

The Cunningham Courier

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(620) 298-2659

March 19, 2026
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\$1.50

Minutes from the Kingman County Commission

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. March 9, 2026, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Jeff Young, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor
Visitors: Dale Enyart; Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Monte Vavra, Norwich City; Gary Hess, Planning/Zoning Board; Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief; Christy Crews, Hometown Grants.

Online Visitors: Caller 01; Lucy; AS; DH; Carol Poe; Carol; Chrissy Bartel; Jamie; Elsa; Chad, C

Staff: Amanda Stucky, Zoning Director; Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse; Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Steve Bachenberg, County Engineer.

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

Carol Noblit, County Clerk mentioned that they received correspondence from Norwich City and to add Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the agenda with the additions. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there were any public comments.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer

let the Commissioners know that the City of Kingman has transferred funds to the Ambulance fund so now the City and County are contributing 50/50.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Steve Bachenberg, County Engineer were in with updates.

Mr. Arensdorf submitted his suggestion for approval of the asphalt bids received last meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the bid from Coastal Energy Corporation for MC800 at \$2.48 per gallon & CMS-1 at \$2.64 per gallon and approve the bid from Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions for CRS 1H for \$2.31 per gallon. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse was in to discuss that the vaccine fridge went out and she has quotes received from the following:

LABRepCo	\$8,514.78
Migali Scientific	\$6,493.95
Helmer Scientific	\$7,006.31

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the quote of \$7006.31 from Helmer to be paid out of Capital Equipment fund. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director was in with a department update for the County Commissioners.

Mr. Leroux let the Commissioners know that his chemicals came in last week and just waiting for the right weather for spraying.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the March 2, 2026, Commission minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the March 2, 2026, Commission meeting minutes.

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

Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning Director was in to discuss that she received an updated quote from cloudpermit allowing 15 months for the original price of 12.

Ms. Stucky discussed a road vacation request received.

Chairwoman Lyon discussed correspondence received from DMA Architects, PA for the Kingman County Courthouse Code Footprint Services for the existing Courthouse building and the City of Kingman City-owned Army Building Code Footprint Services.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the DMA foot print agreement for the armory and courthouse to be paid out of the Courthouse remodel fund. Commissioner seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon discussed the correspondence received from Norwich City to have jurisdictional authority around the City two-mile radius.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed concern about the taxing of the property around the City as he has received concern from landowners around Cunningham.

Dale Enyart was in to clarify that he did not say Commissioner Thimesch owned solar leases but that he owned land three miles from a solar lease.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed that the article made it sound like the Commissioners were bullying Ms. Stucky which is not true.

Mr. Enyart let the Commissioners know that is what he meant by the article.

Commissioner Thimesch said that

people can interpret the article in different ways.

Mr. Enyart presented information from Rice County and discussed the hiring of Oleg Alba, Arce Strong.

Mr. Enyart thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Chairwoman Lyon let the board know that she attended the PayIt meeting with the Department Heads and was inspired by the knowledge they had and that their product could move the County forward to the times.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed that Cunningham basketball team won.

Christy Crews, Hometown Grants reviewed the survey results with the County Commissioners.

Ms. Crews went over grants written and ones that she would do the next six months.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Hometown Grants for the continued six months of the original contract. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 2 votes for (Thimesch, Young) and one vote against (Lyon).

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to recess the Board meeting to the Annual Township Meeting. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon reconvened the Commission meeting at 11:11 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the Commissioner Board meeting at 11:37 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ty Schultz Pages at the Capitol



Ty Schultz, son of Barb and Tim Schultz, Cunningham, greets Governor Laura Kelly.



Ty Schultz is pictured here with Governor Kelly and his grandfather, Rep. Joe Seiwert and other pages.

NATIONAL COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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Meanderings

I continue reading the Flavia de Luce books. Something about this story was bothering me and it has finally been explained.

Flavia frequently talks about her de Luce ancestors who had inhabited the home for generations. The house belongs to her mother, who was killed in a mountaineering accident when Flavia was a baby. The house has fallen into ruin, her father is on the verge of bankruptcy, and it appears he's going to lose the house because he can't pay the taxes on it. If he actually owned the house, things would be

different, but he doesn't - the house still belongs to her dead mother who did not leave a will. In a recent sitting with Miss de Luce, she explained that her parents were distant cousins. Her mother's branch of the de Luce family owned the house; her father's branch of the family had no claim to it, and he's fighting the government to keep it. That made me feel a lot better having this information, as I thought it was a lapse in the plot.

And so I read on. I have said many times that if I couldn't read, I would not be able to live. Reading and breathing are the same sustenances needed for life, and this passage from "I am Half-Sick of Shadows" resonates with me:

Money to Daffy meant books, and even though Buckshaw contained more books than

the Bishop's Lacey Free Library, to my sister, it was not enough.

"Book are like oxygen to a deep-sea diver," she had once said. "Take them away and you might as well begin counting the bubbles."

I felt this to the bottom of my soul. **

I am less than three months from newspaper retirement. As is my computer. The computer that came with the newspaper 8 years ago. The computer that Dave and Kerri purchased in 2014 or there about. I am going to make it to that retirement date. My computer is not.

Alas. Woe is me. Maybe I should say 'woe is the computer'. I phoned a couple of places to see about fixing this little glitch. While the glitch isn't catastrophic, it is annoying. And one of those Laws of

Murphy says that if I get it fixed, something else catastrophic will, indeed, happen, and I'll be without a computer on a Tuesday night. One very nice lady helped me through a couple of 'fixes' that didn't fix anything. She suggested I call a place in Pratt. I did. The gentleman sounded very competent and knowledgeable. His fee was \$125.00 an hour. I don't mind paying \$125.00 an hour for someone's expertise and knowledge and background in technology. BUT he checked the mileage from his home to mine, 23 miles. Twenty-three miles there and back, 46 miles total, one hour. \$125.00 for that drive. I balked on that. I'd be okay paying him \$25.00, I mean there is no special skill involved in driving, and he isn't technically working. But desperation ... so I set up an appointment, knowing

that \$250.00 would not be going to a new computer if I needed one.

THEN I had coffee with a friend on Saturday and told her my issue. She suggested I get in touch with another friend of ours. A gentleman we taught with back in our Kingman teaching days. I contacted him via FB Messenger, he replied immediately and came out on Monday, and checked my computer over. Fixed a couple of things, but the main issue wasn't fixed. So, he ordered me a new computer along with a new monitor. And come Thursday, I'll be meandering my way through a new computer setup. I am quite excited.

My new computer modem is a cube and will free up some space in my desk area. The monitor is 27 inches!! I am happy with my 23-inch one, but my friend thought I should have one more compatible

with my new computer. He also suggested a new printer, but I told him if the two I have will work for now, the new one will have to wait until I have more finances.... Maybe April or May. He suggested I wait until June and get one off Prime for reduced costs. I just have to let him know when I'm ready for it, he'll order it and set it up.

I cancelled the other appointment for this Thursday and, instead of spending that \$125.00 on a trip to and from Pratt, I'll spend it on a new computer instead. It is good to have friends in all the right places with all the right jobs and all the right knowledge. I really appreciate both of them. More than they will ever know.

Always reading, And currently reading, "Speaking from Among the Bones" by Alan Bradley, Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

For the last seven years one pair of geese has lingered behind after the dozens and dozens who winter on our pond head north. I can't prove it's the same goose and gander but I like to think so. And I choose to feel honored this Mom & Pop repeatedly selects our yard to serve as their annual maternity ward.

They waddle and

cackle along the banks of the pond, sometimes even up into the yard. They rarely seem disturbed by our ducks and chickens or by the cats chasing field mice or squirrels. However, the presence of any and all humans distresses them. In the morning when I let our flock out of the coop they only grumble a little. But, anytime day or night I go near the dock they honk LOUDLY. They let me know in no uncertain terms they want me to go back in the house.

But down at the water

is my favorite springtime place to go when I need a break from work. The view from the dock this time of year is idyllic. And it is, without honks (or frozen cats,) a very peaceful place to turn one's back to the wind or face to the sun. I always return from these breaks with renewed energy and a lighter heart. I say these geese have no right to object, that my intrusions come with the prime estate. They have not yet conceded my right to exist, let alone agree to my dock visits.

So I compromise to the extent I can by taking my breaks when Mom and Pop are either napping or stretching their legs on the other side of the pond.

All the iconic signals of Spring have been made possible by the copious amounts of rain we've had. And somehow, with the neon greens and yellows of new grass and leaf growth bursting about, the ideal of compromise and coexistence seems attainable. But there's mud everywhere. Whether you are leading with your right or left, if

you don't watch where you step your boots get stuck in mud so deeply that that the only thing to do is step out of them and squish-hop through the muck in your socks.

