

The Cunningham Courier

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

Email: couriernews@yahoo.com
Website: www.cunninghamcourier.news
(620) 298-2659

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February 19, 2026
Volume 36 Number 8

photo by Teresa McClendon

Minutes From BOE Special Session On January 12

The West Kingman County Board of Education special meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026, by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Jason Osner, Nick Rogers, and Katie Hellman; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and Guests, Grant Urban and Sheena Albers.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Jason Osner, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

President Brent Miller welcomed the guests and turned the Meeting over to B& G Consultants. Discussion of drawings dropped off in December were discussed along with Budget and time line possibilities.

Board Member Abby Bock arrived to the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Guest Jackie Ruckle arrived to the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Board Member Travis Thimesch arrived to the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

The board requested more information and time to consider options.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Bjorn Halderson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes From BOE January Meeting

The West Kingman County Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026, by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Travis Thimesch, Abby Bock, Jason Osner, Nick Rogers, Katie Hellman; Superintendent, Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; and Guests Sheena Albers, Jackie Ruckle and Amy

McGuire.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve the agenda as amended, adding d. Accept donation. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller welcomed the guest to the meeting.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to elect Abby Bock as Representative to the Special education co-op., Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Abby Bock, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to retain Bjorn Halderson as Vice-President. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Abby Bock, to retain Brent Miller as -President. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 meetings. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Abby Bock, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to approve the payment of bills and the financial reports as presented. Yeas: Miller, Halderson, Thimesch, Bock, Osner. Rogers, Hellman Nays: none. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent reminded the board of the quote he got last fall for painting of the Grade school, and discussed Transportation mileage reimbursements, the strategic plan, Legislative updates, and construction work session thoughts.

Principal Cody Dunlap discussed school spelling bees, ACT's, work keys, graduation requirements changes and staff Professional development plans.

Member Bjorn Halderson shared updates from the Co-op December meeting including KSDE requirements for a member district leaving the Cooperative, the Audit was approved and Policies reviewed.

Strategic Plan Update - Superintendent Arnberger shared that he has created a Calendar committee and Leave committee. Chad Higgins will be out for an update in March or April

System wide Audit Discussion- Superintendent Arnberger has quotes

from two outside entities that both cost in the 3,500.00 range and asked the board for guidance on choosing. Consensus was to utilize Inclusive Leadership Lab.

Motion made by Abby Bock, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to go into executive session with Superintendent Arnberger for 15 minutes at 8:25 p.m. to discuss personnel for the non-elected exception under KOMA and return to the board room at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Dr. Arnberger left the executive session at 8:35 p.m.

Both Dr. Arnberger and Principal Dunlap joined the executive session at 8:38 p.m.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 8:40 p.m.

Motion made by Abby Bock, seconded by Bjorn Halderson to approve a 1-year contract extension for Cody Dunlap to serve as Pre-K-12 Principal. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Abby Bock to approve policy updates as recommended by KASB. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Abby Bock, to accept a 5,000.00 donation from Invenergy. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Nick Rogers, seconded by Katie Hellman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes From BOE Special Session On January 19

Board Members, Travis Thimesch, Abby Bock, Nick Rogers, and Katie Hellman; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger and Guest Randy Thimesch met at USD 310 Fairfield at 1:00. They were given a tour of the school's newest gym by Fairfield Principal, Kyle Finder. Mr. Finder answered questions about who built the building, it's capacity and what they would do different. The Board members, Dr. Arnberger and Guest Randy Thimesch left Fairfield at 1:35 p.m. The board

members will report their notes at the Special work session scheduled for 5:30 p.m. January 20, 2026 in the USD 332 Board of Education bu 104 W 4th St. Cunningham KS 67035

Minutes From BOE Special Session On January 20

The West Kingman County Board of Education special meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, by Vice-President Bjorn Halderson.

Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Travis Thimesch, Jason Osner, Nick Rogers, and Katie Hellman; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and Guests, Sheena Albers and Sebastian Huelskamp. President Miller joined via speaker phone.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Katie Hellman, to approve the agenda as presented. Yeas: Miller, Halderson, Thimesch, Osner, Rogers, Hellman. Nays: none. Motion carried 6-0.

Vice-President Bjorn Halderson welcomed the guests.

Board member Nick Rogers began the discussion with what they saw and heard at Fairfield yesterday. Bjorn added information he had from Blythe on the size of their courts. Guest Sebastian Huelskamp added his knowledge of the practice gym from Skyline. Discussion on what size the building needs to be continued.

Principal Cody Dunlap joined the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

President Miller arrived to the meeting in person at 5:53 p.m.

Principal Cody Dunlap left the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

The board gave Dr. Arnberger directions to pass along to B&G that they want two different size building bids for the next meeting in February.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Nick Rogers, to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.



CJHS students cheer on the Wildcats at the League Tournament.



Masthead Photo

The photo on the masthead, taken by Teresa McClendon on Tuesday, February 17, shows the smoke and ash blowing in from the wildfires burning in the Oklahoma Panhandle and Southwest Kansas area.

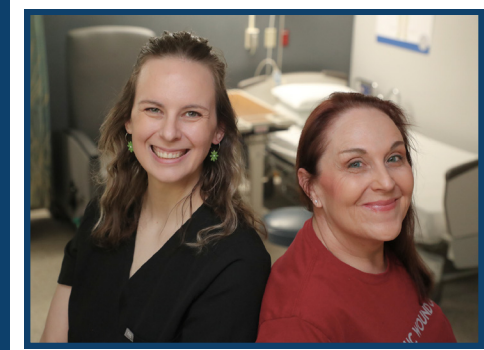
Several communities were evacuated, and a 15-car accident near Garden City was caused by smoke and dust blowing across the highway.

As of Tuesday evening, the

Oklahoma Forestry Services estimated about 15,000 acres of land have been burned.

Sixty-five mile per winds have prohibited aerial aide.

In Kansas, the communities of Ashland and Englewood have been evacuated.



KHC HAS EXPERT WOUND CARE, CLOSE TO HOME

Jody Berry, PA-C, a Certified Wound Care Specialist, has been healing wounds for 20+ years. Jody and her team provide expert care and use the latest technology.

For an appointment, call 620-532-3147.



Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, February 19

4:30 p.m.

U.S.D. 332 Site Council Meets

Friday, February 20

HS BB vs Pretty Prairie at HOME

Senior Night

Booster Club Night

Saturday, February 21

National FFA Week begins

Monday, February 23

Boys Sub-state quarterfinals

PCC Academic Olympics

Tuesday, February 24

Girls Sub-state quarterfinals

Wednesday, February 25

JR. Spring ACT

7:00 p.m.

Book Club at library

Thursday, February 26

6:30 p.m.

Parent Meeting for Track Athletes

6:00 p.m.

Girls' Night Out Book Club at Cozy's Pizza

Saturday February 28

Boys Sub-State Basketball semifinals

Monday, March 2

Girls Sub-State Basketball Semifinals

Tuesday, March 3

Parent Teacher Conferences

School Improvement Day

Lions Club Meeting

Wednesday, March 4

FFA Horse Evaluation

6:00 p.m.

