1,110
- Layne Green 1,095
- Andrew Schultz 1,015



Football Team Traveled to Topeka

Back in February the Cunningham Wildcat 6-Man State Football Champions were invited to Topeka by Representative Kevin Schwertfeger to be recognized on the floor of the House of Representatives. The boys were excited to go, and the biggest issue was scheduling the trip amid a full basketball season, music, and ev-

erything else these young men are responsible for on the day-to-day. Our boys are very active in everything and the State government schedule does not move, except when it does.

The team traveled to Topeka late Tuesday night after parent-teacher conferences and an enrollment meeting, and were up early for hotel breakfast the next morning. Dressed in jackets and ties, they checked in through security and enjoyed a capitol tour,

learning about the construction, art, and history of the building. There was just enough time to meet with Representative Schwertfeger before being recognized on the floor of the House. Ten of the players were allowed to stand up front as Mr Schwertfeger and Mr Sewiert read a very nice account of our boys' exploits on the football field. Everyone in the House was very enthusiastic about our team; many shook hands and made connections with

the boys.

We met Dr. Arnberger and Mr. Dunlap at the Celtic Fox for lunch, and then the boys hustled back to the Capitol for a Dome tour. Still on a tight schedule, we finished the tour, emptied the building, and loaded the bus for a bonus adventure at the Combat Air Museum. We were a few minutes late, but ended up with a tour guide that was a retired school teacher who had driven through Cunningham multiple times. He was awesome

and the tour was fantastic.

According to some players, highlights of the trip included being on the floor of the House with everyone clapping, the Dome Tour, and the Combat Air Museum. It was a fun day. Mr Siewert told me over the phone a few days later he had never seen anything like the response our boys received both in the house and throughout the building. He said the security guards, the tour guide, the representatives, aides, and more made sure to

tell them how awesome our young men are. How they dressed, acted, and presented themselves truly made an impression. We already knew that of course, but it was a great advertisement of our program, community, and our boys.

Thank you to the players, parents, Mr Schwertfeger, Mr Siewert, CHS admin, teachers, and coaches for all being flexible to make this happen.

-Coach McGuire

Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, May 10
 Traffic Complaint 4900 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Check Vehicle 3200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Miscellaneous/Jail 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint SE 90 St & SE 150 Ave, Norwich
 Agency Assist/KMPD 600 Blk W A Ave, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 16000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Monday, May 11
 Civil Paper Service 9
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Check Welfare 1700 Blk N Sidney St, Kingman
 Injury Accident N Berry Ave & NE 20 St, Kingman
Tuesday, May 12
 Traffic Stops 4
 Civil Paper Service 2
 Miscellaneous 600 Blk N Pine St, Kingman
 Abandoned Vehicle E Hwy 42 & SE 100 Ave, Norwich
 Suspicious Person 2900 Blk E Bluff St, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 300 Blk N Main St, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 1200 Blk NE 10 St, Kingman
 Animal Complaint 10000 Blk NE 40 St, Murdock
 Traffic Complaint 7000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Wednesday, May 13
 Traffic Stops 2
 Miscellaneous NE 40 ST & N Hwy 14, Pretty Prairie
 Non-Injury Accident 6000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Follow Up 100 Blk S Main St, Norwich
 Animal Complaint SE 20 St & SE 160 Ave, Cheney
 Debris In Roadway SE 100 Ave & SE 10 Ave, Kingman

Non-Injury Accident W 54 Hwy & NW 120 Ave, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 3200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Non-Injury Accident 900 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Thursday, May 14
 Traffic Stops 1
 Damage to Property 14000 Blk SE 70 St, Norwich
 Disturbance 4600 Blk NE 160 Ave, Cheney
 Accident / Fatality 8000 Blk W Hwy 42, Zenda
 Disabled Vehicle S Main St & E 8th Ave, Kingman
 Disturbance 500 Blk S Robbins Rd, Norwich
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Arrest 600 Blk W A Ave, Kingman
Friday, May 15
 Non-Injury Accident SE 20 St & SE 150 Ave, Cheney
 Animal Complaint SE 80 St & SE 80 Ave, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 200 Blk W Kansas Ave, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 16000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
 Agency Assist/KHP/Non-Injury Accident 3000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Saturday, May 16
 Traffic Stops 5
 Traffic/Arrest 1300 SE Main Ave, Rago
 Miscellaneous 900 Blk N Sugar St, Kingman
 Suspicious Person/Activity SE 30 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman
 Suspicious Person 1400 Blk N Walnut St, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 16000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
 Disabled Vehicle NE 50 St & NE 120 Ave, Pretty Prairie
 Traffic Complaint N Ninnescah St & W D Ave, Kingman
 Accidental 911 Dial 15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
 Accidental 911 Dial 1400 Blk N Sugar St, Kingman
 Disabled Vehicle 700 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
 Disturbance 16000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney

Nitrates in Rural Water

Before I get people concerned, the information that I'm about to dispense is only about rural water. Those of you who are on city water as Kathy and I are, the water is safe and tested frequently.

As some of you might recall, after attending the Governor's Water Conference last fall I wrote about one speaker from Nebraska who is in charge of rural water in Nebraska and spoke about the high rates of nitrates in Nebraska's rural water. This information inspired me to try and find out how Kansas rural water compared.

My efforts were frustrated by the fact that no one seemed to know. After talking to family and rural water users I found that few had ever tested their water for nitrates or coliforms. Coliforms are bacteria in the water and are usually caused by human waste of animal feces. So, I searched for funding to pay for the cost of getting the water samples tested. Since I'm a member of the Red Hills Water advisory board I started there. The board stated

that they thought that this was a worthy cause but they had no money to contribute to this testing.

So, I went to the county commissioners thinking that this was a rural public health issue and that they would want to know this information (Wrong!). The county commissioners turned me down not once but twice.

Apparently, the health of the rural residents of Kingman County isn't an issue worthy of taxpayers' money to be spent on. However, the three schools in the county and private donations have paid for the testing. The testing is expensive and time sensitive. To be valid, the tests have to be in the lab within 32 hours from the time they are collected. The original cost I was quoted was \$55 for nitrates and coliform tests. I was able to negotiate a lesser price with ServiTech in Dodge City -- \$30 with the help of Heartland Soil Services in Cunningham.

I'd tested my drinking water for over 40 years and thought I knew what to expect from these water tests. After all, when the water in my animal wells west of Cunningham had reached

20 parts per million and was high enough to eat holes in my metal pipes, I thought that was high and I drilled two water wells 100 ft. and thought that I had solved the problem. The science teachers at all three schools agreed to set up a testing program and collect samples and all three schools agreed to pay for half of the testing. I want to thank Cunningham Schools for being the first to volunteer their time and money. A special shout out to Cunningham science teacher Ms. Cortnea Wilson for her wonderful help.

Now for a little information about nitrates in the water: 10 parts per million (ppm) is considered a safe level. Above 10 ppm can cause miscarriages in pregnant women; children under 3 can actually die from water with high nitrate levels. New research has shown that high nitrates might be causing colon cancer and Alzheimer's. Nitrates can also attach to blood and limit the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood so those on oxygen will be harmed by nitrates.

Now for the findings from the 34 tests that I

67% of the tests were over the 10 ppm level. Some of the tests were scarily high, higher than I expected with tests in the middle 20's and as high as 47.4 ppm.

12% of the tests were just under the 10 level and only 21% of the tests were at the safe level. Also, around 25% were positive for coliforms. Please test your drinking water if you live in the country. Your health and possibly your life may depend upon it. Test kits are available through the Extension Office in Pratt and Kingman.

SDK labs in on 4th Street in Hutchinson is the easiest way to get your water tested. If your water is high in nitrates, a reverse osmosis device may solve your problem, and you can treat your own well with a bottle of Clorox if needed so please test soon. Thank you to Cunningham, Kingman and Norwich Schools for your help in protecting your students and a shout out to Heartland Soil Testing and a kind lady from Kingman for making our testing possible.

- Alan Albers, Cunningham.