This morning as I made my way across the sponge-marsh the yard's become I was paying such close attention to where I was walking that I did not notice that the geese were napping uncharacteristically close to the coop. Nor did they see me coming. They honked. And honked and HONKED

before they flapped off into the sun. It probably looked like I was also trying to take flight. But the only thing that ended up in the air was my boots. I wasn't stuck but I was laughing so hard I had trouble getting up. The geese returned before the mud dried in my hair. Coexistence might be too much to hope for but it's good to know the geese and I can survive a comprising situation.

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

Short Poems by Tom Fobbe

Blue jeans aren't so special unless front pantlegs torn. We extra pay to buy that way... a look despaired, forlorn.

Endzone celebrations have gotten out of hand... rehearsed routines, enacted scenes, some stuff that should be banned.

Christmas card pic montage. Some fams just love to send. Assorted mix of photos, six, too small to comprehend.



Fighting the Tomato Wars

"Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad."

Brian O'Driscoll

Tomatoes are the most popular vegetable grown by gardeners on planet Earth. Here in America, they are considered one of our favorite vegetables, or fruits. I suppose we can say both. Here's

some tomato trivia for you.

In 1893 the U.S. Supreme Court, in the case of Nix vs. Hedden, legally classified the tomato as a vegetable for the purpose of tariffs. The ruling stemmed from a dispute over whether tomatoes should be taxed as vegetables or fruits under the Tariff Act of 1883. The Court ruled that tomatoes are vegetables based on their culinary application and common usage, despite their botanical classification as a fruit. Bow-tie botanists classify tomatoes as fruit because they develop from the ovary of the plant's flowers and contain seeds. Tomatoes are

the fleshy seed-bearing product of a flowering plant. They are fruit, but we use them as vegetables. Call them what you want, tomatoes are good to eat and fun to grow.

For those of us who love homegrown tomatoes, nursing our plants to fruition can sometimes be a problem. We grapple against enemies seen and unseen. We fight the tomato wars.

Enemies of the tomato are many. Topping the list are tomato diseases. They include Early Blight, Late Blight, Mosaic Virus, Powdery Mildew, Blossom End Rot, Gray Leaf Spot, Septoria Leaf Spot, Anthracnose, Yellow Leaf Curl, Sunscald, Damping Off disease,

F u s a r i u m & Verticillium Wilt, and Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus.

Besides diseases, tomatoes attract numerous dastardly insect pests, including Aphids, Spider Mites, Cutworms, Whiteflies, Thrips, Blister Beetles, Leaf Miners, Nematodes, and Tomato Hornworms.

Adding to the above

tomato hazards, you will always have those opportunistic predators ready to pounce on your crop, including birds, squirrels, and fence-climbing neighbors.

So, given these gardening perils, what can you do to keep your tomatoes healthy, thriving, and producing. You can begin by planting disease-resistant varieties. Consider crop rotation to prevent diseases from building up in your soil. Practice proper watering (avoid overhead watering and try to water in the early morning). You can also prune diseased leaves as needed. For pests, use organic options, including soap and pepper sprays. But there is one other simple and inexpensive tool that you can use in this fight against your tomato enemies. And I believe it is one of the gardening world's best kept secrets - aspirin water.

Common aspirin contains acetylsalicylic acid, which is what makes this gardening trick work. When attacked by pests or disease, your plants produce a hormone (sali-

cyclic acid) that triggers a systemic acquired resistance response (SAR). This SAR response is the plant's immune system defense, which can be naturally slow. Acetylsalicylic acid is very similar to salicylic acid, the hormone which triggers this SAR immune response in tomato plants. By spraying your plants with aspirin water, you are essentially tricking them into beefing up their defenses ahead of time and kicking their immune systems into high gear before diseases and pest attack. This method does not kill or repel pests or diseases. Instead, it acts more like a vaccine. It makes your plants stronger and more able to stay healthy and thrive.

To make aspirin water for your tomato plants, simply add two to four aspirin tablets to one gallon of water (the recipe seems to vary depending upon who you talk to). Be sure to use uncoated aspirin, which is often found as the cheapest store-brand option. Uncoated aspirin dissolves well in water and won't clog

your sprayer. If you have only a few plants, a small hand sprayer works fine. If you have many tomato plants, you will probably want to use a larger pump sprayer. Spray plants, covering all leaves and stems, every 10-14 days. You can also drench plants, soaking the soil with aspirin water. Some even bury aspirin tablets with tomatoes at planting.

After using aspirin water on your tomatoes, the leaves may look thicker, almost leathery, and they often turn a darker green. Along with fortified disease and pest resistance, many gardeners claim they get more and better tasting tomatoes, with increased nutrient content. Aspirin water will also benefit other crops in the nightshade family, including peppers, eggplant, and potatoes.

If you are growing tomatoes this year, try some aspirin water today. Your plants will love it!

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Community Bulletin Board

Tuesday, March 24 6:00 p.m. Girls Night Out Book Club at Library	Friday, April 3 Good Friday *** No School
Friday March 27 JH Play	Sunday April 5 Easter
Saturday, March 28 FFA Banquet *** WKCEF Fundraiser	Monday, April 6 NO school Professional Development
Monday, March 30 4:00 p.m. JH Scholars Bowl at Norwich *** 5:00 p.m. Cheerleader Tryout Practice *** 6:30 p.m. Cheer Tryout Parent Meeting	Tuesday, April 7 HS HOPL Forensics at Skyline *** Lions Club
Tuesday, March 31 Cheerleader Tryout Practice	Wednesday, April 8 JH Music at Fairfield *** JH League Music at Home NO School
Wednesday, April 1 Kindergarten Screening *** NHS Blood Drive *** Cheer leading Tryouts *** Shop Guild	Thursday, April 9 3:00 p.m. JH Track at Pretty Prairie
Thursday, April 2 JH Track at Skyline (Green Sports Complex)	Friday, April 10 HS Tract at Pretty Prairie
	Saturday, April 11 Regional Solo and Ensemble at Tabor College



St. John Lutheran Church in Nashville, KS, is hosting a Ham Dinner on Sunday, March 22, from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. The menu includes ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, corn, salads, and desserts. Free Will Offering.



KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Extension Kingman County

Agronomy Mini-Series to Feature Soil Health Program March 25

Area producers and agricultural professionals are invited to attend the next session of the Managing the Field: An Agronomy Mini Series on Wednesday, March 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Livingstons Community Building, 1830 N. Main in Kingman. A light meal will be served during the meeting.

The program will feature Dr. Logan Simon, Southwest Area Agronomist, who will present on soil health and practical management strategies for crop producers. Topics will include understanding soil health practices versus outcomes, measuring results from soil health efforts, and improving nutrient cycling to achieve the greatest impact in crop production systems.

This educational session is designed to help producers better evaluate soil health practices and make informed management decisions that support long-term productivity and sustainability.

The program is hosted by K-State Research and Extension - Kingman County as part of an agronomy mini-series focused on timely crop production topics for local producers.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to RSVP to Grace by emailing gschnei@ksu.edu or calling 620-532-5131.

Upcoming Auctions

Saturday, March 28, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.
GUN & AMMO Hamm Auction Center

Monday, March 23, 2026 Time: 1:30 pm
20 +/- Acres Pratt Co Homestead Build Site
LAND AUCTION

Online (www.hammauction.com Live Auctions) or in Person
SALE WILL BE HELD AT: Hamm Auction Center, Seller: Jacob and Lisa Welch

Wed. April 8, 2026 - 1:00 PM
From BTI: 2 Miles West, 1 Mile North, 1/2 Mile West on NW 40th St. (1/2 Mile West of Pratt Feeders)
Owner: Gary Watson: 620-770-0312

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



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620-672-6996

Thank you for Supporting The Courier

We ALWAYS need photos for the paper!!

Libraries

Cunningham Public Library
Mon., Wed., Fri.
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Tues., Thurs., Sat.
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Closed for Holidays
298-3163

Zenda Public Library
Monday
8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
Thursday:
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday:
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
620-243-5791

Kingman Carnegie Library

Mon. & Tues. 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wed. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Fri. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sat. : 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
620-532-3061

Pratt Public Library
Mon. - Thurs.
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Friday: 10:00 - 6:00
Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00
Closed on Sundays
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Kingman Historic Theatre

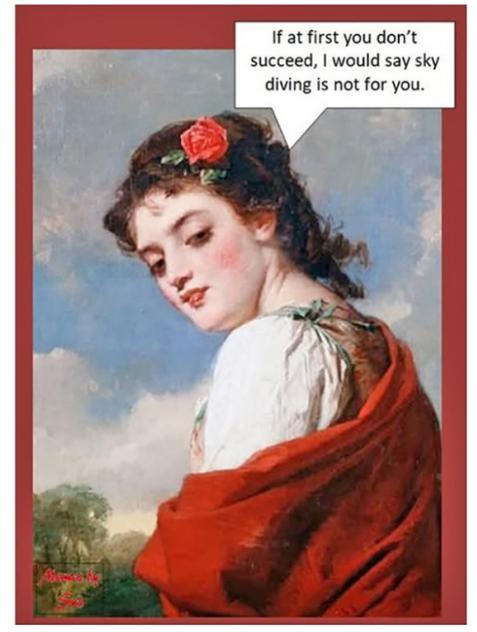
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http://www.kingmantheatre.org/

March 20th, 21st, 22nd Reminders of Him

Rated PG-13

Showtimes
Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm
Sunday at 5:30pm.