Shop Guild

Thursday, March 5

Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, March 6

Boys Sub-State Finals

Saturday, March 7

Girls Sub-State Finals

Monday, March 9

6:00 p.m.

First Impressions at Community Center

HS HOPL Music at South Barber

KAY family Game Night

BOE Meeting

Join Us To Celebrate



Please join us in celebrating a very special milestone -- Kenny & Marilyn Glenn's 80th Birthday!

This come-and-go celebration will be held at the Cunningham Community Building on Saturday, February 21st, from 10-12pm, so please stop by anytime during those hours to share birthday wishes, smiles, and memories.

Help us make this a wonderful celebration for two amazing people! We hope to see you there!

Kingman Healthcare Center Named a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital by the Chartis Center for Rural Health

February 13, 2026 - Kingman Healthcare Center in Kingman, Kansas today announced it has been recognized as a 2026 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. The Top 100 awards program celebrates outstanding performance annually among the nation's rural hospitals based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®.

"Congratulations, KHC for once again being named a top 100 hospital!" said Preston Sauers, CEO of Kingman Healthcare Center. "CHARTIS group evaluates hospital performance in the categories of quality, finance, and patient satisfaction. We were selected along with 14 other Kansas hospitals from 82 hospitals in the state. Thanks for all you do, I am proud to work with you!"

"The delivery of care within rural communities is perhaps more complex today than at any point in recent memory. This year's Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals have emerged as true leaders – committed to their mission through a powerful combination of resilience, dedication and innovation," said Michael Topchik, Executive Director of The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

"We're delighted to recognize this year's winners and celebrate their Top 100 status."

Now in its 16 year, the INDEX is the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. Leveraging publicly available data, the INDEX is utilized nationwide by rural hospitals, health systems with rural affiliates, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure and monitor performance across a variety of areas impacting hospital operations, quality, patient perspective and finance.

KHC employs 150 full-time staff and offers hundreds of services to the local area. Kingman Healthcare Center is a 25-bed critical access hospital with 24-hour emergency room, inpatient services and two-family practice clinics, one in Kingman and one in Cunningham.

WEST KINGMAN CO. EDUCATION FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

ALL AMERICAN



TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

\$100 PER PERSON

HORS D'OEUVRE MEAL, WATER & TEA INCLUDED

*LIVE AUCTIONS BETWEEN TRIVIA ROUNDS

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

American Legion

Lorraine Post 98

Isabel

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

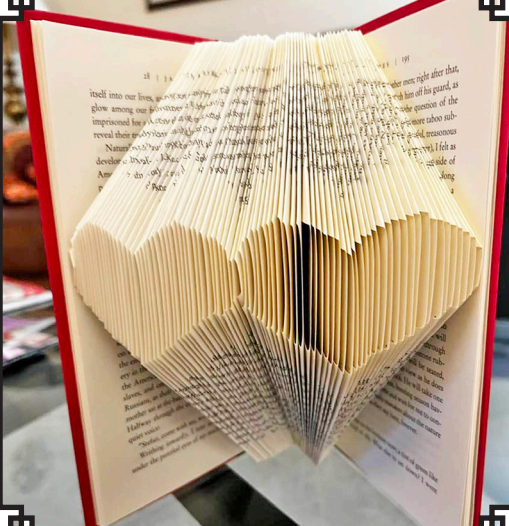


Library





Jana Theis demonstrates book folding steps at the Cunningham Public Library Class. Below: The finished project.



We ALWAYS need photos for the paper!!

Libraries

Cunningham Public Library

Mon., Wed., Fri.

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Tues., Thurs., Sat.

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Closed for Holidays

298-3163



Zenda Public Library

Monday

8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Thursday:

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday:

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

620-243-5791



Kingman Carnegie Library

Mon. & Tues. 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wed. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thurs. : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Fri. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sat. : 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

620-532-3061



Pratt Public Library

Mon. - Thurs.

10:00 - 7:00

Friday: 10:00 - 6:00

Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00

Closed on Sundays

(620) 672-3041

Kingman Historic Theatre

237 N. Main in Kingman

(620) 532-1253

http://www.kingmantheatre.org/

February 20, 21, 22

I Can Only Imagine 2

Rated PG

Showtimes

Friday at 7:30pm

Sunday at 5:30pm.

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

Upcoming Auctions

Wed. March 4, 2026 – 1:00 PM

30029 SE 30th St. Pratt, KS – 2 Miles South of Pratt Co. Lake

Owner: Michael R McFall Trust

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

107 NE State Road 61, Pratt, Kansas, 67124

620-672-6996





It's Not Too Late: A Lenten Sermon Series of Hope

Growing up in rural Kenya, we depended on the rains. Some seasons the clouds delayed so long that people wondered if planting was even worth it. I remember one year an older farmer told us, “As long as there is soil and seed, it is not too late.” We planted late, uncertain, even discouraged. But the rains finally came, and what looked like a lost season still produced a harvest.

Life can feel like that sometimes.

Maybe you feel behind... tired... stuck... or wondering if change is even possible anymore. The good news of the gospel is this: with God, it is never too late.

This Lent, our communities at Cunningham United Methodist Church and Penalosa United Methodist

Church are beginning a new sermon series called It's Not Too Late. Together we'll explore how God meets us right where we are calling us to new life, forgiveness, purpose, and hope.

Weekly Themes

2/22/2016: It's Not Too Late to Choose Life

3/01//2026: It's Not Too Late to Listen to God

3/08/2026: It's Not Too Late to Be Forgiven

3/15/2026: It's Not Too Late to Take Ownership

3/22/2026: It's Not Too Late to Act Differently

3/29/2026: It's Not Too Late to Stand Up and Stand Out

4/05/2026: It's Not Too Late for Us because It's Not Too Late for God (Easter)

You don't need to have everything figured out. You don't need to be perfect. You just need to come.

Penalosa UMC — Sundays at 9:15 AM

Cunningham UMC — Sundays at 10:45 AM

Come for worship.

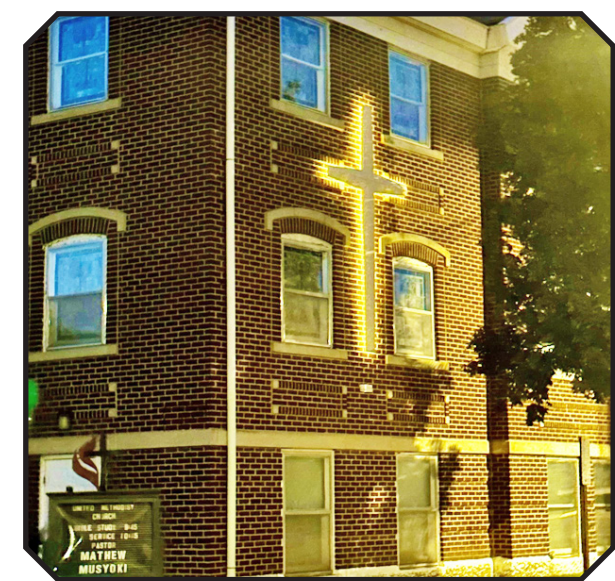
Come for encouragement.

Come discover what God might still be growing in your life.

Because as long as there is breath in us and grace from God...it's not too late.

