

Happy New Year from The Cunningham Courier

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

USPS 006-101

(620) 298-2659 e-mail: cunninghamcourier@embarqmail.com

www.cunninghamcourier.news

Thursday, December 26, 2019

Volume 29 Number 52

Bright Lights on Holiday Nights



Rita Strohl's home, at 312 North Lincoln, is the first place winner in Pride's annual Christmas lighting contest.



Tina and Eric Meyer's home was second place winner in the contest.

Courier photos



Third place in the contest was awarded to Candy and Keith Neufeld at 205 East Leiter.

Lady Cats Win Skyline Tournament for Another Year



by Coach Eric Meyers

The Lady Wildcats claimed the Championship of the Skyline Invitational for the 4th year in a row with a resounding 45-13 win over Skyline. The Lady T-Birds scored the first basket, but we countered with a 30-3 run to take us to halftime leading 30-5. From thereon, things geared down and in the second half we earned a 15-6 advantage to produce the final score. As has been the case so far this year, our defense frustrated and stymied the opposition, and our defense allowed our offense to function without any pressure to score volumes. To this point, our team is averaging over 56 points per game. I'm sure as we get in to the season that number will drip, but this team has multiple scoring threats and if ever we get grounded it will be in part of our own doing. Some nights

we're bound to encounter a really large basketball and a really small ring.

As a team, we shot and underwhelming 34% from the field, aided fortunately by 16 points in transition. At the charity stripe, our performance lacked luster as well, with 8 of 14 shooting for 57%.

Morgan Meyers was the leader in scoring as she netted 23. Five others scored as follows: Mackenzie Wright (6), Madie McGuire (6), Holly DeWeese (4), Alayna McGuire (4), and Maddi Panek (2). Madie McGuire has been our most consistent rebounder thus far and again led the way, this time with 9 while Holly DeWeese grabbed 5 boards. Maddi Panek played with great energy and led us in steals with a whopping 7 while Morgan and Holly each snuffed out 4 Skyline possessions. Mackenzie Wright played, I thought,

one of here most impactful games, showing good patience on offense and seeing the floor extremely well, and the fruits of that performance show up in the assist category where she had a team high 5. No other player had more than 1.

We finally get a home game on Tuesday, Dec 17, at it will be without a doubt our biggest challenge so far. Argonia has one loss on the season but has played a more difficult schedule. It will be interesting to see how we handle a close game, as I expect this one to be. But I also expect this veteran team of mine to play with poise, even if behind, and somehow find a way. At the very least, this game will be a good measuring stick. Just how good are we?



Molly Morgan photo

West Kingman County BOE Met

The West Kingman County Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, by President Scott DeWeese.

President, Scott DeWeese; Vice-President, Brent Hansen; Members Joyce Gridley, Brent Miller, Kurt Preisser, Travis Thimesch and Vicki Oldham; Superintendent, Robert Reed; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and guests, Sebastian Huelskamp, Alice Huelskamp and Ethan Paris.

Motion made by Brent Hansen, seconded by Joyce Gridley, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

President DeWeese welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Motion made by Kurt Preisser, seconded by Brent Miller, to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019 Regular meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Brent Miller, seconded by Vicki Oldham, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$227,142.23 and the financial reports as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

President DeWeese turned the meeting over to the guests from the Robotics team. They gave an overall presentation of the competitions they were in this year and a demonstration of the robot they built.

Guests Sebastian Huelskamp, Alice Huelskamp and Ethan Paris left the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Superintendent Reed reported on upcoming calendar events, including sports and in-service activities. He informed the board about new flags for the gym, a visit from State Board member Ben Jones, Principal application status and policy items he is working on. Superintendent Reed also asked the board for their opinion on pursuing bids for a storage container for Track equipment and input for the 2020-2021 school year calendar.

Member Joyce Gridley reported that the co-op is getting new copiers from Digital Office Systems, new vehicles to update fleet, and a new phone system that will save money each month. She also reported the co-op is still looking at options for the Haskins building with repairs needed vs a new building.

Motion made by Joyce Gridley, seconded by Vicki Oldham, to go into executive session with Superintendent Reed for 10 minutes at 8:45 p.m. to discuss individual employees for the non-elected exception under KOMA. Motion carried 7-0.

President DeWeese declared the meeting in open session at 8:55 p.m.

Motion made by Brent Miller, seconded by Kurt Preisser, to go back into executive session with Superintendent Reed for 10 minutes at 8:55 p.m. to discuss individual employees for the non-elected exception under KOMA. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Reed left the executive session at 9:03 p.m.

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

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Vicki Oldham, to approve Angie McGuire as Junior High Volleyball Coach for the 2020-2021 School year. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Kurt Preisser, seconded by Brent Miller, to approve the resignation of Phil Theis as Bus driver. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Brent Hansen, seconded by Kurt Preisser, to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

The next regular meeting of the West Kingman County Unified School District No. 332 Board of Education will be 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday January 8, 2020, in the Board of Education Office at 104 W 4th St., Cunningham, Kansas.

submitted by Stacy Webster

CATHOLIC Masses

St. Leo
Sunday, December 29, 2019
10:00 a.m.

St. John's, Zenda
Sunday, December 29, 2019
8:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Cunningham
Saturday, December 28, 2019
5:30 p.m.

St. Peter's, Willowdale
Saturday, December 28, 2019
4:00 p.m.

Fr. Roger Lumbré
620-243-5451
620-298-2601
620-246-5370

**CHURCH OF CHRIST
Penalosa**

Sunday Bible Class
10:00 a.m.

Worship
11:00 a.m.

Afternoon Worship
1:30 at Penalosa
Community Center

Mid-Week Bible Study
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
620-532-2684

**CHRISTIAN
Cunningham**

Sunday School
9:30 a.m.

Worship
10:45 a.m.

Bible Study
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Mike McGovney
620-298-3201
620-770-9507

**LUTHERAN
St. John's
Nashville**

Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

Sunday School
& Bible Class
9:15 a.m.

**Trinity
Medicine Lodge**
Sunday School
& Bible Class
9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship
8:30 a.m.
620-656-7431

Pastor Dennis
Fangmeyer
620-246-5220
Cell: 620-886-0911

**UNITED METHODIST
Penalosa**
Worship
9:15 a.m.

Cunningham
Sunday School
9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Katelyn Zoglmann
620-298-2090
Office Hours:
Tuesdays:
9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

**UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
Zenda**
101 N. Main
Sunday Worship
9 a.m.

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

(3rd Sunday of each
month breakfast fellow-
ship at: 8:30 a.m.)
(United Methodist
Women meet the 1st
Tues. monthly: 6:30 p.m.)
Pastor Ken Keeling

Community Bulletin Board

Monday, December 30th 6:30 p.m. City Council	Tuesday, January 7th HS BB vs. Mullinville at home
Monday, January 6th School classes resume	Wednesday, January 8th 7:00 p.m. Board of Education meets
Monday, January 6th JH BB at Pretty Prairie	Thursday, January 9th 8:30 a.m. NHS visit food bank

**Ninnescah Valley Bank
will be closed New
Year's Day**



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

**December 26th
Special Holiday Matinee:
Spies in Disguise**
Rated PG
Showtime: 2:00 p.m.

**December 26th
Free Throwback Thursday Movie
Elf**
Rated PG
Showtime: 5:30 p.m.
Sponsored by Polished Coupe Salon
and Brewtique/remium Arbour Cafe

**December 27th - 29th
Spies in Disguise**
Rated PG
Showtimes :
Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 5:30 p.m.

