



Catchy Title for Article

Yes, I typed it. Hard to come up with an attention grabbing title all the time. Not sure how journalists and writers do it. All I want is to share some highlights of what is taking place in the Home of the Wildcats, Cunningham variety.

Last night the board conducted another work session with BG consulting (architectural firm) to determine where to locate a multipurpose building and what type of building should be constructed. These are important considerations as the board is not interested in building a stand alone building that serves a short term purpose.

After last evening’s session, we have determined that placement should be North of the gym. We are looking at how close to the main gym we can be for connection purposes. We are considering a 68 X 100 foot building that will be built to allow for further expansion to the North should future boards and community members determine expansion of the building necessary to serve

school and community needs.

The short term goal is to build a gym allowing for sports practice, physical education classes, and indoor recess when necessary. It will be big enough we could host middle school and JV games but not big enough to host post season events. The long term goal is ensure the construction would allow for expansion should the school and community desire a facility capable of hosting post season activities. Seems easy, build something we can inhabit now, make it bigger later. It is and it is not. The construction and placement details determine how the building can grow. Those details are also driven by the budget, 1.7 million dollars. The district did very well staying within the high school construction budget. Thus, there is an opportunity to build this multi purpose building with funds on hand. But, in order to stay within that budget for this project, decisions about what we need now and later must be made. While the upcoming decisions require much discussion and consideration, it is still

a very exciting time as we know this building will be greatly beneficial to our students and community.

I just spent a great deal of newspaper space talking about the second gym but I also would like to share that we have a team working with officials in Pratt County to seek solutions for issues with assessed valuations and public utilities. I will not repeat all of the saga regarding our latest district valuation, I just want everyone to know that we are still working to address how public utilities are assessed to ensure stability for the community and the school. Just know that significant change to any system will take time and there will be setbacks. It is just a matter of resilience and grit.

The winter and spring months are great times to engage with the school as our students are heavily involved in many activities both athletic and academic. If you do not have access to a digital calendar, call the school if you need assistance with dates and times for activities. Please also remember that weather is always a factor. It is time

to ensure gloves, hats, and coats are out of the closet and that every student who drives to and from school has a solid ice scraper in their vehicles. Our philosophy on winter travel is simple, be safe. There is nothing happening at school at any time that requires anyone to sacrifice safety to be on time. Our district covers a large chunk of the county. It is entirely possible some of our families may live in a portion that is uniquely affected by weather. If you are not comfortable traveling on those days although school is in session, stay home and call the school.

Our students engage in significant high quality learning daily. It is because this community continues its long tradition of supporting the local school. I cannot overstate what a privilege it is to serve at USD 332. May you enjoy a wonderful new year.

-Dr. Kelly Arnberger, USD 332 Superintendent of Schools



Minutes From BOE Special Session in December

The West Kingman County Board of Education special meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025, by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Travis Thimesch, Vicki Oldham, Jason Osner, Megan Green and Abby Bock; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and Guests, Grant Urban, Katie Hellman, Shawna Sterneker, and Nick Rogers.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

President Brent Miller welcomed the guests and turned the Meeting over to B & G Consultants. They presented drawings of two location options and asked the board to narrow it down to one. Discussion followed. Consensus was the location near the existing gym made most sense. B & G will continue working on drawings and options for the location selected.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.



Minutes From BOE December Meeting

The West Kingman County Board of Education meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025, by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Vicki Oldham, Megan Green, Travis Thimesch, Abby Bock and Jason Osner; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster and guests Bella Thimesch, Zach Green, Layne Green, Grady Green, Rita Strohl, Marla Rose, Monte Rose, Landon Oldham, Jase Oldham, and Morgan Oldham.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to approve the agenda as amended, adding c Accept anonymous donation under new business. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller welcomed the guests to the meeting then turned it over to Principal Dunlap. Principal Dunlap gave special recognition to outgoing Board Members Megan Green and Vicki Oldham for their years of service to USD 332.

Guests Zach Green, Layne Green, Grady Green, Rita Strohl, Marla Rose, Monte Rose, Landon Oldham, Jase Oldham, and Morgan Oldham left the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Guests Shawna Sterneker, Katie Hellman and Nick Rogers arrived to the meeting at that time.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Vicki Oldham, to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2025 Regular meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Megan Green, to approve the payment of bills and the financial reports as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Dr. Arnberger updated the board on the Northern Natural taxation meeting he had with legislators.

Guest Randy Ford arrived to the meeting at 4:51 p.m. He delivered the 2024-2025 Financial Audit report. He left the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

Dr. Arnberger continued his report with project drawing updates, upcoming activities and a request for Board volunteers on the morning of the last day before break.

Principal Dunlap reviewed upcoming events, discussed staff PD ideas, and actionable plans for retention and recruitment. He also updated the board on site council, DC Attendees and CTE meeting information.

Member Bjorn Halderson, CO-OP representative, reported that the Lloyd Group continues on the internal audit and that there was a Skyward software update. Dr. Arnberger added that the CO-OP is looking for creative ways to improve para wages.

Superintendent Arnberger discussed strategic plan goal options on retention discussions that include a calendar committee, Love & Logic training, 403b match, PTO plan committee, and Insurance options.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch,

seconded by Jason Osner, to go into executive session with Superintendent Arnberger and Principal Dunlap for 15 minutes at 6:05 p.m. to discuss personnel matters for the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and will return to open session at 6:20 p.m. in the board room. Motion carried 7-0.

Guests Shawna Sterneker and Bella Thimesch left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 6:20 p.m.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Jason Osner, to go into executive session with Superintendent Arnberger and Principal Dunlap for 5 minutes at 6:20 p.m. to discuss personnel matters for the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and will return to open session at 6:25 p.m. in the board room. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 6:25 p.m.

Superintendent Arnberger discussed KASB policy update recommendations. Board will review and approve next month.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Abby Bock, to extend Dr. Arnberger’s contract 1 year. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Vicki Oldham, to accept an anonymous donation in the amount of 2,986.73 to cover unpaid lunch balances as of 12/15/2025. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Meagan Green, to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

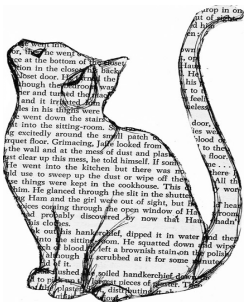
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Meanderings

MOST mornings, before I’m truly up for the day, I give the cats some treats (that gets them off the bed), and Quin and spend time together. I

play with his goofy little ears, rub his tummy, scratch his elbow. I talk to him a bit.

Sometimes I drum on his tummy “Shave and a Haircut, Two Bits”. But I have changed the song to “Quin and his Kitties, Two Cents.” At some point one or more cats will return to bed to get in on the scratching and petting action. It’s usually not a problem. EXCEPT when Ned decides to join us. Ned does NOT like me to drum

on Quin’s tummy. He doesn’t like me to beat or drum on any part of Quin. He starts fussing. He’ll put his paw on me or he’ll and try and get between us. He doesn’t have an issue with me just petting his Quinnie, but I’d better not beat on him. Silly cat.

This morning I was just drumming on Quin’s tummy, and asked, “Can you name that tune, Quin?” He just closed his eyes and enjoyed the drumming.

So, my mind mean-

dered. Do you remember back in the mid-to-late 70’s when they had a weekly game show on called “Name That Tune”? (I guess it’s been revived, but I haven’t seen the new show.) I was thinking of the show of the 70’s. I am not a music person. I enjoy music, but I have no skills or talents for it, but I absolutely loved that game show. I hated to miss it.

And as I’m drumming on Quin this morning

with “Can you name that tune?” I remembered the episode where a gentleman claimed he could ‘name that tune’ in one note. I was lying on the floor in front of the television. When he made the claim, the audience went crazy. I scoffed, “No way!” Had my hands not been under my chin, propping my head up, my mouth would have dropped open when he did, indeed, name that tune in one note. That, my meandering friends,

is a true music aficionado.

I guess in recent episodes it has also been done. But I don’t think I’d be as impressed as I was when I was in middle school watching that show.

Always reading, and currently reading, “The Bag of Thieves Affair” by Bill Pronzini, Roberta



Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

I am familiar with Indian Summer as I am sure are most of you. It is that brief and lovely window of time when the weather is just a heck of a lot nicer than it is supposed to be. It usually occurs in Autumn, and for hard core Indian Summer enthusiasts takes place after the first hard frost. But I’ll take it anytime, though I will admit that sudden shift in expected

weather can be confusing. Especially when, due to a deplorable lack of closet space in my house, I’ve changed out my warm weather wear for the cozy clothing required by old man winter. The reason I bring this up is that since the holidays we’ve been experiencing insanely warm weather around these parts. We’ve gone from single digits to highs approaching the seventies for the second time in two weeks. And though I have never heard the phrase I truly suspect we are in the midst of an Indian Winter.

