

The Cunningham Courier

February 12, 2026
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"The only newspaper in the world that cares about Cunningham, Kansas"

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photo by Danny Gibbs



Cunningham Town Meeting- First Impressions

What do you see when you look around Cunningham? As residents, each of us looks around our town with a familiar set of eyes. We see things we really adore, like our beautiful park. We see things that bring us comfort, like the

flag flying in front of the Post Office. We might not even notice certain things anymore due to overfamiliarity, like the grain elevator. We also see things that annoy us to no end like the yearly visit of the vultures to our water tower. But what do visitors see when they look around our town? What is their impression or perception? Furthermore, why should we care? The answer is simple: visitors' perception of our town is what draws in consumers to our local businesses. It is what makes people turn off the highway to contribute to our local economy. Perception is what compels families to send their children to school here, what entices them to put down roots and purchase or build a home, maybe even start a business. Outside perception of Cunningham is important

to the future of Cunningham. This is why one of Cunningham's newest non-profit organizations, Legacy in Action, has participated in First Impressions, a program of K-State Research and Extension.

The First Impressions Program helps community members to see their community through the eyes of a first-time visitor. Its goal is to "improve your community's image and quality of life for your citizens." First Impressions works by sending a volunteer visitation team from a similar community to visit our town. This visitation team explores residential, retail, and industrial areas; local government entities; schools; and other points of interest. They then evaluate appearances, access to services, friendliness, and other community attributes.

The results of their evaluations are then presented to the community at an open to the public, all-resident town meeting so that improvement projects may be discussed, goals for new development may be set, and ideas and initiatives for community groups and economic development may be identified.

A great amount of time and effort has been put forth so that we can get a "fresh set of eyes" on Cunningham. We ask you to please join us at the Community Center on March 9th at 6pm for cookies, tea, and K-State Research and Extension's First Impressions presentation. Together, we can all learn about and discuss ways to make Cunningham a better place to live.

Minutes from the Kingman County Commission

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. February 2, 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; Greg Thimesch; Nic Kostner; Sharon Young; Christy Crews, Hometown Grant

Online Visitors: AS; Lucy; Caller 01; Chris Hedrick.

Staff: Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser; Amber Hartley, Appraiser; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director

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

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

LaDawn Stegman would like to have about five minutes with the Commissioners.

Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief would like time on the Agenda to discuss Active911.

Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning Director was in with a change of overtime for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the change of overtime for an employee. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Stucky discussed a moratorium extension for solar farms until the end of 2027 if possible.

Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief and Greg Thimesch were in to discuss the Active 911 quote and that they had received a new quote as Norwich City doesn't want to participate. The original quote was \$1704.00 and the new quote is \$1168.00.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the quote from Active911 in the amount of \$1168.00. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in with a list of stale dated warrants in the amount of \$1018.65 that she would request cancelling as they are from 2023.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the cancellation of stale dated warrants in the amount of \$1018.65. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

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

Ms. Schwartz let the Commissioners know that there has been one dog bite so far in 2026.

Ms. Schwartz let the Commissioners know that February 20th the Health Department will be closed until 3p.m. for a tabletop exercise on preparedness in Pratt.

Ms. Schwartz discussed the changes in the vaccination schedule- most of the changes are more shared decision making.

Ms. Schwartz discussed that she has received continued Heritage West Complaints of mold and what her responsibilities as health officer should be.

Ms. Schwartz let the Commissioners

know that she has put together a log to document the complaints.

Ms. Schwartz has started the process to apply for next year's Aid-To-Local Grants.

Ms. Schwartz discussed purchasing a new copier/printer with grant funds and submitted the following quotes:

Galaxie Business Equipment Inc.

\$3951.93

maintenance \$44.35 per month

360 Document Solutions

\$3999.95

maintenance \$45.95 per month

Century Business

\$4098.27

maintenance \$50.74 per month

MOTION: Commissioner Young

moved to go with Galaxie Business Equipment Inc. quote in the amount of \$3951.93 to be paid with grant funds all but \$250.00. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Amber Hartley, Appraiser was in with quotes for CVN notices from Postalocity.com \$6499.24 and Copy Co. \$5433.00.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the quote from Postalocity.com. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Hartley let the Commissioners know that the value of oil is down from \$62 per barrel to \$48 per barrel so valuation will most likely be down for the next budget year.

Mandy Frampton, Expo Center Director was in with a quote for shavings in the amount of \$3434.40.

Ms. Frampton discussed bay lights being put in. Organization will pay for the bay lights if she can pay for the installation of the lights.

Ms. Frampton also discussed putting two big fans for the stall barn and asked

if she could look at pricing for two fans.

Commissioners agreed to Ms. Frampton looking at pricing.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the purchase shavings in the amount of \$3434.40. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted January 26, 2026, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve January 26, 2026, Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 10:00 a.m. with Mr. McGowne and 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 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 10:15 a.m. with Mr. McGowne and 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 10:25 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 3-0 votes.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:25 a.m. with no action taken.

continued on page 3

WE'RE HIRING!



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- CNAs

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Meanderings

Occasionally I will buy a can of black olives to eat as a snack. Sounds odd, I know. But it costs about the same as a bag of candy, and it's healthier for you. And I do like black olives. I also like green olives, but I can't

sit and eat a whole jar of green olives..

When we were really little kids, we called them ice cream pickles. We laugh about it now, but I do believe it started with those Thimesch aunts of ours. It seems they said something like, you can't have any ice cream until you eat these 'pickles'. Thus they became known as ice cream pickles. Now they are just black olives and green olives.

I bought some olives on the trip to the grocery store last Friday. That afternoon, I thought I'd

open up that can and enjoy those olives.

I opened the knife drawer where I keep the can opener. Not there. I looked in the dish drainer. Not there. I looked in the measuring cup drawer, the odds and ends drawer, and the tea towel drawer. The spice drawer. I checked the cabinets. Inside the bowls in the cabinets. I looked in the fridge. I looked in the freezer. I could not find that device.

I about drove myself crazy looking for it. No olives could be eaten

either.

Saturday's search

proved just as fruitless. I decided that I needed to buy a new one. If I bought a new one, the old one would magically appear. I added "can opener" to my grocery list. On Monday I needed to go to Pratt and deliver some cards to Treasures Three Fabric and while I was in the neighborhood, I visited Skaggs Ace Hardware. I found another can opener just like the one I bought in that store that is now the missing one.

When I walked up to checkout, the nice lady asked me how I was today. I looked at her and I said, "I live alone. I am only me. I have one dog and eight cats, so what happened to my can opener?" And I laid the new one on the counter.

She laughed out loud. Then she stated my hope,

"Now that you bought

this one, you will find

the other one."

Purchase made for about \$20.00.

I stopped and picked up a couple of things at Dillons. When I got home, Eddie Fisher, the

Tailless Wonder, was yelling about being hungry. I guess I needed to feed him a snack. I set down the grocery bags, opened the silverware drawer to get out a fork....

The new can opener is now setting by the door, to be returned to Skaggs the next time I go over.

Always reading, and currently between books,

Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

Isn't it a treat to have a respite from bitterly cold snowy conditions? We all know, no matter what Punxsutawney Phil says, that winter's not over but it sure is nice not to be housebound. For the first one or two days of a winter storm, I'm thrilled. On the third day I get fidgety. I've cooked and baked myself out. If I watch one more rerun of *Gunsmoke* I'm

pretty sure I'll be the first case of Prairie Madness reported in the Flint Hills. Even my favorite pastimes—reading and writing—lose all luster. So I tackle the junk drawer.

Everywhere I have lived there's been a junk drawer. When it wasn't in the kitchen it was found in a high traffic area (like an entry way or hallway.) I don't know how or why I call what finds its way into these drawers "junk." I don't think this stuff is rubbish when I put it in the drawer. They're things that seemed too good to throw out when they still might

be of use. They end up willy-nilly in the junk drawer because these things don't fit into any household organization system. For example, I had to replace the soft plastic cover on one of my earbuds. Of course, I couldn't just buy one or two of those things. I had to buy a whole bag. Though I've no idea when I'll need another one it didn't feel right to throw the leftovers out. But who wants a bag like that flopping around a silverware drawer or sinking to the bottom of my sock drawer? That's what junk drawers are

for.

There is also the junk drawer anomaly, at least in mine, in that it is also a home for certain necessities. Duct tape, old eyeglasses and the tape measurer all "live" in the junk drawer. Why? Because these and a few other life essentials (like the cat brush) are things I don't want to waste time looking for and where else am I am going to keep them? Unless the junk drawer's gotten all crammed with odds and ends, my fingers can usually grab what I need with my eyes closed.

But mostly my junk

drawer is full of stuff I

don't know where else to put and like everyone who's ever cleaned out a junk drawer I faced the dilemma of what to keep. Because the minute you've taken the trash out, what you've thrown away is EXACTLY what you need. And that's the difference between the plain ole junk drawer and the kitchen junk drawer. There's lots of "kitchen junk" I know not to get rid of even though it's unwise for me to tackle any recipe requiring more than big spoon or spatula.

The good part about cleaning the junk draw-

er while I was under a wintery house arrest is that my bag o' trash didn't make it outside. That rusty metal clamp I thought could "go" is exactly what I needed when DelaneyKat broke a bookshelf. When I took the trash out just now he was sleeping on the picnic table in the sun. Seems I'm not the only one glad the snow and ice are gone.

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

A Column by Dean Marple

Love

Noah was in love with Olivia.

No, wait.

Olivia was Monday.

The seventh-grade rumor mill on Thursday morning claimed that Olivia had moved on while Emma was now Noah's true love. Romance at this age was like a birthday candle. It flared up, burned hot, then flickered out very rapidly. Having decided that Emma was the new girl of his dreams, Noah needed a way to inform Emma of the good

news, but that presented a problem. Noah's middle school recently banned all cell phones from school property.