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CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS
 1. Throat-clearing sound
 5. Like a fiddle?
 8. Chicago baseballer
 11. Cyberattack target
 12. Opposite of pizzicato, in music
 13. Bullying, e.g.
 15. Pharmacy ware
 16. Wedding cake layer
 17. *Mythological part woman, part bird
 18. *Part man, part bull
 20. Means justifiers
 21. Seize the throne
 22. Found at the pump
 23. *Part man, part fish
 26. Julianne Moore or Lucille Ball, e.g.
 30. Schiller's address to joy
 31. Popular pet rodent
 34. Bono's bandmate, with The
 35. Chunk of iceberg
 37. *Pointy-eared humanoid
 38. Knight's breastplate
 39. Independent chieftan
 40. Pay, in casino (2 words)
 42. Bugling ungulate
 43. Like sun
 45. Mother-of-pearl, pl.
 47. Public health org.
 48. Manila hemp
 50. Vegan's protein choice
 52. *Three-headed dog
 55. African antelope, pl.
 56. Not written
 57. Arch above eye
- DOWN
 1. Tally
 2. Stay out of its way!
 3. Small ladies' handbag
 4. Extra large wine bottle
 5. Robin Hood's companion Tuck
 6. Frost over (2 words)
 7. Millimeter of mercury
 8. Little Miss Muffet's morsel
 9. Mail carrier, acr.
 10. Beyonc, a.k.a. Queen _____
 12. Adjust
 13. Beforehand
 14. *Wailing spirit
 19. "Killers of the Flower Moon"
 Oklahoma location
 22. Hair-raising product
 23. Lawn trimmer
 24. Organ swelling
 25. Made over
 26. Abundant
 27. Landscaper's tool
 28. Like an athlete
 29. Office stations
 32. Landlord's due
 33. Acronym-named sandwich
 36. *Part lion, part eagle
 38. Lickety-split
 40. Nurses' org.
41. Incapable
 44. Sunbaked, archaically speaking
 46. Demijohn
 48. Eagle's home
 49. Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop
 50. Not for here (2 words)
 51. Barrel-counting org.
 52. Type of hood
 53. Restless desire
 54. Database command
 55. Roofing sealant
 58. Yellow river tributary

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Kingman County Commission Minutes

(con't from front page)

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:04 a.m. with no action taken.

MOTION:

Commissioner Young moved to approve a new-hire employee status sheet for a new part-time employee. Commissioner

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

Misty Jacobs, Public Works Office Assistant and Jamie Smith, County Treasurer were in to discuss the Personnel Policy #38 Safety Committee Policy for approval.

MOTION:

Chairwoman Lyon moved to approve the updated Safety Committee Policy #38 for the Employee Personnel

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

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in and the Commissioners asked him about the shavings from the Expo Center.

Commissioners decided that the shavings will go to the Harbert land that it usually goes to for disposal.

Mr. Arensdorf submit-

ted two agreements between Kingman County and Kirkham Michael for the design and engineering of the road damage

MOTION:

Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the design and construction contracts for Kirkham Michael. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioner Thimesch gave an up-

date on the City Meeting that he attended last week to talk about the Armory heating and air with Gerit from OSE online to help explain the remodel.

Commissioner Young discussed property next to The Outpost and that is overgrown and vehicles.

Chairwoman Lyon gave an update on the classes attended last week in Topeka.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed the

ROZ (Rural Opportunity Zone) program and that the state is ending the program in June 2026 with no new applications accepted after that date.

MOTION:

Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 10:34 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Pratt County Commission Minutes for April 27 & May 4

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 11, 2027, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director.

Economic Development Update – Heather Morgan

Neighborhood Revitalization Program Update

Heather provided an update regarding outreach efforts to the smaller cities concerning participation in the NRP Program meeting scheduled for Wednesday. An additional reminder email will be sent, and indicated that nonresponse would be interpreted as a decision not to participate.

Kansas Department of Commerce

Learning Sessions

Heather shared information regarding educational sessions hosted by the Kansas Department of Commerce concerning data centers. KDOC is currently conducting learning sessions focused on the advantages and disadvantages of data center development. She stated the misinformation exists on both the positive and negative sides of the issue and encouraged continued education.

Arrowhead West Inc Budget Request and Update

Andrea Polf provided an overview of the organization's residential and adult services programs. The organization is requesting \$92,400 which is a 2% increase over the current appropriation of \$90,400 due to increased costs. Andrea expressed appreciation for the county's continues partnership and support. Commissioners thanked Andrea for their services.

Road & Bridge/Lake Budget & Departmental Updates

Doug Freund presented his 2027 budget request for Road and Bridge and the Lake. Doug is expecting fuel, oil and material cost in-

creases, services may need to be cut or spaced out. Doug also gave an update regarding hail damage assessments at Lake facilities after the recent hail storm.

Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Discussion

Josh Albin gave a presentation on Comprehensive Planning, BJ Hayes, Zoning director was also present. Josh provided an overview of comprehensive planning and discussed the potential development of a county wide comprehensive plan. It was noted that the County has not previously adopted a formal comprehensive plan. Josh explained that a comprehensive plan typically serves as a 20-year roadmap outlining how the County intends to guide growth, land use, economic development, infrastructure and planning and zoning activities. Pratt County's general framework for planning and zoning remains generally appropriate and rather than a complete overhaul, it was recommended to add overlay districts to address future development priorities. Josh explained overlays would allow the

county to guide future development in targeted areas without impacting existing land uses. A Comprehensive Plan would serve as a long-term policy guide, a foundation for future planning and zoning decisions, a supporting document for conditional use permits decisions and a basis for grant applications and funding opportunities. Josh advised that the planning process would likely take approximately 12 to 18 months and the projected cost were approximately \$25,000 to \$35,000 based on the County's anticipated needs. Commissioners discussed the overall value of adopting a comprehensive plan and agreed the process would likely benefit the County's long term planning efforts. A proposal and engagement letter will be prepared and sent to the Tyson, County Counselor for review.

Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel Motion to move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss extended leave with Tara Pagenkopf for 5 minutes at 3:12 p.m.

made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:15 p.m. with no action taken.

Senior Services/Transportation Department

Personnel Request Motion to approve additional part-time positions for Public Transportation made by Commissioner Shriver; motion passed 3-0.

Courthouse Maintenance Item Discussion

Commissioners reviewed a maintenance request to fix trim in the hallway, repair a handicap accessible door and updating toilet paper dispensers and auto air freshener dispensers.

Motion to approve the purchase of restroom air fresheners and toilet paper dispensers made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center Mowing Service Contracts

Commissioners reviewed 7 submitted quotes for mowing services for the Courthouse and the Law Enforcement Center. After review it

was noted that Younie Lawnscaapes provided the lowest qualified quote.

Motion to approve the contract with Younie Lawnscaapes for lawn maintenance for the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center at a rate of \$185 made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Executive Session – Attorney-Client

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss road matters related to the Solar Project for 10 minutes at 3:27 p.m. made by Commissioner Jones; motion passed 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:37 p.m. with no action taken.

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the minutes of April 27, 2026.

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the minutes of May 4, 2026.

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the vouchers for May 11, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 3:49.

Now is the Time to Scout for Bagworms

Experts say that insecticides may need to be applied for up to four weeks

MANHATTAN, Kan. – A Kansas State University entomologist and a state forestry expert are urging patience and persistence when trying to manage bagworms, noting that caterpillars may emerge from eggs from late spring through early summer, depending on weather conditions.

Shad Hufnagel, forest health coordinator with the Kansas Forest Service, and Raymond Cloyd, professor and extension specialist in horticultural entomology with K-State Extension, advise that homeown-

ers scout for bagworms from early- to mid-May and apply insecticides when young bagworms are present.

Once bagworms are detected, they said, homeowners might need to treat with an insecticide weekly for up to four weeks.

Cloyd said that in addition to emergence over time, young bagworms can 'blow in' -- called 'ballooning' -- from neighboring plants on silken threads, thus increasing the importance of treating multiple times during the growing season.

"Once the caterpillars emerge from eggs, they begin feeding on the host tree or shrub, creating a protective bag, hence the common name," Cloyd said. "The plant material fed upon is used to build

a protective covering that provides protection from predators and insecticide treatments, which can influence the effectiveness of insecticide applications."

Hufnagel added: "The larger and more robust the caterpillars and their cases become, the more difficult they are to manage with insecticides."

Bagworm feeding is commonly associated with conifers, such as juniper, arborvitae, pine, and spruce, but Hufnagel said the caterpillars also feed on many deciduous host plants. Although defoliation of deciduous trees and shrubs typically does not result in long-term plant damage, defoliation of conifers can cause substantial plant stress and result in plant mortality.

He said insecticides

can be effective in mitigating damage to trees and shrubs. However, bagworm infestations are often cyclical; consequently, bagworm infestations may be low enough that spraying an insecticide may not be warranted.

For increased effectiveness and to prevent bagworms from causing substantial plant damage, Hufnagel advises judicious treatment of windbreaks, Christmas trees, and ornamental landscape trees as soon as bagworms are present.