So I looked up “Indian Winter.” And after ex-

haustive research (meaning I Googled it) all my various resources informed me that “Winter in India takes place between December and February.” As you may imagine that really wasn’t helpful at all unless planning a trip to Mumbai anytime soon. Undaunted at getting to the bottom of this current meteorological anomaly I again exhaustively researched (meaning I again Googled) high and low temperatures for our state since they’ve been recording such things. And it seems we are no strangers to balmy Januarys. They are actually quite com-

mon, though we fail to remember them as vividly as we do the freezing-your-butt-off Januarys. Though Goodland and Hill city hit the mid-seventies a few days ago we’ve had days like that going back to 1936. And that got me deeper into the rabbit hole of weather in this Land of Ahs and I was surprised by a lot of it. So away we go!

The record low temperature? That would be -40 in Lebanon in 1905. Record high? 121 degrees in Alton and Fredonia in 1936. That’s Fahrenheit if you’re into conversion charts. Record rain fall within

a 24-hour period? 12.69 inches at Burlington in 1941. Record snowfall? 1989 in Pratt County. 30 inches. And that was in late March! Imagine their surprise just as they thought Spring had sprung. And just for kicks I calculated that it takes 3” of rain to make 30” of snow. So either way it was a very wet day. Highest winds? There is debate here. Either it was 102 MPH at Eisenhower Airport in Wichita in July of 2025 or 109 MPH in 1993. Had enough? I haven’t. Largest hail. Poor Wichita again. 7.75” in diameter and over a pound-heavy ice balls

punched through a lot of rooftops in September 2010. And last but not at all least, tornadoes. Who could forget May 23, 2008. 70!!! You’d think 70 twisters must be number one but it ain’t. That would be Tennessee with 72.

So even though it is 64 at my house right now it could easily be 22 and snowing tomorrow. And considering what this state has been through in the past I have no problem with that.

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

A Column by Dorothy Rosby

Answering the Profound Question, Why Am I Here?

I must be getting more philosophical as the years go by. I often find myself standing in the middle of a room overcome by existential questions. Why am I here? What is my purpose? Didn’t I come here for something? What was it?

I know a lot of people struggle with these questions and I have some thoughts on how to make peace with them. First,

it’s important you be fully present in whatever activity you’re engaging in. Let’s say you’re working on a craft project and you need a pair of scissors that happen to be in the garage. Why you keep your scissors in the garage I have no idea, but I’m not here to judge.

It’s tempting to let your mind wander as you go get them. In order to stay focused on your mission, you might say or even sing a little song as you’re marching through the house. “Scissors. Scissors. I’m going to get the scissors.” This works well—if it’s scissors you need.

Your family may be alarmed as you pass by them singing about scissors but no more so than

they would be to see you standing in the garage asking, “Why am I here?”

Another trick is to carry a reminder of your goal. Let’s say dinner is almost ready and it’s time to cut the roast. Unfortunately the cutting board is in the laundry room, though why you keep your cutting board in the laundry room, I can’t imagine.

You don’t want to get all the way to the laundry room, forget why you’re there, start doing laundry and miss dinner. So pick up something that will remind you of your intention. You could carry the roast with you, but your family might be concerned to see you carrying a roast to the laundry room. They’re already

wondering why you keep the cutting board there and your scissors in the garage.

I suggest you choose something smaller, maybe the ketchup. When you get to the laundry room, the ketchup in your hand will remind you that you’re there to get the stain remover. No wait. That doesn’t sound right.

If you’ve forgotten to carry a reminder or sing as you walked through the house, there’s still hope. First stand in the middle of the room you find yourself in. If anyone else is there, tell them you came to say hello. Then take a few deep breaths, look around slowly and try to think logically. What do you keep in that room that you may have

needed? I realize logic may not be your strong point if you’re the kind of person who keeps your scissors in the garage and your cutting board in the laundry room.

If that’s the case, find something else to do while you’re there. Straighten the magazines on the coffee table if you’re in the living room. Make yourself a snack if you’re in the kitchen. This will buy you time to ponder the true reason for your visit. It will also reassure your family that whatever other issues you may be experiencing at least your appetite is still good.

If you’re lucky, your spouse will yell from the other room to remind you of your mission. “What’s

taking you so long? I thought you were getting the fire extinguisher.”

If that doesn’t happen, be thankful that your house isn’t on fire. Then, as you enjoy your snack, think back. What room were you in before you found yourself standing in the kitchen telling your teenager you just came to say hi? Walk back to it. Just being there may bring to mind the important errand you were on when you left. If however you return to the original room, look around and think to yourself, why am I here, well, I just don’t know what to tell you.



Four Thieves’ Vinegar – Fire Cider for Health

“Health is not valued till sickness comes.” Thomas Fuller

With the peak pestilence of the cold and flu season upon us, it might behoove us to prepare. It is no fun to be sick. Recently I stumbled upon an ancient preventative, said to boost the immune system and give your body a superhuman protective shield. And the story behind it is too compelling not to share. Here it is...

During the mid-14th century, Europe experienced perhaps the worst pandemic in human history. Over 50 million people perished from the bubonic plague, or the Black Death as it is often called. The plague was one of the most significant events in human history.

During this time, in the French port city of Marseilles, four friends who worked the shipyards there had an idea. They launched a diabolical, yet profitable criminal enterprise after noticing something

strange.

During the day these friends labored within the bowels of a seaside warehouse that processed herbs and spices from abroad. Every evening, they stumbled home from work covered in spice dust. And, as the plague-ridden dead bodies of their fellow townspeople were stacked like firewood, with many more sick and dying all around them, they remained healthy. They didn’t get sick. The dreaded Black Death didn’t seem to affect them at all. The four friends realized that covered in herbs and spices, they were apparently protected from sickness. And this provided them with a profitable criminal opportunity too tempting to pass up.

These friends went into business looting the infected homes of the dead. When a family succumbed to the plague, they promptly showed up at the empty residence to steal what they could. Either fearless or foolish, they worked ignoring the danger and never got sick. At some point, it is believed they began also making a tonic with their herbs and spices and ingesting it. The friends, covered in spice dust and drinking their spicy herbal concoction, looted and lived.

All good things must come to an end (or in this case, bad things), and the friends, now thieves were arrested for their crimes and faced death by hanging. The judge in their case, aware of their apparent immunity to the disease around them, made the thieves an offer they couldn’t refuse. In exchange for their secret plague-protection recipe, their lives would be spared. The thieves quickly coughed up their secret, were released, and went on to live honorable and up-right lives, we assume.

The four thieves’ recipe, sometimes called Fire Cider, has been passed down for generations. The recipe does vary some, depending on your source. But essentially it is apple cider vinegar infused with various toe-curling extracts, spices, and anti-microbial herbs.

The 20th century French physician and world-renowned aromatherapist Jean Valnet is thought to have most closely re-created the original Four Thieves’ recipe. It includes some interesting ingredients like wormwood, meadowsweet, marjoram, angelica,

horehound, and camphor. The recipe below may be the Texas version. It omits some of the more exotic ingredients but includes jalapeno peppers. Most of what is listed can be found at your local supermarket. I think it is okay to pick and choose the ingredients you can best tolerate. And when drinking a shot of this stuff every day to stay healthy, you might want to keep an ice-cold Dr. Pepper handy to use as a chaser. This stuff can’t taste good.

FIRE CIDER INGREDIENTS:

- 5 jalapeno peppers (or other hot chilis)
- 2 chopped onions (red or white or both)
- 4 cloves garlic - halved
- ½ cup fresh ginger – chopped
- ½ cup fresh turmeric root - chopped
- 2 - 3 lemons – cut into chunks
- ¼ cup rosemary sprigs - chopped
- ¼ cup thyme - chopped
- ¼ cup peppermint - chopped
- ¼ cup lemon balm - chopped
- 1 tbsp. cinnamon (use Ceylon cinnamon)
- 3 pods of star anise
- 3 – 6 cloves (or more)
- 1 tbsp. peppercorns – black
- 3 tbsp. elderberries – dried (optional)
- 6 cups raw apple cider vinegar

Maple syrup to sweeten (use real maple syrup – not fake breakfast or pancake syrup)

Add dry ingredients to a large sealable jar and cover with apple cider vinegar.

Store jar in a cool dark place for 3-4 weeks, shaking every few days to agitate.

After steeping period, strain through mesh or cheesecloth into a sterilized container. If your concoction is too strong, add maple syrup to taste (start with a tablespoon and adjust from there).

If you store your cider in the fridge it will last for several months. Take one to two tablespoons daily. Mix with water (or try carbonated mineral water). Drink up - stay healthy!