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.



A Column by Dean Marple

Doris

Doris O'Volk was dead—dead just like the tattered, burnt-orange leaves that danced across her grave. Neither the leaves nor Doris could feel the bite of the north wind that prowled over the freshly turned dirt.

Nestled under a large, almost bare oak, Doris had no knowledge of the leaves or the wind or the old man who clutched at his jacket as he hunched over her. Harold, her husband of sixty-odd years. The first boy she ever kissed. The first man, the only man, she ever slept with.

He looked deep in his eighties, maybe pushing ninety. Slight stoop, sparse gray hair, pants

worn high, and dark age spots competing with deep wrinkles. Maybe he was only a shadow of his former self, but Harold knew two things: He missed Doris, and he hated being old. He wanted to stride, not shuffle. He wanted to grab a giggling Doris and spin her around. He wanted what was.

Remember the first time you held my hand? He stood there, thoughts of their shared past drifting through his mind. A young Harold who didn't know what lay ahead, only that the prettiest girl in school had said yes when he asked her out to a movie. He remembered being shocked when, after the movie, she asked him to turn into the cemetery grounds and stop.

"C'mon, get out," she'd said. "Let's stroll."

He hadn't moved right away.

"I love it here, it's so quiet," Doris said. "Don't you want to walk in the moonlight?"

"What, here?" was his confused reply.

"Come on, Silly. You're not afraid of ghosts, are you?" she teased him. Slowly he opened the car door and stepped out, not sure what she expected of him. That's when she reached for his hand. The smile, the warmth, the softness. That's when he knew.

Where was that warmth now? Next to the grave, Harold was getting colder as the light faded and the temperature dropped. His aching knees made him sag against the tombstone for support, but he didn't even notice the chill. His mind was warm, and her small hand was in his. He could still hear her.

"What do you want,

Harold?"

"Uh, to talk to you, I guess?"

"No, what do you really want?"

What he wanted to do was sit there forever, looking at her soft red hair that gleamed almost silver in the moonlight. What he wanted was to kiss each one of the cute freckles on her face. He knew what he wanted but didn't know what to say. But she did. "Harold, I know what I want. I want a house with babies in it. I want a husband who makes me laugh. What about you, what do you want?"

Listening to her, imagining her, he didn't realize he was slowly sliding down the front of the tombstone until he was sitting on the ground. Strange how his back never felt the engraving on her stone. It didn't matter. He could talk to

her forever.

"I think—um—I think I want whatever you want."

"C'mon, Silly, that's not an answer. Really, now. What dreams do you have?"

"You'd never believe it if I told you."

"Harold, come on. What fun is life if we can't dream? Tell me yours."

"Really? You really want to know? You won't laugh at me?" He paused. "I want a small farm."

He could hear her laughing with delight as he slowly laid down right there, his right cheek resting on the frozen ground. The dirt was hard, pushing his glasses into his cheek, but he didn't notice. He no longer saw the snow, starting to fall around him, nor the browning flowers laying near his head. He only saw moonlight and

a smiling red-haired girl who dropped his hand and clapped, "Oh, I'd love to live on a farm! We could have chickens and ponies and puppies and ducks. See, Harold, I told you that you could dream."

Harold liked the sound of that. Puppies, ducks, and Doris. He felt her lean against him and hold out her hand. Everything seemed very quiet as he grasped it.

When the cemetery crew found Harold's prone body the next morning, they first noticed how his hand was curled, almost like it was holding something. Something small and soft. Then, looking at his face, they saw it. The smile.

This is a work of fiction. Any similarities between names in this story and actual people are purely coincidental.

Brave Girl Turns Her Brain Surgery Journey Into Colorful Hope for Others

by Nothando Mthembu
Durban, South Africa (17 March 2026) – There is something profoundly beautiful about watching someone take the very fire meant to consume them and using it instead to light the way for everyone else.

The same can be said for Imari James, a nine-year-old girl who's already faced challenges and complications beyond her years. Diagnosed with hydrocephalus, which causes a build-up of fluid in the brain, Imari's newborn moments were mostly spent in hospitals.



"Becoming a mother is usually filled with joyful 'firsts', but my experience as a first-time mom was very different. I remember changing my tiny newborn while she still had drips attached and was recovering from surgery," Imari's mother, Iman, shares with us.

"As time went on, she would reach milestones, only for us to face

another surgery and feel like we were starting from the beginning again. At different points, the pressure in her head caused her to temporarily lose her vision, temporary paralysis, and even developed Bell's palsy. Watching your child go through that is incredibly painful, but she fought through every challenge with unbelievable strength."

Iman also drew strength and encouragement from the mothers' lodge at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, where she met other mothers going through similar experiences.

The journey has been

heavy, and the multiple surgeries as agonising as they were long. Yet, this little girl came into the world with a spirit that refused to succumb and a light that has since extended to reach so many others.

"Imari's bravery gave me strength. Even after everything she has faced, she continues to smile, laugh, and remind me every day how resilient the human spirit can be."

Even during the difficult times, Imari finds a way to lift others. Sharing videos on TikTok, she often delivers little reminders that resonate with many people in need of a little inspiration. Her favourite being: "Different doesn't mean less. It just means special."

"Her positivity has touched thousands of

people online. Through our TikTok community of over 200,000 followers, families from around the world have connected with Imari's story and drawn strength from her journey," Iman says.

This positivity has even taken a creative form with Imari recently creating her very own colouring book, One Thing About Two Things – inspired by her medical journey and seeking to brighten up the lives of others.

"Creating the colouring book was something very special for us. It was born from the idea that every child should feel proud of who they are, even if their journey looks different. The pages are filled with fun illustrations that encourage creativity, confidence,

and imagination."

The book also helps children understand hydrocephalus in a gentle, age-appropriate way while offering hope and encouragement to parents facing medical challenges.

This bright and bubbly creative has big dreams. Right now, Imari says she would love to become a chef one day, driven by her love for food and the joy of making people happy through her cooking.

Imari lives to spread smiles, hope, and good vibes – and we are celebrating her loudly! You can find her inspiring book on Amazon and her inspiring videos and messages on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

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)

2 Peter 2;22 NIV
Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into dispute.
quote submitted by Alan Albers

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

Catholic Churches

Sacred Heart, Cunningham
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

St. John, Zenda
Saturday 5:30 p.m.

St. Leo
Saturday 4:00 p.m.

St. Peter Willowdale
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627 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.

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.
Cunningham
Worship 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki
620-298-2090

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

1971

March 18, 1971 - The annual Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet was held in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Saturday evening, March 6.

It was attended by 128—a wonderful crowd.

Cubmaster Jack Crick introduced Gary Gaulding of Wichita, as the guest speaker. His topic was "Scouting Experiences." Mr. Crick also introduced all the guests, and the new Cubmaster, John Baber.

All the Cub Scouts appeared in a fine skit about the Old West. It was directed by Mrs. Sondra Ellis, assisted by Mrs. Helen Long.

The Pinewood Derby was, as usual, the principal interest of the evening. The winners were Ronnie Sallee, first; Richard Cain, second, and Brian DeWeese third. The boys all did a fine job on their cars. Jack Meyers, Bill DeWeese, and Bob Sterneker were in charge of the derby.

All 11 Cub Scouts were awarded their Wolf Badges. They are Richard Cain, Brian DeWeese, Kevin Huffman, Scott Long, Chris and Eric Meyers, Kelly Mincks, Troy Rohr, Ronnie Sallee, James Willoughby, and Ricky Sterneker.

A sincere thanks is expressed by Den Mothers Mrs. Dorothy Cain and Mrs. Reta Sallee, to everyone who helped to make the banquet a fine success.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Nancy Briggeman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1976

March 18, 1976 - At 11:20 p.m. on Friday, March 12, the Board of Education voted to close the Willowdale attendance center at the end of the current school year. In the same motion, the Board stated its intentions to close the schools at St. Leo and Nashville the following year.