**December 31st
New Year's Eve Movie
Grownups**
Rated PG -13
Showtime is 6:30 p.m.
Sponsored by Eck Services

**Fundraisers & Charitable
Opportunities in our Community**

Cunningham Public Library
4C Day Care Shop smile.amazon.com
(Kathy Albers 620-298-2725 or 620-388-0774)

West Kingman County Education Foundation
Use your Dillon's Card! Shop smile.amazon.com
(Janet DeWeese 620-298-2717)

Hands of Hope (contact Fitzsimmons Insurance or any church)

Cunningham Schools Box Tops for Education

Cunningham Alumni Scholarship Fund
(send checks to the West Kingman County Education Foundation)

Community Center (leave donation at the bank)

Lions' Club (leave your old eyeglasses at the bank)

Cunningham Museum (to donate contact Donna Glenn)

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YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

William E. Bradley, Editor

Dec. 25, 1969 - The Cunningham Wildcats won their second game in six outings here last Friday night, trouncing Partridge, 63 to 43.

Cunningham led at half-time, 28-23.

Eddie Panek paced the Wildcat scoring with 20 points; Mike Schrant had 14; Curtis Kitson, 10; Mike Cunningham and Gene Albers, 8 each; and Marvin Oller, 3.

Junior Girl Scout Troop No. 55 met at the United Methodist Church, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m. We went caroling from 6:30 to 7:30 o'clock, and from 7:30 to 8:30 o'clock we had our Christmas party and gift exchange. For refreshments we had popcorn balls, Rice Krispy squares and hot chocolate. - Ann Fischer, Scribe

Dec. 24, 1964 - Mr. and Mrs. Jack Crick announce the birth of a daughter, Sunday, Dec. 20, at the Pratt County Hospital.

She weighed eight pounds, one ounce, and has been named Brenda Kay.

Maternal grandparents are MR. and Mrs. E. R. Morisse of Nashville, and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Dalmer Crick of Cunningham.

A fire in the Skelly Oil Company's Production Department storehouse at Skellyville, Saturday, destroyed much clothing of department employees, and burned up a car belonging to Delbert Grossman. A pick-up truck, belonging to Willis Welch, was driven to safety by Harold Piepmeyer. The volunteer fire department answered the alarm, using the township fire truck.

Frank J. Theis, 62, of St. Leo, died at his home in St. Leo, Sunday morning.

Dec. 24, 1959 - Hunters bagged 1230 rabbits and two coyotes in a rabbit and coyote hunt near St. Leo last Saturday. This makes a total of an even 2100 rabbits and four coyotes bagged in the two hunts staged this winter.

The Cunningham Wildcats won their third game of the current season here last Friday evening, downing Fairfield North (Plevna-Abbyville), 51 to 44.

A big first quarter splurge of 17 points carried the Wildcats to victory. Fairfield North scored only five points in the first period. Cunningham was ahead 29-23 at half-time, and 42-29 at the end of the third quarter.

Duane Wegerer paced the Cunningham scoring attack with 19 points.

**Thanks for
recycling
The Courier on
December 30th**

Bobby Meyers racked up 15 points.

Den 1 of the Cub Scouts held their regular meeting and Christmas party at the home of Den Mother Mrs. Floren Rose, Monday after school. Assistant Den Mother Mrs. Albert Harris assisted. The members finished making Christmas presents for their parents and enjoyed a gift exchange, after which they had a taffy pull and ate popcorn balls. Those present were Frankie McClellan, Layne Harris, George Kampling, Harold Lee Stark, Dennis Dellinger, Jerry McMillian, Dennis Fouse, and Monte Rose.

Dec. 23, 1954 - The contract for building the new auditorium-gymnasium at the local high school is being drawn up this week, and school board members and the three contractors are expected to sign the necessary papers at a meeting next Monday evening.

The high school basketballers won and lost during the past week's activity. Monday night, they pinned a 69-67 defeat on Arlington, but lost to Langdon by a 55-48 score, Tuesday night.

Santa Claus made his annual visit to Cunningham last Saturday, and received a fine reception. A crowd, not as large as in past years due to the cold, breezy weather, welcomed the bewhiskered gent and enjoyed the best parade and program presented in recent years.

Seven floats were included in the parade, accompanied by both school bands under the direction of Music Supervisor Frank Moses. Prize winners in this division were the Kay Club, Christian Church, and Sacred Heart School. , 1-2-3 in that order. Other entries were the grade school, the First Baptist Church, the high school Freshman Class, and the Methodist Church.

Winners in the horse division were Richard Baker, Monte Miles, and Mickey Miles. Other entries included Lynn Fitzsimmons, Wesley Hendricks Jr., Larry Shaffer, Alvin Kinsall, Doyle Buntmeyer, Homie Rowe, and Victor Miles.

Carolyn Witt was the only entry in the doll buggy division. Curtis Kitson, Charles Dafforn, and Randy Sheldon, were 1-2-3 winners in the wagon division. Other entries were Kenneth Garrigues and Kathy Wesbrooks. LaDean Cooley, Ann Eck, Marleen Cooley, and David Amick rode in the parade bicycle division, with the three girls winning the prize money.

Dec. 22, 1939 - Santa Claus arrived in Cunningham Saturday afternoon, and found hundreds waiting eagerly for him. A fine crowd thronged the streets and stores throughout the afternoon and crowded the theatre to overflowing at both the free shows given during the afternoon.

1200 sacks of treats were handed out to the throng with everyone from ages

with everyone from ages

with everyone from ages

with everyone from ages

Businessmen and firms whose Christmas Greetings appear in this issue include the First National Bank of Cunningham, Hoagland Market, Buntmeyer Electric, J. B. Houston & Son Lumber Co., Inc., Hauser's Market, Patton's Service Station, Rose Garage, Vera's Cafe, Bob's Repair Shop, Knotty Pine Motel, Dafforn Motor and Appliance Co., Kincheloe Implement Co., Ellis Derby Station, Viola's Beauty Shop, McCool's Radio and TV Sales and Service, Cunningham Repair Shop, Cozy Cafe, Vern's Mobil Service, The Cottage Nursing Home, Taylor Barber Shop, Huhman's Motel, McNamar's Standard Service, The Cunningham Clipper, Jones Cafe, Bowersock Mills and Power Co., Cannon's Store, Hi-Way Cafe, Kansas Power & Light Co., and The Western Light & Telephone Co.

Dec. 23, 1949 - The first day of winter ushered itself in with a befitting and authoritative manner, by giving us a three-inch snowfall with a bit of drifting.

The locals schools were dismissed early in the afternoon, as there were only 16 students left in school, the buses having taken the country students home in the morning.

William Becker, 52, owner and proprietor of the Brunswick Smoker of this city, passed away at his home here last Saturday morning.

The Cunningham Wildcats won their second Kingman County League game last Friday night, defeating Adams, 37 to 27, on the Adams court.

Dec. 22, 1939 - Santa Claus arrived in Cunningham Saturday afternoon, and found hundreds waiting eagerly for him. A fine crowd thronged the streets and stores throughout the afternoon and crowded the theatre to overflowing at both the free shows given during the afternoon. 1200 sacks of treats were handed out to the throng with everyone from ages

continued on page 3

Museum Hours
During the winter months look for Donna's red car or her golf cart in front of the museum. OR you can call her at 620-388-5602

What About History?