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Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, January 15 JH BB at South Barber *** HS Scholars' Bowl at Burrton (HOPL) *** 2:30 p.m. 4th Grade Spelling Bee	Wednesday, January 21 6:00 Shop Guild *** 6:30 p.m. Girls' Night Out Book Club at Cozy's
Friday, January 16 2:30 p.m. 5th Grade Spelling Bee *** HS BB vs South Barber at HOME	Thursday, January 22 Kingman County Spelling Bee *** JH BB vs Skyline at HOME *** Boys 54 Classic BB Tournament at Skyline
Saturday January 17 HS JV BB at HOME (B Team Tournament)	Friday, January 23 Girls 54 Classic BB Tournament at HOME
Monday, January 19 Federal Holiday: Marthin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Day *** Boys 54 Classic at Skyline *** Teacher Professional Development: No School	Saturday, January 24 Boys 54 Classic at Skyline *** Girls 54 Classic at HOME
Tuesday, January 20 9:00 a.m. Elementary Spelling Bee *** 10:30 JH Spelling Bee *** Girls 54 Classic BB tournament at HOME *** Lions Club Meets	Wednesday, January 28 FFA Public Speaking *** Book Club
	Thursday, January 29 JH BB at Norwich
	Friday, January 30 HS BB vs. Attica at HOME *** HOMECOMING *** JRs Coyote Calling Contest

Happy Birthday, Kay House!



Karolyn Kay House celebrates her 85th birthday on Tuesday, January 27. The family invites you to participate in a card shower for Kay to help her celebrate this milestone in her life. If you like, please share a favorite memory or photo you have of your love and friendship with Kay with your card.

Kay is the oldest daughter of Clifford and Dorothy Gowler and was born in Valentine, Nebraska. Kay and her family (brothers Jim and Jerry and sister Jean) spent much of their

younger years in Norfolk, Nebraska. Kay shared close to 63 years of marriage with her lifelong friend and husband, Keith House, until his death two years ago. They lived in Cunningham, Kansas for over 40 years.

Kay’s children include Kim and her husband Bob Bartlett, Kevin and his wife Laura House, Kerry Winans, Kristi and her husband Tim Bryan, Karla and her husband Steve Jimenez. Kent House and his significant other Trisha Thome.

Kay’s grandchildren include Melissa Bartlett

and her significant other Travis Linden, Trent Bartlett, Jaimie Bookout and her husband Kutter Bookout, Travis House and his wife Marisa House, Coleton Bryan and his significant other Olivia Fearer, Kaylynn Bryan, Kylie Jimenez, Alyssa Jimenez, Coby Jimenez, and Avery House.

Kay’s great grandchildren include Karter Buckett, Brixly Bookout, Beckham Bookout, Bowen Bookout, Everly House and Karson House.

Some of Kay’s current hobbies and activities

include assembling endless 300 piece puzzles, playing bingo, some daily reading of her Bible, watching her favorite shows and sports on TV, and spending as much time as possible with family including attending a variety of events of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Happy 85th Birthday, Mom, Grandma and Great Grandma! We love you!

Birthday cards can be mailed to:
Kay House
615 S. Main St., Apt. 7
Whitewater KS 67154

Learning to Knit at CPL



Beginning knitting class held this evening with many eager learners. Several yarns, knitting needles and a display of some knitted projects were shared. Each knitter started with stitches cast on and a few rows knitted, and they practiced the basics. Many progressed to complete a coaster or book mark and left with instructions to try more later. Treats made the challenges more tolerable for some.

- Joyce Depenbusch

*In observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day, Ninnescah Valley
Bank will be closed
Monday, January 19th*

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Closed for Holidays
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Zenda
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Thursday:
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday:
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
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Sat. : 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
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Friday: 10:00 - 6:00
Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00
Closed on Sundays
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**We ALWAYS need
photos for the paper!!**

*“SABLE- A common knitting acronym that stands for Stash Acquisition Beyond Life Expectancy.”
— Stephanie Pearl-McPhee,
At Knit's End: Meditations for
Women Who Knit Too Much*

Kingman Historic Theatre

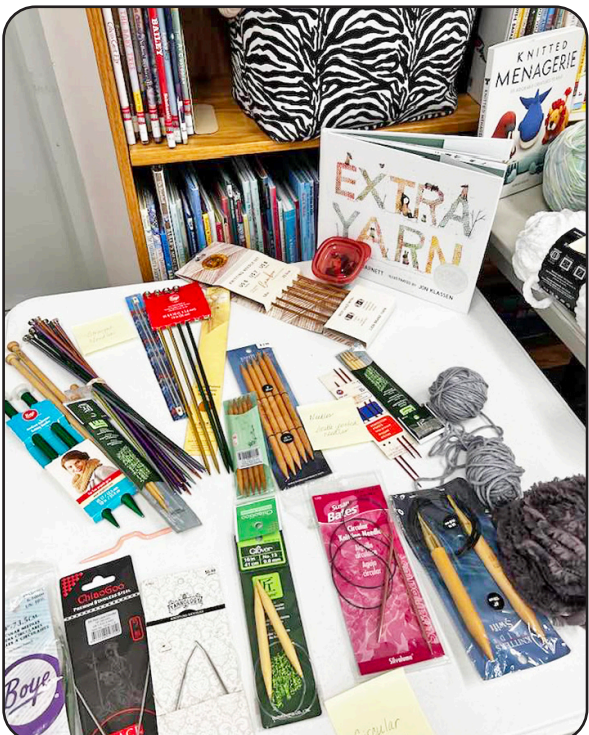
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January 16-18

Avatar: Fire and Ash

Rated PG-13

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Fresh Start: Resetting Our Lives in Christ

At the beginning of the year, we ran into a small but frustrating problem. Our son’s soccer team and schedule weren’t showing up on the Y app. No matter how many times we checked, re-freshed, or waited, nothing appeared. I reached out directly to the coach.

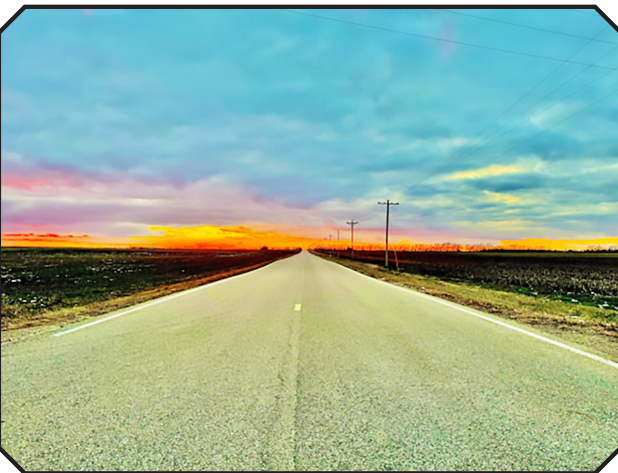
I called the Y. Finally, I stopped by in person. That’s when we discovered the issue: a simple typo in my email address. They corrected it, but still, the schedule wouldn’t show. Then came the advice that fixed everything: “You’ll need to reset the app and start all over again.” Sometimes, the problem isn’t that informa-

tion isn’t available. Sometimes, the problem is that what we’re using needs a reset. As we begin this new year, many of us carry questions, fears, disappointments, or habits that haven’t changed just because the calendar did. We keep refreshing our lives, hoping something will look different, but deep down, we know what we really need is not a refresh, but a fresh start. **That’s what this sermon series is about.** In the Fresh Start series, we will walk with Jesus through powerful moments in the Gospel, moments where people are invited to reset their

vision, their priorities, and their trust. From Peter’s confession and costly discipleship (Mark 8:27–38), to Jesus pressing forward despite fear (Luke 13:31–35), to the healing that comes when gratitude replaces distance (Luke 17:11–19), and finally to Zacchaeus discovering that salvation begins when Jesus is welcomed in (Luke 19:1–10). **Together, we will be challenged to:** Look up to Jesus and ask again, “Who do you say that I am?” Overcome fear and follow Christ even when the path is unclear. Focus on what God

can do, trusting in miracles both big and small. Believe that God has our back, no matter where we’ve been or what needs resetting. Sometimes faith begins not by adding something new, but by letting Jesus help us start over. If you’re longing for clarity, courage, healing, or

direction; this is your invitation. Come reset your heart. Come begin again. Come experience a Fresh Start in Christ. **Join us at:** **Cunningham UMC:** **10:45am-11:45am** **Penalosa UMC:** **9:15am-10:15am.** **Rev. Mathew Musyoki**



A Column
by
Dean Marple

Cold Feet

9 p.m.