You are warmly invited. Bring a friend.

Rev. Mathew Musyoki



Monks Arrival After 15 Weeks of Walking Fills DC Streets With Peace and Compassion

By Andy Corbley
Good New Network

It was a day that some locals said was unlike any other they had ever seen when the party of Buddhist monks arrived barefoot on the steps of the National Cathedral, as snow still covered the ground.



“This is the moment I will remember for the rest of my life,” said the leader of the band of monks, Venerable Bhikkhu Pannakara. “And I hope you do the same.”

For months, the nation has been captivated as some 19 senior monks, known as Bhikkhus, left the Huong Dao Vipassana Bhavana Center in Fort Worth, Texas, and walked 2,300 miles to the nation’s capi-

tal for the sake of peace.

These 19 men came from monasteries around the Theravada Buddhist world to partake in a long-practiced tradition to spread peace by walking long distances. The word “Vipassana” refers to a practice of meditative beathing taught by the Buddha, one which Ven. Pannakara taught at Dharma talks given along

their 15-week journey.

For a country that is often espoused to be a Christian nation, the safron-sight of the monks walking silently in bare feet along the roads captivated the city and country, and drawn millions of followers to the Walk for Peace social media pages.

As they snaked their way down Wisconsin

Avenue, thousands cheered, but thousands more understood enough to explain that it was more correct to remain quiet, or to say “Sadhu!” which means “wisely done,” in Pali, the language that the Buddha spoke.

The first public stop in DC was American University’s Bender Arena, where 3,500 peo-

ple watched in silence as the monks entered to speak. Later, their journey culminated in front of the National Cathedral where Washington Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde hosted an interfaith gathering to welcome their arrival.

There, Ven. Pannakara, himself rather soft-spoken, invited the thousands of onlookers

to share the moment in withdrawn silence and breathing, while the cold air passed through bare tree branches, and the bells rang out overhead. To each, the Bhikkhu said, recite this mantra: “Today will be my peaceful day.”

After resting at a fire department, which had been their lot since the start of their journey, Wednesday saw them pass in front of Capitol Hill, before their final public act—an enormous gathering on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

“In the 40 years I have lived in Washington I have NEVER experienced such beautiful, respectful and loving series of public events,” commented on resident, Nicole Krakora, in a Facebook post following the event. “Beautiful silence.”

Many noted the similarities to Martin Luther King’s speech on the same steps.

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)

Psalm 39:3 NIV
So I held my tongue and said nothing; I refrained from rash words; but my pain became unbearable.
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

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.

Pastor vacancy until further notice.

Trinity, Medicine Lodge
620- 886-3397
Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

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

1956

February 16, 1956 - The Ninnescah Valley 4-H Club voted to plan a window display in observance of National 4-H Club Week (March 3-10) at their regular meeting, a week ago Monday evening, in the grade school basement. Named to the window display committee were Imogene Voss, Kenneth Zrubek, Jerry Pelzl, Dale Boswell, Mrs. Floren Rose, and Mrs. Carl Voss.

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

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

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

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

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

1966

February 24, 1966 The Cunningham 4-H Club received fine ratings at the Kingman County 4-H Club Talent Day in Kingman last Saturday.

Following is a listing of the participants, their talent performance, and their ribbon award:

- Mary Cusenbary, vocal solo, blue; flute solo, blue.
- Sue Hellar, dramatic, red
- Wesley Woodson, stunt, red; piano solo, blue.
- Wesley and Ilonda Woodson, piano duet, red.
- Ilonda Woodson, piano solo, red.
- John DeWeese, trumpet solo, red.
- Kristy Sheldon, trumpet solo, blue.
- Bill McGovney, trumpet solo, red.
- Bob McGovney, trombone solo, red.
- Cynthia Mantooth, piano solo, blue.
- Shirley Park, piano solo, red.

The Christian Women’s Fellowship met last Thursday afternoon in the home of Mrs. Everett Hauser, with Mrs. Ray McIlvain as co-hostess.

The meeting opened with the group singing “What A Friend,” accompanied by Mrs. John Baber, after which President Mrs. Merle Cunningham read the poem, “Good or Evil,” followed by prayer, the secretary’s report, and roll call.

Mrs. Lee DeWeese gave the lesson, using the topic “Courage to Christians,” after which Mrs. Floren Rose presented the devotions on the theme, “Worship Hands,” and Mrs. Ruth Cooley conducted a Bible quiz.

The hostess served refreshments of sandwiches, cookies, tea and coffee from a beautifully appointed table, centered with a cherry tree, to 13 members and five guests, Mrs. Ted Dix of Pratt, Mrs. Frank Park and Mrs. Roxie Smith of Turon, Mrs. Chas. Boen, and Mrs. Donald Thompson.

Cunningham, Pretty Prairie, and Cheney joined Kiowa in the semi-finals of the Class B District Basketball Tournament now underway in Cunningham, following the completion of first-round action, Tuesday night.

In the first of three games, Tuesday night, Cheney bombed Sharon, 72-44, after which Cunningham dumped Harper, 72-49, and the concluding foul-filled game saw Pretty Prairie nipping Attica, 63-62, in which the winning Bulldogs made 27 free throws off 26 Attica fouls, and the losing Bulldogs made 20 free shots off 24 Pretty Prairie fouls.

Cunningham jumped off to an early lead in their game with Harper, rolling up a 21-10 advantage by the end of the first period, and continued to increase their lead as they gained some degree of satisfaction for their defeat by Harper in the finals of the St. John Regional last year that kept the Wildcats out of the state tournament.

Cunningham had four players in double figures, Jim Cain, Danny Meyers, Ron Murphey, and Kenny Kerschen, with Murphey’s 17 points topping the scoring.

1971

February 18, 1971 - Nineteen students from Cunningham High School, accompanied by Speech Coach Don Shorock and Principal Harry Johnston,

attended the Golden Plains League Speech Festival at Partridge, Thursday, Feb. 11.

Five students received first division ratings. Kandi Bradley received hers for an informative speech on “How to Extemporize.” Linda Jo Cain earned a I rating for her dramatic interpretation of “Into A Better Kingdom: by Lloyd C. Douglas. Two students received first division ratings in extempore speech. Mike Schrant drew the topic, “Spiro Agnew,” while Jim England’s topic was “Was Apollo 14 Necessary?” Kris Sheldon’s I rating was for an oral interpretation of the prose selection, “My Watch,” by Mark Twain.

Second division ratings were received by both entrants in original oration, Bill Cundiff and David Steffen; by both entrants in oral interpretation of poetry, Linda Cunningham and Jan Hartley; by Jim England for informative speech, and by Jill Rose for dramatic interpretation.

Cunningham High School’s one-act play, “The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden,” by Thornton Wilder, also received a II rating. Students in the play were Jean Eck, Bill Ogden, Alan Rohr, Janice Schnittker, Mike Schrant, and Connie Thimesch.

Other Cunningham students participating in the festival were Sheryl Bortz, Marsha Hansen, Kathy McCune, and Connie Webster.

The festival was won by Partridge High School. In a virtual tie for second, third, and fourth places were Sharon, Nashville-Zenda, and Cunningham. Norwich, Hardtner, and Attica trailed far behind.