The trails across Kingman County have always been of interest to me. I've mentioned my discussions with Dr. Blakesly of WSU about the Sun City Road six miles south of Cunningham. He told me that the Sun City Road was an Indian trail before it was a wagon trail.

The Sun City Road, as it was called all my life, of course went straight. The actual wagon and walking trail would have swerved to make for needs along the way. Water along the trails was the main reason to swerve. A cousin of mine owns pasture along the Sun City Road and has told me that he can see wagon ruts still today across his land.

Water along the route would be found a few miles south of this old trail. Land my family owns along the South Fork of the Chikaskia would have been the perfect spot for a reliable watering spot on this route. A ridge going down to the water has a large gully in it and could have been

created by the movement of wagons down this hill.

A Native Village near this draw also might be proof that the Native People also used this area. The way that I was able to identify this spot on our ground as a Native Village goes back to Dr. Blakesly again. At his presentation about Native Trails in our area, a lady asked about buffalo wallers. He told the group that what most people believe to be the buffalo digging spots are often dug outs that the Native people made for their winter homes. These winter homes were placed to the South side of hills and would have been approximately 10 feet across and the homes would have had a grass covering. The Wichita Indians were known to make homes like this. The fact that I've found un-decayed grass below the topsoil in one of these holes makes this a possibility.

This is the area that I hope to explore in the future, and I hope to do it soon. The fact that I've found bones in the creek bank near here and some artifacts also adds to the

mystery of this site. The artifacts that I've found here may fog some of the history of this site. Most of the points, knives and a drill that I've found in this area are made of the chert (flint) Alibates.

Alibates comes from West Texas and are connected to the people who lived in the Pratt area 600 years ago. I've also found a pointed object made of Florence chert which comes from the Flint Hills area. Trading could have been the cause of these mixed types of chert or different time eras also could be the answer.

Back to the trail's idea: Dr. Blakesly mentioned during his presentation that any traveler would have needed water every 20 miles. This would have been common to both European and Native travelers. The fact that I've found crockery pieces in the farm ground near this site also reinforces the wagon trail possibility. I hope to address a couple more trails that I've learned about in the area in the near future, the Quapaw and the California Trails. All for this month. Alan

famous old man from the Northland.

A program is being arranged, so there will be plenty of entertainment for all.

The merchants of Cunningham are well stocked with holiday merchandise, so that you may find plenty of gifts to select from to finish your Christmas shopping.

Approximately 1500 sacks of the Christmas treats will be distributed in Cunningham next Saturday. Come and get yours!

Cunningham and Kingman County lost one of their most valued pioneer citizens when W. T. (Todd) Cannon, 80 years, passed away at his home in this city last Saturday afternoon, after a very short illness. "Uncle Todd" as he was affectionately called by everyone, had been in failing health for several months...

"Uncle Todd" will be greatly missed by all those accustomed to seeing him in his daily trips

up town, for despite his age, he was one of the most familiar personages upon our streets, and he derived so much pleasure from a game of checkers or dominoes with the younger men about town.

The High School orchestra has been organized by Mr. Schmitt. Those playing in the orchestra are: First Violins, Martha Weber, Maxine Lash, Shirley Stanley, Ivan Willinger, Velma Steffen, Susanna Gillen, Thelma Savage;; Second Violins, Deloris Hellar, Harriett Baber, Will Rogers, Esther Naanes, Clarence Halderman, Marvin Helmers, Frances Wetherall; Obligato Violin, Emily Groves; Viola, Evelyn DeLair; Clarinet, Robert Eugene Maxedon; Trumphets, Everett Swander, Victor Renner, Eugene Carter, Dewey Cooley; Alto Horn, Naomi Gilstrap; Drums, Betty Anderson; Trombone, Ollie Baber, Eulanda Liebl, Dale Huffman; Piano, Warren Allen.

well as take home bottles of the finished product. Registration is \$10 and due by December 20th, 2019. Call 620.672.6121 or email vsimonsen2@ksu.edu to register. Must be 21 to register.

Pratt Community Concert Association
Concerts are held in Carpenter Auditorium at Pratt Community College (con't on page 6)



Meanderings

Last week I told the story of the rat during the storm. This week I have another rat story. Now, if you are a new reader, please understand I don't usually talk about rats in my column. I dislike rats. UGHly things, rats.

But some comment in a previous column got me to thinking about the two most memorable "rat encounters" I've had. Last week was the first story. This week's story is not for the faint of heart. If things like rats disgust you, I suggest you stop reading before you get to the end of the story.

I was in my third or fourth of teaching. I was a third-grade teacher at the time of this encounter. In the district where I was teaching, there was a single-parent family that moved in and out of the community. They'd stay for a while, move to another town, come back. Devin and Kevin North were the two boys. Because it was a small school, I first heard about the boys when they were in 1st grade. Devin was a pretty sharp kid but reading and writing weren't connecting in his little brain. He was being monitored as a learning disability candidate. Then they moved. They returned in 2nd grade for a few weeks, still having problems. The teachers and administrators were determined to get the child tested and placed in a classroom where he could get the support he needed. Monitoring was done, observations were done. Then the family moved.

The new school year begins, and Devin is now in my third-grade class. We have a young psychologist on staff who really cared about kids. We were about the same age. Twenty-four or twenty-five. Brad starts the paperwork in the first week of school. Papers are signed for testing. More observations. More paperwork. Brad does a home visit. Things are looking good. It's the end of the first quarter and time for conferences.

It was a beautiful, late October day. It wasn't warm, but it was jacket weather. Brad stops by my room so we can plan the conference and get her to sign the papers to get Devin placed in a classroom for learning disabilities. I can remember Brad saying that he would be at my door about the time the conference was over, and I was not to let her leave. Then he said, "Expect the worst." And

he smiled.

Now we had discussed this family quite a bit. I knew their living conditions were bad. I wasn't TOO concerned about Brad's warning.

It was an hour or so after lunch. I had finished a conference and was waiting at my classroom door for Mrs. North. My classroom was right by the outside door, so I could see who was coming in and out. The door opened. Oh. Dear. This very large woman entered. Her hair need brushed or combed or washed. She was wearing a light blue house dress, badly stained. Bare feet. She walked right up to me and said, "Are you Miss Thimesch? I am Rachel North." Oh. Dear. She was missing several teeth and she did have an odor about her. I welcomed her and invited her into my classroom. I walked with her to the table and suggested she sit down in one of the chairs. She said, "I can't fit on one of those." And she pulled up the second chair and sat in both of them. These were not small chairs like first graders sit in. These were larger ones. No one else had problems sitting in them... So she sits.

"How's Devin doing?"

We proceed to talk. The lady is just as nice as she could be. About 4 or 5 minutes into the conference, a large brown rat crawled out of the pocket of her house dress! I lost my train of thought. I wanted to bolt for the door, but the table (which I could have hurdled over) and the woman and the rat were in a direct line to the door.

Mrs. North said, "Oh, this is Willard. He's just hungry." And she took a potato chip out of her other pocket and gave it to "Willard". Oh. Dear.

I was polite and asked. "Oh. Where did you get Willard?"