Standing in stark contrast to the faded wallpaper behind it, the grandfather clock announced the hour as Scott slept in his sagging recliner while Liz’s head nodded over her basket of knitting yarn. She softly spoke, “Hon, come on, you’re asleep and I’m halfway there. Let’s go to bed.” When she got no response, Liz turned

up the volume. “SCOTT, BED, NOW,” she yelled as she stood and took two shuffling steps toward him and reached down to shake his foot. “Time to go to bed.” Sleepy-eyed, he got up and rambled toward the bedroom as their nightly January ritual began. 9:15 p.m. With their teeth brushed and Leo, their old bulldog, lying on his crumpled blanket in the corner of their bedroom, they slipped into bed. As they’d done for the past 57 years, they hugged and then turned over, he was on his right side, Liz

on her left. 9:30 p.m. With a sudden jerk, Scott’s saggy backside scooted away from Liz. “My God, woman,” he gasped. “What did you do? Stick your feet in the freezer?” “Oh, don’t be such a baby. My feet aren’t that cold,” mumbled a sleepy Liz as she curled her feet under her and again rested them against her hubby’s thighs. “Hmm, you’re always so nice and warm,” was the last thing she said before drifting off to sleep. He just grumbled. 1 a.m. A soft elbow to his

stomach. No response. A more vigorous blow to the same spot. The only response was even louder snoring and a more awake wife. “Scott . . . Scott, you’re snoring again.” A hard shove to his shoulder brought him halfway awake. “What?” “You’re snoring again.” “Am not.” “Yes, you are!” “I didn’t hear anything.” “Of course, you didn’t, you dope, you were the only one not awake,” she said as she used both hands to push him over and gain a little

peace. 3 a.m. The click of paws on the hardwood floor should have been the first clue, but they slept on. Soft whining didn’t do the trick either, but 50 pounds of slobbering bulldog climbing in their bed brought them both awake. “Scott, Leo needs to go outside.” “Can’t you take him out?” “I’m not going out in 10-degree weather in my nightie. Get up.” “Well, it’s 10 degrees for me too.” It wasn’t particularly bright in their bedroom,

but even in the moonlight Scott could see the look on Liz’s face. He decided to get up. Pants on, a quick trip outside, and he was soon back in bed. For some reason, she didn’t appreciate his cold feet on her. 7 a.m. “How’d you sleep last night?” Liz asked as she fixed their morning coffee. “Great. And you?” “Yeah, me too.” Sometimes it was nice to be old and forgetful.



Eccl. 5-10 NIV

I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner.

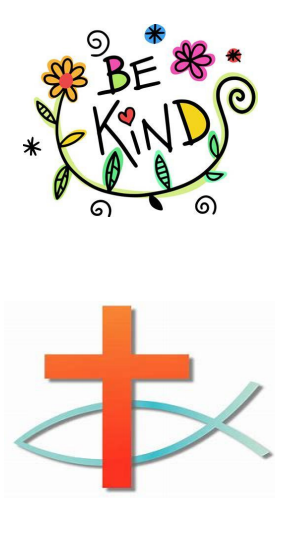
quote submitted by Alan Albers

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



A Calvinist Walks Into Heaven

A Calvinist arrives at the gates of Heaven to and sees two lines to enter: "Predestination," and "Free Will."

Naturally, he heads to the predestination line, where an angel stops him and asks him why he's there.

"Well, I picked this line because I'm a Calvinist and believe in predestination," he says.

"If you picked this line, you made a choice," replies the angel. "Head over to Free Will."

After a few minutes another angel approaches the Calvinist and asks him why he's in the free will line.

"Someone told me I had to come here," he replies.

Cunningham Hands of Hope, Inc.

Who: A Not-for-Profit (501c3) organization providing assistance through donations and volunteers.

Who we serve: Residents within the USD #332 school district

What: Food

When: First Tuesday of the month 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Where: 117 N Main (Old School Board Office)

Why: To provide food assistance to those in need.

How: Attend weekly distribution. Adult of household must be present.

Do you need assistance outside distribution hours?

Please call 620-770-9507 for immediate food assistance needs This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Giving Opportunities in our Community

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

West Kingman County Education Foundation Use your Dillon's Card! to donte contact 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)

Catholic Churches

Sacred Heart, Cunningham

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

St. Leo

Sunday 8:30 p.m.

Father Daryl Befort

316-706-1627

St. John, Zenda

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

St. Peter Willowdale

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

620-246-5370

Lutheran Churches

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

St. John, Nashville

620-246-5220

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

Worship Service 10 a.m.

Trinity, Medicine Lodge

620- 886-3397

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

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Pastor vacancy until further notice.

Church of Christ

Penalosa

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

First Christian Church

Cunningham

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Jr High Youth Group 4:00 p.m.

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

Sunday Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

United Methodist Church

Penalosa

Worship 9:15 a.m.

Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki 620-298-2090

Cunningham

Worship 10:45 a.m.

Zenda Methodist Church

Worship 9:00 a.m.

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

Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1950

January 6, 1950 - E. A. Pond announced this week that the Cunningham Shoe Repair Shop is now open for business.

Bob Huffman, Jerome Schnittker, and Marcellus Schwartz returned to Kansas State College at Manhattan, Tuesday morning, after spending the holidays with their respective parents.

Miss Esther Sheldon returned to Winfield and Southwestern College, Monday evening, after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Sheldon.

Kenneth Watkins and James Stanley, who attend Kansas State College at Manhattan, spent the holidays with their respective families.

Bring your old shoes to the Cunningham Shoe Repair Shop. Take them home like new. - adv.

1955

January 6, 1955 - The Reno Telephone Association, Inc., of Hutchinson closed purchase agreements as on December 31, 1954, with the Western Light & Telephone Company, Inc., and assumed the ownership and management of the telephone exchange in Cunningham, and the telephone exchanges in Pretty Prairie, Arlington, and Sylvia. The RTA also acquired three privately-owned exchanges at Partridge, Langdon, and Castleton.

This business transaction this week ended 28 years of telephone service to Cunningham by the Western Light & Telephone Company, Inc. The first telephone service in Cunningham was built and installed in 1903 by John Elder, who owned and operated it, with his successors, until it was acquired in 1927 by the Southern Kansas Telephone Company, which later became the Western Light & Power Company and still later, in 1937, Western Light & Telephone Company.

Electric Serviceman Dale Williams will continue to reside in Cunningham, but will maintain no office. Electric bills will be collected at the First National Bank. The telephone company will maintain its office here in the same building, with Betty Amick as Cashier, Bob Pennock of Langdon, telephone serviceman for the Cunningham and Langdon exchanges for the RTA, will reside in Cunningham, and maintain his office here.

1960

January 7, 1960 - Mr. and Mrs. Jack V. Crick and family of Hutchinson, moved to Cunningham last week, and are living in the Harry Nossaman property on the west part of town. He will be the new Rural Route One mail carrier, January 15, when George Urban moves to Rural Route Two as James Luce retires on that day.

In a three-way housing move last week-end, Mr. and Mrs. Max Lagree moved into their new brick home in the northwest part of town; Mr. and Mrs. Dean Mantooth and family moved from the Ed Pelzl property into the Ed Maxedon property vacated by the Lagree family, and Jack Meyers moved into the Pelzl property vacated by the Mantooth family.

The Cunningham Wildcats evidently thought they were still on their Christmas vacations when they took the court against Kiowa here, Tuesday evening, dropping a 63 to 37 decision to the Chieftains.

It was a night and a game when our boys couldn;t do anything right - and Kiowa didn't do anything wrong.

Jerry Pelzl and Tony Hartle each scored 8 points, Duane Wegerer made 7, and Bill Murphey and Marshall Swander scored six points apiece. Bobby Meyers, who has averaged 12 points a game in five previous games, could only connect for one field goal.

The new blue and white 1960 car and truck license plates went on sale at the office of the County Treasurer, Mrs. Letha Jones, Monday morning, with County Commissioners John Raup, Pete Bohrer, and Marvin Cox purchasing tag numbers one, two, and three.

Among the low numbers from Cunningham are Max Lagree with number eight and James Wilson with number 10.

Mrs. Jones says the sale of the Kansas Centennial plates is slow.

One hundred and one fathers and sons of the Cunningham, Cairo, and Preston Methodist Churches,

enjoyed their annual Father and Son Banquet in the church undercroft here, Wednesday evening.

Merle Cales of Cunningham served as toastmaster, and the dinner was served by the Cairo WSCS.

The Cunningham YWCA will meet at the home of Mrs. Glenn Patton, Monday evening, Jan. 11, at 7:30 o'clock.

1965

January 7, 1965 - The Cunningham Wildcats won their sixth straight game of the current basketball season in easy fashion here, Tuesday night, as they scored a 50-point victory over Sharon, 94 to 44.