"Thorough coverage is important when treating for bagworms, including penetration into the interior plant canopy and upper branches," he said. "Commercial treatments may be more effective for large trees or established windbreaks

where applications from common household sprayers cannot reach the upper canopy of trees."

Many insecticides are labeled for bagworms, but timing of application and thorough coverage will ensure the effectiveness of insecticides in managing bagworms. When bagworm caterpillars are 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch long, products containing Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies kurstaki (Btk) or spinosad as the active ingredient can be effective in managing bagworms, according to Cloyd.

He adds that the recommended insecticides have minimal direct impact on beneficial insects compared to broad-spectrum insecticides, which could lead to outbreaks of spider mites or scale insects that can cause

damage to treated trees and shrubs.

"If insecticides are not applied when bagworm caterpillars are 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch in length, then broad-spectrum insecticides, including those containing malathion, acephate, or cyfluthrin as the active ingredients can be applied," Cloyd said. "Be sure to read the product label and follow directions before making applications."

Hand removing and destroying bagworm bags is an option for smaller infestations.

For more information on controlling bagworms, reference the publication, Bagworm: Insect Pest of Trees and Shrubs, written by Cloyd and available online from the K-State Extension bookstore.

KDOT Reminds Road Users that Motorcyclists' Safety is Everyone's Safety.

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) reminds all drivers to be alert and share the road during the national safety

campaign Motorcyclists' Safety is Everyone's Safety.

Preliminary 2025 Kansas data shows that 53 people died and more than 746 sustained injuries in crashes involving motorcycles. Speeding and alcohol remain the leading factors in motorcycle-related crashes.

"Both drivers and riders should understand the importance of sharing the road," said

KDOT Behavioral Safety Manager Gary Herman. "Drivers need to be aware of the unique safety challenges faced by motorcycles, such as visibility, while riders can keep their attention on the road and use sound judgment."

Together drivers and riders can work to arrive safely and reduce the number of fatalities and injuries by:

Drivers

Check mirrors and

blind spots before changing lanes.

Look twice, double check before making a turn.

Keep a safe distance between you and riders. Maintain safe following distances with other road users.

Riders

Wear high-visibility sturdy clothing, like leather.

Add reflective strips or decals to clothing or

motorcycle.

Ride defensively, never assume drivers see you and avoid staying in their blind spots.

Lastly, both drivers and riders should observe traffic laws—including holding a valid Class M endorsement where required—remain focused on the road and never drive or ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

For more information

on motorcycle safety, visit nhtsa.gov/road-safety/motorcycles.





Danger Foods for Dogs

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."
Groucho Marx

On daily walks with Mac, our randy little Jack Russell Terrier, he and I often linger in Mr. Jim's yard. Mr. Jim is a fine neighbor and all-around good guy. He lives on what Mac and I call the "dog street" (most of the residents there keep dogs). Mr. Jim is an Army vet, devoted Red Sox fan, and has a sweet-tempered elderly dog named Julie that he loves. Jim and Julie often enjoy the afternoons seated in their driveway eating popcorn, the remnants of which are tossed out on the lawn when they are finished (for the birds). This fact makes Mr. Jim's yard a favorite stopping point for Mac, who scours the grass for a treat, preferring the hard

brown un-popped kernels to those that are popped, fluffy and white. These stops got me thinking – is popcorn good for dogs? What about other human foods?

For the record, I need to state that I am not in the habit of giving Mac dog treats, snacks, or scraps. Conforming to the popular practices of canine snack culture, frequently giving your dog treats, seems an unhealthy option for our little dog. Though an occasional popcorn kernel or handout from the "chicken lady" (another kind neighbor - she carries dried chicken bites for the dogs she meets on the street) seems relatively harmless, I prefer that Mac get most of his nutrition from the contents of his supper dish at home. And I don't want him to pick up bad habits like begging for food.

In any case, these popcorn pitstops got me thinking about the safety of human foods for dogs. I did some quick research and learned a lot. Most dog parents are aware of some of these (we know to never feed our dogs chocolate). But other foods that are toxic to dogs might surprise you. Listed are the worst of-

fenders. There may be more, so learn what you can and feed your dog with caution.