This Saturday (February 20) Mr. Shorock will be taking Mark Dafforn, Jean Eck, Marsha Hansen, and Connie Thimesch to the Invitational Forensic Tournament at Hoxie.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Nancy Briggeman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1976

February 19, 1976 - Bonnie Hamlett of Pratt was recently named the winner of the Pratt KWNS Radio Station “Valentine Contest.”

Bonnie’s mother, Mrs. Virginia Hamlett of Cunningham, sent Bonnie’s name to be entered in the contest. For being a KWNS winner, Bonnie received the following prizes from several of the Pratt merchants: Chip N’Dip Set – M’s Party Pak; Two Dinners – Don’s ServaTeria; 8 x 10 Color Portrait – Beau’s Studio; Two Pound Box of Candy – Owl’s Drug; Two Movie Tickets – Barron Theatre and a Flower Arrangement – Ackley Florist.

Pat Holcomb and Greg Kitson were named King and Queen for the annual homecoming festivities on Friday night, February 13, at crowning ceremonies during the halftime of the “A” team game. Other candidates who were featured were Connie Armstrong, Donna Theis, Mary Vierthaler, Linda Schwartz, Greg DeWeese, Scott Elliot, Gene Panek, and Kris Osborn. Narrators for the ceremony were Kathy Kampling and Kenny Simon. Matt Oller and Crystal Weniger, both second grade students, served as crown bearer and flower girl.

There will be a dance for the 6-7-8th grade youths from the Cunningham and St. Leo area at the Wildcat Den this Saturday, February 21 starting at 7:30 p.m.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Florine Kampling

1981

February 19, 1981 – Fred Bell from KU continuing education, presented a fire school at Cunningham last week. He covered topics of hazardous materials, pump operation, fire streams, hose lays and the operation and use of air packs. He also covered arson detection upon arrival to the fire.

Films and slides were presented on several areas. Fire ground operation was used Friday night at the grade school.

Wade Ruckle and Donna Beat reigned as King and Queen for the annual Basketball Homecoming, Friday evening, Feb. 13. They were crowned before the A-boys game with Skyline.

The narrators for the ceremony were Stan Adelhardt and Bonnie Fischer, and the attendants were as follows: Bobbi Ross and Mike Parsons, Debbie Mills and Mike DeWeese, Gayla Golden and Mike McGovney, Ellen Colucci and Scott Huhman. The flower girl was Brandee Strohl, daughter of Tom and Teresa Strohl of St. Leo, and crown bearer was Pat Albers, son of Alan and Kathy Albers, also of St. Leo.

1986

February 20, 1986 – On Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1986, Jack Crick RR2 carrier was presented his 30-

year pin for completing 30 years of postal service by Postmaster Gary Sherman.

The metric system has been the main tope of study in math this week. We have been involved in activities to measure length, mass, and capacity. Several video tapes have helped us become familiar with the relationship between metric units.

In social studies we are studying a special section on political systems. We have taken a look at a monarchy, a dictatorship, and an oligarchy. We have compared these systems with our own democratic system of government. – Carmen Sowers

Leann FitzSimmons, freshman, attended the State Piano Festival held at Dodge City Community College on Saturday, Feb. 15. She performed the solo “Fountain in the Rain”, by William Gillock, and was awarded a II rating by adjudicator Paul Moore. Leann did a fine job on her solo as she played at her first state piano contest and will receive a certificate from the State for her performance. Leann is a piano student of Dorothy Trinkle, of Preston.

The Cunningham Grade School annual spelling bees were held at the Cunningham schools gymnasium this last Wednesday and Thursday. Thirty-three students competed in the division A competition which is open to all students in grades first through eighth. Division A will be represented by first place winner Julie Kerschen, eighth grade daughter of Ken and Linda Kerschen; second place winner Kathy Rosenbaum, seventh grade daughter of Walter and Pat Rosenbaum; third place winner Tom Sterneker, eighth grade son of Al Joe and Janet Sterneker; fourth place winner Renita Bartlett, eighth grade daughter of Don and Charlene Bartlett; and alternate Heather Murphey, eighth grade daughter of Bill and Alice Murphey.

Division B competition is open to all students grades first through fifth. Over seventy students signed up to compete. Division B will be represented by winner Kristie Kerschen, daughter of Bob and Jeannette Kerschen; second place winner Jeremy Betzen, fifth grade son of Mark and Gwen Betzen; third place winner Becky Huffman, fifth grade daughter of John and Patty Huffman; fourth place winner Azure Watts, fourth grade daughter of Ralph and Pam Daniel, and alternate Angela Hazen, fifth grade daughter of Ken and Nancy Hazen.

Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Stillwell Jr. of Penalosa announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Janice Kay, to Glenn Richard Jorgenson of Nathrop, Colo. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Jorgenson of Racine, Wisc.

Miss Stillwell is a 1981 graduate of Cunningham High School and a 1984 graduate of Curso Hispanicos in Madrid, Spain. She will graduate in May from Baker University with a major in Bilingual Education.

Jorgenson is a graduate of Horlick High and the University of Wisconsin at Parkside, both in Racine, Wisc. He is employed at Deer Valley Ranch.

The couple will be at home at Deer Valley in Nathrop, Colo, after their May 31 wedding.

The Pratt Kilwinning Mason Lodge has recently awarded Shawn Neises, a junior, a \$75 scholarship. His essay entitled “Today’s Greatest Challenge to the Public Schools,” was first place winner in the local lodge contest and has been sent to the state level to be considered for the \$1000 scholarship. Shawn is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Neises of St. Leo.

The Cunningham 4-H Club held their regular meeting February 2 at the Bernie Albers residence in St. Leo.

The short business meeting was conducted by Vice President Michelle Albers. Joe Pelzl made announcements concerning County Days and gave some helpful hints. He also gave a report on the Council Meeting.

On the Program Diana Albers gave a project talk for health and dental hygiene. Linda Sterneker gave a demonstration on cooking.

Refreshments were served by the Albers’ following the adjournment of the meeting.

Matt Oller, Reporter.



Museum Winter Hours

Saturday:

Morning 10:00 - 12:00

Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00

For guided tours call

Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

Joe Sterneker 620-243-2534

Alan Albers 620-243-2553

CJHS: League Champs!

Molly Morgan photo



League Champs! It doesn't get any better than that in junior high. The Cunningham Wildcats wrapped up their season in the Heart of the Plains tournament championship game. They faced the Bullpups from Attica for the 3rd year in a row. The Wildcats entered the tourney as the number two seed while Attica

had the one seed. The Bullpups had handed the Wildcats their only loss of the season in their regular season meeting, and to top it all off the Bullpups were on their home court. With all the history between the two programs the last few years, the game promised to be a good one. It did not disappoint. Attica

started off with a lead in the first quarter doubling up the Cats, but the Cats clawed back and doubled up the Bullpups for a tie at half. The third quarter was the difference. The Wildcats put up 10 points in the quarter and took a small lead. Both teams fought for possessions in the fourth quarter as turnovers and

jump balls stopped the clock many times. There was only one basket in the quarter between the two teams. Attica fouled late to close the gap, but the Cats saved their best free throw night of the season for the last game going seven for eight! The teams traded the lead several times early in the game, neither team

leading by more than 5 points. The Cats were as balanced as usual with the boys all chipping in. All the hard work, ball handling drills, shooting, and practices were on full display. Their team work and selfless attitudes are what champions are made of.