"I found him in a garbage can when he was just a baby."

Oh. Dear. I don't recall the remainder of the actual conference; I am not sure what I said about her son. I don't remember what she said about him. I was eyeing Willard, the garbage can rat, who was probably 18 inches from his nasty whiskered nose to the tip of his hairless tail. I watched as he ran up the front of her dress and rested on her shoulder and ratted around in her hair.

An eternity later (I KNOW conferences are only 15 minutes but you weren't sitting at a table with Willard) Brad showed up.

Mrs. North put Willard back in her pocket, and I walked her to the classroom door. Brad greeted her with a smile. I was on top of things though. "Mr. Jones, Mrs. North brought along a friend. You need to meet Willard." Brad was smiling, looking puzzled. Mrs. North reached in and pulled that rat out her pocket.

Readers, are you still with me? It's not too late to stop reading....

Brad was cool. He kept smiling, but I saw a flicker of panic or fright or flight in his eyes. The smile stayed frozen on his face.

He invited her to his

office, and I watched them walk down the hall. Large Mrs. North, and Brad who was built like a lightweight wrestler. He was talking to her the whole time. He in his nice slacks and button shirt with polished shoes. She in her housedress and barefeet.

I went to find the custodian for some disinfecting solution, and I doused the chairs and the table hoping all the rat germs were taken care of. Gads.

About 30 minutes later, Brad appears. His smile still looks frozen. He is a bit pale. He told me the papers were signed and the young man could start getting help the following week. Then he said, "The rat made a mess on my desk."

"It made a mess on your desk? What was it doing on your desk?"

"I gave her the paper to sign and a pen. She sat the rat on the table while she signed the paper, and it made a mess on my desk."

I looked baffled, I'm sure.

"It pooped on my desk!"

My mouth dropped open, my hands flew up to cover it, and I'm sure my eyes were big as the proverbial saucers.

"Ohhhhhhh, Brad, what did you do?"

"I started to get up to get a box of tissues that were over on the bookcase. 'I got it' she said, and she reached out with her dress and wiped it up."

I looked at Brad. He looked at me. I continued to look at him. He continued to look at me. I turned and picked up the disinfecting solution. "You'll need this." And we started laughing. We laughed all the way down the hall to his office. We took everything off the desk and sprayed it down. We wiped down the front and the sides and then we wiped down the chairs.

But you know what? When the Norths moved right before Thanksgiving, we were relieved we were able to get him in the help he needed. And, yes, they returned part way through 4th grade. I'm not sure after that. I'm doubt they stayed anywhere for long.

I see you finished the story. I'd like to have seen my readers' faces when you read the part of the rat crawling out of the pocket...and when he pooped on the desk... and their reaction to his name. and the fact that he was found in a garbage can....

Oh... The next time you hear someone complain about teachers making too much money, have them read this story. They don't make enough money. No nearly enough.

Always reading, and currently reading, "Mom Doth Murder Sleep" by James Yaffe Roberta

"I don't like rats any more than the next bloke, but they ain't wicked and cruel like people can be. They're just ratty in their habits."

— Philip Pullman, *I Was a Rat!*
(and I did read this book last week. It was rather good.)

YEARS AGO

CONT' FROM PAGE 2

of six months to 100 years receiving a treat from Santa and everyone wearing a smile which seemed contagious as you walked the streets.

Cunningham won its third straight league basketball game from Belmont Tuesday night.

The locals jumped into a lead and led 21 to 4 at the half. the scoring spree slackened in the second half when Schwartz got rough and went out of the game on fouls early in the third quarter and the game ended 35 to 15. Huhman led the scoring of the locals with 18 points.

Dec. 21, 1934 - Santa Claus will pay our city his annual visit on next Saturday afternoon, arriving in town promptly at 2:00 o'clock. He will distribute the treats to everyone, young and old, and promises a good time for all. So let everyone be on hand to greet the

Pratt Area Activities to Do

B-29 Museum is open on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Pratt Army Airfield – 82 Curran Road

Visit their website at www.prairiebombers.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!

Everything you need to know about brewing

beer workshop

Saturday, January 4 – 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Saturday, February 1 – 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Pratt County 4-H Building – 81 Lake Road

Sign up to learn how to brew, ferment, and bottle your own beer at this two-day workshop. Each participant will have the opportunity to help with each step of the beer-making process, as

Libraries

Cunningham Public Library
Monday - Wednesday - Friday
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday - Thursday - Saturday
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
298-3163
Closed Holidays

Zenda Public Library
Hours
Monday & Wednesday
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Thursday
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
620-243-5791

Kingman Carnegie Library
620-532-3061
Mon. : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
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.
Satu. : 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pratt Public Library
Mon. - Thurs.
10:00 - 7:00
Fri. - Sat.
10:00 - 6:00
Closed on Sundays

Lady Cats Cruise

by Coach Eric Meyers

Cunningham felt a couple minutes of concern versus Wichita Life Prep, but after trading baskets early, the Lady Cats began to pull away. A 13-5 first quarter lead grew to 31-7 by halftime. We outscored our opponent in the middle two quarters 45-4! This team had more international players than not, but Cunningham, KS USA basketball proved to be superior. Final score: 68-15.

As a team, we shot a very shiny 53% from the floor, ...effectively nearly 58% when factoring in the scoring effect of three pointers. That's fantastic! Now at the free throw line, we were just OK. But just OK is not OK. I've not been pleased with our free throw shooting in either of our first two games, making good on just 50% of 14 freebies in this game.

If I had to point to one stat that pleases me most, it might be turnovers. We've really been careful and if this trait can continue, we'll be in every game we play. Scoring has been good in the early going, but the level of competition has something to do with that, for sure. Morgan Meyers started quickly and wound up with 26 points while Holly DeWeese has 12. Nine different players scored, with lots of good support in the form of Mackenzie Wright (7), Madie McGuire (6), Alayna McGuire (4), Maddi Panek (4), Jessamy Stalcup (3), Abby Hansen (3), and Reese McGuire (3).

Madie McGuire was our top rebounder with 6, but three players – Abby, McKenzie, and Holly – grabbed 4 rebounds apiece. Morgan and Alayna tied for the team lead in steals with 4 each while Mackenzie was close behind with 3. And finally, it was Morgan leading the way in assists with 8 as her backcourt mate Alayna dished out 5.

We're on the game #2 of this early season tournament where we will play Friday against Medicine Lodge, a first round winner in a close game against Skyline, the latter being our opponent on this tournament's final day on Saturday.