I've already mentioned CHOCOLATE. Never give your dog chocolate. It contains theobromine, also known as xantheose, which can adversely affect your dog's heart, kidneys, and central nervous system. When your dog eats chocolate it can cause diarrhea, vomiting, thirst, anxiety, tremors, hyperactivity, seizures, irregular heartbeat, coma, and even death. Symptoms can take up to 6 - 12 hours to become evident.

GRAPE S and RAISINS contain tartaric acid, a toxin that can cause liver damage and kidney failure. Some dogs can tolerate this toxin, many cannot. Avoid giving your dog anything that includes grapes or raisins. Affected dogs will vomit and can suffer renal failure sometimes not evident for 3 - 5 days.

FRUIT STONES and SEEDS found in apricots, plums, and apple cores should not be given to dogs because

they contain cyanogenic glycosides which can cause cyanide poisoning. Symptoms include vomiting, dilated pupils, and rapid or irregular heartbeat.

ONIONS, GARLIC and CHIVES are dangerous for dogs. Foods in the onion family (in cooked, raw, or powder form) are toxic to dogs and can cause red blood cell damage. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, dark urine, shortness of breath, and rapid heart rate.

AVOCADOS contain persin which can cause heart damage (myocardial necrosis) very quickly in dogs. Symptoms include coughing, panting, lethargy, and death within 24 -48 hours.

Uncooked BREAD DOUGH will expand in the warmth of your dog's stomach, causing bloating and pain. Your dog will try to vomit, but may be unable to. Dogs can eat bread once it is cooked, but they should never be given dough.

CAFFEINE from coffee or energy drinks can accelerate your dog's

heartbeat to dangerous levels and can cause restlessness and vomiting.

ALCOHOL in even small amounts can be harmful to your dog, causing vomiting, diarrhea, and potentially serious damage to the central nervous system. Be careful about leaving a can or glass where dogs can reach it.

LIVER, while safe in small amounts, contains high levels of vitamin A which can be harmful to dogs. Make your dog lay off the liver.

MACADAMIA NUTS can be harmful to your dog, causing an increase in body temperature, panting, distress, muscle tremors, and difficulty walking. These symptoms are due to an unknown toxin and are usually non-fatal.

MILK, CHEESE, and MILK PRODUCTS should be avoided, because believe it or not, some dogs are lactose intolerant and will suffer serious distress when exposed. If you must give your dog milk products, do so in small doses and monitor their condition.

Do not give your dog RAW EGGS. While cooked eggs are safe, raw eggs can contain bacteria like Salmonella – serious bad news for dogs and humans.

RAW FISH is not good for dogs either. Too much can lead to thiamine deficiency (a B vitamin) and result in loss of appetite, weakness, and seizures.

The artificial sweetener XYLITOL (found in sugar-free gum and many other products) can cause seizures, liver failure, and even death in dogs.

Other foods for your canine buddies to avoid include COOKED BONES (they splinter and break easily – raw bones are better), CAT FOOD (not good for dogs), CORNCOBS (can easily cause intestinal obstructions), MOLDY FOODS of any kind, and large amounts of SALT.

And consider this – a bite size for us is like a full meal for a small dog. Watch what your dog eats. Take care of your best friend...

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KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Halfpint

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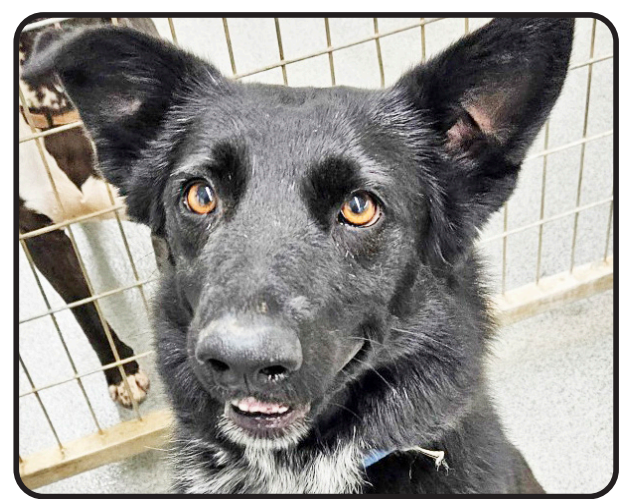


Halfpint is a gorgeous long-haired tuxedo gentleman. He is about 3 ½ years old, well past the kitten stage. He's been at the shelter since April 24 and would like a cool and relaxing home for the summer and ever after.