The motion was made by Board President Dean Mantooth and was seconded by Jack Crick. It passed 6-1. The lone dissenting vote was cast by John Albers, who represents the St. Leo portion of the district.

During the twenty minute public discussion, John Albers had questioned the need to state the Board's intentions for the 1977-78 year at this time. Dean Mantooth responded by saying that he thought the public should know the Board's intentions

Jack Crick pointed out the motion did not require closing but simply that there was presently an intention to do so. He indicated that if other areas (principally Willowdale) supported St. Leo with student enrollments, there was at least some possibility the school could be left open a while longer.

In response to a question from a patron, Ted Neises, about the reasons for the closing, Mantooth said that the matter was economics. Dean Pagenkopf commented on the present shuffle of students and teach-

ers, stating that a teacher wasn't doing any teaching when he was driving down the road between classes.

Once the vote had been taken on the school closing, the patrons from St. Leo and Willowdale left and the Board proceeded to the personnel matters on the agenda. The Board first voted to accept the resignations of Louise Armstrong and Don Shorock. Next, they voted to renew the contract of Gene Aubley.

Mrs. Elmer Freund and Jay were Tuesday morning visitors at the Dwayne Elliot home.

Cunningham Wildcat football coach, Randy Randle was named the state's top Eight-Man Football Coach for 1975 recently by the Kansas Coaches Association.

Under Randle's leadership the Wildcats compiled an impressive 11-1 record last season and took second in the state eight-man playoffs.

He is a graduate of Fort Hays State and has taught and coached at Cunningham for four years. He teaches Physical Education, Health and Driver's Education at Cunningham High School.

In commenting on the selection Randle said, "This is quite an honor, but I feel the players had a lot to do with it. Cunningham has top quality athletes and there is a good attitude towards sports at the school."

It's here! The new electric scoreboard for the ball-field has arrived. We will try to gather further information as to when it will be erected and its financial status.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Florine Kampling

1981

March 19, 1981 - A Cunningham High School senior, Joe Harbert, received the highest honor possible in rating first in three divisions in the Academic Olympics, held at Pratt Community College on Tuesday, March 17. Joe was winner of three first place ratings in Paragraph Recognition, Basic English and Vocabulary-Spelling.

Six other students from Cunningham received recognition. Two other first place winners were Alan Theis, junior who placed first in Business Mathematics, and Barbara Harbert, junior who rated first in Typing II. Penni Walter, sophomore, placed second in Literature.

Three more juniors received special rating as follows: Terry Elliot, third in Business Mathematics; Kerry Welch, fourth in Sociology; and Kim House, fifth in Accounting.

The March 18 meeting of the Cunningham 4-H was attended by 18 members, four leaders, and four parents. The 4-H is going to have a skating party, April 23 at Pratt. They also voted to give to the Marc Lindholm Memorial Fund.

For the program, Andrea Holcomb gave tips of good health practices. Steve Gridley led the group in singing. Rob DeWeese conducted a game of Carry the Pint-Pong Ball for recreation.

It was announced that the 4-H chorus received Top

Blue at 4-H Days. They will now compete in Regional 4-H Day March 28 at Pratt. Cindy Becker and Julie Kerschen received blue ribbons on their piano solos.

Holcombs served refreshments.

1986

March 20, 1986 - The Cunningham High School Science Club is sponsoring a slide and video program featuring Bartty Scharts, Kansas finalist for NASA's Teacher in Space Program. The Teacher in Space program will be Tuesday, March 25, in the Cunningham Gymnasium. The public is invited to attend this program. Coffee, soft dinks, and cookies will be served.

The Pizza Hut sponsored reading program entitled "BOOK IT" has received good participation in the Zeda Grade School. The program is for grades one through six and has eighty-eight percent of the students involved. The program is not compulsory. Pizza Hut rewards the readers with free pizzas.

This is the second year for the program that has been set up expressly for the purpose of encouraging the reading of good books.

Kingman County held their 4-H Club Day, Saturday, March 8. This is an opportunity for members to tell others about their 4-H projects and demonstrate their talents and abilities.

Cunningham 4-H club Model Meeting, Blue; Skit consisting of Stephen Petz and Dusty Ormiston, Top Blue; Talks and Demonstrations, Senior Division: Julie Kerschen and Cindy Becker, Top Blue; Talks and Deomonstrations, Junior Division; Scott Glenn, Red, and J.R. Glenn, Red; Music Ensembles, Junior Division: Misty Ormiston and Becky Huffman, Blue; Stephanie Petz and Angela Lubbers, Red; Schott Glenn and Brent Hansen, Red; Music Solos, Senior Division: Cindy Becker, Top Blue; Kathy Rosenbaum, Red; Music Solos, Junior Division; Stephanie Petz, Red; Dusty Ormiston, Red; and Rusty Ormiston, Red; Vocal Solo; Andrea Holcomb, Blue.

Two Cunningham High School students were among those recognized at the Honors Banquet at Sharon on Monday, March 3, in the Catholic Church. The banquet was sponsored by the Kansas University Alumni Association and is held to recognize the top ten percent of the senior classes throughout the state. The students received a certificate and a dictionary.

Receiving honors were Scott DeWeese, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale DeWeese, and Dennis Hageman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merven Hageman.

Steve Miller CHS principal, presented the awards to the Cunningham students. In addition to the above mentioned, Mrs. Steve Miller also attended the banquet.

Museum Winter Hours

Saturday:

Morning 10:00 - 12:00

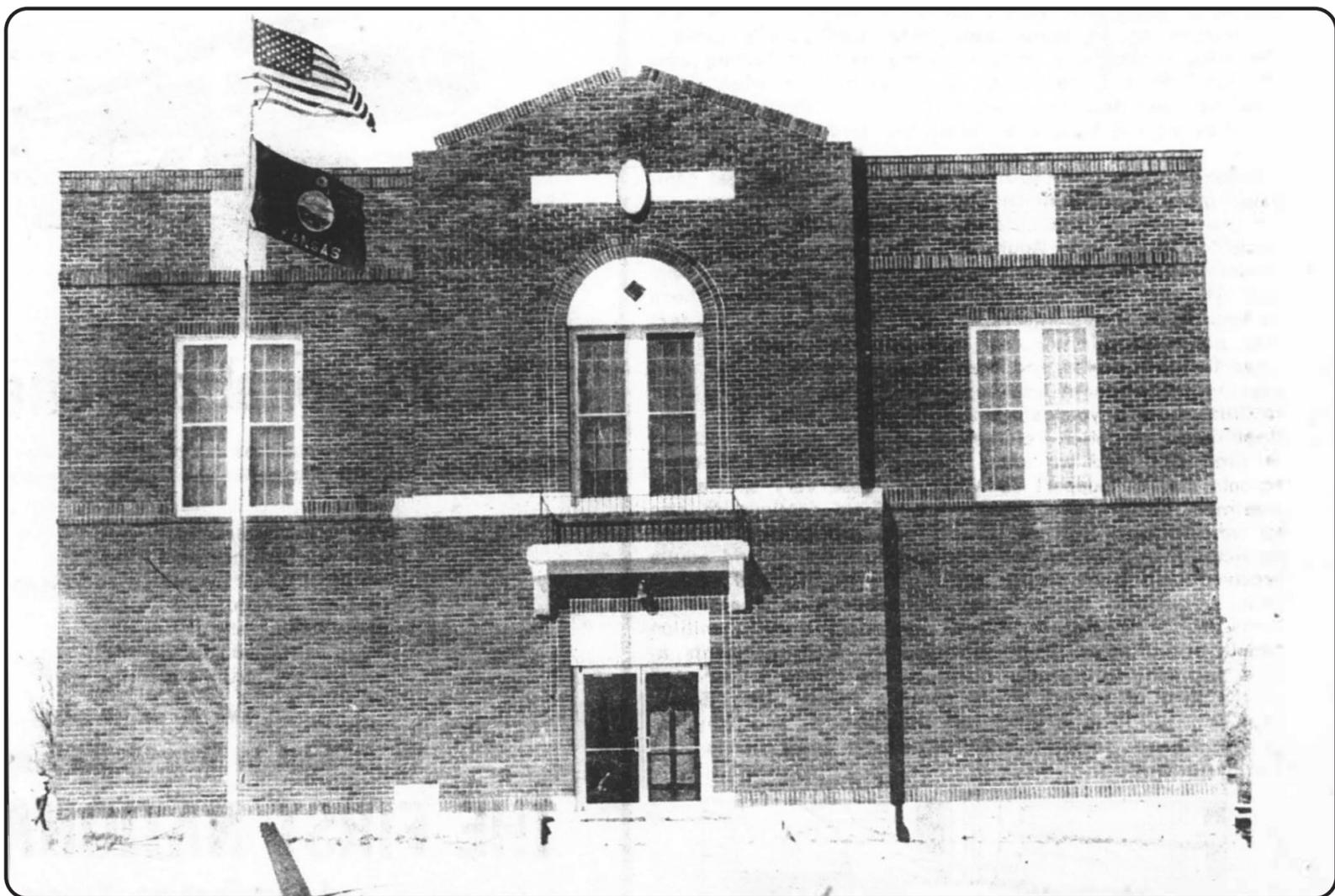
Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00

For guided tours call

Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

Joe Sterneker 620-243-2534

Alan Albers 620-243-2553



To Close

Willowdale Elementary School will be closed at the end of the current school year as a result of action taken this week by the U.S.D. Board of Education. The action, which is a result of financial pressures, may also affect the St. Leo and Nashville elementary schools after the 76-77 school year.