Mollie Morgan photos

Lady Cats Pass Test, Paste Argonia

by Coach Eric Meyers

The Lady Cats got the best of Argonia, but I wouldn't go so far as to say we silenced them as this was a game full of feisty play and intermittent chatter between two teams with points to prove. The game opened with exactly what we expected, a box-and-1 defense on Morgan Meyers, but when Alayna McGuire connected on two 3-point baskets right out of the gate, they threw their box away! I challenged the girls to show Argonia what I already knew, which is that we have a team full of capable players, and when teams run a box-and-1, the other players should

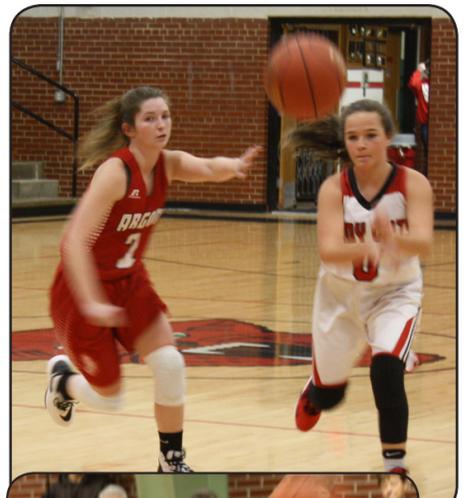
feel disrespected and take it personal. I think that's exactly what happened. We pushed to a 16-8 lead by quarter's end, and were at our best in the early part of the second quarter as we got a steal or two to create some transition points. For the most part, the halftime score of 27-14 suited me despite sloppy play on our part to end the second quarter. Our team was doing a good job of keeping their key inside post player in check, allowing her just 5 points on the night by following the defensive plan to a tee. We did spring a leak, however, in allowing one of their guards to can three shots from long range in the third quarter alone enroute to 17 points. It was the third quarter when Argonia rallied to close the gap to 6 or 7

points, and concern crept in, understandably, as the Lady Raiders won the quarter by a 10-6 margin. But I called for poise and knew this bunch would respond. The fans may have flinched and shifted in their seats with anxiety and worry, but the girls were fine. The final score revealed a 20-pt victory, though the game seemed in the balance for most of the way. It was good to be tested, good to see players make plays, and great to be playing at home!

We shot well, nearly 49%, on 19 of 39. Considering the effect of our five 3-pointers, the effective FG% equates to 55%. We shot an even 60% from the line. Morgan Meyers scored 12 fourth quarter points to finish with 23. Five other aided the scoring attack, led by Alayna McGuire's

8 points, followed by Madie McGuire (6), Holly DeWeese (6), Mackenzie Wright (5), and Maddi Panek (1). Holly led the team in rebounds with 7 while Alayna and Madie added 5 and 4, respectively. Holly also led in steals with 4. Inn terms of assists, Morgan and Mackenzie each had 3. I am big on non-scoring contributions and I have a numerical system to measure this non-scoring impact each player has for each game. I refer to them as Impact Points. In this one, Holly DeWeese set the bar with a 15 for her all-around performance.

I think fans can see and feel the passion that these girls play with. You can't play this game to it's fullest without passion. Now 5-0, We travel to Udall next and then take a holiday break.



Grace Patton photos

Above: Jessamy Stalcup
Below: Maddi Panek

Lady Cats Earn Win; 6-0 at Break

by Coach Eric Meyers

To end the pre-Christmas schedule, Cunningham traveled to Udall without a full compliment of players due to illness. If ever I could afford a starter absent, it's this season given our quality depth, yet we were at times out of sync with a missing part. The first quarter played out about like I had expected, and hoped, as we scored the first 10 points and created distance with a 17-5 first quarter score. After that, we didn't play very well, stubbing our toe with miscues and missed baskets. I was surprised to see we registered just 10 turnovers and shot 40% from the field because I didn't see the sharpness that has characterized most of our season so far. I don't complain about a win, but our level of focus can't take a night off. Free throw shooting can reflect focus, and we shot just 47% from the line. We sputtered in scoring just 26 points in the final three quarters to record a 43-22 win.

Morgan Meyers tallied 19 points while Holly DeWeese and Mackenzie Wright provided solid contributions with 7 points each. Rounding out the scoring was Maddison Panek with 4, and three players – Madie McGuire, Abby Hansen, and Reese McGuire – with 2 apiece. Holly snared 8 rebounds to lead the way but Maddi grabbed 7 of her own. Madie squelched 5 Udall possessions with steals while Maddi and Reese each had 4 steals. Lastly, Mackenzie led in assists with 3 while three other players had 2.

At the break, it's Report Card time:

Points per game:	53.0	B+
Points allowed per game:	19.7	A+
Points per possession:	0.99	A
Field goal Pct.:	42.4	B-
Free Throw Pct.:	55.2	D
Assists per game:	12.7	B
Turnovers/game	10.7	A-
Rebound margin/game	+ 5	D
Record	6-0	A++

Jr. High Lady Cats Fall to South Barber

by Coach Bart Ricke

On Thursday December 19, 2019 the Cunningham Jr. High girls basketball team traveled to Kiowa to take on South Barber and lost 15-26. Due to illness, the short-handed Lady

Wildcats were forced to play out of position and were only able to muster two free-throws before the half and trailed 2-14 at halftime. In the second half the ladies played with more confidence, did a better job of taking care of the ball and were more aggressive and actually outscored the Lady Tornados in

the second half by one, 13-12. The lost dropped their league record to 2-2 and 3-5 overall. Scoring for the Lady Cats: Maranda Lohrke 3, Ada Adams 2, Ellie McGuire 10. In the b-team game the Lady Cats led 7-4 at the half but failed to score the second half and lost 7-19.



Morgan Meyers



Madie McGuire

*"Champions never sleep, the eternal spirit keeps them alert and awake."
— Amit Ray, Enlightenment Step by Step*



Ellie McGuire (44) and Marada Lohrke ((13)

Mollie Morgan photos

Wildcats Trowned by Skyline in T-bird Classic

by Coach Bob Stackhouse

The Cunningham Wildcats played against the 4th ranked Thunderbirds in the final game of the T-bird Classic. The five Cats were over whelmed by a score of 80 to 24.

Cunningham stayed competitive in the first quarter tallying eight points and holding the high powered Thunderbirds to 15 points. Lane Halderson, Daylen Schnittker, Nathan Lohrke and Isaiah Reed each scored two for the Cats.

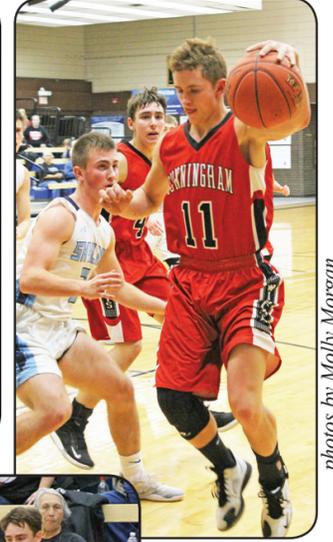
The three point shots began to fall for Skyline as they made six of their 14 in the second quarter to take a 41 to 19 lead into the locker room at halftime. Cunningham added 11 points for their biggest offensive output for the game. Lohrke put in five for Cunningham.

The second half was not kind to the Cats as they could manage just five points for the half, all coming in the third quarter. Schnittker and Erik Paris scored three and two points, respectively.

Lane Halderson was selected to the All-tournament team and placed second in the three point shooting contest. Nathan Lohrke also placed second in the free throw shooting contest.

Name	2pt. made	3pt. made	FTM/FTA	TP	Reb.	Asst.	Stl.	Chg.
Halderson	1		¾	5	4	2		
Schnittker	3		½	7	6	2	1	1
Lohrke	2		¾	7			1	
Paris	1	1	½	3	3	2		
Reed	1			2	3	1	2	

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
Cunningham	8	11	5	0	24
Skyline	15	26	27	12	80



photos by Molly Morgan



Above left: Isaiah Reed
Above right: Daylen Schnittker
Left: Lane Halderson



Wildcats Get First Win Against the Red Raiders

by Coach Bob Stackhouse

The Cunningham Wildcats played their first home game of the season against Argonia on December 17, 2019. The Cats came away with a 39 to 25 win.