In the past, a few finger flicks and a text would fly from one phone to the next, but that was no longer an option. Times like these called for creative thinking and Noah was up to the challenge; he'd go old school and pass a note. Certain that no teacher would ever think, in this electronic age, of anyone communicating through a piece of folded paper, Noah sat in the back of math class and quickly scribbled a note, "I like you. Will you sit next to me at lunch?"

Folding the note into a tiny square, he launched

himself from his seat when the bell rang and hurried to the hallway. He knew Emma would come from the other direction; he'd slip her the note as she approached him.

Reaching in his pocket, he quietly worked the note to his fingertips and held it next to his leg. Emma, the girl of his dreams was coming, ten feet away, five feet away, passing right beside him. Noah silently held the note out, but it brushed against Emma's notebook, not her hand. She had no idea the tragedy that was unfolding as the note fell to the ground and was then trampled and kicked by dozens of feet. Noah had no idea where it went, but he was

not about to give up.

Math class was followed by social studies and English, but fourth period brought science class, a class he shared with Emma right before lunch. They even sat in the same row, though Emma sat in the front and Noah in the back. Class began, the teacher droned on, and Noah again wrote, "I like you. Will you sit next to me at lunch?"

As quietly as possible, Noah folded the note and then nudged the kid in front of him, "Hey, pass this up to Emma."

"What is it?"

"Doofus, what do you think it looks like? It's a note."

"What's it say?"

"Don't worry about that, just pass it on."

The note was passed, nudge by silent nudge, up the row. Noah couldn't follow it all the time, but he had faith in the delivery system. When the lunch bell rang, he walked out of class assured that all was right with his world.

Arriving at the lunchroom, he carefully selected a table with plenty of open space beside him. He was thinking of what to say to Emma when he was jerked out of his dreams by someone gently placing her hand on his thigh. A small square piece of folded paper rested in the hand. It was Sophia's hand.

"I got your note. I

thought it was so cute, the way you pretended to drop the note in the hallway. How did you ever think of that?"

"Uh..."

His mouth wasn't working but his thoughts were, *how can this get any worse?*

But it did.

On his other side he felt Clare push a small square folded piece of paper against his palm, then lean over and whisper in his ear, "I got your note in science class. Don't worry, I'll sit really close to you."

With Sophia on one side and Clare on the other, Noah felt there was only one thing he could do.

Smile.



Who's on Our Money?

If you are a human on planet Earth, you need money. We all carry it. We try hard to earn it. And whether it is found in the form of plastic, paper, or various alloys, we all depend on it every day. Money is important.

Though not overly fond of conversation, and perhaps lacking some degree of social adequacy,

I do occasionally talk to people. As a sort of sociological experiment, from time to time I have asked folks this question – who's on our money? Call me curious. Maybe I have been hobnobbing with the wrong crowd, but I can honestly say that I have yet to meet one person who could accurately identify all the fine Americans pictured on our currency and coin. Yes, almost everyone knows who is on the one-dollar bill, and most can identify the face on the five. But when it comes to the \$2, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 bills, they are often at a loss. And then we have coins. Who's

that guy on the nickel? I have been flummoxed to realize that most citizens do not know who is shown on our money. Maybe most don't care, but I happen to think this is important. Our money reflects our history. We need to know it.

I think this history is especially important as time marches on and things change. There is talk of swapping out some of those pictured on our bills now.

It is rumored that Harriet Tubman is scheduled to replace Hamilton on the \$10 bill sometime in the future (or maybe replace Jackson on the \$20).

If this must be done, Harriet Tubman is indeed a worthy candidate. Her

exploits ferrying runaway slaves to freedom, pistol in hand, on the Underground Railroad

is the stuff of legend. She deserves to be honored. But I shudder to

think of what is in store for us in the future when the shallow people take charge. Imagine Taylor Swift on the twenty-

Arghhhh.....

All that being said, for those who want to know, here's a brief prim-

er regarding the storied folks you might find in your wallet, purse, or closet coin jar. Let's start with folding money first.

~ \$1 bill – George

Washington – Our first

president and often called

the Father of our Country,

George Washington graces

the one-dollar bill.

As Commander of the

Continental Army, he led

our patriot forces to victory

against the British in the Revolutionary War.

~ \$2 bill – Thomas

Jefferson – You don't

often see two-dollar bills

in circulation, but they

are out there. On the

two you will see the face

of our third president,

Thomas Jefferson. He is

probably most famous for

penning the Declaration

of Independence.

~ \$5 bill – Abraham

Lincoln – Our 16th presi-

dent, Abraham Lincoln is

credited with holding the

Union together during the

Civil War and playing a

major role in the abolition

of slavery. He was our

first Republican president

and the first president as-

sassinated in office.

~ \$10 bill – Alexander

Hamilton - Another

Founding Father, military

officer, and statesman,

Alexander Hamilton is

pictured on the ten-dol-

lar bill. He served as

our first U.S. Secretary

of the Treasury under

Washington.

~ \$20 bill – Andrew

Jackson – Our 7th presi-

dent, Andrew Jackson is

found on the twenty-

dollar bill. He was a

U.S. Army general and

served in both houses of

Congress before being

elected president in 1829.

~ \$50 bill – Ulysses S.

Grant – Our 18th presi-

dent, Ulysses S. Grant

led the Union Army

to victory against the

Confederacy in the Civil

War. Along with his mili-

tary accomplishments,

Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, February 12
KAY Unit Conference ***
JH BB Tournament at Attica

Friday, February 13
HS Bb at Skyline

Saturday February 14
St. Valentine's Day ***
Powerlifting Virtual Meet

Monday, February 16
Federal Holiday: Presidents' Day ***
No School ***
Teacher Professional Development ***
Kingman County Conservation Meeting

Tuesday, February 17
HS BB at Stafford ***
Lions Club Meeting

Thursday, February 19
4:30 p.m.
U.S.D. 332 Site Council Meets



In observance of Presidents' Day, Ninnescaw Valley Bank will be closed Monday, February 16th

We ALWAYS need photos for the paper!!

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



St. Paul Lutheran Church - Preston

Spaghetti Dinner FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, February 14
5pm-7pm**

**Pratt Municipal Building
117 W 3rd St
Pratt, KS 67124**



Free Will Donation at the Door

All proceeds will go to the Brian Houtwed family to help with medical expenses.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2



American Legion Lorraine Post 98 Isabel

Annual Pancake & Sausage Supper. Saturday Feb 28th 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, milk & juice. Free will donation.

All are welcome.



Minutes from the Kingman County Commission

continued from front page

Christy Crews, Hometown Grants was in to give an update on the grant writing program she has provided for the money spent of \$96,000.00.

Commissioners discussed the grants written and submitted.

Ms. Crews said that she cannot control when grants become available

for the needs that applications are written for.

Commissioners discussed that she will be doing a survey to all the cities.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Misty Jacobs, Office Administrator was in to discuss personnel-CDL License Procurement Information.

Ms. Jacobs submitted quotes from DLTS-Your CDL Training Solution for CDL training.

Ms. Jacobs submitted a reimbursement contract if an employee would receive the CDL class and leave employment before 36 months.

Mr. Arensdorf submitted the December 2025

Financial Reports for the Commissioners to review.

Mr. Arensdorf discussed the Kingman Wind Farm I/II road damage estimates with the Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the reimbursement damage amount of \$303,110.00.

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

The Hot Mix Overlay bid letting for NE 10 St (Old 54) will be held on February 9, 2026.

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that there will be a field check on site February 3,



January 4H Meeting

Members of the Cunningham 4H Club gathered on January 4 for our monthly meeting. Twenty-three members were in attendance. We had a successful Santa Day Parade Float and received second place.

During the meeting, members discussed upcoming events for January and February. Our club had the concession stand for the 54 Classic tournament. The ambassadors had a chili feed at the Hanger on Sunday, January 18th. 4H Club days is set for Saturday, February 28th. A project talk was given by Jessica Dittmer. Followed by snacks and a game of tag lead by Jonathan Ogg. Then the meeting was concluded.

William Halderson, Reporter

WEST KINGMAN CO EDUCATION FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

ALL AMERICAN



TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

\$100 PER PERSON

HORS D'OEUVRE MEAL, WATER & TEA INCLUDED

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QUESTIONS OR FOR A FULL INVITATION, CONTACT SHAWNASTERNEKER@GMAIL.COM OR MARILYN GLENN 620-243-4751

Thank you for Supporting The Courier

Contact the Cunningham Public Library for more information about these programs

(620) 298-3163

email: cunninghamlibrary@yahoo.com



Scrapbooking Rescheduled due to sickness

February 16th 5pm

Bring 4-6 Christmas pictures



Led by Debbie Mills & Deana Bolen

Kingman Historic Theatre

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

February 13, 14, 15

Solo Mio

Rated PG
Showtimes
Friday at 7:30pm
Sunday at 5:30pm.

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

Scrapbooking Rescheduled due to sickness

February 16th 5pm

Bring 4-6 Christmas pictures

Led by Debbie Mills & Deana Bolen

Peggy Lenkner

Peggy Jo Lenkner, 79, passed away Thursday, February 5, 2026, at Hilltop Manor. She was born on September 9, 1946, in Wichita to Cloyd and Laura (Foster) Kettering. Peggy married Walter Robert Lenkner on August 16, 1980, in Medicine Lodge. He preceded her in death on May 21, 2015.