Four Wildcats scored points in double figures with Jim Cain and Ronnie Murphey hitting 18 points apiece; Elmer Adelhardt canned 17; and Danny Meyers came up with 12. Gerry Schnittker made 9 points; Dennis Theis 7; Tom Jarmer 5; Bob Witt and Kenny Kerschen 4 each.

The Cunningham seconds took a 51 to 35 decision from the Sharon reserves in the preliminary game. Dennis Raney with 11 points, and Tom Jarmer with 10 paced the Wildcat seconds to their fifth victory against a single defeat. Dennis Theis came up with 9 points; Kenny Kerschen made 8; Frank McClellan scored 7; Jim McCune counted 4; and Don Kitson added 2.

The Community YWCA will hold their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Athol Chase, Monday evening, Jan. 11, at 7:30 o'clock.

The Rose families enjoyed a Christmas dinner in the Glendale School Auditorium, a week ago Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Pelzl moved into their new home in the southwest part of town.

1970

January 8, 1970 - Cunningham sophomore center Mike Schrant calmly sank two free throws with one second to play in overtime to give the Wildcats a 57-55 victory over the Isabel Vikings in a fiercely contested non-league basketball game here Tuesday night.

The win was the third for the Wildcats against four losses, and avenged an earlier 56-44 defeat by Isabel.

Eddie Panek paced the Wildcat scoring with 17 points; Schrant had 15; Curtis Kitson 11; Mike Cunningham 7; Marvin Oller 5; and Dean Simon 2.

Isabel tied the score at 53-all in the final three seconds when Alan Pagenkopf threw a court-length pass to brother Brad Pagenkopf who flipped the ball in the goal. Brad paced the Viking scoring with 23 points, while Alan, not starting and hampered with a badly sprained ankle, came up with 11 points. Isabel led 13-9 at the end of the first quarter; 25-23 at half-time; and 39-38 at the three-quarter mark.

The Cunningham Bees overwhelmed the Isabel Bees, 82 to 21, in the preliminary game.

Cunningham Masonic Lodge No. 427 recently elected new officers for the coming year.

They are Dean Cooley, Worshipful Master; Milton Brooks, Senior Warden; Frank Cain Jr., Junior Warden; Herman Hayes, Treasurer; Evan Thornhill, Secretary; Ray Amick, Senior Deacon; L. A. Strickland, Junior Deacon; R. O. Underwood, Senior Steward; Francis Dafforn, Junior Steward; R. D. Baber, Tyler; and Henry Hart, Chaplain.

The Kingman County Historical Society announced this week that they will begin accepting donation or loan of articles for the society's museum, located in the old city building in Kingman.

Persons making donations or loans of museum items should have a brief history of the item.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Nancy Briggeman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1976

January 15, 1976 – The cost of The Cunningham Clipper was \$6.00 per year; outside Kansas it was \$9.00 per year.

Nancy Briggeman has been named editor of the Cunningham Clipper, according to publisher Charles G. Barnes. Ms. Briggeman, 20, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Briggeman of Pratt.

She is a 1974 graduate of Pratt High School where she gained journalism experience as yearbook editor.

The Clipper's former editor, Rex Zimmerman, was named to the news editor position at the Pratt Tribune, the Clipper's parent publication.

The school board of USD 332 met with Nashville on Wednesday night, St. Leo on Thursday night and will meet at the Willowdale school Sunday at 2:00 p.m. discussing the possibility of consolidating the schools.

The school board feels that this series of meeting is a good opportunity to air views on the question of whether to consolidate the area grade schools in an effort to cut down expenses.

Fort Hays State College has listed 666 students in the top two divisions of the Dean's Honor roll for the

fall semester.

The top division is for students with perfect 4.0 grade averages of which Bonnie Adelhardt, Nashville, was a member of this division.

The second division is for students with grade averages of 3.5 to 3.99, and Suzanne (Steffen) Stillwell, Cunningham, was a member of this division.

The second grade pupils are enjoying the story Mr. Meeker and His Exciting Journey to Oregon which their teacher is reading to them. Since this is a pioneer story, they are studying about joys and perils of those traveling in covered wagons. They are studying maps and locating th estates and rivers discussed in the story. Since the chapters are numbered in Roman numerals the pupils are learning the roman numerals to a hundred – hopefully.

Hilltop: The new Hilltop Manor Rest Home is Progressing.

“Brownie Joe” Northrop, our bulldog, stood the cold zero weather well for his 11 years. He really enjoyed the nice weather Saturday as he sure doesn't like the cold weather.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Vickie Lohmann

Reporter: Florine Kampling

1981

January 15, 1981 – Lance Sheldon left Sunday for Pittsburg College after spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Sheldon.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kampling, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Kampling, Bob Kampling and Joy Hasenyager were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stillwell Sr.

Roger Theis has been named to the Deans Honor Roll for the fall semester of 1980, at Wichita State University.

There have been two especially interesting all-school assemblies in the auditorium this week.

On Monday, Jan. 12, Phil Hoseph, a mime, gave a presentation of the theatrical art of mimicry or pantomime. He demonstrated how it was possible to convey mental, emotional, and physical attitudes and feeling by “body language” without the use of words. He demonstrated various types of masks, and did some fine juggling acts with balls, pins, and scarves, and balanced a chair on his finger.

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, Max Armstrong, master illusionist, gave a superb program of magical acts. He seemed to be able to produce scarves, pigeons, and coins from nowhere. His act featured dividing his Chinese assistant, Inslee, into three parts, a guillotine scene, and a Houdini escape of Inslee from a locked an chained chest with Mr. Armstrong himself taking her place. Mr. Armstrong used some local talent as assistants in his acts. They were Travis Rakestraw, Dana Rakestraw, Tommy Simon, Becky Horst, David Crawford, Beth Patton, Stan Adelhardt, and Daryl Fischer.

Terri Dupee is one of 14 Pratt Community College students named in the 1981 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. Terri, a sophomore at PCC, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Dupee of Cunningham.

The January meeting of the Y.W.C.A. was held at Glenda Thornhill's home.

Dr. C. B. Kempton, Pratt Chiropractor provided a delightful and enlightening talk on Handwriting Analysis.

The quilt is nearly completed and was on display. A great deal of work by the members has gone into this project and all agreed, the results are beautiful.

1986

January 16, 1986 – Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Stillwell are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Erika Nicole. She was born January 7, 1986 and weighed 7 pounds and 4 ounces.

She has one brother Nicholas, 3 years old.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stillwell, Penalosa, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cody, Bartlesville, Okla.

Great-grandparents are Mrs. Lizzie Brady, Penalosa, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stillwell, Cunningham.

The 1986-87 school calendar was discussed and will be studied during the next month to be considered for adoption at the February board meeting. Volleyball and football requests for the 1986-87 school year were approved. Approval was given for the installation of two new doors on the west side of the Cunningham Gym. New drapes were approved for the central office.

Consideration is being given to the possibility of changing Cunningham Grade School's color from green and gold to red, white and black, which will match the high school. A survey will be sent to the parents of Grades 5, 6, and 7 to gather information concerning this item.

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

The Spotlight is on Junior High Basketball



Front row: Colton Zwierzichowski, Asher Bestgen, Bentlee Johnson, Brody Henning, Grady Green, Lucas Theis, Blaze Kamstra, Jaxon Barber, Jace Oldham
Middle row: Jax Thimesch, Grady Smyth, Bryce Simon, Bowen Bock, Wade Preisser, Ty Schultz, Casyn Miller, Bentley Strohl
Back row: Landon Green, Landen Hageman, Bryer Barber, Ethan Kostner, Brody Halderson, Cooper Neufeld, Kingston Raney, Gage Dunn, Holden Meireis

Thank you to our Spotlight Sponsors!

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Lois Becker
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Kathy & Doug Griffis
Molly Morgan & Family
Jeanette & Bob Kerschen
Helen & Chuck Holcomb
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Beginners Cross Stitch Class

Saturday,
January 17th
9:30 am

Led by Debi Dunlap

Sew on a Button

January 24th 10am
with Eileen Crick

“saw how having a hobby gave me something to do other than obsess about the social dynamics around me. The more I cross-stitched, the less I cared what other people thought about me.”
— Sutton Foster,
Hooked: How Crafting Saved My Life

“You may turn into an archangel, a fool, or a criminal—no one will see it. But when a button is missing—everyone sees that.”
— Erich Maria Remarque

The Spotlight is on Junior High Basketball



Front row: Bailey Theis, Mackley Glenn, Elsie Ruckle, Avery Kinsler, Lux Thimesch, Parker Miller, Jessica Dittmer
Back row: Assistant Coach Kelsey Beat, Jalynn McGuire, Leah Rogers, Carly McGuire, Vaughn Preisser, Willow Preisser, AnnMarie Kerschen, Coach Bart Ricke.