Brody and Cooper led the team in rebounds

with 5 each. All were hard fought. They both had blocks to add to their prowess in the paint. They also tied for steals with two each.

-Coach McGuire



Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	4	8	10	5	27
Attica	8	4	6	4	22

Wildcat Scorers

Casyn Miller	9
Cooper Neufeld	8
Landon Green	4
Jace Oldham	2
Grady Smyth	2
Brody Halderson	2



JH Lady
Wildcats Finish
Runner-up
in HOPL
Tournament.

The regular season league champion Cunningham JH Lady Wildcat basketball team competed in the 2026 HOPL JH basketball tournament at Attica and finished runner-up.

The top seed Lady Cats opened the tournament on Saturday, February 7 against the eight seed Pretty Prairie Bullpups. The Wildcats got off to a bit of a slow start but still led 8-5 after one quarter. The Wildcat defense flexed their muscles in the second quarter and held Pretty Prairie to zero while putting up seven points themselves to lead 15-5 at halftime. The Wildcats would go on to outscore the Bullpups 17-12 in the second half to secure the 32-17 win.

Scoring in the quarter finals: Lux Thimesch 6, Carly McGuire 5, Mackley Glenn 3, Alyssa Osner 12, Leah Rogers 5, Vaughn Preisser 1.

With the win the Lady Cats advanced

to take on the four seed South Barber Tornadoes. The Cunningham girls wasted little time establishing control of the game as they raced out to an 11-0 first quarter lead. They would stretch their lead out to 26-6 after three quarters before settling on a 30-16 win.

Scoring in the semi-finals: Lux Thimesch 2, Carly McGuire 7, Mackley Glenn 4, Alyssa Osner 4, Leah Rogers 9, Vaughn Preisser 4.

The win advanced the Lady Cats to the championship game for the first time since 2017, where they would take on the Stafford Trojans, the three seed in the tournament. In the championship game, the Lady Cats came out a little nervous and had trouble with taking care of the ball, but were able to keep the game close and found themselves tied after the first quarter at 6-6. Stafford would outscore the Lady Cats 8-4 in the second quarter to take a 14-10 half-time lead. The Trojans would stretch their lead to 8 in the third quarter after outscor-

ing Cunningham 7-3. The Wildcats didn't lay down however and cut the Stafford lead to three 23-20 with just under three minutes left, but Stafford would finish the game on a 7-1 run to hand the Lady Cats their first loss of the season 21-30.

The Lady Cats finished the season 15-1, regular season champs and tournament runners-up.

Scoring for the Finals: Lux Thimesch 2, Carly McGuire 8, Mackley Glenn 2, Alyssa Osner 2, Leah Rogers 7.

Coach Ricke



Alyssa Osner



Lux Thimesch



Carly McGuire



Leah Rogers



Mackley Glenn

Molly Morgan photos

Wildcat Scholars Competed at State Meet



We are proud of these Wildcat Scholars. They competed well at the state tournament. We missed making finals in a tiebreaker, but they represented CHS admirably.
Shown: Coach Sebastian Huelskamp, Jack Harden, Cole Gridley, Sean Kostner, Myles Thimesch, Caleb Lohrke

Weston Rogers Wins Youth Tour Trip



Congratulations to Weston Rogers on his upcoming trip to Steamboat Springs, CO!
This is made possible through Southern Pioneer's Youth Tour. Congrats again Weston, and enjoy your trip this summer to Sunny Colorado!

Lady Wildcat Action vs. Skyline



Wildcat Action vs. Skyline



Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, February 8		Miscellaneous	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Traffic Stops	5	Agency Assist/KMPD/Fraud	200 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Civil Paper Service	4	Miscellaneous	5000 Blk NE 35 St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	700 W D Ave, Kingman	Suspicious Person	11000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Monday, February 9		Return of Property	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Stops	1	Check Welfare	200 Blk E C Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	14000 Blk SE 130 Ave, Norwich	Agency Assist/KHP	5000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Warrant Service / Arrest	130 N Spruce St, Kingman	Thursday, February 12	
Theft	1400 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman	Civil Paper Service	1
Court / Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman	Non-Injury Accident	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Traffic Complaint	10000 E Hwy 54, Murdock	Miscellaneous	200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
Tuesday, Febreuary 10		Fire / Vehicle	N Elm St & W D Ave, Kingman
Traffic Stops	4	Court / Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Check Welfare	600 S Grove St, Kingman	Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Harassment	15000 Blk NE Trailridge Rd, Cheney	Trespassing	5000 Blk SE 80 St, Kingman
Accidental 911 Dial	15000 Blk NE Lake View Dr, Cheney	Traffic Complaint	NE 50 St & N Hwy 14, Pretty Prairie
Traffic Complaint	NW 120 Ave & Hwy 54, Kingman	Traffic Complaint	16000 E Hwy 2, Norwich
Court / Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman	Agency Assist / KMPD / Return of Property	100 Blk E A Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	5000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman	Friday, February 13	
Walk Through Game	200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich	Traffic stops	5
Unlock Vehicle	200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich	Civil Paper Service	2
Wednesday, February 11		Miscellaneous	9700 Blk NE 30 St, Murdock
Traffic Stops	10	Animal Complaint	NW 20 St & NW 10 Ave, Kingman
Civil Paper Service	1	Saturday, February 14	
Follow Up	14000 SE 170 St, Norwich	Traffic Stops	9
Miscellaneous	120N Spruce St, Kingman	Disturbance	200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
Traffic Complaint	11000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney	Disabled Vehicle	S Hwy 14 & SE 50 St, Kingman
		Welfare Check	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
		Miscellaneous	13000 Blk SE 75 St, Norwich



Leading Through Change

Nathan Mentzer, Allen County farmer

Change of seasons, change of crops, the progress of technology or even physical changes as we watch our families grow and age. Change is inevitable. But when faced with it, we have two choices. We can ignore it and seek comfort on our farm and hope it goes away or adapt and grow with it, becoming stronger and more resilient with each new step we take.

My wife and I farm near Iola, and I am privileged to represent the third Casten Fellows cohort. I am always amazed at the talent Kansas Farm Bureau brings to the table and my cohort represented a wide and diverse cross section of agriculture in Kansas. We also have a diverse

set of backgrounds and experiences.

The opportunity to build relationships with such amazing leaders throughout the state and gain insight into how they tackled issues is what originally attracted me to the Casten Fellows program.

A year ago, as our group was starting this journey together we were looking for ways to grow as individuals for the betterment of our communities and our organization. Through this time, we have gotten to know each other, become friends and we are now a group that is comfortable sharing deep conversations and taking on tough issues.

We learned how to discuss issues with a commitment to lean into vulnerability, to stay curious and generous. We have rumbled about the many changes in agriculture and how they have impacted us and Kansas — trade and tariffs, artificial intelligence, farming practices, personal beliefs — and dived into local issues such as access to schools, local

economies, fentanyl and the impacts of drug use. Our experience culminated with an international excursion to Israel.