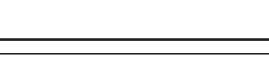
Peggy graduated from Redondo Beach High School in California. She went on to attend Pepperdine College in Malibu and Pratt Community College in Pratt. She was a member of Church of Christ and Epsilon Sigma Alpha. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, baking, traveling and spending time with grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughters, Julie (Michael) Fox of Winfield and Dana (Bryan) Whitfield of Pratt; stepson, Robert (Lois) Lenkner of Medicine Lodge; stepdaughter, Carol (Glen) McGahey of Carlsbad, California; grandchildren, Steven (Christina) Fox of Skiatook, Oklahoma, Robbie (Lindsey) Fox of Paragould, Arkansas, Laura Elliott of Winfield, Matthew (Ryan) Fox of Douglass, Peyton (Brittian) Young of Wichita and Brydan Whitfield of Derby; step-grandchildren, Will (Courtney) Lenkner of Medicine Lodge, Megan McGahey of California and Kaitlyn McGahey of Carlsbad, California; and great-grandchildren, Anna Fox, Ethan Fox, Sadie Fox, Oren Fox, Ledger Young and Paityn Lenkner.

Peggy is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Walter Lenkner; infant son, Stephen Best; brother, Fred Kettering; grandson in-law, Scott Elliott; and granddaughter, Malea Whitfield.

Visitation will be Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Monday, February 9, 2026, at Church of Christ, Pratt with minister Steve Triplett and John Hamm presiding. Burial will follow at 3:00 p.m., at Highland Cemetery, Medicine Lodge.

Memorials may be made to Heartspring or St. Jude Children's Hospital.



Alice Newcomb

Alice Marie Newcomb, 93, of Waldorf, MD, passed away peacefully on December 31, 2025, while visiting her daughter during the holidays. She was born November 7, 1932, in Kingman County, KS, to Madaline and Fred Klaver of Belmont, KS. Alice is preceded in death by her parents Fred W. and Madaline Klaver; brother Fred W., Jr., (Hons); brother Eugene "Pat"; sister Betty Klaver Fieser; second husband Fred G. Newcomb; and son Cary J. Meilert.

She graduated from Kingman High in 1950. In 1952 she met John Meilert while working at KG&E, and they married in 1953. They raised three children, Suzanne, Stephanie, and Cary. They were married for 15 years. With her second marriage to Fred G. (Fritz) Newcomb, they had a daughter Samantha, as well as a combined family with Fritz's children, Fred and Allison Newcomb. Alice was dedicated in her career and a top real estate agent reaching the million-dollar club. She not only sold residential homes but land and commercial property. She was still getting calls from past clients for repeat business into her 80's. She worked for Delta, Remax, Jobin, and Residential Plus real estate companies in the Waldorf and surrounding areas of Maryland.

Alice was an avid bridge player in person and online and loved to play the slot machines. She was a lover of animals of which she had many dogs throughout her lifetime, her last two being yorkies. Alice had a vivacious personality, a great sense of humor (like her father Fritz,) and was known to enjoy a good party, whether hosting or attending one. Since she grew up on a farm and had to help with meals from a young age, she developed great culinary skills. She could bake a delicious homemade cherry pie from scratch.

Alice is survived by her daughters, Suzanne Fields of Virginia; Stephanie Randlett (Doug) of Arkansas; Samantha Shelton (Jay) of Maryland; Fred L. Newcomb of Mississippi; and Allison Newcomb of Maryland. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Blake Holder (Maggie); Shayla Potter (Zac); Danielle Sawyer (Neil); as well as 6 great grandchildren, and many extended family and friends.

A Celebration of Life and burial will be in Kansas at a date to be announced.

Donations can be made in memory of Alice to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation, P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061. Also, online www.macular.org; or Dementia Society of America, www.DementiaSociety.org/donate.



Donna VanOrden

Donna VanOrden, 89, passed away Feb. 10, 2026, at Wheatlands Healthcare Center, Kingman, Kansas.



Born Donna Fae Boyts on April 30, 1936, at Harper, Kansas, she was the daughter of Roy and Pearl (Gleichman) Boyts. Donna was a proud triplet to her sister, Dennis Mae, and brother, Donald Ray. Donna graduated from Harper High School in 1955.

Donna married Eldon Beck in 1955, and to this union three children were born; Danny, Belinda, and Marland. Donna married Ed VanOrden in 1979. Ed passed away in 2022.

While raising her children, Donna was a homemaker and cake decorator. Donna worked for Cessna and later Boeing until her retirement. She then went on to run Estate Sales by Donna until she was no longer able. Donna was an active member of the First Christian Church in Kingman, Kansas. She enjoyed participating in Christian Women's Fellowship and cooking meals for Share the Love.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, triplet siblings, and her husband, Ed. She is survived by her children: Danny (Traci) Beck, Belinda Beck; and Marland "Marty" (Deborah) Beck; as well as numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Even though her memory faded her heart was always full of love for her family and friends. She was fiercely loving, delightfully outspoken, and full of sass. The family appreciates all the loving care from the staff at Wheatlands Healthcare Center and Rivercross Hospice. Grandma adored so many of you.

Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. on Monday at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman with nephew Rod Yoder leading services. The family will receive friends from 12:00 noon on Monday until service time at the funeral home. Graveside services will be 3:00 p.m., Monday at the Harper Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Wheatlands Healthcare Center in Kingman and can be mailed to Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.

More Life Celebrations

can be found on page 12

Check the Blessing Box east of the Methodist Church.

Anyone can give or take from the Blessing Box at any time.

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

Giving Opportunities in our Community

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

West Kingman County Education Foundation

Use your Dillon's Card! to donte contact Shawna Sterneker

Hands of Hope (contact any church)

Cunningham Alumni Scholarship Fund

(send checks to the West Kingman County Education Foundation)

Cunningham Community Center (leave donation at the bank)

Lions' Club

Cunningham Museum (to donate contact Alan Albers or Mike McGovney)

Cunningham Public Library (to donate, contact Debi Dunlap)

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

1 Peter 5:5 NIV God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.

quote submitted by Alan Albers



Seamstress
Eilene Crick
helps a young
library patron
practice her
button sewing-on
skills.



Lutheran Churches

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

St. John, Nashville
620-246-5220

Sunday School & Bible Class
8:45 a.m.

Worship Service
10 a.m.

Pastor vacancy until further notice.



Church of Christ

Penalosa
Sunday 11:00 a.m.



Catholic Churches

Sacred Heart, Cunningham

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

St. John, Zenda

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

St. Leo

Sunday 8:30 p.m.

St. Peter Willowdale

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

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

First Christian Church

Cunningham

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

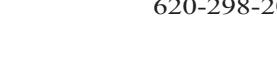
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Jr High Youth Group 4:00 p.m. Sunday

Sr High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Sunday

Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Mike McGovney 620-770-9507



United Methodist Church

Penalosa

Worship 9:15 a.m.

Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki

620-298-2090



Cunningham

Worship 10:45 a.m.

Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953



Zenda Methodist Church

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School: Children 8:30 a.m. Adults 10:00 a.m.

Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953



Church of Christ

Penalosa
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1951

February 16, 1951 - The high school basketeers won the annual Kingman County League Tournament for the tenth straight year, defeating Norwich by a 63-41 score in the finals last Friday night. Members of the team are Leon Rose, Richard Wells, Dan Kincheloe, Billy DeWeese, Eugene Becker, Ralph Bayer, Jack Meyers, Richard Hazlett, Melville Mefford, and Leonard Schnittker and coached by Claude Wesbrooks.

The February gas production allowable for the Cunningham Oil and Gas Field was over 85,000,000 cubic feet.

1956

February 16, 1956

The Ninnescah Valley 4-H Club voted to plan a window display in observance of National 4-H Club Week (March 3-10) at their regular meeting, a week ago Monday evening, in the grade school basement. Named to the window display committee were Imogene Voss, Kenneth Zrubek, Jerry Pelzl, Dale Boswell, Mrs. Floren Rose, and Mrs. Carl Voss.

The club also voted to enter a play in the Kingman county 4-H Club Days, March 10 and 17. Members of this committee were Imogene Voss, Karen Wilson, Loma Lynn Davidson, Lynanne Remy, Jimmy Pelzl, and Dale Boswell. Two guests, Harry Newton and Marion Zink, members of the Turon Lions Club, were present and presented their plans of sponsoring 4-H clubs as their club project. Members of the local voted to go along with their sponsorship for a year to see how it would work out.

Lynanne Remy favored the group with a piano solo, after which Loma Lynn Davidson gave a report on her trip to judging school as a project talk. Louise Voss gave a music appreciation report on the trumpet, after which Dale Boswell gave a health report on the care of snake and spider bites. Louise Voss led the group in several games, and the Voss girls, Imogene, Louise, and Aileen, served light refreshments to 12 members, three leaders, and two visitors.

Directors of the Community Men's Club met last week to elect officers for the coming year. The new officers are Rev. Charles McDonald, President; Sherman Kincheloe, Vice-President, and Lon Hoagland, Secretary and Treasurer.

Other club directors include Alphons Liebl, Lester Alley, Dr. Donald Thompson, Dave Willinger, Clarence Shelman, and Verne Stanley.

No regular club meeting will be held during February, but a meeting, featuring a wildlife and game conservation theme, will be held at the club's March meeting.

1961

February 16, 1961 - Cunningham participated in the Ninnescah League Speech and Drama Festival at Sylvia, Monday, and received very fine ratings.

Sheryl Liebl was awarded a I rating for her poetry interpretation "Although I Searched", Sherrill Hutchinson received a I-minus rating for her humorous reading, "Marjorie Receives"; Kay Kaster was awarded a II-minus for her prose interpretation, "Selection from 'The Devil and Daniel Webster'"; Betty Kitson received a II rating for her humorous reading, "Betty At the Ball Game"; Mary Zrubek was awarded a III rating for her humorous monologue, "Greener Grass," and Dorothy Gridley received a III rating for her dramatic reading, "Hungry."