Cunningham for the first time this year led after the first quarter. Trey DeWeese propelled the Cats to an 11-point quarter, putting in five points. Daylen Schnittker, Lane Halderson and Erik Paris added two points each. Argonia managed seven points in the quarter.

Cunningham stretched the lead in the second quarter adding 14 more points and the defense stiffened to hold Argonia to six points. The highlight of the quarter was a last second three-point basket by Isaiah Reed to end the half with a score of 25 to 13.

The rim was not as kind in the second half as the Cats could only muster three two-point baskets. But Cunningham was able to make enough free throws and defensively held Argonia to 12 points for the half to hold on for the win.

Name	2pt. made	3pt. made	FTM/FTA	TP	Reb.	Asst.	Stl.	Chg.
Halderson	2		7/10	11	5	1	6	
Schnittker	5		4/7	14	4	2	5	
Paris	1		0/2	2	7		1	
Reed		1	0/3	3	4		3	

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
Cunningham	11	14	7	7	39
Argonia	7	6	8	4	25



Left: Erik Paris
Below: Team Effort



photos by Grace Patton



Wildcats Fall to Udall

by Coach Bob Stackhouse

The Cunningham Wildcats traveled to Udall on December 20, 2019 to take on the Eagles. Cunningham came up on the short end of a 73 to 46 score.

Udall came out fast scoring 19 points in the first quarter. Cunningham did not take advantage of some inside shots and managed only three points from Lane Halderson.

Cunningham's shooting heated up in the second quarter with Nathan Lohrke leading the way with three three-point baskets. Trey DeWeese added a three-point shot and Daylen Schnittker and Erik Paris each scored two points. Udall added 24 more points and the half ended with Cunningham trailing 19 to 43.

Cunningham played much stronger in the third quarter scoring 17 more points. DeWeese and Lohrke made two and one three-point basket, respectively. All of the other players added points to the cause to balance out the scoring. The third quarter ended with the Cats trailing 36 to 65.

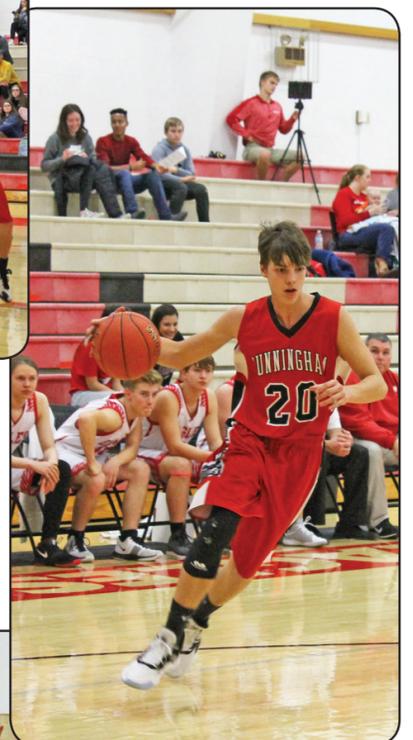
Lane Halderson scored eight of the 10 fourth quarter points for Cunningham with Lohrke adding the other two points.

Name	2pt. made	3pt. made	FTM/FTA	TP	Reb.	Asst.	Stl.	Chg.
Halderson	5		3/6	13	5	6	1	
DeWeese	2	3	½	10	4	1	3	
Schnittker	1		¾	3	5		1	
Lohrke	1	4	½	15	5	1		
Paris	1		1/2	3	2	2		
Reed	1			2	1	2		

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
Cunningham	3	16	17	10	46
Udall	19	24	22	8	73



Above: Lane Halderson
Right: Erik Paris
Below: Daylen Schnittker



"Sometimes a player's greatest challenge is coming to grips with his role on the team."
— Scottie Pippen



photos by Molly Morgan



Molly had snapped this great photo of the Junior High Cheer Squad, and I had this little of space... so I used the picture to fill it.

Minutes from the County Commission Meeting December 16th, 2019

The Board of Kingman County Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Kingman County Courthouse, Kingman, Kansas on December 16th, 2019. Those present: Fred Foley, Commissioner; Jerry Henning, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Visitors: Larry Landwehr; Roy Riggs, The Law Company; Austin Svoboda, The Law Company.

Staff: Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse; Sheriff Hill; Linda Langley, Internal Auditor; Stan Goetz, HR/Planning/Zoning/Wastewater Director; Steve Bachenberg, County Engineer & Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

Commissioner Foley called the Board of County Commissioners Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioner Foley asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Commissioner Henning would like to add the Law Company and an Executive Session with Stan Goetz, HR.

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the Law Company and an Executive Session with Stan Goetz.

County Clerk submitted the minutes of the December 9th, 2019

Commission Meeting for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to approve the minutes of the December 9th, 2019 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

The County Commissioners reviewed the Chemical bids by spreadsheet that were submitted by John Wimer, Noxious Weed Director. MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to approve the purchase of Chemical from SIMS for \$14,438.26; VanDiest for \$33,128.03 and MARC for \$2300.00 for a grand total of \$49,866.29. Commissioner Foley seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a majority vote of the County Commissioners.

Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse was in with an update on the office. Coming up in April they are going to have a state-wide drill and she would like them to put it on their schedule.

Sheriff Hill discussed with the Commissioners that his old fire system is still good and can be used somewhere else.

Commissioner Henning said getting temporary smoke detectors until a system could be in.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Henning

moved to go into executive session with Mary Schwartz at 8:33 a.m. to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act. The County Commissioners returned to regular session at 8:46 a.m.

Sheriff Hill was in to discuss storage units. The quote received is for three units for a cost of \$8700.00.

MOTION: Commissioner Foley moved to purchase the three units for \$8700.00. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon a majority vote of the County Commissioners.

Roy Riggs, The Law Company was in with the OAC #2 Agenda. Mr. Riggs discussed the outstanding design issues, RFI's, Submittals, Change Events and General items.

Mr. Riggs discussed the closing of the road.

Chief Lux said that the City approved extending 18 ft on the closure. If they need to close the road the City Commissioners gave the authority to the City Manager to approve closers as needed.

Sheriff Hill let Mr. Riggs know that he talked with the Railroad for usage of the grass lot and he talked with the Concrete company about the closing of the road and they were okay with it.

MOTION: Commissioner Foley moved for a recess. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved

with a majority vote of the County Commissioners. MOTION: Commissioner Foley moved to return to regular session at 9:22 a.m. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a majority vote of the County Commissioners.

The County Commissioners approved abatements and an addition:

Linda Langley, Internal Auditor was in to review the Department budgets with the County Commissioners.

Stan Goetz was in to let the Commissioners know that he has a tele-conference today at 1:30 p.m. for the Action Plan with AEP.

Mr. Goetz submitted a Resolution changing the zoning district classification of certain property located in the unincorporated area of Kingman County, Ks.

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to approve Resolution 2019-R15. Commissioner Foley seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a majority vote of the County Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Foley moved to go into executive session with Stan Goetz at 10:35 a.m. to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act. Mr. Goetz left the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director

was with a permit for Cox Communication to Lay Fiberoptic cable between Sections 25 & 36 and 35 & 36, Township 27, Range 8 (Hoosier Twp).

Mr. Arensdorf discussed the new requirements for New Commercial Licenses.