Leading through change has been a big focus for our cohort this year, as we have seen change, not only within our own lives and work operations, but within the Casten Fellows program as well, including changes in staff, changes in our destination country and changes in timelines because of conflict in the Middle East.

In Israel we experienced the impacts of continuous change. The most obvious being a Tel such as in Tel Aviv. In Hebrew a “Tel” is a small hill resulting from the ruins of one civilization built on top of another built on top of another. Our tour guides would joke that if we saw a mosque, it was generally built on top of a church that was built on top of a synagogue. We saw how the conflict and cooperation between these cultures shaped Israel into what it

is today.

One of the first books we studied this year was “Dare to Lead” by Brene Brown, who gives an example of leading through change:

“During a time of difficult change and uncertainty, daring leaders might sit with their teams and say: These changes are coming in hard and fast, and I know there’s a lot of anxiety — I’m feeling it too, and it’s hard to work through ... I will share everything I can about the changes with you, as soon as I can”.

The team at Kansas Farm Bureau dared to lead us through these changes and we as a cohort grew in our own abilities because of their example and our own experiences.

We have learned to listen, to understand, to assess the situation, to pivot to new ideas when needed and to navigate the new dynamics. Many other organizations might have quit or given up at any one of the challenges that arose, but we pressed on and moved forward.

This represents to me the strength and resilience of Kansas Farm Bureau as an organization and our commitment to develop leaders equipped to lead through change on local, state, national and global level.

Personally, I am looking forward to implementing all of the lessons I have learned on the farm, being better a father, on local co-op, water and Farm Bureau boards. The one thing they all have in common is that change is inevitable.

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Statepoint Crossword

Theme: World Explorers

CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS
1. UPS competitor

5. "The One I Love" band

8. Prior to, pref.

11. Gin flavor

12. ____ wig or ____ winkle

13. Command to Fido

15. ____ Grey of tea fame

16. Policemen's surprise

17. Brunch offering

18. *Explorer Amerigo's last name

20. Rock opera version of "La Boheme"

21. Gossipmonger, in Yiddish

22. Ballet step

23. *Henry the Navigator's title

26. Chicken pox pimples

30. Poetic "even"

31. Demosthenes or Cicero

34. "The ____ on the Floss"

35. Stories "from the Crypt"

37. Rank above maj.

38. Sore spot

39. "Happily ____ after"

40. Familiar routine

42. "Wow!"

43. Retina, pl.

45. *Explorer Shackleton's first name

47. New on the block?

48. Barbara Eden's TV character

50. Rump

52. *First one to circumnavigate globe, almost

55. *Lewis' or Clark's vessel

56. Fictional giant

57. Plaintiff
59. Shrovetide dish

60. Zig or zag

61. Dunking cookie

62. "____ and the City"

63. "C'____ la vie!"

64. Backgammon predecessor
- DOWN
1. Take drugs

2. Bohemian, e.g.

3. Skin opening

4. Short for self-synchronous

5. Don't just stand there!

6. "Fear of Flying" author Jong

7. Skirt length

8. Part of a hammer

9. Wholly engrossed

10. Obtain, but just barely

12. Gardening tool

13. Junk yard stuff

14. *"Dr. Livingstone, I ____?"

19. Fictional cowboy Bill

22. One better than bogey

23. J.M. Barrie's Pan

24. Plunder

25. *Geographical feature named for Ponce de Leon

26. *Inspiration for hide-and-seek game

27. City in Belgium

28. North Pole workers

29. Winter driving hazard

32. Homesteader's purchase, sing.

33. Likewise

36. *Possibly America's first European Leif ____

38. Jeopardy

40. Horse poker
41. Tooth cover
44. One born to Japanese immigrants
46. Willie of country music fame
48. Dashboard windows
49. Type of heron
50. Gender checkbox
51. Windows alternative
52. Change address
53. Mystique
54. Not ever, poetically
55. TV network
58. "Maggie May" singer

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Kingman County Commission Minutes

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. February 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; Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief; Sharen Young; Michael Miller; Sharon Kostner; Tom Kostner; Riley Hopkins; Gary B Hess; Kerry Morris; Nick Kostner; Joe Ziegler; Mike Floyd; Bill Johnson; Leon Sowers; Greg Beat; Gayle Dye; Trish DeDamos; Oleg Alba.

Online Visitors: AS; Lucy; Dave; Dispatch; Viewer 1; Connor Peterson; Mike Swanton; Guest; DH; Sabrina Treasure

Staff: Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser; Ashley Keimig, Wastewater Director; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director; Misty Jacobs, Public Works Office Administrator

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

No additions were made.

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there was any public comment.

Dale Enyart informed the County Commissioners that he is against the current solar regulations and that there should have been a hearing held to give constituents time to speak of their concerns and there hasn’t been a hearing held.

Bill Johnson asked the County Commissioners if there has been an environmental study done on what the wind farms are doing to the environment.

Kerry Morris discussed that he is against solar and doesn’t want it.

Greg Beat let the Commissioners know that solar farms need to be 1500 feet from the property line and not from the door of property.

Jamie Smith, County Treasurer was in to ask that a motion needs to be made to remove Pat Elpers name from the bank accounts and investments.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to remove Pat Elpers name from the County banking accounts & investments and to add Commissioner Jeff Young to all banking accounts & investments. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Smith let the Commissioners know that SB404 will be discussed this week at the KCTA (Kansas County Treasurer’s Association) Meeting and the Legislative banquet will be Wednesday Night.

Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning Director and Ashley Keimig, Wastewater Director were in to discuss iWorQ permit program with Connor Peterson; Sabrina Treasure and Mike Swanton online. Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Treasure showed different aspects of the program through powerpoint.

Ms. Keimig; Mr. Peterson; Ms. Treasure and Mr. Swanton left the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

Amanda Stucky, Zoning Director and Oleg Alba were in to discuss the moratorium of Data Systems and Commercial battery energy storage systems.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to approve a moratorium of 18 months for Data Centers with Resolution 2026-R9. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to approve a moratorium of 18 months for commercial battery storage systems. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Stucky presented the Commissioners the recommendation from the Planning/Zoning board for Solar regulations.

Chairwoman Lyon let Ms. Stucky know that she has had communications with several people about the set backs of solar from the property line.

Mr. Alba discussed the set back that is proposed in the new solar regulations.

Mr. Ritcha discussed that he was handed a complaint this morning and needs time to research the complaint received.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to extend Resolution 2025-R7 Moratorium on Solar Energy for 60 days before approval of New Solar Regulations. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor; Sheriff Wood and Undersheriff Sowers were in to discuss a County Coroner for Kingman County. Sheriff Wood discussed that Doctor Joseph Gerber has showed interest in being the County Coroner and Mr. Licktie would be interested as a Deputy Coroner.

County Clerk submitted the February 2, 2026, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the February 2, 2026, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners discussed that they will be holding a special meeting on February 16, 2026, with OSE

to do a walkthrough through the County Courthouse and to discuss what things we would like done with a remodel so that plans can be developed.