Mrs. Bonnie Nickle is the coach, and accompanied the six girls to Sylvia.

In the one-act play division of the festival, Cunningham received a II-minus rating for their presentation, "No Greater Love." Members of the cast were Kay Kaster, Claren Thome, Gene Patton, David Amick, and Kathy Meyers. Mr. Norman Good was the director. Mary Leiter played a piano solo before the play presentation.

Helen Mertens was crowned 1961 Basketball Queen of Cunningham Rural High School at an impressive ceremony during half-time of the Cunningham-Fairfield North first team game last Friday evening.

Her attendants were LaDean Cooley, Janet Graves, Mary Zrubek, and Kathy Meyers.

Team Captain Jerry Pelzl served as Miss Merten's escort, and escorting the queen's attendants were Marvin Ewing, Jerry Huffman, Gary Phillips, and Marshall Swander.

Students and alumni enjoyed dancing in the high school recreation room following the games.

1966

February 17, 1966 - The Cunningham Wildcats won the Ninnescah League basketball championship last week-end with back-to-back victories over Partridge and Fairfield, Friday and Saturday nights.

It was Cunningham's second straight league championship, although last year's triumph ended in a tie with Sylvia.

Three Cunningham players scored in double figures to pace the Wildcats to a 60 to 45 win at Partridge last Friday night. Danny Meyers scored 17 points; Ron

Murphy 16, and Dennis Theis 13 as the Wildcats avenged a loss to Partridge in last month's league tournament.

Three Cunningham players again scored in double figures as the Wildcats took an easy 77-48 decision at Fairfield, Saturday night. Ron Murphy and Dennis Theis each made 19 points, and Jim Cain came up with 16.

The Cunningham Bees edged past the Partridge seconds in the preliminary game, 45-41. Frank McClellan led the scoring with 15 points, and Duane Schnittker chipped in 10.

The Cunningham Bees suffered their third loss of the season, all to the same team, as they dropped a 45-43 thriller to the Fairfield seconds in the preliminary game. Jim McCune led the Cunningham scoring with 15 points.

Cunningham will play their last regularly scheduled game here tomorrow night (Friday) against Sylvia.

The Cunningham 4-H Club met in the high school recreation room, Monday evening, Feb. 7.

Acting President Don Hellar opened the meeting, and led the opening song, "Home On The Range," after which the members answered roll call with "How the 4-H Club Has Helped Me."

Don reported on the 4-H Club Foundation Program, after which the members presented their numbers to be given at the Kingman County 4-H Club Talent Days in Kingman, February 19 and 26.

The Dick Strohl and Joe Woodson families served refreshments at the close of the meeting.—Kristy Sheldon, Reporter.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Nancy Briggeman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1976

February 12, 1976 - Young people of high school age, there is a new gospel singing group being formed Wednesday, February 18 at 3:30 p.m. at the Cunningham Christian Church. This will be a non-denominational group. We will be singing of today and presenting programs in town and out-of-town.

Come and share and enjoy this time together. Jack Davis will be directing this new group. You will need your parents' consent. Hope to see you at 3:30 p.m. on the 18th at the Christian Church.

The engagement of Martha Yancey of Oak Ridge, Illinois, to Don Hellar of Clarendon Hills, Illinois, has been announced by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Yancey of Libertyville, Illinois. Don is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alva Hellar of Cunningham.

Miss Yancey is a graduate of Rosary College and completed the Montessori Teacher Training in Chicago in 1972. She is presently teaching in Forest Park, Illinois. Hellar received his Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Kansas State University in 1972. He is employed as an Engineer for Commonwealth Edison Co., Chicago.

A May wedding is planned.

Zenda News; Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Oeding and Danny and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Batt were Saturday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Batt and Justin, Haven.

Mr. and Mrs. James Youngers and son, Wichita, called on Mrs. Rose Cunningham Saturday afternoon.

Rev. and Mrs. Bennett, Spivey, and Gina Morris, Tulsa, were Sunday dinner guests of Marjorie Swingle.

Hilltop: Joe Trimm was visited by his sister and brother-in-law from Hutchinson Sunday afternoon.

"Brownie Joe" Northrop has not seen his dog friend, "Ralph Lee" Dafforn for at least 2 months for more. Was "Ralph Lee" at home enjoying a siesta?

The Skyline Thunderbirds faced a determined Cunningham Wildcat offense here Tuesday night as they dropped the contest to the Wildcats 67-48. The contest was league action.

The 'Cats jumped out to an early 18-8 first period lead behind ace-shooter Scott Elliot and then continued their assault to take a 38-27 halftime lead.

The final two periods were of the same nature as the Thunderbirds could not seem to get the momentum up as the Wildcats walked away the victor 67-48.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Florine Kampling

1981

February 12, 1981 - Those filing as candidates for the coming city election include Larry Ruckle and Ivan Cain for mayor; and for city council, Shirley Adamson, Bob Thimesch, George McClellan, Lloyd McClellan, and Marion Lackey.

To the Kingman and Cunningham Fire Departments: I have seen your departments fight grass fires before, and the recent fire of Feb. 3 on the Kingman Wildlife Area was not another fun thing. Some people might take it for granted that you are just doing your duty. But I don't. Your quick response and workmanship on this dirty chore indicates more than just a response to duty. I appreciate this extra effort on your part to get the chore done. You people deserve a pat on the back. Byron Walker, Kingman Wildlife Area

Mr. and Mrs. George Hageman announce the birth of a baby girl, Jan. 11 at Kingman Community Hospital. She weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hageman and Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Lubbers.

Great-grandparents are George Thimesch and Minnie Hageman of Kingman.

Mary Helen Hageman, Cunningham, has passed her midpoint of her career training as a dental assistant at Bryan Institute in Wichita. She was capped in December and will soon be graduating and receiving her diploma in March. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hageman of Cunningham.

The Cunningham High School girls basketball team captured the Great Golden Plains League championship last week in basketball action at Skyline. In quarterfinal play, Cunningham defeated Sharon 58-35, which advanced the Wildcats to the semi-finals against Skyline. The Thunderbirds also fell to the Wildcats, this time by a score of 49-30. In other semi-final action the Norwich Eagles upset the Mullinville Tigers, setting up a Cunningham-Norwich final. After waiting through a five-day set-back, because of inclement weather, the Wildcats and Eagles had a close, hard-fought battle with Cunningham eventually winning, 39-35.

The Cunningham Wildcats chalked up three wins last week with victories over Bethel Life, Haviland and Sharon. This moved our record to 13-2 overall and 5-1 in league play. We have been struggling a little, but showed signs of beginning to come out of it.

The Bethel Life contest saw the Cats get a lead about midway through the first quarter, and then extend the score to the final, 94-47. The Cats placed eleven players in the scoring column with three in double figures.

1986

February 13, 1986 - The Cunningham Public Library continues to grow and improve thanks to the support of the community. In recent months the Library collection has been weeded and the Library re-arranged with new shelves, storage cabinet and carpet. Many volunteer hours and donations made these improvements possible. New books are being added to the Library as donations are received and fund become available to purchase new books.

One hundred and seventy-nine students completed requirements for bachelor's degrees during the 1985 fall semester at Fort Hays State University.

Fall semester graduate of Cunningham is Brian Scott Huhman with a B.X. in Management.

The Wildcats traveled to South Haven last Friday and came away with a win, 74-51.

South Haven was no match for the quicker Cats as they jumped out to a 21-4 lead at the end of one quarter. The Cunningham team stretched their lead to 41-17 at half-time. That damped South Haven's homecoming spirit.

Matt Oller led the Cats in scoring with 25, followed by Bill, Wilferd and Scott, scoring 13, 11, and 10 respectively.

Wilferd Westerman grabbed 9 rebounds to lead Cunningham in rebounding. We appreciate the fans that braved the weather to support us. It was a good night in the gym, a bad one outside the gym.

Cunningham High School entered two Quiz bowl matches last week. The first was the St. Mary of the Plains College Quiz Bowl, held at the college of that name in Dodge City on February 6. Thirty-four schools were entered in the 1-A to 3-A division. Cunningham played four matches and won them all.

The team consisted of Orin Stillwell, Ed Jarmer, Brett Deemer, Todd Rohr, and Chris Huhman.

Museum Winter 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

CJHS Wins Regular Season League Championship



Molly Morgan photo

Front row: AnnMarie Kerschen, Jalynn McGuire, Avery Kinsler, Willow Preisser, Parker Miller, Leah Rogers, Jessica Dittmer

Back row: Coach Bart Ricke, Alyssa Osnter, Mackley Glenn, Vaughn Preisser, Lux Thimesch, Carly McGuire, Asst. Coach Kelsey Beat

CJHS Out-scores Burron

The Cunningham Jr High Boys secured the 2 seed in the HOPL tournament with a 12-1 record at the end of the regular season. Burron upset the Norwich Eagles in their play-in round, so they earned the chance to play the Wildcats twice in less than a week. The Cats were wired up and ready to play on Saturday at Attica. On defense, the Cats pitched a shut out in the first quarter. On offense, the Cats were HOT from the field. They hit shots inside and from the 3-point line. They opened up a 20-0 score about as fast as possible. The Cats were in cruise control throughout the next two quarters.

Burron found some baskets in the third quarter, but our boys poured it on in the fourth again to win convincingly with a running clock. The shooting percentage was awesome with the starting group shooting around 63% from the field.

The Brodys cleaned up the rebound department. Brody Halderson pulled down 6 and Brody Henning had 5. Cooper led the team with 5 steals and 7 other Wildcats had 1 or 2. On to the semi-final round of tournament play!