Mr. Arensdorf discussed FAS #12 Bridge Repair or replacement.

The Commissioners opened bids for vehicles from the following:

Newberry Family Motors \$105,551.00

Doug Reh (Pratt) \$105,206.00

Lubbers \$115,731.00

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to approve the bid from Newberry Family Motors in the amount of \$105,551.00. Commissioner Foley seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a majority vote of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Arensdorf discussed the tele-conference that will be this afternoon.

Steve Bachenberg gave a few updates to the County Commissioners on projects.

Richard Schott, Emergency Management Director was in to discuss a new fire system for the Health Department. The bid he received from Honeywell Kansas Fire Equipment Co., Inc was \$12,174.52. KCAMP has Risk Avoidance Grant funding available of \$2000.00 for 2019 and \$2000.00 for 2020.

The County Commissioners would like to get bids on a fire system for the Health

Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Henning moved to go into executive session with Becky Luntsford at 11:52 a.m.

to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act. The County Commissioners returned to regular session at 12:00 noon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Henning moved to go into executive session with Becky Luntsford at 12:00 p.m. to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act. The County Commissioners returned to regular session at 12:05 p.m. with no binding action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Henning moved to go into executive session with Mark Schnittker, Courthouse Maintenance and Stan Goetz, HR to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act. The County Commissioners returned to regular session at 12:13 p.m. with no binding action taken.

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:17 p.m. Commissioner Foley seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the majority vote of the County Commissioners.

Right of Way Meeting:

by Alan Albers

On the evening of December 19th, at the Cunningham Community Building, there was an interesting gathering of people. Landowners from Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas met for two hours. The meeting was concerning a new pipeline which will be completed near Cunningham in the next year. The line will pass north and east

of town and carry oil from the Bakken field in North Dakota to Cushing, Oklahoma. The line will be a two-foot pipe, and it will lie next to three lines already bringing gas or oil to Cushing.

The meeting was held to inform local landowners about the success landowners in other states have had with the pipeline companies in the recent past. The majority of the meeting was led by Frank Falen, a lawyer from Cheyenne,

Wyoming. Mr. Falen has a vast knowledge about pipeline easements. It was a huge surprise to most of the attendees, including me, about the liabilities that the landowners are saddled with.

For example, if by accident, the landowner was to do damage to the line that would hinder the flow of oil or gas, said owner would be responsible to pay any loss to the company. Since this line will be carrying as much as three million dollars of oil

per day under our ground we could lose everything we owned.

The Pro-Wyoming and Pro-Colorado groups were inviting Kansans to join with them to form a new group called Pro-Kansas. Mr. Falen has negotiated an easement with the oil company for his customers in the other states where the landowners don't have any of the liabilities which could bankrupt them in the future. Agreements to join in the Pro-Kansas group

were distributed after the meeting.

Mr. Dan Hanson and Pat Wader, two landowners from Lusk, Wyoming, were present also. They had first contacted Mr. Falen and established the Wyoming group.

The lease price was finally discussed toward the end of the meeting. It was stated that the lease payments Kansans have been quoted are less than that of the other states that the line will cross.

The cost to join the

Pro-Kansas group is minimal considering the risk reduction that members will receive.

If this new line is crossing your ground you may want to get a copy of the operating agreement and read it yourself. You can join the group if you choose.

To see a copy of this agreement, you can check with Eric Meyers at the Ninnescah Valley Bank or with me: Alan Albers 620-243-2553

Top Tips for Keeping Your Family Safe This Holiday Season:

The upcoming holidays are meant for celebrating and spending time with family. It is also the season when most home accidents tend to happen. While you are busy keeping relatives happy and enjoying the holiday spirit, mishaps in the household and kitchen can become more common.

Farm Bureau Financial

Services is here to help you prepare for keeping your family safe this holiday season.

Lighting: Every year, you unpack your holiday decorations to create a festive space, but when's the last time you checked your lights for safety hazards? This year, double check your lights for loose connections, exposed or frayed wires or broken sockets. If you go all out with outside holiday lights and decorations, be careful not to overload your electrical

circuit.

Fires: The National Fire Protection Association reports 12 percent of home candle fires occur in December. A merry fire, combustible seasonal decorations and glowing candles can leave you more at risk for fire. Clean your chimney and fireplace area every year, and don't leave the house with a fire burning.

Pets: A Poinsettia will jazz up your mantel, but it may harm your pets. Keep dogs and cats away from that iconic red foliage.

age. Here's how to keep your pets healthy during the holidays.

Packages: Keep your packages safe. If you're expecting a gift or getting a gift you intend to have delivered, try to be home for the delivery. When holiday deliveries ramp up, would-be thieves are on the lookout for packages. After you've unwrapped your holiday haul, find ways to disguise any big gifts. Otherwise, thieves may see you as a tempting new target.

In the Kitchen: Spread good cheer, not germs. Wash your hands, and insist any helpers wash up too. Resist the temptation to rinse raw meat or poultry. Splashing water can spread bacteria onto clothing, work surfaces and cooking equipment.

On the Road: Holidays come with extra traveling. Take extra care to be safe on the road including avoiding driving distracted. Keep your cell phone put away and make sure everyone is buckled up. We hope you have a

safe and happy holiday season!

We at Farm Bureau Financial Services hope these tips help you have a safe and happy holiday season. More tips on protecting your family can be found at: <https://www.fbfs.com/learning-center/keep-your-family-safe-this-holiday-season>.

For more information, please contact Courtney Ryan at cryan@ls2group.com or 515.770.4823

Pratt Area Happenings

(con't from page 3)

Shows begin at 7:00 pm unless noted

Delano Jazz Orchestra Sunday, February 9* Show begins at 3:00 pm

Season tickets are now on sale by contacting Misty Beck at mistyb@prattcc.edu

Family Season Pass - \$80.00

Adult Season Pass

- \$40.00 Student Only - \$10.00 Day of Show - \$15.00

What's Happening @ Your Library - December 2019

Have tech questions? The Pratt Public Library can help. If you need help with your computer, e-reader, tablet, etc. call 620-672-3041 or email staff@prattpubliclibrary.org to set up an appointment or text your questions to 620-263-0182.

Preschool Activities Story Time: Thursdays 10:30 -11:30 a.m.

For children 3-5 years old, parents are welcome to stay if they would like

Toddler Time: Tuesdays from 10:00 -10:20 a.m.

For children 2 & under and an adult who loves them

Elementary Activities - Kindergarten - Fourth Grade

K-4 Fun @ Your

Library: Thursdays from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

December 26 - No Class - Christmas Break

Teen Zone - Fifth - Twelfth Grades

Books, graphic novels, audio books, gaming systems, laptops, & crafts always available. iPads, available by request.

Monday-Thursday 10:00a.m.- 6:30 pm

Friday & Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:30 pm

Tutoring: Library

Director, Eric Scott Killough, is available to tutor elementary, high school and college aged students.

Vernon Filley Art Museum

For Museum Hours and Admission Fees, please visit www.vernonfilleyartmuseum.org

The Annual Filley Festival of Trees, Wreaths & Holiday Decor runs through January 4, 2020! Come in and

vote for your favorite tree!

Admission is free thanks to our generous donors: Bolen Office Supply; Pratt Energy, LLC; Maydew Thibault Optometry; and The Peoples Bank.