HEART OF THE PLAINS LEAGUE
2025-26 GIRLS BASKETBALL



HEART OF THE PLAINS LEAGUE
2025-26 BOYS BASKETBALL



ALL LEAGUE		
Libby Swingle	JR	Attica
Grace Hageman	SR	Cunningham
Kenley Fowler	SO	Fairfield
Jessa Losew	SR	Hutchinson - Central Christian
Avery Kauffman	JR	Hutchinson - Central Christian
Reese Swanson	JR	Hutchinson - Central Christian
Reagan Smith	SR	Norwich
Leighton Durr	JR	Norwich
Ava White	SR	Pretty Prairie
Kayleigh Vogl	JR	Pretty Prairie
Ava Goering	SO	Pretty Prairie
Arianna Delgadillo	SO	Stafford
Honorable Mention		
Rylee Miller	JR	Cunningham
Aaliyah Baker	SO	Fairfield
Kooper Wesley	SR	Pratt - Skyline
Kenslea Schupbach	JR	South Barber

ALL LEAGUE		
Krew Abbott	SR	Attica
Stephen Kerschen	JR	Cunningham
Jalen Busick	SO	Fairfield
Piercen Huff	SR	Hutchinson - Central Christian
Cal Barnett	JR	Hutchinson - Central Christian
Jayden Bengé	SR	Norwich
Drew Kelly	JR	Norwich
Owen Anderson	JR	Pretty Prairie
Eli Young	JR	Pretty Prairie
Isaac House	SR	Pratt - Skyline
Garen Cantrell	JR	South Barber
Austin Swonger	JR	South Barber
Honorable Mention		
Dylan Halderson	SR	Cunningham
Cole Hageman	SO	Cunningham
Hunter Franz	SR	Hutchinson-Central Christian
Lucas Adams	JR	Norwich
Jace Kreutzer	SO	Stafford
Jacob Simmons	SR	Stafford

Chris Carmichael Visits with Kingman County Residents



Photo courtesy of Alan Albers

On Sunday afternoon, Chris Carmichael sat down with about eight local farmers and ranchers for an in-depth conversation about the issues they are concerned with. They raised concerns about outside investors buying up land in Kansas, making it more difficult for family operations to compete in markets and to keep land locally owned.

There were also questions about tariffs and questions about the ongoing conflict in the Middle East where disruption to key shipping routes are driving up costs for farming necessities such as fertilizer.

The topic of farm policy also was discussed. Some attendees noted that current subsidy programs tend to favor larger operations and payments are tied to acreage and production. There was interest in making sure smaller family farms have a fair shot.



Photo courtesy of Vonda McKenna

On Sunday evening, Chris Carmichael met with about 30 people at the Kingman County Democratic Party gathering at the Hangar in Kingman. The community members asked about education and support for veterans, especially making sure veterans can access the benefits they have earned.

Mr. Carmichael is running for the U.S. House of Representatives 4th District seat. The seat currently held by Rep. Ron Estes.

Information submitted by Brooke Kozlowski, Communications Director for the Carmichael Campaign, edited and rewritten by this editor.

Make Easter Even Sweeter With a Show-Stopping Spring Dessert

(StatePoint) Looking for simple ways to elevate your Easter celebrations? This spring, home bakers are embracing bright colors, playful details and easy upgrades that turn classic treats into eye-catching centerpieces.

From pastel cupcakes and fruit-filled tarts to brunch-worthy pastries, festive finishing touches can instantly elevate your spread. The best part? With a few smart shortcuts and decorative flourishes, busy families can create desserts that look bakery-level beautiful—without spending all day in the kitchen.

One simple way to bring personality to seasonal treats is by incorporating PEEPS Marshmallow into your baking. Their signature Chick and Bunny shapes and cheerful hues make them a natural fit for everything from cupcakes and brownies to pastry creations and dessert boards. Just one or two on top can transform an everyday treat into a celebration-ready showpiece.

“Whether you’re hosting brunch or bringing dessert to share with friends and family, PEEPS can help tie your baking into the spring season,” says Caitlin Servian, brand manager at PEEPS. “Our classic Chicks and Bunnies add a playful finishing touch that instantly makes spring desserts feel special and unmistakably festive.”

Spring entertaining doesn’t have to be complicated to feel memorable. By incorporating ingredients that reflect the flavors of the season, you can create desserts that spark smiles the moment they hit the table. To help inspire your celebrations, baking and hosting influencer Sheri Wilson is sharing her PEEPS Puff Pastry Baskets recipe featuring PEEPS POP-TARTS Frosted Strawberry Flavored Marshmallow Chicks.

Created in collaboration with POP-TARTS, the Frosted Strawberry flavor adds a sweet and fruity twist that pairs perfectly with fresh berries and whipped cream, making it an ideal treat that delivers both convenience and wow-factor for any spring gathering!

- Makes: 4 baskets
- Prep time: 25 minutes
- Ingredients:
 - 4 sheets puff pastry, thawed
 - 1 large egg, beaten
 - 2 cups heavy cream, whipped
 - 1 cup sliced strawberries, plus extra for garnish
 - 1 package PEEPS POP-TARTS Frosted Strawberry Flavored Marshmallow Chicks
 - Royal icing flowers, optional

- Instructions:
 1. Unroll the thawed puff pastry sheets and cut out 8 rounds with a large circle cutter or mini tart pan. Place 4 rounds onto a lined baking sheet.
 2. Cut out the centers of the remaining pastry rounds with a slightly smaller cutter.
 3. Brush the larger rounds with egg wash, then place a pastry ring on top of each one. Brush again with egg wash.

- 3. Brush the larger rounds with egg wash, then place a pastry ring on top of each one. Brush again with egg wash. Top with a second pastry ring and brush again with egg wash. Poke the bottoms with a fork to prevent it from bub-

- 4. To make the basket handles, slice 1/2-inch strips of pastry, then twist into a rope. Place onto a baking sheet in a half-moon shape and brush with egg wash. Bake for about 10 minutes at 400-420 degrees F or until puffed up and golden brown.
 5. Once baked and cooled, press the middles of each pastry basket down with a spoon. Fill with sliced strawberries and whipped cream.
 6. Top each one with a PEEPS Pop-Tarts Frosted Strawberry Flavored Marshmallow Chick, halved strawberries, and a royal icing flower. To complete each basket, gently press the pastry handles into the whipped cream.

For more Easter inspiration, visit peepsbrand.com. By combining flaky pastry, fresh fruit and a sweet Marshmallow element, you can capture the spirit of Easter and the spring season in a way that feels approachable, colorful and celebration-ready.



CHS Wildcats Place 4th at State Basketball Tournament



Brody Bock



Cole Hageman



Dylan Halderson



Kendall Rogers



Larry Heatherman



Liam McGuire



Logan Kinsler



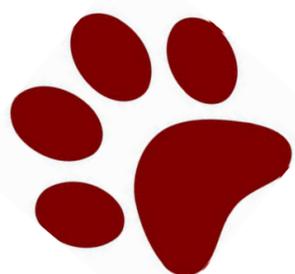
Newt Heatherman



Stephen Kerschen



Skyler Thimesch



photos by Molly Morgan

Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, March 8

Traffic Stops 3
 Civil Paper Service 9
 Disabled Vehicle 8000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
 Animal Complaint E Hwy 42 & SE 60 Ave, Rago
 Harassment 200 Blk S Gregory St, Nashville
 Non-Injury Accident 12000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney

Monday, March 9

Traffic Stops 1
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Accidental 911 Dial 100 Blk W 4th St, Cunningham
 Non-Injury Accident 12000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
 Animal Complaint 400 Blk S Ohio St, Cunningham
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Tuesday, March 10

Traffic Stops 5
 Civil Paper Service 2
 Traffic Complaint E Hwy 42 & SE 120 Ave, Norwich
 Miscellaneous 16000 Blk NE 30 Ave, Cheney
 Agency Assist/Medical 400 Blk W Sunset Dr, Kingman
 Miscellaneous NW 170 Ave & NW150 Ave, Cunningham
 Abandoned Vehicle 10000 E Hwy 54, Murdock
 Traffic Complaint 2000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
 Alarm 200 Blk NW 20 Ave, Kingman