Thank you to our Spotlight Sponsors!





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Lady Wildcats Dominate in Road Victory Over Attica

On Thursday, January 8, 2026, the Cunningham Junior High Lady Wildcats traveled to Attica for a Heart of the Plains League basketball game. The Wildcats used

a stifling defense and a balanced offensive attack to cruise to a 30-11 victory over the Attica Lady Bullpups. The Lady Wildcats jumped out to a quick lead, ending the first quarter up 9-2. Their defensive pressure forced several early turnovers, allowing Cunningham to control the tempo of the game

from the jump. The momentum stayed firmly with the visitors through the second quarter as the Lady Wildcats extended their cushion to 18-6 by halftime. In the second half Cunningham outscored the Lady Bullpups 12-5 to seal the victory. With the win, the Lady Wildcats improved to

5-0 in the HOPL and 9-0 overall. In the B-team 2 quarter game, the Lady Wildcat b-teamers used three late baskets to turn a 4-5 deficit into a 10-5 win. Scoring for the B-teamers: Willow Preisser 4, AnnMarie Kerschen 6. -Coach Ricke

JH Lady Wildcat Scorers

Lux Thimesch	7
Leah Rogers	7
Alyssa Osner	5
Carly McGuire	4
Vaughn Preisser	4
Mackley Glenn	3



JH Cats Take on Unbeaten Attica

The Wildcats traveled to Attica for their first game after Christmas Break; a highly-anticipated match between two unbeaten teams, and a rematch of last year's championship. Slow to react, resulting in several turnovers on offense and some slow rotations on defense, the Cats didn't show up as an undefeated team. Spotting the Bullpups sixteen points in the first quarter was definitely not part of the game plan. This is very

uncharacteristic of these boys who sometimes don't give up 16 in a half. The boys stabilized in the second quarter, but everyone knew it would be a tough climb back up to even the score. The Wildcats showed grit and chipped away in the third with several inside shots and went deep for a few as well. The game got really interesting when the boys outscored the Bullpups in the fourth quarter. They held the Bullpups to one basket and some free throws. In the end the Cats ran out of time even though

there was plenty of momentum. The final was 33-38. The Cats are on the downhill side of the season. They will be able to iron some things out and hope to meet up with the Bullpups in the tournament. It is a safe bet the Cats start out with more intensity and shoot better than 2-8 from the line if we get that rematch. Rebounds were a positive for the Cats. They hit the boards well against a larger team. Brody led the team in rebounds with 11. Landon Green followed with 8. Steals were hard to

come by. Casyn had 3. -Coach McGuire

Wildcat Scorers

Brody Halderson	15
Cooper Neufeld	9
Casyn Miller	6
Jace Oldham	3



Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	5	6	10	12	33
Attica	16	7	8	7	38



Sunday, January 4	
Civil Paper Service	3
Miscellaneous	700 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
Suspicious Activity	3500 Blk NE 140 Ave, Cheney
Fraud	200 Blk E Grover, Spivey
Fire / Field	3900 Blk NE 30 Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	N Main St & E D Ave, Kingman
Unlock Vehicle	5800 Blk W Hwy 42, Spivey
Disabled Vehicle	5000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Agency Assist / Km EMS / Medical	30 Blk N Hwy 11, Kingman
Suspicious Activity	400 Blk S Elliott St, Cunningham

Tuesday, January 6	
Traffic Stops	7
Civil Paper Service	4
Disabled Vehicle	9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Transport / Inmate	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist / KDWP	16000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
Unlock Vehicle	400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Follow Up	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Warrant Service	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Court / Inmates	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	1400 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Animal Complaint	SE 20 St & SE 120 Ave, Murdock
Alarm	300 Blk SE 120 St, Spivey
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Thursday, January 8	
Traffic Stops	3
Civil Paper Service	1
Non-Injury Accident	16000 Blk SE 140 St, Norwich
Transport Inmate	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Warrant Arrest	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Damage to Property	SW 10 St & SW 140 Ave, Kingman
Court / Inmates	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Warrant Service	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Follow Up	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	7000 Blk E Jwy 54, Kingman
Agency Assist	120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Saturday, January 10	
Traffic Stops	1
Civil Paper Service	1
Traffic Complaint	S Hwy 14 & SW 180 St, Harper
Traffic Complaint	18000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Disturbance	S Main St & E 1st Ave, Norwich


American master straw artist Marian Vavra created the trophy using the KS Bill Snyder hard red winter wheat variety, released in 2023 through K-State and licensed by the Kansas Wheat Alliance. The trophy was hand-built entirely from the wheat straw itself and designed as a ceremonial tribute to Coach Snyder's legacy.

Because research plots cannot be harvested, the wheat used for the trophy was sourced from

“Wheat carries history with it,” Vavra said. “From the people who brought seed to Kansas, to the breeders who improve it, to the farmers who grow it, this trophy reflects that entire journey.”

Every element of the football was made from the KS Bill Snyder wheat itself. Straw was flattened to create the football surface, while fine straw threads were spun and sewn to form seams and edging. Purple ribbon and trim were added as finishing touches to clearly mark the piece as a K-State tribute.

continued on page 10



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57	58	59	60				61					62	63	
64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

medal leader

64. Bikini ____ in the Marshall Islands

65. Zodiac sign

67. Pasture

69. Boundary lines

70. Government Printing Office

71. Rocky ridge

72. Singer Tori

73. Farm layer

74. *1964 and 1976 mountainous Olympic location

DOWN

1. Honda CR-X del ____

2. *Michelle ____, most decorated U.S. figure skater

3. Enthusiastic about

4. Part of MGM

5. From the 1930s, e.g.

6. Abounding with certain trees

7. Bruce ____ of karate fame

8. Fundus, pl.

9. Aeneas' lover

10. "Don't bet ____!"

11. Lye formula

12. A in "M*A*S*H"

15. Do like Tarantino

20. Pleasant smell

22. Schiller's "____ to Joy"

24. Real ____ of Seville

25. *Margot Robbie's "olympic" role (2017)

26. "For better or worse"?

27. GEICO's mascot

29. *Olympic toboggan

31. Speech defect

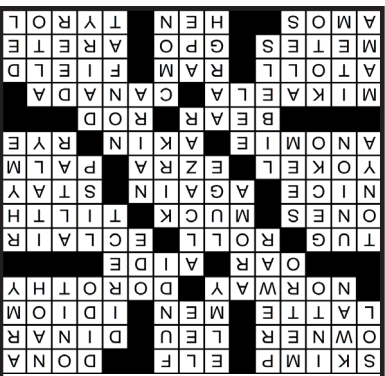
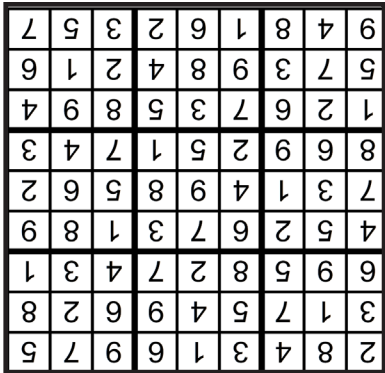
32. Place for worship

33. *2026 Winter Olympics location

34. Mother Goose creation

36. Give an impression

38. Michael Douglas' dad
42. Nigerian money
45. Slanderous statements
49. Snake-like fish
51. Dairy choice
54. Frustration, in a comic book
56. Grocery store section
57. Cass Elliot, a.k.a. ____ Cass
58. Big-ticket ____
59. Japanese zither
60. Saloon selections
61. Colloquial "Follow me!"
62. Widely hunted ruminant
63. Kind of sax
66. King Kong or Donkey Kong, e.g.
68. Penn.'s neighbor



The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 05, 2026, Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhower, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director.

Economic Development Update – Heather Morgan

ARPA Closeout

Heather reported the ARPA closeout information received last week applied to the City of Iuka, not the County. She successfully completed the ARPA closeout for Iuka. The state indicated closeouts are being released on a rolling basis, county closeout information has not yet been received. Heather offered assistance to small cities with system navigation and closeout submissions.

Sawyer Project

Heather reported receiving communication from the Kansas Corporation Commission, KCC, regarding the Sawyer project. Heather expressed concern about the city’s cash flow, as reimbursement grants typically require payment prior to reimbursement. She indicated that resolving this issue may require complex legal involve-

ment and negotiations with the state.

Freedom Claims Quarterly Update

Darren Booth, Theel Insurance provided a quarterly performance and utilization report on the County’s Health Insurance. The plans are running smoothly and creating savings for the County.