-Coach McGuire



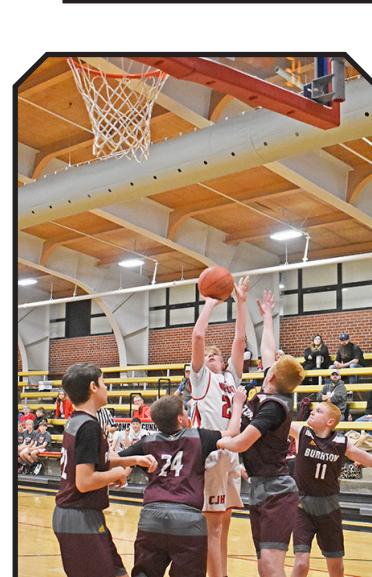
Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	16	15	16	14	42
Burron	0	3	8	0	11



Casyn Miller



Jace Oldham



Landen Hageman

Molly Morgan photo2

Wildcat Scorers

Brody Halderson	10
Grady Smyth	9
Landon Green	8
Cooper Neufeld	6
Jace Oldham	3
Jax Thimesch	2
Wade Preisser	2
Brody Henning	2

JH Wildcats Win Against Skyline

The junior high HOPL Basketball semi-final match pitted the 1-loss Wildcats (2 seed) vs the 2-loss Thunderbirds from Skyline (3 seed). The game opened with the Wildcats getting more shots and rebounds than Skyline. Shots were not falling, but defense stepped up and limited the Thunderbird chances. The second quarter was a mirror image for the Cats with scoring and defense. The third quarter found the T-Birds with a little more rhythm, but the Wildcats held

serve. The fourth quarter was more to the Wildcats liking as they forced a few turnovers and converted some layups. The lead lengthened and the Cats were able to run out the clock. The win puts the Cats in the championship game on Thursday vs the number one seed. Playing the Attica Bullpups on their home court would seem to give the advantage to the home team, but there are sure to be some Wildcat fans betting on the Cats for the upset.

The "Bigs" ruled the paint.

With outside shots not falling, the boys pounded the ball into the posts or drove in for buckets. Brody went to the line multiple times, and all of the Wildcat points came from inside 12 feet. Brody pulled down a whopping 10 rebounds with Cooper and Landon getting 5 apiece. Landon led in steals with 6. Brody chipped in 2 blocks with Cooper getting 1. It was a definite battle for the paint.

Thursday, February 12 will be a special day for the Junior High Cunningham Wildcats

as BOTH the boys and girls are playing in their respective HOPL Championship games. Cunningham historians, has this ever happened before? Congratulations, young people! Let's go, Wildcats!

Wildcat Scorers

Cooper Neufeld	14
Brody Halderson	7
Landon Green	6
Landen Hageman	2

Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	8	7	6	8	29
Skyline	3	3	5	5	16



At a recent home game, Molly took this photo of some of the pep band members

UA Little Rock Announces Fall 2025 Dean's List

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock has announced the list of students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester.

The Dean's List recognized over 1,900 students with superior academic performances at

the end of the semester.

To be on the Dean's List, UA Little Rock students must earn at least nine credit hours and maintain at least a 3.5 GPA.

Local UA Little Rock students who made the Dean's List include:

Nolan Freund of Kingman, Kansas

Taye Wilson of Pratt, Kansas

and many more.

Forensics Team Wins Big at South Barber



Mrs. Vahsholtz took 3 students to the South Barber Forensics Tournament: Maelyn Jump, Nora Huff, and Raven Koester. Raven placed 6th in POI and 6th in Prose. Maelyn placed 4th in Poetry and 2nd in Prose. She has qualified both her Prose and Poetry for the State Championship in May. Nora stole the show, she placed 1st in Poetry, 1st in Prose, and 1st in Serious Solo. Nora qualified all three of her pieces for the State Championship. Congratulations!

story and photo courtesy of USD 332

Powerlifting Team Competes at Wellington



Pictured above: Weston Rogers, Stephen Kerschen, Caden Johnson, Myles Thimesch, Skyler Thimesch, Andrew Schultz, Coach, Eric Kerschen

Wellington Powerlifting meet Saturday Feb. 7th.

Six Cunningham wildcat lifters participated and performed really well! Congratulations to Stephen Kerschen on his 1st place finish. Weston Rogers finished 2nd place in his junior division weight class and Myles Thimesch placed 3rd in his junior division weight class. Our next meet is virtual next Saturday morning starting at 8am in the Cunningham weight room. Come a watch the kids. -Coach Eric Kerschen



Stephen Kerschen (1st)



Weston Rogers (2nd)

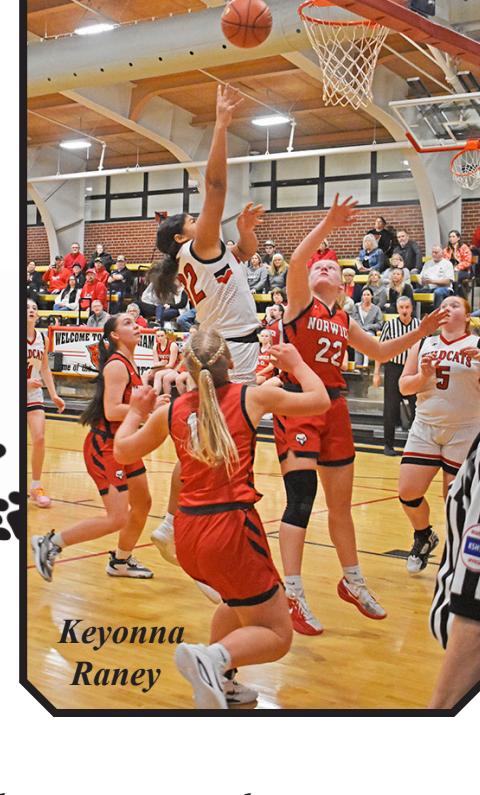


Myles Thimesch (3rd)

Lady Wildcat Action vs. Norwich Eagles



Katie Ogg



Keyonna
Raney



Whitney Mead

"That's why at the start of every season I always encouraged players to focus on the journey rather than the goal. What matters most is playing the game the right way and having the courage to grow, as human beings as well as basketball players. When you do that, the ring takes care of itself."

— Phil Jackson, *Eleven Rings: The Soul of Success*

Two Arrested After Car Chase



On February 5, 2026, Deputies from the Pratt County Sheriff's Office were notified of a police chase occurring in Kingman County. Kingman Police Department, Kingman County Sheriff's Office and Kansas Highway patrol were chasing a silver Toyota pickup that had been involved in a theft in Kingman, Kansas. Pratt County Deputies began setting up along the Kingman/ Pratt County Line to assist. The pursuit left Kingman County and entered Pratt County where several units deployed Stop Sticks in attempt to stop the pursuit. The vehicle then left Pratt County and entered Barber County. The vehicle was finally stopped near Medicine Lodge, Kansas and two subjects were placed under arrest. No Officers, suspects or the public were injured. -courtesy Pratt County Sheriff Dept.

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Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, February 1

Traffic Stops 1
Civil Paper Service 5
Agency Assist / Medical 2200 NE 10 St, Kingman

Monday, February 2

Civil Paper Service 13
Agency Assist / KMPD / Disturbance 2000 Blk N Abbey Rd, Kingman
Transport Civilian 120 N Spruce st, Kingman
Miscellaneous NE 50 St & N Berry Ave, Kingman

Tuesday, February 3

Traffic Stops 8
Abandoned Vehicle
Miscellaneous
Miscellaneous
Non-Injury Accident
Non-Injury Accident
Follow Up
Miscellaneous
Wednesday, February 4

Traffic Stops 4
School Walk Through
Non-Injury Accident

Miscellaneous
Check Welfare

Thursday, February 5

Traffic Stops 2
Civil Paper Service 3
Non-Injury Accident
Suspicious Activity
Traffic Complaint
Non-Injury Accident
Animal Complaint
Agency Assist/KMPD/Chase/Arrest 300 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Court / Inmates 130 N Spruce St, Kingman

Friday, February 6

Traffic Stops 2
Accidental 911 Dial
Debris In Roadway
Traffic Complaint
Saturday, February 7

Miscellaneous
Disabled Vehicle
Suspicious Person
Traffic Complaint
Suspicious Person
Miscellaneous

their summers to chasing wheat to harvest. Later, he chased his kids and grandkids at many sporting events.

Now that his grandkids have graduated, he dedicates much of his time attending games to watch local kids play. During the home games, I can glance down to the front row of the seatback bleachers and spot him near midcourt. During away games, I can scan the gymnasium to find him sitting courtside either on the front row or at the end of the bench with the boys keeping the books.

He's always there providing words of encouragement, on-point

5000 Blk E Hwy 42, Rago
1300 Blk NW 50 St, Kingman

SE 40 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman
NE 20 St & NE 150 Ave, Cheney
100 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
14000 Blk SE 70 St, Norwich
14000 Blk SE 70 St, Norwich
Agency Assist/KMPD/Chase/Arrest 300 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
130 N Spruce St, Kingman

400 Blk E 4th Ave, Kingman
W Hwy 42 & SE 40 Ave, Rago
400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
9000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
200 Blk W E Ave, Kingman
E Hwy 54 & NE 120 Ave, Murdock

stats for the team and a presence that beams with pride for the kids from his hometown.

His presence isn't just seen or felt at the junior high games either. You'll see him at all the high school games and he will even be in the gym many Saturdays to cheer on our town's kids during the elementary rec league games.

By all accounts, he's their biggest fan, and the kids see him and love him for it.

As a parent, I see him

and appreciate the continuous support that he provides, and I love how the kids interact with him and recognize that he comes to see them play for their little town's school.

If you ask me, there's a lot of blessings being part of a small community, and the support that's provided to our kids is one of the greatest.