Wednesday, March 11

Traffic Stops 3
 Civil Paper Service 1
 Court/Security 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 400 Blk N Joilet St, Kingman

Animal Complaint NE 10 St & NE 80 Ave, Kingman
 Court/Inmate 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 14000 Blk SE 70 St, Noriwhc
 Check Welfare SE 30 St & SE 140 Ave, Cheney
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Disturbance 600 Blk W A Ave, Kingman

Thursday, March 12

Traffic Stops 2
 Transport Inmates 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 6000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
 Traffic Control 1200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 300 Blk S Elliott St, Cunningham
 Miscellaneous/Jail 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Friday, March 13

Traffic Stops 6
 Traffic Complaint 4000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
 Non-Injury Accident 400 W Stanley Ave, Spivey
 Warrant Arrest 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Animal Complaint 5700 SE 70 St, Kingman
 Follow Up 400 Blk S Valley St, Cunningham
 Warrant Arrest 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 1000 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
 Unlock Vehicle 16000 Blk SW 90 Ave, Zenda
 Agency Assist/KHP E G Ave & N Marquette St, Kingman

Saturday, March 14

Traffic Stops 14
 Animal Complaint 1900 Blk E 8th Ave, Kingman
 Fire/Ditch S Hwy 14 & E Hwy 42, Rago
 Miscellaneous 17000 Blk SW 150 Ave, Nashville
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Disturbance 700 Blk W D Ave, Kingman



Quote, Unquote

Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

There's nothing more flattering, or dangerous, for writers than having their words quoted in an approving manner. It's the starkest evidence that out of all the combinations of letters and words in existence, they've arranged a few that offer readers clarity, truth or illumination.

A good quote is like a spark hitting dry tinder. As flames follow the spark, a quote fuels inspiration, curiosity or a reader's understanding of the world.

Quotes should be collected like pennies. They should be stashed here

and there and discovered again at random intervals like the small fortunes they are. Even then, there will be some that aren't so much saved as they are seared into the mind. You can recall these in an instant.

The only care to take with any quote is proper attribution. While it's flattering to be quoted, it's quite another to receive credit for someone else's words. Especially if they're terrible.

Any collection of quotes is a good one, though good collectors are always on the hunt for more. Following are some of my favorite quotes but don't mistake that for an endorsement. My fondness for writers and humorists is the product of my own idiosyncrasies.

"You don't have to be crazy to work here, but

it helps." — Sign at Jiffy Burger in Smith Center

"One boy's a boy; two boys be half a boy, and three boys be no boy at all, ran the old country saying." — Flora Thompson; often quoted by my grandmother when us boys at the ranch got distracted by shiny objects.

"The cure to boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." — Dorothy Parker

"Being poor is needing that 35-cent raise." — John Scalzi

"Good food is very often, even most often, simple food." — Anthony Bourdain; re Jiffy Burger

"Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain — and most fools do." — Dale Carnegie

"Ignorance is no defense." and "Nothing good happens after 10 p.m." — my dad, who occasionally used both in the same paragraph.

"Fiction is a lie, and good fiction is the truth inside the lie." — Stephen King

"You know, farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." — Dwight Eisenhower

"Nothing so needs reforming as other people's habits." — Mark Twain

"Anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anybody driving faster than you is a maniac." — George Carlin

"To alcohol! The cause of, and solution to, all of life's problems."

— Homer Simpson

"I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me." — Hunter S. Thompson

"I love deadlines. I love the whooshing noise they make as they go by." — Douglas Adams

"He that would live in peace and at ease must not speak all he knows or judge all he sees." — Benjamin Franklin

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"News is something somebody doesn't want printed; all else is advertising."

— William Randolph Hearst

Statepoint Crossword Theme: Plants

CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS
- Canvas primer
 - Chlorofluorocarbon, acr.
 - Heroin, slang
 - Poetic although
 - Indochinese language
 - Part of a whole
 - Like certain suspects
 - Rainbow, e.g.
 - Not mainstream, as in art
 - *Coast ____, world's tallest tree
 - *Vanilla-producing plant
 - Classic film production company, acr.
 - ____ in the neck
 - ____ the season!
 - Ready and eager
 - "Reader's ____" magazine
 - "Do ____ others..."
 - Rubber bulb on an old bike
 - "Lord of the Flies" shell
 - Bear's den
 - *Colorful daisy-like bloom
 - *The corpse flower emits a foul one
 - Spouse's parent
 - EU money
 - Unadulterated
 - Fish food unit
 - Karl of politics
 - Between NE and E
 - Fat Man or Little Boy
 - Major time period
 - *Fastest-growing plant
 - *Coffea ____ a.k.a. coffee plant
 - Dam
 - Slovenly abode

- More painful
 - Change the Constitution
 - Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway
 - Black tie one
 - Shakespeare, a.k.a. ____ of Avon
 - Kum Ba follower
 - What defense does, after presenting
- DOWN
- India's wild ox
 - Something ____
 - Poker variety
 - Medieval oboe
 - Study of bird eggs
 - Armor-____
 - Distant
 - Cold-weather drink
 - Hyperbolic sine
 - Ghana money
 - Battery fluid, e.g.
 - "Wow!"
 - Alfresco meal
 - Nebraska's largest city
 - Antonym of keep
 - Throw out of kilter
 - *It once was more valuable than gold
 - Absurd
 - Static picture
 - *U. S. national flower
 - Gwyneth Paltrow's brand
 - Empower
 - Open disrespect
 - *Leaves of ____, let them be
 - Non-written exam

- Infamous Roman tyrant
- Space exploration vehicle
- Like duck's foot
- Likewise
- Pencil tip
- *Covered with sphagnum
- Beyond's partner
- Pulpit predecessor
- Affirm with confidence
- Dam a sock, e.g.
- Nursemaid, in India
- Wraths
- One-tenth of a dime
- Liberal pursuits
- Blood testing site
- *Camellia sinensis drink

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G	A	V	C	O	F	C	O	S	S	E	

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Pratt County Commission Minutes for March 9

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 09, 2026 at 2:00 pm in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director.

Economic Development Update – Heather Morgan Chamber of Commerce Update

Heather informed the Commission that the Chamber is currently searching for a new Executive Director. During this transition pe-

riod, she will assist with scoring and any economic incentive applications that are submitted.

Neighborhood Revitalization Bill

The bill hearing in the Senate Tax Committee was postponed and then held the day after. Tyson Eisenhauer, Pratt County Counselor and Cody Smith with the City of Pratt testified. Heather will continue monitoring the bill and provide updates.

House Tax Bill

The Senate version contains significant administrative changes affecting counties, including changes to how protest petitions are calculated and updates to required forms. The bill has passed out of committee and will move to the Senate floor. Ultimately, the Senate proposal and the House version will likely be addressed in conference committee,

where differences between the two version will be reconciled.

Publicly Assessed Utilities Transparency Bill Update

A hearing was recently held in the House Tax Committee. The bill would require the Property Valuation Division to investigate valuation changes greater than 5% for publicly assessed utilities.

Road Department Road Crossing Permit and Contract

Motion to approve the Road Crossing Permit for KGS associated with the Sawyer Gas Project made by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners also reviewed the contract books for a bridge replacement project that had already been approved previously, the documents presented were for official signatures in the contract book.

Health Department Grant Information

Darcie Van Der Vyver presented a KDHE Grant Application requiring signatures.

Motion to sign the grant application for KDHE for \$35,206 made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

Motion to move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss wages with Darcie Van Der Vyver for 10 minutes at 2:27 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner came out of executive session at 2:35 pm with no action taken.

HIPAA Policy & Resolution 03-09-2026

The Commission considered Resolution

No 03-09-2026, which updated Pratt County's HIPAA policies and procedures and designates specific privacy and security officers. The resolution was read in full.

Motion to approve Resolution 03-09-2026 made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Personnel Request

Motion to hire Michele Hitz at \$21/hr for a Deputy Position made by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 3-0.

Executive Session – Attorney-Client

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss the Extension Office for 10 minutes at 2:44 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner came

out of executive session at 2:51 p.m. with no action taken.

Public Comment – Property Tax Discussion

Abe Peters addressed the Commission regarding property taxes. Commissioners offered assistance to Peters and asked that he reach back out if he didn't get the information he needed.

Emergency Vehicle Permit Discussion

The process for Emergency Vehicle Permits was reviewed. Commissioners stated Pratt County will continue with annual renewals.

Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of March 2, 2026.