Mr. Ritcha submitted a letter for completion of Flat Ridge 4 and Flat Ridge 5 obligations.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the letter of Completion for Flat Ridge 4 & Flat Ridge 5. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to add Tonja Stamm to the INA Alert door access. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Misty Jacobs, Public Works Office Assistant were in to discuss the CDL classes and the two companies they have received quotes from being DLTS and CSC (Corporate Safety Compliance Inc.)

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding tiered process with DLTS along with the contract for employee reimbursement attached. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the contract. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Dave Beach with Schwab Eaton was in for the bid opening for the Surface Overlay for NE 10th St- Old Hwy 54 Phase II in Kingman County.

Bids Received:

	Base Bid
Kansas Paving	\$711,209.00
Pearson Construction	\$648,307.00
APAC	\$602,520.77
	Alternate 1
Kansas Paving	\$634,487.00
Pearson Constructin	\$569,645.00
APAC	\$518,155.51

Engineer Estimate for Base Bid \$983,634.00

Engineer Estimate for Alternate 1 \$841,872.00

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Base Bid and Alernate 1 from APAC for \$1,120,676.28. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners discussed Hometown Grants.

Commissioners signed one following abatement.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:48 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

USDA to Open Continuous and General Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment for 2026

Washington, D.C., The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the enrollment periods for agricultural producers and landowners to submit offers for the Continuous and General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for Continuous CRP starting Feb. 12, 2026, through March 20, 2026. Enrollment for General CRP will run from March 9, 2026, through April 17, 2026. FSA will announce dates for Grassland CRP signup in the near future.

CRP is USDA’s flagship conservation program, providing financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who place unproductive or marginal cropland under contract for 10-15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and support wildlife habitat. The Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026, extends FSA’s authority to

administer CRP through Sept. 30, 2026.

“We’re still very close to the 27-million-acre statutory cap with 1.9 million acres available for all CRP enrollments this fiscal year so enrollment is likely to be competitive,” USDA’s Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Richard Fordyce said. “This isn’t about the total number of acres enrolled, it’s about producers and landowners offering and USDA accepting the acres that can best deliver real, lasting benefits to soil, water and wildlife.”

Continuous CRP (Signup 65)

FSA will batch Continuous CRP offers submitted by interested agricultural producers and landowners. Offers to re-enroll expiring CRP continuous acreage will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. New acreage offered in continuous CRP practices will be considered for acceptance on a first-come, first-serve basis if they support USDA conservation priorities including but not limited to practices that address water quality, such as filter strips and grass waterways, and practices that restore native ecosystems or target specific resource concerns.

The first Continuous CRP batching period ends on March 20, 2026. Offers submitted after this date will be considered for acceptance in subsequent batching periods if acreage remains

available.

Continuous CRP participants voluntarily offer environmentally sensitive lands, typically smaller parcels than offered through General CRP including wetlands, riparian buffers, and varying wildlife habitats. In return, they receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

Continuous CRP enrollment options include:

- Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative: Prioritizes water quality practices on the land that, if enrolled, will help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. The vegetative covers also contribute to increased wildlife populations.
- CLEAR30 (a component of the CLEAR Initiative): Offers additional incentives for water quality practice adoption and can be accessed in 30-year contracts.
- Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI): Producers and landowners can enroll in CRP to establish long-term cover on highly erodible cropland that has a weighted erodibility index greater than or equal to 20.
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): Addresses high priority conservation objectives of states and Tribal governments on agricultural lands in specific geographic areas.
- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative (SAFE): Restores vital habitat in order to meet high-priority state wildlife conservation goals.

General CRP (Signup 66)

General CRP offers are submitted through a competitive bid process. After the enrollment period closes, General CRP offers are ranked and scored by FSA, using nationally established environmental benefits criteria. USDA will announce accepted offers once ranking and scoring for all offers is completed. In addition to annual rental payments, approved General CRP

participants may also be eligible for cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

More Information

Producers and landowners interested in participating in CRP should contact their local FSA county office.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. Originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production, the program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

CARCASS

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 | 1 p.m.

Near Isabel, Kansas, at Poland Angus Ranch



CED: +10

BW: +.6

WW: +63

YW: +123

MILK: +27


SC: +.16

MARB: +.74

RE: +.77

SB: +145

SC: +255



CED: +10

BW: -.4

WW: +65

YW: +124

MILK: +28

SC: +.80

MARB: +1.23

RE: +.94

SB: +201

SC: +331

Selling

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Amelia

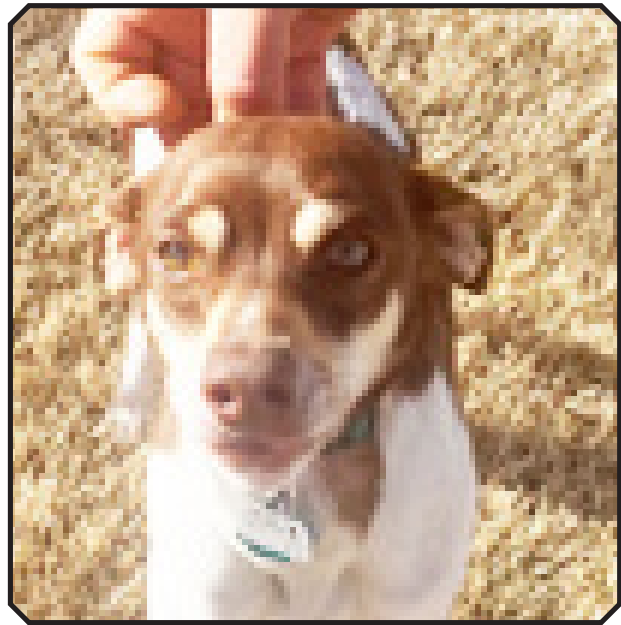
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Miss Amelia is a five-year-old kitty who would love to live with someone who will keep her indoors all the time. She is good with dogs and other cats. She's okay with kids. She does have some dietary stipulations, though. Her adoption fee is \$40.00 and she'd be worth every penny.

Andy

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

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



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March 2nd

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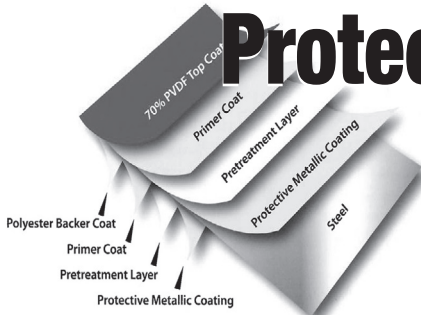
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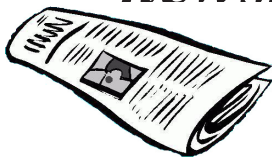
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Sean Crowley

Sean P. Crowley, 64, died Feb. 14, 2026, in Pratt.

He was born on Aug. 28, 1961, at Fairfax, Missouri, the youngest of nine children born to Norman and Elizabeth Wells Crowley. A long-time resident of the Cunningham community, he was a retired truck driver.

Sean was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cunningham.

On Sept. 21, 2008, he married Donna Robinson. Other survivors include son Luke (Emily); daughters Deidra (Jeremy) Seve, Tiffany (Jerimiah) Schnittker, Sherry (Nate) Henning, Christine (Steve) Carmichael; brother Steven Crowley; sisters Karen Coates and Anastasia Crowley; 17 grandchildren; and 1 great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Michael, Timothy and Kevin; and sisters Judith Smith and Brigid Hickey.