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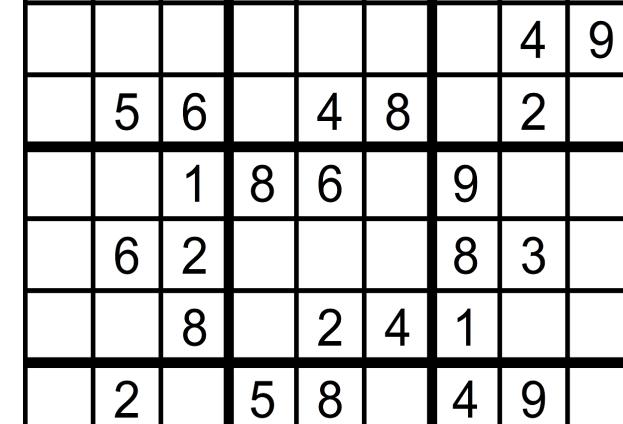
News from Kansas Farm Bureau

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Insight

KANSAS FARM BUREAU

The Voice of Agriculture

Blessings and Basketball

Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

We experienced our first season of organized school basketball with my son this year while he played on his junior high team. My daughter has kept us driving rural roads on Saturdays for elementary recreation league game matchups.

We've experienced many years of Saturday rec league basketball

with the kids. We knew going into this season, we'd probably have one or two practices a week, games always on Saturday, parents taking turns providing snacks and drinks after every game and a possible tournament to end the season.

Junior high basketball was a whole new world for our family this year, but one we all truly enjoyed. Aside from a lot of freezing, dark mornings getting my son to town for his 6 a.m. practices five days a week, we saw a lot of community culture and pride while driving down many small-town Main Streets or while sitting inside a lot of gymnasiums.

connected to agriculture.

Doors will open at 8:00 a.m., with the conference beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. The agenda includes a full day of educational sessions focused on agriculture, farm sustainability, marketing, stress management, and economic decision-making. Participants will hear from a variety of speakers and panelists representing different perspectives and experiences within the agricultural community.

Conference sessions will address topics such as strengthening personal and professional relationships, reducing stress through social connection, diversifying farm income, connecting with consumers, understanding markets and risk, and identifying common challenges faced by farm operations. The day will conclude at 3:30 p.m. with closing remarks and door prizes.

A light breakfast

will be available in the morning, and lunch will be provided by Home Cookin.

There is no cost to attend; however, registration is required by

We discovered that like our town, sometimes the only place to stop and grab some food after late games was at a gas station. This is, if the town we were in had a gas station.

We also discovered that many of the schools that are part of the league that our school is a member of have a fantastic base of supporters. These supporters show up to the home games and make the trips to the away games as well.

One of the standout supporters for my son's team attended as many home and away games as he could this year. When he was younger, he and his family dedicated

March 1.

The Statewide Women in Ag Conference has become a recognized educational opportunity in the region, providing a setting for learning, discussion, and connection among those involved in agriculture.

For additional information or to register, interested individuals are encouraged to contact the Nemaha, Jackson, or Pottawatomie County Conservation Districts or go to www.kswomeninag.com.

Statewide Women in Ag Conference Scheduled for March 21 in Corning

Corning, Kan. — The Statewide Women in Ag Conference will be held Saturday, March 21, in Corning, Kansas.

The free, adult-only event is hosted by the Nemaha, Jackson, and Pottawatomie County Conservation Districts and is open to both women and men involved in or

Statepoint Crossword

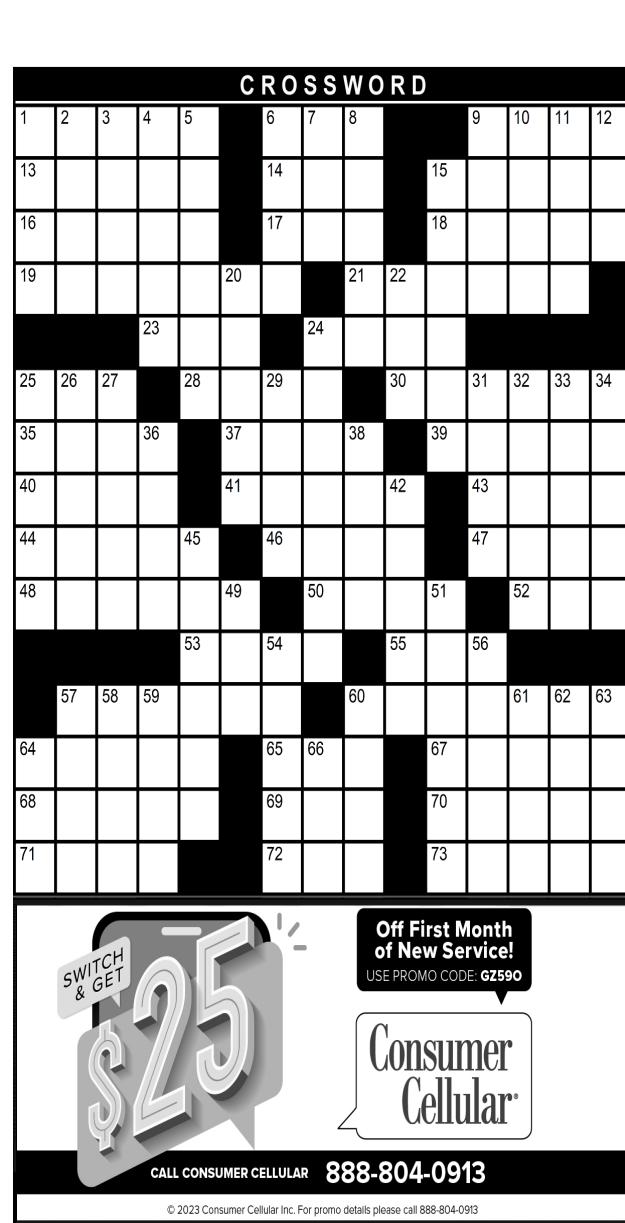
Theme: The 1990s

ACROSS

- *First cloned mammal
- Fuel economy acronym
- Land measure
- Pascal of "The Mandalorian"
- fame
- Second O in EVOO
- a.k.a. sergeant fish or robalo
- Plant fungus
- **"Titanic" star
- *"The ____ Whisperer" (1998)
- *PepsiCo offering
- *One of the Walsh twins, 90210
- Long reef dweller
- Reach a high
- Color of passion
- Agitate
- Like Matryoshka inside Matryoshka
- Gave the boot
- Arab League member
- One of Florida Keys
- Summer month
- Polished diamond surface
- Safecracker
- Lazybones
- Before "saw" and "conquered"
- Glitch
- Watercraft
- Remains repository
- Like some martinis
- Comfort
- One in a pod
- * ____ bubble
- *The 1990s, a.k.a. post-decade
- Biblical patriarch
- Sensitive subject?

67. "Bad news travels fast," e.g.

68. ____ shopping cart
- Father's progeny
- Trojan War epic
- Difficult situation
- Like jalapeño
- So out it's in
- Design detail
- München mister
- Jittery
- Irregularly notched
- Harry of Privet Drive
- Gangster's gal
- **"American ____" (1999)
- Geography class prop
- Any minute, arch.
- Cut at birth
- Parks on a bus
- out a living
- Israeli monetary unit
- Remote in manner
- Did a marathon, e.g.
- Mollify
- *Assassinated Gandhi
- Radiate
- Small wooded hollows
- *Apple offering
- Simon does what?
- Influencer's creation
- Daytime moth
- *Snoop ____ Dogg
- Coloring substances
- Nautilus' captain
- Allegro or lento
- Repeat an echo
- Pathet ____
- *Fresh Prince's town



54. * ____ Mouth of "All Star" fame

56. Discombobulate

57. *Jeff Bridges in "The Big Lebowski," with The

58. Made in Vegas

59. Makes lace

60. One-tenth of a dime

61. * ____ Wait... Don't Tell Me!" on NPR

62. Petri dish gel

63. Do over

64. Fruit spread

66. * ____ Goo Dolls of "Name" fame



Conservation History

In January of 1971 I was a new volunteer at the Red Cloud Indian School near Pine Ridge South Dakota.

Shortly after I arrived I started to receive the Cunningham Clipper. Mom had subscribed for me, and I've been receiving our town paper ever since. The name changed from Clipper to Courier years back but it's still the "The only newspaper in the world that cares about Cunningham, Kansas".

It seems like it was close to spring that I read in the paper about a story that had been written 50 years before about the first conservation work done in Kingman County. The story told of how my Great Uncle Frank Albers had completed the first terraces and concrete drops to slow the running of water from his field east of St. Leo.

I'm assuming this would have been in the year 1921. This was before any Government organization would have been established in the county to encourage and monitor such activities. So the history of the Albers family and their stewardship of the soil and water resources is over 100 years old and still growing.

My dad John Albers always described himself as Uncle Frank's go-fer. You know go fer this or go fer that. Grandpa Ben had other older boys to do his chores, so Dad was farmed out to bachelor Frank as a helper. Dad would have been too young to have been involved with this first conservation action, but he was included in Frank's later endeavors.

Dad told of Frank's total dedication to protecting his soil and waters and of how Uncle Frank had traveled out of state to learn conservation

work. He had traveled to Oklahoma to learn how to build terraces so the water drained to a central spot. Frank also traveled to Nebraska to learn how to make concrete drops to lower the water down the hill to cause the least erosion. Frank sent Dad's older brothers, Joe and Leo, to Oklahoma in a horse drawn wagon to retrieve a large number of Catalpa tree seedlings.

He planted these trees in some of his poorer soil for erosion control and future fence posts.

Dad started a conservation business where he and an uncle built these concrete (structures) drops for other farmers all over the county. My brother Gene (now deceased) was one of the first to embrace no-till farming. Gene's sole intention was to treat the soil with complete respect and save the soil and nutrients for future generations.