Commissioner unanimously approved the vouchers for March 9, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

KACEE Announces 2026 Environmental Education Awards

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards. Nominated by their peers, these awardees exhibit outstanding innovation, leadership and achievement, as well as collaboration and cooperation within and beyond the environmental

education field. "KACEE is very pleased to honor and celebrate the work of these outstanding individuals and organizations for their amazing contributions to environmental education in Kansas," said KACEE President, Marcel Harmon

Awardees will be recognized at the Awards Celebration hosted by KACEE on Friday, April 10, 2026 at Sunset Zoo in Manhattan, Kansas. The event is sponsored by KACEE, the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, and Sunset Zoo at the time of this

release. Ticket information is available at www.kacee.org/ee-awards.

Mackenzie Reh, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks – Pratt, KS

Mackenzie Reh, Director of the Pratt Education Center and Museum, is being recognized as an emerging leader in environmental education for her exceptional dedication, innovation, and passion for conservation outreach. A Kansas native, Reh began her role as Director in September 2023, bringing with her hands-on

experience from stream survey crews and graduate research focused on the conservation of the Chihuahuan Green Toad, a threatened species in Kansas. Her academic and field experiences have strengthened her ability to communicate the importance of habitat conservation and wildlife stewardship to diverse audiences.

In her leadership role, Reh balances facility management, live animal care, exhibit oversight, and dynamic public programming. She provides educational programs for school groups, community organizations,

and visitors of all ages, approaching each opportunity with professionalism, enthusiasm, and a natural gift for teaching. In addition to launching new public programs and special events, she actively supports statewide conservation initiatives, including Becoming an Outdoors Woman, National Archery in the Schools, Hunter Education, Kansas ECO-Meet competitions, and wildlife surveys. In the words of her supervisor, Mike Rader, "The work she has accomplished in her short time with us has proven to be a joy to watch and I feel that she

needs to be recognized for the time, effort, passion and dedication she has shown for education others at the core of her professional life. She will continue to be a force for conservation and educational efforts in Kansas for years to come." KACEE is pleased to recognize Mackenzie Reh with this year's Rising Star Award.

Editor's Note: I heavily edited this article to save space. I thought the information here pertaining to Pratt was most relevant to our newspaper.

Spotlight on Anita Hamm

By Rick McNary

People who grow up on a farm like Anita Hamm seem to be at their happiest when they are growing either plants or animals. Whether it is nourishing the lives of animals on Hamm's Homestead Farm near Minneapolis with her husband, Tim, or previously caring for surgical/trauma patients as a nurse at Salina Regional Hospital, Anita finds great satisfaction in caring for others. Lately, her role at the hospital has shifted to the quality improvement department, which gives

her more free time to work on their farm.

"We are both fifth-generation farmers so raising animals is just a part of our everyday life," Anita says. "For many years we raised Angus cattle but had to pivot when grassland we rented was no longer available. We still had our own 80 acres, and our niece suggested we raise goats. At first, we thought it was a crazy idea, but now we are so glad we did it — they are so much fun! Baby goats will brighten anyone's day."

They raise small goats like Nigerian dwarf, Nubians and mini-Nubians with names like



Oreo, Poppy, Jasmine, Josey, Cheeks and the herd sire, a fine-looking chap named Yellowstone. As a person who often entertains his grandchildren (and himself) by watching baby goat videos, I can only imagine how much joy those little creatures give the Hams each day with their playful antics.

"When we first started raising them, a friend asked if we could make some goat milk soap for her because her doctor suggested she try it," Anita says. "We made our first batch, and it sold

out quickly so we decided to make more varieties of soaps and lotions. We also sell a lot of goat milk and have begun making cheese."

The shift from raising large animals like cattle to smaller animals like goats challenged them to look at different revenue streams for the farm. Since Anita and Tim both grew up on a farm, they understand the business end of farming. "We started with poultry and selling hatching chicks," Anita says. "We hatch about 300 to 400 a month on our farm during the seasons and we either deliver them or people pick them up."

"We then decided to bring back the rare breed of Erminette chickens, which almost went extinct in the 1960s," she continues. "They are considered a specialty, or heritage breed, and are great for being both meat producers and egg layers."

As if that wasn't enough diversity, they recently decided to add

emus to their flocks.

"We are always looking for unique, niche markets that are emerging and wondering if there is an opportunity for us," she says. "There is an increasing demand for emu meat and oils. A friend of ours wants to raise them, but she wants me to hatch, imprint them and get them sexed. We video them being hatched and it is amazing to watch them come out of their shell."

In addition to all of these animals, they also raise Coturnix quail, Narragansett turkeys and peafowl.

The farm has transitioned from cattle, which can weigh more than 1,000 pounds down to animals like goats weighing less than 100 pounds. While that has certain benefits, it also comes with inherent dangers; easy prey for predators such as coyotes, bobcats, owls and hawks. Enter their livestock guard Anatolian Shepherds, a female named Indy and a male named Amos.

"Indy's job is to as-

sist the nannies during kidding and she is also quite fond of the poultry," Anita says. "Amos is a brindle male, a perfect example of a livestock guardian dog. His job is to hang out with the herd, ensuring their safety. He doesn't like it when the goats go to the milkhouse at milking time. You'll often find him sneaking out of the pen to check on them while they're being milked. They are both super protective."

Anita and Tim exhibit the hidden virtues of all farmers whose supreme satisfaction comes in the process of growing crops or animals.

"It's the babies," Anita says. "They are the best part of this new way of farming for us."

Note: Anita frequently posts photos and videos of their babies, including hatching emu on their Facebook page: Hamm's Homestead, LLC. In addition, you can find out more about their farm and what they have for sale by visiting their website.

Spring Lunch & Learn

April 1, 2026
12pm-1pm
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Pratt, KS 67124

Please join the Pratt Master Gardener's as they welcome Melinda Mason and "The Flower Girls" Melinda and her 4 daughters own a garden in Sawyer and happily provide flowers for Birthdays, Funerals, and even Weddings.

Cost will be \$10, no reservation needed.





For the Love of Birds

"I'd rather learn from one bird how to sing than teach ten thousand stars how not to dance."

E. E. Cummings

We have a randy little Jack Russell Terrier, and his name is Mac. Most mornings, Mac and I take a long walk around our small neighborhood. Mac loves our walks. He gets so excited each time we leave the house. To him, every morning seems like Christmas. One aspect of our morning walks that we most enjoy is this – we get to see the birds. Mac loves birds. He watches them with interest, and perhaps envy. I think he would like to fly. Even as a pup, little Mac was interested in birds. He loved to run after them as they would flit and fly high above his head. He still does.

On our morning walks, we see lots of birds. Everywhere the trees are alive with them. Red cardinals and mockingbirds sing to us. Sparrows and finches and dove abound. Tiny wrens dance in the shrubs along the road. Swallows and robins are often seen. The other day we came upon a large blue jay in the grass. Feathers were flying around his head. It looked like he was shredding a small pillow. Upon closer inspection, we saw that he was simply enjoying a sparrow for breakfast. Such is nature.

Like our little dog Mac, I have always loved birds. As a boy with colored pencils in hand, I would draw them. My mom saved most of those

pictures. I remember listening to the yellow-breasted meadowlarks in the field across from our house, trying to copy their calls. Birds were always fascinating and fun to watch.

Out on the ranch, we always had prime bird-watching opportunities. One of my mother-in-law's favorite things to do was watch the birds. After getting her morning coffee, Marcie would perch herself in front of the kitchen window with her binoculars and watch the birds coming into the back feeder. It was always a thrill to see a Painted Bunting or Vermillion Flycatcher fly in for breakfast. We always had woodpeckers present there in the big yard. And we could sometimes see Cedar Waxwings visiting the pecan orchard by the lamb barn.

Story hunting recently, I found a heartwarming account of a fellow bird lover. His name is Samuel Henderson. Samuel lives in Choctaw, Oklahoma. He is ten years old, and he loves birds. Samuel has recently gained a following because of his talent for mimicking bird calls. He is unbelievably gifted.

Samuel is autistic and has Tourette's Syndrome. Before he learned to speak, his parents say he was always watching and listening and mimicking what he heard, especially bird sounds. In school, during recess on the playground, he could often be found practicing his calls alone along the back fence.

Samuel's recent rise to fame is the result of an elementary school talent show performance, captured by his mom and shared with the world via TikTok. Judging from the video, Samuel is the best 4th grade avian impersonator on the planet. During his performance,

he wowed his classmates and teachers with his life-like bird calls. With his TikTok video going viral, millions of people have now seen his incredible impressions.

Samuel has mastered over 50 bird calls to date, and he is always working on adding more. He learns calls by listening in the field when bird-watching, by playing audio clips on his iPad, and by practicing with Audubon's plush birds, which make realistic bird sounds. Replicating bird sounds requires skill to twist and turn his throat and stomach to make

the whistles, squawks, chirps, and other noises birds make. His talent is remarkable.