This gentleman is a bargain at a \$40.00 adoption fee.

Boots

Kathy and Alan Albers



Boots is a Border Collie/American Blue Heeler mix. He's just over 3 years old, weighs in at about 55 pounds. He is housetrained, gets along with other dogs, loves people, but not cats.

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AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-877-589-0093 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-586-6688. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

NEED NEW WINDOWS? Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise reduction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer! Call for a consultation & FREE quote today. 1-866-766-5558 You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider.

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Place your 25-word classified in this paper and 135 more for only \$300/ week. Find employees, sell your home or your car. Call the Kansas Press Association @ 785-271-5304 today!



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 Thanks for recycling
The Courier on
May 26

Help Wanted

Substitute City Clerk for Turon, KS. We are looking for an organized, reliable person to perform basic office tasks. You will be trained on the tasks you are expected to do. This is a part-time as needed position with the option of picking up extra hours. Need to fill this position immediately.

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Trash Talk

- Acceptable Items
Glass jars and bottles
Aluminum and tin cans
Plastic recyclable containers with a recycle symbol from 1-7 (emptied and triple-rinsed)
Paper: newspapers, office papers, books, etc.
Cardboard (unless it is contaminated with food waste)
- Non-Acceptable Items
NO PLASTIC BAGS
No Styrofoam
No Food waste (e.g. cardboard pizza boxes with grease)
No Yard waste
No Shredded paper
No Aerosol cans
No Batteries and electronics
No Oil and paint cans
No Ceramics
No Mirrors, windshields, light bulbs, or window glass
NO PLASTIC BAGS

Please do not bag or bundle recyclables. Simply place them into the recycle container. (Feel free to collect your recyclables in cardboard boxes.)

For residential curbside pickup, place your cart beside curb by 5:00AM.

Recycle bins are only for recyclables and not for trash.

Include only containers with a recycling symbol of 1-7. (Label on lid shows number.)

Empty and triple rinse recyclable plastic containers. Remove caps, lids, and rings from bottles. Labels do not need to be removed.

Recyclables do not need to be sorted unless the recycle bin is reserved for a specific type of recycling only.

Please flatten cardboard boxes before placing them into your bin.

Recyclable Paper must be clean and dry.

DO NOT PLACE RECYCLABLES IN PLASTIC BAGS

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.prairiebomb-ers.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!

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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Gail Tackett

Gail Dorlene Tackett, 78, passed away Monday, May 4, 2026, at Wesley Medical Center. She was born on December 4, 1947, in Wichita to Fred Jr. and Patricia (Logue) Swisher. Gail married Bruce Wesley Tackett on December 31, 1980, in San Francisco, California. He preceded her in death on February 14, 2022.



Gail graduated from Pratt High School in 1964 and earned her Bachelor Degree from Wichita State University in 1972. She taught High School English, Speech and Debate at Rossville, Medicine Lodge and Clearwater, worked Quality Assurance for Reader's Digest 6 years and lastly spent 15 years at Oracle doing computer software. She was a member of First Christian Church and Readers Digest Chorale Group. She enjoyed reading, singing, watching movies, doing jigsaw puzzles, flower gardening, traveling and her cats.

She is survived by her children, Christina (Ty) Clinesmith of Amarillo, Texas, Jason (Anita) Rojas of Pratt, Robyn (Michael) Moore of Pratt, David Tackett of Lawrence; brother, Phil Swisher of Arlington; sister, Jan (Rocky) Arnold of Manteca, California; grandchildren, Sysha (Josh) McGuire, Ben (Nicole) Eastes, Sara Clinesmith, Aleena (Joey) Hernandez, Jarid Rojas, Samantha Rojas and Ryan (Jasmin) Rojas; and 8 great-grandchildren.

Gail is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bruce Tackett; and great-grandson, Grayson McGuire.

Cremation has taken place. A family graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 30, 2026, at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society or Pratt Area Humane Society.

John Horton

John Allen Horton, 62, died Thursday, May 14, 2026 as a result of a traffic accident in Kingman County.



He was born June 3, 1963, in Beaver, Oklahoma the son of John Raymond Daniel and Alena Mae Allen Horton. A longtime resident of the Rago and Zenda community, previously of Benton and Wichita, he was a roll runner and a refinery demolition employee.