NextEra

NextEra representatives, Devon Pishalski, Madisen Scotese and Cody Akers explained recent internal company transitions and confirmed they have assumed responsibility for ongoing projects in Pratt County previously managed by another representative. They outlined new oversight and communication procedures, including weekly ride-along with county staff, weekly issue-review meetings, escalation of unresolved issues after two weeks and monthly on-site meeting to review. They also reported progress on the battery project application, noting updated County regulations and an anticipated submission once compliance is confirmed.

Senior Center Contract

Tara Pagenkopf, Cheryl Phye, Mike Schmidt and Sandy Hazlett with the Senior Center reviewed the contract provided by the City of Pratt. The board was advised to schedule

a meeting between the Senior Citizen Board and the Manager for the City of Pratt to clarify financial responsibilities, usage allocations and feasibility of the proposed agreement. Because the Senior Center is their own entity outside of the County, the commissioners were unable to assist.

Landfill and Recycling Center Yearly Update

Jason Winkel, Solid Waste and Recycling, presented a year-end report for the Landfill and Recycling Center. Overall intake is up. Jason will continue to monitor tonnage trends, out-of-county intake and recycling efficiency.

Road Department Update

Doug Freund, Road Department, presented bridge easements.

Motion to sign the temporary construction easement for bridge repair made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Doug presented two quotes for trailers to be considered.

Motion to purchase a detachable trailer from Berry Tractor in the amount of \$110,383.33 to come out of Road Special Equipment made by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners were asked out the south part

of the county and mowing the right of ways. Doug said they will be mowing all winter long so they are working on getting caught up. He also noted that the discounts the county gets for new equipment often makes it more financially reasonable than buying used without discounts.

Executive Session – Attorney-Client

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss salaries for elected officials for 5 minutes at 3:04 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:07 pm with no action taken.

Elected Official Resolution

Motion to approve Resolution 01-05-2026 to establish elected personnel salaries as followed:

- Commissioners \$23,500,
- Chairman Commissioner \$24,500,
- County Attorney \$96,730,
- County Clerk \$68,391,
- County Treasurer \$65,493,
- Register of Deeds \$60,857,
- Sheriff \$78,982.

Motion made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle;

motion passed 3-0

Depositories

Motion to declare County Depositories for 2026 as The Peoples Bank, Legacy Bank and Fusion Bank made by Commissioner Trinkle, seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Personnel Request

Motion to approve salary adjustments for \$18/hr for, Robert Solan, Daniel Sanchez, Robert Cambell and Amy Jones made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Courthouse Cleaning Services

Commissioners agreed to use M& Maria Cleaning Services as an interim cleaning service until a more permanent contract can be put into place. They will revisit once we get more information.

Capital Improvement and Special Equipment Exhibits

Motion to accept the additions on the Special Equipment and Capital Improvement on Exhibits made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle

Emergency Vehicle Permit

Motion to approve the application for an emergency vehicle permit for Landon Sparks with Township 12 made by Commissioner

Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle.

KAC Membership

Motion to approve the Kansas Association of Counties membership in the amount of \$3,274.91 made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle.

Executive Session – Attorney-Client

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss KPERS for 15 minutes at 3:21 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; Seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:36 p.m. with no action taken.

Cost Of Living Salary Adjustment

Motion to approve a 3% Cost of Living Wage for County Employees made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; Motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 29th, 2025.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the vouchers for January 5, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

The Most Magical Meeting in Agriculture

Jackie Mundt, Pratt County farmer and rancher

People traveling to Anaheim, Calif., are usually in search of a magical adventure at Disneyland. This past weekend it was one of the most magical places on earth for farm leaders as the site of the American Farm Bureau Convention.

It has been a few years since I last attended the event. As I walked through the convention halls, I was reminded why this event continues to matter — especially for the next generation of agriculture. The hallways were filled with energy, purpose and a strong sense of belonging for those committed to agriculture’s future.

Five of our local collegiate Farm Bureau members traveled with me to the conference. These students weren’t just observing — they were learning about policy and technology, asking thoughtful questions, serving as volunteers for convention activities and networking with professionals twice their age.

It is always my hope that this first exposure to the scale of Farm Bureau and the breadth of opportunities within the agriculture industry ignites a passion to become leaders for the future. There’s something almost magical about watching young people realize they’re part of something bigger

than themselves, connected by shared values and a common goal of advancing agriculture.

Another cornerstone of the American Farm Bureau Convention is the celebrating the leadership, skill and impact of the Young Farmers and Ranchers program (YF&R) across the country through three competitive events: Discussion Meet, Excellence in Agriculture and the Achievement Award. These events are more than contests; they’re platforms that elevate new voices and showcase the work they do to make their farms or careers, the industry and their communities better.

Watching competitors share their ideas, business models, challenges and personal journeys is inspiring. Each participant brings a unique perspective shaped by geography, family history and personal experience, yet all share a common dedication to agriculture. The confidence and professionalism displayed throughout these competitions speak volumes about the strength of the next generation.

These young farmers and ranchers are balancing tradition with progress — honoring the past while embracing new technologies and ideas. Their willingness to step forward, compete and represent agriculture publicly is something worth celebrating. It’s a reminder that leadership in agriculture doesn’t happen by accident; it’s built through opportunity, encouragement and plat-

forms like Farm Bureau.

On a more personal level, one of the highlights of attending the convention was reconnecting with friends from across the country. In agriculture, relationships matter. I have to plan extra travel time throughout the day because I can’t walk from one event to another without running into two to three people I know. From catching up with friends now working in different corners of the industry to meeting

face-to-face with former mentors or peers from every era of my career, it is heartwarming and fulfilling to be with so many incredible friends.

Those relationships are what sustain this industry through challenges and change. Seeing familiar faces from across the country reinforced how interconnected agriculture truly is. Even though we may raise different commodities or work in different sectors, the foundation is the

same — service, stewardship, and a commitment to rural America.

This meeting is magical not because it is right next to Disneyland but because it’s a gathering place where agricultural leaders connect, ideas are exchanged, and the future of our industry is actively shaped.

Seeing students step into leadership, reconnecting with friends and colleagues, and celebrating young farmers and ranchers reaffirmed why

events like this matter. Agriculture’s story is being written every day, and after attending this convention, I’m confident the next chapters are in strong hands.

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau



Interested in a
FREE TRIP
to Washington, D.C.?

FRS YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS ARE DUE SOON

High school juniors can now apply for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., which will take place June 1-5, 2026, and is partially sponsored by SCTelcom.

To be eligible, a student must be 16 or 17 at the time of the FRS Youth Tour and have parents/guardians who have SCTelcom services. The application form and full details are available at www.sctelcom.net/about-us/scholarships.

The deadline to apply is
March 13, 2026. If you have questions, email marketing@sctelcom.com or call 877-723-6875.

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Cornerstone Group © 2026

From Field to
Trophy: Kansas
Wheat Honors
Coach Bill
Snyder

(con't from page 8)
The back of the foot-
ball documents the tro-
phy's creation, includ-

ing the wheat's harvest
location, licensing and
release through K-State
research. While inspired
by traditional straw tech-
niques, the football de-
sign and K-State sym-
bolism make the piece
an original artistic work.
This project high-
lights how Kansas wheat

extends beyond the field,
reflecting the connec-
tion between research
programs, seed compa-
nies, farmers and Kansas
culture.
The Kansas Wheat
Commission Research
Foundation supports
wheat research above and
beyond the dollars con-

tributed by Kansas farm-
ers through the checkoff
by providing a mecha-
nism for donors to give
meaningfully to the fu-
ture of wheat production.
The foundation attracts
a wide range of donors,
from individuals with
deep family ties to wheat
production to global sup-

porters. Established in
2012, the foundation
has grown to more than
\$6 million in assets,
highlighting the critical
need for public-private
partnerships in wheat
research. Gifts to the
KWCRF are used exclu-
sively for wheat research
and are tax-deductible.

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Legendary Greats giv-
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Commission Research
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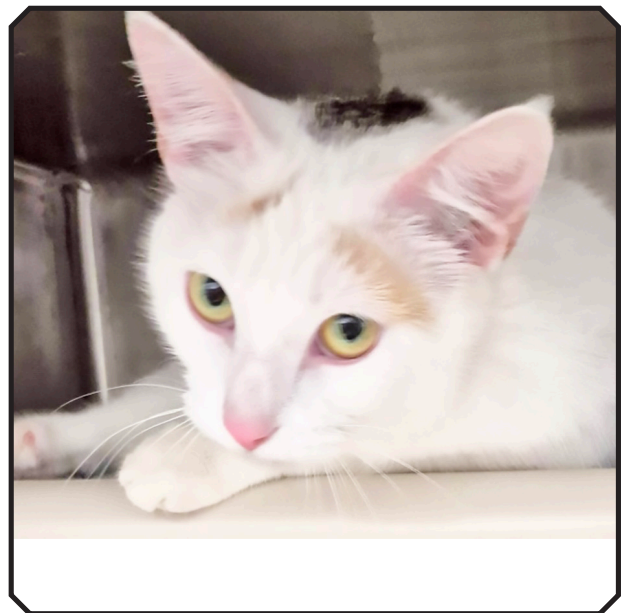
KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Mrs. Claws

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier

Smiley

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Mrs. Claws could be called a “white Calico”. She is white in color with orange and black spots. She loves to be petted and adored. She’s only two years old, perfect age to adopt a cat. Not too young to be overly rambunctious, and young enough to be a companion for many years to come.