Samuel Henderson is using autism to his advantage, calling it his superpower. His positive attitude and desire to share his deep interest in birds is refreshing. Samuel is making this world a better place - for the love of birds...

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photo by Danny Gibbs

KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Newie

Sponsored by Kathy and Alan Albers



Newie is a pretty long-haired kitty. She's been at the shelter since the second of January, and she is only one years old.

Her adoption fee is \$85.00.

"Looking for a young long-haired black kitten? I am yours. I am a pretty little girl. I am sweet and love to be held. You need to come in and meet me."

Sina

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Meet Sina. This beautiful American Pit Bull Terrier has had some bad things happen to her. But she is still a sweet dog. She is rather large at 65 pounds, but there's just more to love and more to love her new family.

She has been at the shelter since February 24 of this year. She loves people and she's good with other dogs, but not so much with cats.

Here is what the shelter says about her: "Sina loves to wear hats....not just because they make her look so cute but because what's left of her ears gets very cold during the winter. She's only 3 1/2 yrs old and we don't know what her back story is, but her ears tell us a lot. Fortunately, her circumstances must have improved because she is very people friendly and loves to play with other dogs. She's a strikingly beautiful dog with her brindle coat and soft brown eyes. She has earned the right to be spoiled and pampered with a loving new family."



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Public Notice

First published in The Cunningham Courier on March 12, 2026 (3t)
IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT, KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
CLAY TERHUNE, Plaintiff, vs. 2008 KZ DURANGO TRAILER, MARK J. TERHUNE, VIN #4EZFD332987027406, THE HEIRS AND SUCCESSORS OF MARK J. TERHUNE, ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS, and KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, Defendants.
(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60)
Case No. KM-2026-CV-000002
NOTICE OF SUIT
STATE OF KANSAS TO:
Any and all other persons who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Kingman County, Kansas, by Clay Terhune praying for title to be quieted and given to the Plaintiff regarding a **2008 KZ DURANGO TRAILER, VIN #4EZFD332987027406.**
You are hereby required to plead to said petition on or before June 3, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., in said court, at the Kingman County Courthouse, Kingman, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course on said petition.
Clay Terhune, Petitioner
Matthew W. Ricke
Attorney at Law, LLC
349 N. Main, PO Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
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Attorney for Plaintiff


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Donald Patterson

Donald LeRoy Patterson, 93, died March 15, 2026, at his home in Penalosa.

He was born Jan. 19, 1933 at Pratt, Kansas, the son of Devon and Sarah Moore Patterson. A longtime resident of the Kingman community, he was a retired trackman for the Missouri Pacific Railroad and a farmer.

Donald was a member of the Catholic Church; and was Mayor of Penalosa.

On Dec. 2, 1951, he married Clara Mae Cockrell in Kingman; she died Apr. 1, 2001. On Apr. 17, 2002, he married Bonnie Webb at Great Bend, Kansas. Other survivors include daughter Donna Heckart; sons Robert and Glen; brothers James, Alton, Eddie, Bruce and Henry; daughter Crystal Thornton; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by sons Norman and Raymond; brothers Robert, Pat and Sonny; sisters Sarah, Almarie, Mary, Pamela, Margaret, JoAnn and Marjorie; and son Timothy Thornton.

Donald was jokester and had a great memory. He loved fishing, hunting, road trips, tinkering (he built a Model T) and most of all his family. He loved life to the fullest.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2026 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Friends may call from 1:00 -7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, with the family receiving friends from 5:00-7:00. Burial will be in the Cleveland Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Humane Society in care of Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.



Kolbe Allen

Kolbe Dean Allen, 22, passed away Saturday, March 14, 2026 at his home. He was born on October 12, 2003 in Shattuck, Oklahoma to Heather Allen.

Kolbe graduated from Lawrence Gardner High School in Topeka. He worked in construction doing concrete. He enjoyed playing basketball and football and spending time with his son.

He is survived by his mother, Heather Andrew; father figure, Earnest Alexander of Goddard; son, Knight Allen Geyer of Wichita; significant other, Shay Geyer of Wichita; brother, Jayce Ketterman of Dodge City; sisters, Graycie Ketterman of Pratt, Charlisha Ketterman of California, Alexis Ketterman of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Amilia Ketterman and Annie Ketterman both of Edmond, Oklahoma; grandparents, Ronnie Allen of Salina and Sonya Allen of Pratt; uncle, Randy (Maddie) Allen of Bella Vista, Arkansas; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Kolbe is preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Shirley and Everett Carmin and Harry and Jeannette Allen; aunt, Teresa Bennett; uncle, David Dunsworth; great uncle, Randy Allen; cousin, Angie Bennett; grandmother, Betty Ketterman; and best friend, Gabriel Nava.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, March 19, 2026 at Lion of Judah Praise Fellowship Church, 503 N. Main, Preston. Burial will follow at Stafford Cemetery, Stafford.

Memorials may be made to Larrison Mortuary. Online condolences may be made at www.larrison-mortuary.com.



Judy Conrady

Judy J. Conrady, 76, died March 13, 2026 at Hilltop Manor, Cunningham.

She was born Aug. 24, 1949, at Kingman, the daughter of Clarence and Veta Gray Conrady. A very longtime resident of Hilltop Manor, she was one of the original residents of Hilltop Manor in 1976.

Judy is survived by her brothers Ken, Bill and Mike; special cousin Cathy Conrady; three nephews and one niece. She was preceded in death by her parents; and a brother Tony.

Memorial services will be 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at the Hilltop Manor, Cunningham.

Memorials may be made to the Hilltop Manor, Cunningham and may be mailed to the Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.

Gene Young

William E. "Gene" Young, 82, died March 16, 2026 at his home at Belle Plaine, Kansas.

He was born Aug. 29, 1943, at Kingman, Kansas the son of Richard Howard and Laura Esther Lantis Young. A longtime resident of the Belle Plaine community, he was a former machinist, heavy equipment operator and a retired boiler operator at Vulcan Equipment.

Gene is survived by his daughters Sharon Taton and Laura Young; his brothers David Young and Lester Young; 5 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brothers Howard and Robert; and his longtime companion Carol Sinnett.

A family graveside service and celebration of life will take place at a later date.

A memorial has been established with the Sumner County 4-H Development Fund and may be sent to the Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.




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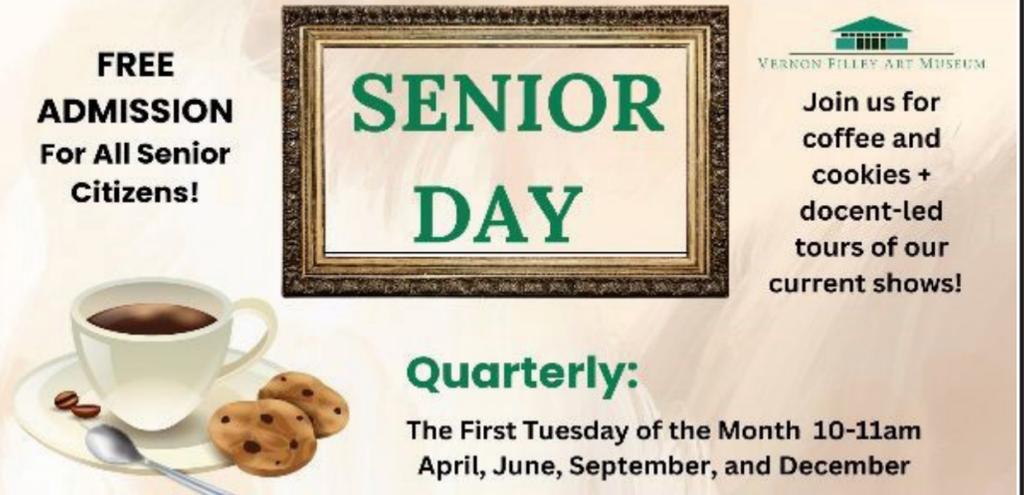
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Happy Anniversary to Stevi and Jesse McGinnis!



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SERVING THE CUNNINGHAM AREA | FREE ESTIMATES

ELECTRICAL	HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING	PLUMBING
FARM GENERATOR OILFIELD RESIDENTIAL INDUSTRIAL	RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL NEW INSTALLATIONS SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CHANGE-OUTS	WATER HEATERS WATER WELL DRAIN CLEANING KITCHEN/BATH SEPTIC SYSTEMS



Pratt Support Group
Survivors of domestic violence & sexual assault

Monday Nights, 5:30 - 7 pm
Family Crisis Center office - 400 Main, suite #101

Transportation, childcare, & meal provided
Contact our office with questions! 620-672-7435