Parish rosary will be 10:30 a.m., Feb. 21, 2026, followed by Mass of Christian Burial, both at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cunningham. Family burial will take place at a later date.

Memorials may be made with the Sean Crowley Memorial Fund and may be sent to Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.



Sharon Watkins

Sharon K. Watkins, 74, died at the Wheatlands Health Care Center, Kingman, Kansas, on the 14th day of February 2026. She was born on April 28, 1951, to Edwin L. and Wilma L. Tryon of Wellington, Kansas. She graduated from Wellington High School, and Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. She married Curtis E. Watkins on August 12, 1972. Upon graduation from college, she taught 3rd grade at the Dover, Kansas, Elementary School while her husband attended law school in Topeka. After moving to Kingman, she helped establish, and taught preschool at the United Methodist Church, where she was also very active in church activities. She was then hired as a tutor teacher, and later as a Title 1 teacher, at Kingman Elementary School. She subsequently retired after teaching for 20 years. She touched the lives of many people, and students, with her infectious smile and gentle, kind, and caring spirit. She treated each student as if they were her own.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and is survived by her husband, two sons, Jeffrey and Andrew, and their families. Jeff and Beth, of Assaria, Kansas, have three sons: Evan, Joshua and Samuel; Andy and Jayme, of Derby, Kansas, have four children: Aubrianne, Blayke, Easton and Harrison. To say she loved her 7 grand kids would be a gross understatement. They could do no wrong.

Growing up, she was raised as a farmer's daughter and loved to tag along with Ed as he checked his crops and livestock. Sharon was an avid reader as she always had a book checked out and in hand. Her close friends meant a great deal to her and she treated them like the sisters and siblings she never had. Her love for her family was unwavering; there was never a time that she didn't have a game board out, and brownies cooked and ready for their visits. One couldn't ask for a more loving mother, wife and grandmother. She will be missed dearly.

Donations are requested for the Wheatlands Health Care Center, Kingman, Kansas, which provided so much loving care in the final chapter of her life. Services were held at the Methodist Church in Kingman, Kansas, on the 18th day of February 2026.



Winton VanMeter

Winton Lyle (Van) VanMeter was born in Hutchinson, KS, on August 11, 1942. He was born shortly before his twin sister, Joyce Faye, to Arthur Jean and Lucille Peterson VanMeter. He was raised on a farm near Abbyville, KS, with his eight siblings. They were all animal lovers and raised a skunk "Flower" from a kit to a house pet and a chicken hawk, "Henry". He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping with his best friend Richard Kimble. Winton's family referred to him as "Lyle" as a child and he carried that name through school at Union 5 grade school and Nickerson High School. He graduated from high school in 1960 and immediately joined the army where he was nicknamed "Van". He proudly served his country in Okinawa and Viet Nam as a mechanic.

When he returned from the war he graduated from Hutch JUCO and then worked at the paper mill many years before being employed by the Hutchinson Correctional Facility as the Laundry Supervisor. He was a third-generation employee as both his grandfather and father had worked there years before. He moved with his children to Sterling, KS, where he continued to work in Hutchinson and began driving the school bus for the Sterling school district for 28 years. In May 1982 he married Sue Graves Malone which brought two bonus sons to his family. In 2004 they moved to Hutchinson where Van drove the city bus for ARCAT and joined the Patriot Guard. After his wife retired they moved to Pratt, KS. He enjoyed his grandkids activities, writing many short stories having two published books, handing out Bible tracks, and attending Cunningham Christian Church.

Winton was preceded in death by his parents, siblings Donna Jean, Lloyd, Carol, Wayne, Joyce, and a set of stillborn twins. He is survived by his wife Sue, son Richard (Yvonne) VanMeter of Topeka, KS, daughter Christy (Dale) Donnelly, Hominy OK, daughter Stacey Horton, Pooler, GA, stepsons, Travis (Becky) Malone Virginia Beach, VA, Jeff (Arica) Malone, Pratt, KS, grandchildren, Taylor VanMeter, Brody VanMeter, Zach (Dusty) Hurd, Payton Hurd, Jacqueline (Nick) Bryant, Jake (Madison) Donnelly, Brady, Mirabelle and Cooper Malone, Noah and Dawson Malone and 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Friday, Feb. 20, 2026, at the Cunningham Christian Church. Burial will be in the Maud Cemetery.

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



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Alice Smith

Alice Louise Smith, 92, passed away Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at Hilltop Manor in Cunningham. She was born on April 13, 1933, in Byers to Jess Furry and Opal (Whybrew) Stratford.

Alice graduated from Byers High School and went on to attend Business College in Kansas City. She worked as the baker with Pratt Dillon's and later moved to California where she worked for IBEW as an accountant. She enjoyed genealogy and learning about her ancestors.

She is survived by her daughter, Gloria Mueller of Pratt; son, David (Terri) Smith of Tennessee; and 5 grandchildren.

Alice is preceded in death by her parents and son, Rick Smith.

Cremation has taken place. A private inurnment will be held at Pleasant Plains Cemetery in Byers.

Online condolences may be made at www.larrison-mortuary.com.

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Statewide Women in Ag Conference Scheduled for March 21 in Corning

Corning, Kan. — The Statewide Women in Ag Conference will be held Saturday, March 21, in Corning, Kansas. The free, adult-only event is hosted by the Nemaha, Jackson, and Pottawatomie County Conservation Districts and is open to both women and men involved in or connected to agriculture.

Doors will open at 8:00 a.m., with the conference beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. The agenda includes a full day of educational sessions focused on ag-

riculture, farm sustainability, marketing, stress management, and economic decision-making. Participants will hear from a variety of speakers and panelists representing different perspectives and experiences within the agricultural community.

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

A light breakfast will be available in the

morning, and lunch will be provided by Home Cookin. There is no cost to attend; however, registration is required by March 1.

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

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

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Managing the Field: An Agronomy Mini Series

Join Kingman County K-State Extension for *Managing the Field: An Agronomy Mini Series*, a two-part educational program for producers and agricultural professionals. The series will be held at the Livingstons

Community Building, 1830 N. Main, Kingman. Refreshments will be served at each meeting.

The first session, Fall Armyworm 101, will be held on Wednesday, March 4, from 6-8 p.m. Dr. Anthony Zukoff, Instructor of Entomology, will cover identification, scouting, thresholds, and damage related to fall armyworm infestations.

The second session,

Extension
Kingman County

Soil Health, is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, from 6-8 p.m. Dr. Logan Simon, Southwest Area Agronomist, will discuss soil health practices versus outcomes, measuring results, and nutrient cycling to achieve the greatest impact.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Grace at gschnei@ksu.edu or 620-532-5131.

"Despite many differences in agronomic practices and in cultivated crops, all traditional agricultures shared the same energetic foundation. They were powered by the photosynthetic conversion of solar radiation, producing food for people, feed for animals, recycled wastes for the replenishment of soil fertility, and fuels for smelting the metals needed to make simple farm tools. Consequently, traditional farming was, in principle, fully renewable." — Vaclav Smil, *Energy and Civilization: A History*