Art classes are available to sign up visit our website:

<http://www.vernonfilleyartmuseum.org/education/>

To reserve the Cunningham Community Center, contact Ruth Shelman, (620) 770-9153 or 318-6042

Miscellaneous

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, so slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 855-382-1221

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Effective June 1, 2019: Ads are \$5.50 per column inch, \$6.00 for full-color ads. Front page box ads are \$9.00 per column inch. All ads are subject to approval of this paper, which reserves the right to edit, reject, or properly classify any ad. Note: The views and opinions expressed in advertisements in The Cunningham Courier do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Courier or staff. Errors will be corrected when brought to my attention. Classified Ad Rates \$5.00 minimum charge for one-week run. DEADLINES: 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays

Farm Equipment

GOT LAND? Our Hunters will Pay Top \$\$\$ To hunt your land. Call for a FREE info packet & Quote. 1-866-309-1507 www.BaseCampLeasing.com

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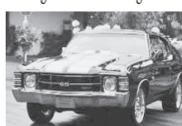
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Card of Thanks

Thank you for the prayers, cards, Masses, flowers, donations, and visits in the loss of our Mom, Grandma, and Great-Grandma. A special thank you to Father Roger, all who helped with the Mass, and the Altar Society for preparing the delicious meal. We also want to express our appreciation to the staff at Hilltop Manor & Interim Hospice who provided her with great care and support. The family of Cecelia Preisser

Health Care

Kingman County Health Department will be doing its monthly outreach clinics in January on the following dates.

Cunningham- Wednesday, January 8th from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Nashville- Wednesday, January 8th from 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Norwich- Thursday, January 2nd from 1:30pm – 4:00pm

We will have flu shots available at these clinics.

We will give free blood pressure checks at Kingman Senior Center January 15th from 11:00am-Noon.

Lions' Club Clothing Drive

The Cunningham Lions' Club is hosting a socks, hat, scarf, and glove drive for the holiday season.

The members will be collecting these accessories in all sizes until the end of December.

These items are for those in need in our local community.

Drop Box can be found at Ninescah Valley Bank.

For Sale

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

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Seth Thibault, OD
Andrew W. Piester, OD
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 Pratt, Kansas 67124
 620-672-5934
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 604 N. Walnut
 Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104
 620-886-3222
 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Seth Thibault, OD
Andrew W. Piester, OD
 104 West C Ave.
 Kingman, KS 67068
 620-532-3154
 1-800-371-3154
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 Monday - Thursday
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Celebrations of Life

Cecelia Preisser

Cecelia Wedman Preisser, 93, was born May 4, 1926, Northeast of Danville, Kansas and died Dec. 18, 2019 at the Hilltop Manor, Cunningham. She was the daughter of Cleo and Ida Metzinger Wedman.



In 1930 the family moved to Grant County, Oklahoma. She attended school in Grant County and graduated from Caldwell High in 1944. She worked at Beech Aircraft until the war ended. Besides farming, she worked in an auto parts store and a meat packing plant.

On Aug. 23, 1948, she married Peter Preisser, Jr. They farmed in Reno County with Peter passing away in 1985. She was also preceded in death by her parents, brothers Paul, Henry, Anthony, Ralph and John; sister Ida Mary Belmear; and granddaughter Laura Betzen Oeding. Survivors include son Larry (Tracy Chambers); daughter Gwen (Mark) Betzen; 7 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was Saturday, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cunningham. Burial was Saturday in the St. Joe-Ost Cemetery

Memorials may be made with the SCCF (Pratt, KS) to the Laura Betzen Oeding Scholarship Fund or to the Sacred Heart Cemetery Fund both in care of Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman, KS 67068.

Max Hoeme

Max B. Hoeme, 83, of Preston, Kansas, died Saturday, December 14th, 2019, at his daughter's home in Springdale, AR. Max was born July 8, 1936, in Preston, KS, the son of B.R. and Florence Hoeme. Max married Wanda Lawrence on November 29, 1960, in Pratt, Kansas and was married for 59 years.



Max was a proud farmer and also served his country in the Marines from 1955 to 1961.

Max is preceded in death by daughter, Cheri; granddaughter Erin Elizabeth Tice; and brother Dale Hoeme. Max is survived by his wife of 59 years, Wanda Lawrence Hoeme; six children, Mike Hoeme and Wife Kaye Lynne, Debbie Lamanske and husband Joe, Diane Fowler and husband Cliff, Steve Hoeme, Susan Hoeme and husband Jeremy, Larry Hoeme and Wife Danielle Hoeme; 22 Grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Joyce Caldwell (Jim) and Anita Funk (Bob).

Memorials may be made to 2nd Milk at www.2ndmilk.org or the Pratt County Historical Society.

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Goodwill LearnIT Visit a Success

On Wednesday, December 11th, an unusual sight could be seen on Main Street in Cunningham. The Goodwill LearnIT Mobile Digital Skills Lab came to town at the invitation of the Cunningham Public Library. Seven individuals took advantage of the free service in the morning, and nine in the afternoon. The morning's session covered basic computer skills. In the afternoon, instructor Justin Rupert gave an overview of Google applications.

Any apprehension was quickly replaced by laughter and easy, comfortable questions throughout the day. Kathy Albers remarked, "Justin was very patient. I don't have Word on my laptop, so some of the little shortcuts for Google and Google Docs have been very helpful, especially Google Docs. Hope the LearnIT bus comes back. I'll go to all the session offered next time."

Sean Crowley echoed the desire to attend again, adding, "I really enjoyed the LearnIT bus. It was a low-pressure environment to acquire some knowledge and spend time with folks you enjoy. Hard to beat!"

Those in attendance seemed in agreement that they would like to see the opportunity return. Rupert indicated that he envisioned a return visit with the following classes: basic computer skills, a social media course, and an Excel course. Judging by the first visit, these courses would be informative and presented in a laid-back manner.

Courier readers may recall, "The Goodwill Learn IT Mobile Digital Skills Lab is a no cost resource for Kansans across the state. Our goal is to help equip individuals with the digital skills they'll need to join and/or remain part of a com-



petitive workforce. We do this by offering workshops on basic computer skills (typing, mouse skills, operations), productivity software like Microsoft Office, their Google equivalents and basic social media. The program is for individuals of **all skill levels!** That can be folks who have never turned on a computer all the way to folks who are looking to "upskill" and advance in their fields.

"Our lab features 11 computer stations and allows us to give personalized hands-on training with a Microsoft Office

certified instructor that ensures they receive the best possible learning experience. The lab also features accessible seating and a lift for persons with disabilities."

Be watching for news of a return visit of the Mobile classroom, sponsored by Goodwill Kansas and corporate donors. The Cunningham Public Library was very pleased to host the opportunity for area patrons and look forward to even more participation next time.

story and photo by Mary Stackhouse

A Tiny Tots Christmas



Tiny Tots Daycare got a visit from Santa at our annual Christmas party. We got to sit on Santa's lap and had a great time visiting with him. Thank you Santa for taking the time out of your busy schedule to visit us.

Beth Patton story and photo



Gaming Skills for Third Graders



The holidays are a great time to get out some board games and spend quality time together with your family. Before Thanksgiving break, several third grade parents came to play games with our class. So many important skills were practiced, including problem solving and reasoning skills, basic math facts and counting money. It was a great way to spend some time learning and having fun! *Cindy Panek story and photo*

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