Now brings me to my

motivation to tell the story of the Albers family and conservation. Our daughter-in-law, Libby Albers, recently received an award for outstanding work in water conservation. We traveled to Manhattan last Thursday to be present for her acceptance of this award.

Libby has spent nearly all of her working career

in water purification or streams and river conservation. Her wetland work has been outstanding, and this award reaffirms her great work.

Not many know or maybe even care about conservation work, but some of us do and are working diligently to save our resources for you and your children. In

Libby's acceptance speech she mentioned that 30% of those attending the Convention were students. So, many still care about our earth's health and are working in the shadows to save our environment. With Albers' leading the way for 100+ years.

--Alan Albers



Libby Albers (left) was honored as the 2026 Kansas Conservation Champion at the Kansas Natural Resources Conference. This recognition highlights her significant contributions to the conservation and environmental education efforts in Kansas. Albers' work has been instrumental in promoting the importance of natural resources and the role of private landowners in conservation.

KINGMAN HEALTHCARE CENTER

Exceptional Care. Every Time.

Kingman Healthcare Center's Senior Life Solutions Program has been named the 2025 Program Expansion of the Year by Psychiatric Medical Care, which manages the program.

Psychiatric Medical Care (PMC) partners with more than 250 hos-

pitals and health systems nationwide to provide behavioral healthcare services. Top-performing employees and Senior Life Solutions programs are recognized annually based on their excellence in demonstrating PMC's values of care, compliance, and community. Award recipients were chosen for providing out-

Kingman HealthCare Center's Senior Life Solutions Receives Program Expansion of the Year Award

standing patient care, demonstrating excellent understanding and compliance with regulations, and engaging strongly with the community.

"We are truly honored to receive the Program Expansion of the year award, and we are incredibly grateful to Senior Life Solutions, Psychiatric Medical Care and of course, Kingman Healthcare Center for their unwavering support and collaboration,"

said Jerika Francis, "this achievement reflects the shared dedication to serving our great community." Jerika Francis is the Program Director for Senior Life Solutions in Kingman.

Senior Life Solutions program at Kingman Healthcare Center (KHC) supports the unique needs of individuals, typically 65 and older, experiencing symptoms of depression, anxiety, grief, and other mental health chal-

lenges that are often associated with aging. Senior Life Solutions program staff includes a board-certified psychiatrist, a licensed therapist, a registered nurse, and other trained professionals to ensure each patient receives the best possible care.

KHC employs 150 full-time staff and offers hundreds of services to the local area. Kingman Healthcare Center is a 25-bed critical access

hospital with 24-hour emergency room, inpatient services and two-family practice clinics, one in Kingman and one in Cunningham.

Families, friends, community members, physicians, self-referrals, or other health professionals can refer people to the SLS program.

For more information, education, or to discuss support, please call 620-532-0107

Pratt County Commission Minutes for February 2

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, February 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Susan Pixler, Deputy Election Clerk and Mark Gruber, IT Director. Others in attendance were Susan Lesh Mayberry, Linda Steltzer, and Larry Johnston.

Rick Shriver started the meeting with a motion giving Tyson Eisenhower the authority to testify on the County's behalf at a hearing considering House Bill 2470 today at 3:30 p.m. Tom Jones seconded the motion; Motion carried 3-0.

Economic Development Update – Heather Morgan

Heather was tied up with legislative hearings and other meetings and could not attend.

The Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of January 26, 2026.

Road Department Personnel Request

Motion to hire David

Sharp for the County Road Department starting at \$17.00 per hour made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the vouchers for February 2, 2026.

Pratt Health and Rehabilitation

Beth Towns – Director and Polly Taylor – Head of Nursing at PHR

The representatives from the PHR wanted to express their concerns about the letter the Commission sent to PRMC regarding the Notice of Default and Intent to Terminate the lease sent to Pratt Regional Medical Center.

They are responsible to provide care to their residents in their 45-bed facility and are concerned regarding the use of PRMC labs, ER etc. If there is to be a closure of PRMC they will need time to create connections to other area hospitals to provide any services they will no longer receive from PRMC.

Commissioner Shriver stated that the letter of termination was the commissioners attempt to get information they have been asking for and have yet to receive.

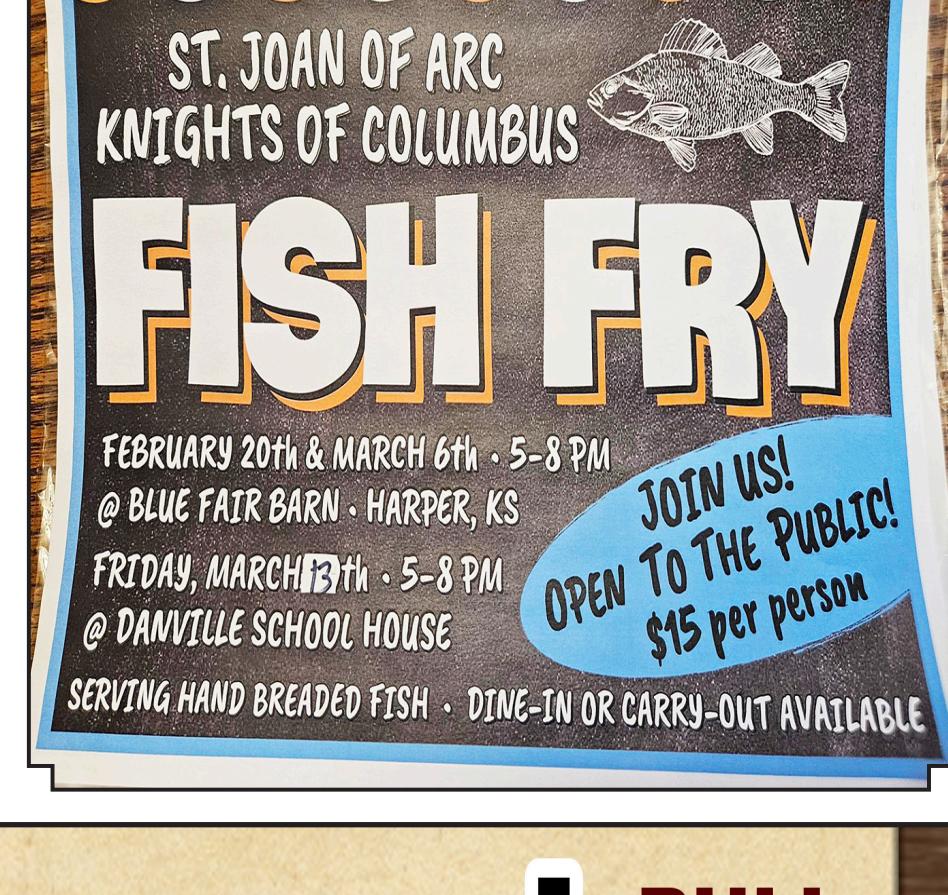
Commissioner Shriver told them we would try

to make sure to keep them informed with any updates so they could plan accordingly. The Pratt County Commissioner's main goal is to keep the hospital open and serving our community.

All the commissioners told them they appreciated their concerns, as they share those concerns.

Beth Towns also commented that the long-term care facilities in Pratt have been discussing the issues and all would like to be kept informed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.



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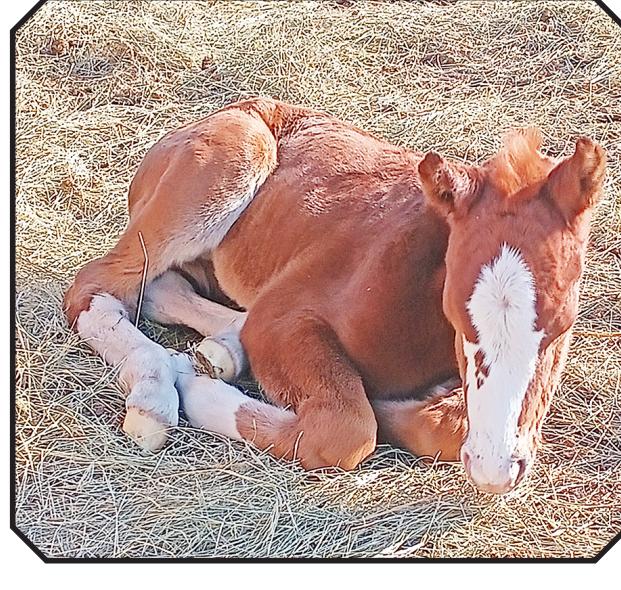
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Items Needed at KCHS

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

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



Ichiban is a Boxer/Terrier mix looking for a home with kids. His name in Japanese means "the first" or "the best". And that he is. He is good with cats. Good with dogs. Loves people and kids. He's housetrained and ready for adoption.

He is about one year old and has been at the shelter since September.

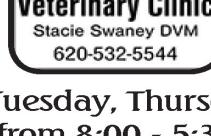
He weighs about 50 pounds and can be adopted for \$180.00.

"This handsome boy is at the perfect "adoption" age. He loves everyone and should be a wonderful family pet. His foster mom has done a great job with Ichi. He walks great on leash, always staying on your left side. Doing great on house-training and crate training. He has great manners now and is past the wild and crazy puppy stage. He loves to play with other dogs and is good with cats too! Ichi is just an all-around GREAT dog. Can't you just picture your kids growing up with this adorable pup?"



Angel Girl is an American Bobtail kitty. In the photo she looks a bit rough, but with a name like angel, appearances can be deceiving. She's been at the shelter just since last week. Her adoption fee is \$40.00.

She can get along with other cats, and she really doesn't mind dogs.



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Kingman, KS 67068
620-532-0110

Cunningham Clinic

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Cunningham, KS 67035
620-298-2397

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Kingman Healthcare Center

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Seth Thibault, OD
Andrew W. Piester, OD
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Pratt, Kansas 67124
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8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M - F

604 N. Walnut

Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104
620-886-3222

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

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Kingman, KS 67068

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

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\$6.00 minimum charge for one-week run.