John was a member of the Methodist Church in Zenda, which he cleaned.

Survivors include daughter Calliope Bailey; sisters Julie (Jerry) Haase and Sandee Horton; step-brother Robert Mulhausen; and step-sister Corinne Gibb. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Lisa Horton; and step-brother Richard Mulhausen.

John loved the state of Utah and rock climbing, motorcycles, fishing, his cats and gardening. He enjoyed sharing his garden with the community. He was an excellent fence builder and devoted his time in helping with farming in Rago and Zenda. He was a wonderful brother and friend.

A Celebration of Life will be at the Zenda Methodist Church at a later date.

Memorials may be made with the Livingston Funeral Home to assist with final expenses or the Zenda Methodist Church.



Cleo's Flower Shop

229 N. Main in Kingman
kingmankflowers.com

(620) 532-3883



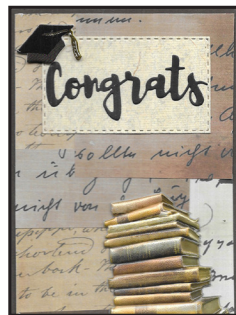
Sheila Jayne,
Owner/Operator

Cards by Roberta Kobbe

Handmade Greeting Cards for sale.
Shop for cards at Country Girl Bakery and Market in Harper, N'Cahtoots in Pratt, Cleo's in Kingman, Ye

Olde General Store in Norwich, and Treasures Three Fabrics in Pratt or contact me.

Will mail or deliver. Cards and stamps make nice gifts for shut-ins. 620-298-2659



Thank You Note RATES

Use the Courier to say

"Thank You".

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The Many Magical Talents of Sandra Highsmith



Master of creativity and connoisseur of design magic, Sandra Highsmith wears many hats at Livingston Funeral Home. As their go-to creative guru, she crafts everything from heartfelt funeral folders to custom monuments, movies, and more. But wait, there's more! Sandra is also the proud owner of Love Yah Design Company, a

design company with-in Livingston Funeral Home. If that weren't enough, she sells digital download diva, selling her designs on Etsy and Teachers Pay Teachers. With a cool 25 years of experience in graphic design and a technical degree she enjoys being able to use her design skills to help the community.

But Sandra's talents don't stop there—oh no! In 2011, she switched gears, earning her teaching degree and shaping young minds in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades at Faith Lutheran, USD 259. She leveled up further by teaching Adobe Design and art programs at Wichita's CityArts. Faith Lutheran even saw her step into the role of interim principal while she pursued an educational administration degree at Ft. Hays State University. Who says you can't do it all?

Sandra's artistic flair has made her a contender in contests by Adobe, Disney, and even Pixar. Her wool sculptures and oil paintings grace art shows in Wichita, Ark City, and Ellsworth, making her a creative and innovative artist. She's also the heart and soul behind Wichita Artworx, Inc., a nonprofit that harnesses the power of art to promote wellness.

Currently splitting her time between Derby and Kingman, Kansas, Sandra is mom to two

rockstar sons. Landen is prepping for his senior year at Derby High School, while Trevor welds a bright future at Designer Palms in Andover. She is currently engaged to Tim Price, and they will be getting married in 2026. Adding extra sparkle to the Highsmith clan is Drake, a Sheepadoodle puppy with a knack for mischief, affectionately dubbed "Sharkadoodle" for his furniture-chewing and counter-surfing escapades.

Rooted in a military family—her father served 30 years across Nebraska, Missouri, and the Philippines—Sandra has a special place in her heart for veterans. Her parents and other family are from Beloit, Kansas. In her downtime, she flies kites, rides horses, and gets lost in the pages of a good book. If life is an art, Sandra Highsmith is painting one extraordinary masterpiece.

Story and photos submitted by Tim Price



Pratt Support Group

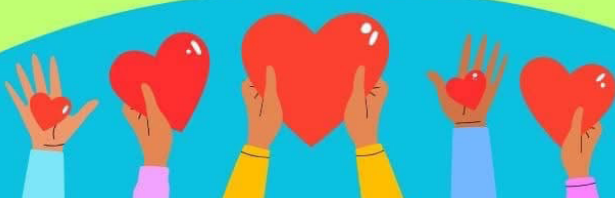
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