Her adoption fee is \$40.00. She would be well worth that price.




Oh, my! Look at this girl! She’s a cutie. Smiley is about one year old and weighs about 45 pounds. She’s been at the shelter since mid-July, much too long for a sweetie like her. She has a bit of Yellow labrador and bit of shepherd in her. And a beautiful mixed breed she is.

She has many positive attributes: She’s good with other dogs; with kids; with cats.

“Smiley is a very outgoing and energetic girl. She loves playing with all of her friends at the shelter and would definitely benefit from having another dog in the household. She is very sweet and super friendly. Smiley isn't fully housetrained yet but she's very young and loves treats so she should be easy to train. She has a lot of potential! Besides, just look at that smile.”

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



“You can say any fool thing to a dog
and the dog will just give you this look
that says, 'My GOSH, you're RIGHT!
I NEVER would've thought of that!’”
— Dave Barry

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1-800-371-3154

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Cardboard (unless it is contaminated with food
waste)
NO PLASTIC BAGS

Non-Acceptable Items
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No Food waste (e.g. cardboard pizza boxes with
grease)
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No Shredded paper
No Aerosol cans
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No Mirrors, windshields, light bulbs, or window
glass
NO PLASTIC BAGS

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

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

Recycle bins are only for recyclables and not for trash.

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


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

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

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Austin Archer

Austin James Archer, 26, was found Monday, January 5, 2026. He was born on April 14, 1999, in Bangor, Maine to Jay Barry and WendyKate (Robbins) Archer.


Austin graduated from Nokomis Regional High School in Newport, Maine in 2017. He and his family moved to Kansas in the Spring of 2021. He enrolled and started college at Pratt Community College in the Fall of 2024. He worked as a sales clerk at Dillon's in Greensburg and Pratt as well as Twilight Theatre in Greensburg. He was a member of Encore, Choir and Theater at Pratt Community College, was an Officer in the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and active in Core Support Ministries of Greensburg. He enjoyed making and writing horror films, creative writing and poetry, writing songs and singing, learning languages and collecting guns, swords and knives.

He is survived by his parents, Jay and Wendy Archer; sister, Alexxis Archer all of Haviland; grandfather, James Robbins of Milo, Maine; his feline babies, Romeo and Zeus; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Austin is preceded in death by his grandparents, Patricia Robbins and Philip Archer, Sr. and Barbara Jane Archer.

Per Austin's wishes cremation has taken place. A service will be announced at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Seek1 Search and Rescue or PCC Friends of the Arts.



Jessica Abel

Jessica Nicole Abel, 34, passed away Friday, January 9, 2026 at her home. She was born on December 30, 1991 in Pratt to Lonnie and Penny (Courange) Saloga. Jessica married James Abel, III on December 31, 2010 in Pratt. They later divorced. She recently got engaged to Kyle Simons.


Jessica graduated from Pratt High School in 2010 where she played softball. She went on to earn her CNA and CMA certification from Pratt Community College. She also took some classes at Wichita State University and Barton County Community College. She was a member of First Southern Baptist Church. She enjoyed traveling, skiing, boating, fishing, interior decorating and fashion.

She is survived by her children, Kyleigh, James and Kane Abel all of Anthony; parents, Lonnie and Penny Saloga of Pratt; fiancée, Kyle Simons of Pratt; siblings, Eric (Jennifer) Hall of Austin, Texas, Teri Harris of Colorado, Levi Lutes of Denver, Colorado, Shawn Lutes of Wichita, Ashley Saloga of Colorado, Alaina VanderVoort of Kansas City, Kansas, Christopher Saloga of Wichita and Tessa Ibarra of Pratt; grandfather, Eugene Saloga of Kearney, Nebraska; and nieces and nephews.

Jessica is preceded in death by her grandparents, Vernon and Frances Courange and Lona Saloga; brother, Dustin Lutes; nephew, Braden Ibarra; and brother-in-law, Zachary Ibarra.

Funeral service was Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at First Southern Baptist Church with Pastor Steve Taylor presiding. Burial was at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made payable to Larrison Mortuary for her children Education Fund. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.



Donna Barker


Donna Mae Barker, 90, passed away Friday, January 9, 2026 at Pratt Regional Medical Center. She was born on December 2, 1935 in Larned to Vern Calvin "Steve" and Pauline Edith (Wilhelm) Winfrey. Donna married Loren Charles Barker on October 4, 1953 in Pratt. He preceded her in death on April 11, 2019.

Donna graduated from Pratt High School in 1953. She graduated from Pratt Community College in 1997 and from Fort Hays State University in 2001. She previously worked at Cairo Co-op, Pratt Livestock, Love's in Pratt, Pratt Community College Library, St. Francis as a Family Preservation Specialist and DCF. She was a member of Pratt Christian Fellowship, and formerly a member of Red Hat Society, a Quilting group, Bible Study, EHU, 4-H Leader in Ceramics and Judge, Jaycee Jaynes and Glendale Moms. She participated in plays at Pratt High School and Pratt Community College and took First Place in Voice of Democracy in 1952. She enjoyed traveling, reading and taking her grandchildren on day trips.

She is survived by her children, Peggy (David) Ellison of Pratt, Randal "Randy" Barker of Lenapah, Oklahoma and Gail (Michael) Brown of Pratt; brother, Gary (Sally) Winfrey of Winter Haven, Florida; grandchildren, Elizabeth (Lonnie) Wright of Wichita, Jennifer Ellison of Wichita, Karla (John) Benedetti of Chandler, Arizona, Nicholas (Tiffany) Barker of Iuka and Josie (Nicholas) Fox of Pratt; great-grandchildren, Darrian Wannow, Izabella and Trevyn Barker, Gabriel and Catelyn Benedetti, Bryleigh and Layne Fox, and Matias.

Donna is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Loren Barker.


Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 19, 2026 at Global Methodist Church, Pratt with John Hamm presiding. Inurnment will be at a later date at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt. Memorials may be made to St. Jude, Pratt Public Library or DCCA for Family Preservation. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.



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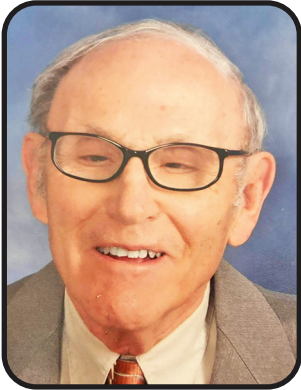
Marion Reed Graber, 88, of Pretty Prairie, Kansas, passed away on January 6, 2026 in Pretty Prairie.

Born on March 16, 1937 in Pretty Prairie, to Rudolph J and Tillie Graber. On July 7, 1984 Reed married Rosella Kaufman. She preceded him in death on September 23, 1989. On July 24, 1999 Reed married Virginia Stucky in Pretty Prairie. To the marriage Virginia brought an adult son and 2 grandchildren. Reed was elated to have a son and grandchildren were the cherry on top. Reed was a loving husband to Virginia for 25 years until she was called home to the Lord on September 9, 2024. Reed was blind most of his life making it difficult for him to have a sole career in farming. He knew he wanted to do something with his hands and to help others. He attended Harris Chiropractic College in Wichita, KS and did his post graduate work at Spears Chiropractic Hospital in Denver, Co. After finishing his schooling in 1960, he went to work at Cessna on the assembly line. He soon opened up his own massage therapy office in South Hutchinson. He operated MR Graber Massage Therapy in that office for 54 years until his retirement at the age of 76. He still helped with the farm work in the evenings and weekends. He enjoyed riding in the wheat truck during harvest and changing the bearings on the disc.

Reed is survived by his son Terry (Tonya) Stucky, grandchildren Maegan (Cody) Lobban, Bryce (Heather) Stucky, Chandler (Mark) Oliverson, Tyler Sinclair, Tanner Sinclair, Taylor Sinclair, great grandchildren, Keller, Jace, Emmitt, Elliot, Maddox, Madden, and nephew, Bruce Graber.

A funeral was Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 2:00 at First Mennonite Church of Pretty Prairie.


In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Mennonite Church with AWANA in the memo line.



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