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Trash Talk

The Cunningham Burn Site is locked. A \$50.00 deposit is required to obtain a key at City Hall. Your deposit is cheerfully refunded when you return the key.

Trash and recycling schedules are available at City Hall.

If you have large, bulky items for pick up (i.e. appliances or furniture) please call Nisly at 620-662-6561. They pick up bulky items once a month. This service is included in your trash bill with the city! No extra charge!



Thanks for recycling

The Courier on

February 16th

B-29 Museum

is open on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Pratt Army Airfield – 82 Curran Road

Visit them on Facebook at www.prairie-bombers.org for more information. If you would like to visit the museum at another time call

672-8321,

672-2444 or 620-797-2919 to

schedule an appointment!

Thursday, February 12, 2026

page 11

To book the Community Center

Call Molly at 620-298-3077

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Keys must be picked up
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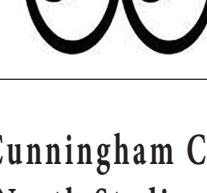
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Barbara Becker

Barbara Mae Becker, 84, passed away Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Grand Plains Skilled Nursing. She was born on March 13, 1941, in McPherson to Clarence and Dorothea (Hibler) Larson. Clarence passed when Barbara was 12 years old and her mother married Oscar Wendt. Barbara married Richard Wayne Becker on November 6, 1959, in McPherson. He preceded her in death on November 17, 2025.



Barbara attended McPherson High School. She was a homemaker and kept the books for Becker Rentals and Becker & Son Roofing. She enjoyed collecting quilts, teddy bears and other small trinkets, taking care of her family and helping raise her grandchildren, cooking, gardening, renovating rentals, maintaining books, reading magazines and doing word search puzzles.

She is survived by her sons, Kevin (Stephanie) Becker of Pratt and Keith Becker of Derby; daughter-in-law, Mary Jane Becker of Pratt; nine grandchildren, Kyle (Stacie) Becker, Cody (Jenny) Becker, Kaylee Becker, Carson Becker, Cheyenne (Josh) Langford, Blake (Brianna) Becker, Braydon Becker, Breann (Josh) Norlin and Adison Becker; two stepsisters, Carol Hall and Shirley Smock; 16 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great grandchild.

Barbara is preceded in death by her parents; step-father, Oscar Wendt; husband, Richard Becker; son, Thomas Becker; brothers, Wayne Larson and Larry Larson; stepbrother, Terry Wendt; and great-granddaughter, Mila Jane Ibarra.

Visitation will be Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, February 16, 2026 at Larrison Mortuary, Pratt with Pastor Mike McGovney presiding. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Larrison Mortuary. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.



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Dorothy Regehr

Dorothy Louise Regehr, 89, passed away February 3, 2026. She was born December 18, 1936, in McPherson to Roscoe and Marguerite (Dial) Beane. Dorothy married Norman Rose on October 9, 1954, in Preston. He preceded her in death on April 23, 1998. She then married Norman "Butch" Regehr on May 9, 2002. He preceded her in death on February 15, 2007.



Dorothy attended Preston High School and graduated in 1954. She worked for Stanion Wholesale Electric for many years. She was a member of Inman Mennonite Church. She enjoyed sewing, playing piano, yard work, building things, decorating, drawing and painting.

She is survived by her children, Robbin (Larry) Bryant of Pueblo, Colorado, Julie (Hal) Ward of Hutchinson, Kansas and David (Tonya) Rose of Inman, Kansas; brother, Curtis (Marj) Beane of Kansas City, Kansas; sisters, Beverly Metcalf of Inman, Kansas, Sarah Barnes of Ark City, Kansas, and Jacci (Mark) Riley of Inman, Kansas; grandchildren, Kasey (James) Hawkins, Kori (Josh) Peek, Craig (Kaily) Bryant, Alisha (Justin) Killian, Jacob Wirick, Jenny (Elvis) Sanchez, Theron (Bobbi) Rose and Jason (Tara) Rose; stepson, Kevin (Kim) Regehr of Inman, Kansas; stepdaughter, Kristy (Tim) Gaither of Inman, Kansas; 16 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Dorothy is preceded in death by her husbands, Norman Eugene Rose, Norman "Butch" Regehr; father, Roscoe Beane; mother, Marguerite Beane; brothers-in-law, Ernest Metcalf and V.E. Barnes.

A graveside service was held on Friday, February 6, 2026, at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt with John Hamm presiding.

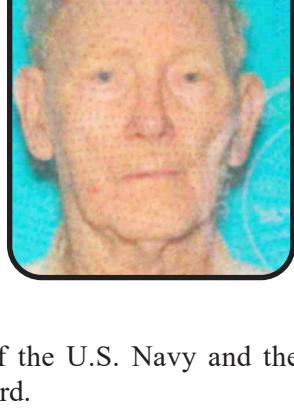
Memorials may be made to Pratt Area Humane Society. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com



Curtis Terhune

Curtis D. Terhune, 82, died Jan. 30, 2026 at Hilltop Manor, Cunningham.

He was born Oct. 18, 1943 at Yuba City, California the son of William Harvey Terhune and Uda Nadine West-Sherman. A longtime Kingman resident, he was a caregiver, truck driver and a mechanic.



Curtis was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and the Kansas Army National Guard.

He married Cheryl Capelo; she died in 2021. He married Carrie Bennett; she died in 2018. Survivors include sons Rodrick and Terry Terhune; daughters Dawn (Angel Starr), Dodie Kipp Charles; brother John Wayne Terhune; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; extra special granddaughter Tiffany Lopez; and several nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by a brother Lucas Earl Terhune; son Curtis Dean, Jr.; and daughter Keisha Vitale

Curtis enjoyed mechanical work, fishing, collecting clocks, movies, playing cards, sewing, jigsaw puzzles, FOOD, animals and visiting friends and family.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project and may be mailed to Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.



More Life Celebrations

can be found on page 4



Thank you

Kay House would like to thank all
who took the time to send her a birthday
card. She greatly appreciated hearing
from her dear friends from Cunningham
as well as from her family members and
many other friends. Thank you so much!

Tom Kuszmaul

Tom E. Kuszmaul, 73, died Feb. 6, 2026.

He was born Sept. 23, 1952, the son of Raymond and Alma Harbert Kuszmaul.

A lifetime Kingman resident, he was an equipment operator for Sedgwick County.

Tom was a member of the St. Patrick Catholic Church, Kingman.

Survivors include brothers Charles (Diane) and John (Cynthia); sister Rose Kuszmaul; close family Cheryl (David) McGuire and daughters; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; and sisters Paula Jones, Carol Kuszmaul, and Christy Mara.

Tom was a longtime automotive enthusiast.

Mass of Christian Burial was Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Kingman. Interment will be at Walnut Hill Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the St. Patrick Catholic Church or The Humane Society in care of Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.



Elenor Helmke

Elenor M. Helmke passed away on January 19, 2026, at the age of 101. She was born on January 18, 1925, at home in Nashville, Kansas to Fred and Hulda (Hensiek) Westerman.



Elenor was a hard-working woman, working for years on the farm next to her husband Diek. She loved her family, most of all, and enjoyed her time being a grandma and G-G-Ma.

In addition to raising things on the farm, she was always busy, and was well known for having taught many women cooking in 4-H. She belonged to sewing club, and the Dorcas Society. She and Diek were very social and loved to travel, play cards, and have adventures with friends. They wore out many decks of Skip-Bo cards over the years. They also loved gardening and woodworking crafts that they sold at many craft shows.

Before it was even built, they were founding members of St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Wichita.

Her great-granddaughters will miss fixing her hair in old-fashioned curlers, and playing cards with her. She was also quick with a quip and kept you on your toes. She was a true jokester! She always had two loaves of bread ready each day after school so the kids could enjoy the crusts, and every Christmas, she would make her famous Cherry Mash candy, and her famous red hot pickles.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, Dietrick "Diek" Helmke; son, Rodney Helmke; her sister, Elverna, and brother Fredrick; and many extended family members and friends.

She is survived by her children, LaVeda (Terry) Carter, Marlene (Charlie) Fortenberry, Patty (Wes) Brooks, and daughter-in-law Earlene (Randy) Stone; grandchildren, Stacey, Lisa, Ryan, Ashlee, Rachel; great-grandchildren, Ian, Quinn, Brynn, Baylor, Brandon, Ava, and Megan; and many loving friends.

Her funeral service took place at St. John Lutheran Church, Nashville, on Thursday, January 22, 2026. Committal followed at St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Nashville, KS.



Bobby Pennel

Bobby Gene Pennel, 73, passed away Friday,

February 6, 2026, at Hospice House of

Hutchinson. He was born on

December 1, 1952, in

Kingman to Joseph and

Patricia (Patrick) Pennel.

Bobby married Beverly

(Smith) Pennel. She pre-

ceded him in death on

January 8, 2020.



Bobby graduated from Fairfield High School in 1971. He worked as a farmer. He was a member of Turon Community Church and American Legion. He served as the gravedigger and grounds keeper at the Turon Cemetery. He enjoyed mowing, taking care of the people of Turon, and helping with friendship meals.

He is survived by his son, Jason Lee Pennel of Wichita; daughter, Amanda Pennel; stepdaughters, Marty Sheber, Stephanie Valentine and Teresa Kinast of Turon; brother, Rex (Maggie) Pennel of Zenith; sister, Brenda Armstrong of Turon; and numerous grandchildren.

Bobby is preceded in death by his parents and wife, Beverly Pennel.

Cremation has taken place. A graveside memorial service will be announced at a later date to be held at Turon Cemetery, Turon.