

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, its 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.

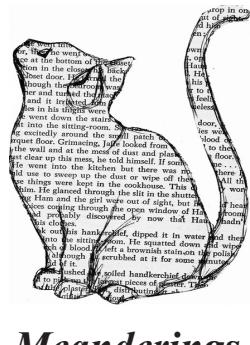


KHC HAS EXPERT WOUND CARE, CLOSE TO HOME

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.





Meanderings

Harlequin Jester Kobbe, a.k.a. Quin, has decided that as his new title of 'HOA President: Beast Division' has been bestowed on him, he needed an enforcer of

HIS rules and regulations. And being the person I am, I have given him that wished for trained enforcer.

Saturday night, about 10 or so, I am working in my crafting room. The house is quiet except for the card making video I have going on my tablet in front of me. (Sandy from Australia... she has such a calm and quiet way about her, I just love listening to her with her Australian accent).

I hear Quin bark loud-

ly. "Tone it down, Bud!" another bark. "That's enough!". Barking stops. Then the growling starts. Then the whining. I ignore it.

A couple of minutes later, he is standing behind me. "What do you want?" Dancing and tail wagging ensues.

"Alright, give me a second."

Dancing gets more frantic.

"OK, let's potty."

He jumps in the air. I kid you not! At the door,

he stops and looks back to see if I'm following him.

I thought I'd cut through the laundry room to get to the back door to let him out. But I notice he's stopped in the front room here and was looking back at me. Siigh.

I follow. He does not go to the back door to go out. He jumps in his neighborhood observation chair and stares out the window. I go and take a peek. I don't see anything.

I start to walk away, he growls. I look again. I don't see anything.

I head back to my craft room. He jumps off his chair, follows me, but stops by the front door.

I open the door. He's there, ears perked up. I turn on the porch light. A black cat that was sitting in the middle of the street, took off and ran behind Crick's house. Quin gave a bit of 'humpf'. I closed the door. He returned to his neighborhood observation chair, but not

without a sigh.

I returned to my card-making knowing that I've become entirely too complicit in his monitoring of the neighborhood, and if his barking doesn't scare away the stranger-beasts, he will get his lady-enforcer to do it. Sigh.

Always reading, and currently reading, "The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie"

by Alan Bradley,

Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

Every now and then I feel a little bit badly that people I know end up in my column without any warning (or permission.) But today I write without reservation about my friend, Jane Dundas, because she had a pheasant cross in front of her on Main Street in Dighton, Kansas on the morning of February 12th.

Jane posted about the

event on social media and apologized that she didn't get a photo but said "this really did happen." I believe Jane for two reasons.

First, in the six years I've known Jane she's been a straight shooter with a warm heart as spacious as western Kansas. And though we never specifically discussed her ability to distinguish the species of critters that might cross her path, her intelligence to do so has been plainly evident in our conversations.

And the second reason I believe Jane is that she's

the second Kansan in two weeks I heard say they saw a pheasant. The first person was R9 Property Manager Chris Smith who told the Hays City Commission he'd seen pheasants in the R9 Ranch Walk-In Hunting area in December. To some, his report might make Jane's seem implausible. But if you live (or grew up in western Kansas) a pheasant sauntering across a town's main street is not unbelievable. Because they used to be EVERYWHERE.

Western Kansas has never been the land of

"milk and honey," but during my childhood it was the land of pheasant a'plenty. So when I moved back to Kansas three years ago, I expected to both appreciate the beauty of these birds in my travels and enjoy them as meals. I've never been much of a sportswoman, but my circle of family and friends includes many who are. My requests to them for pheasant generally only has yielded sighs and half-hearted mumbles of, "I'll try." In three years and thousands of miles crisscross-

ing our state, I saw (or think I did) pheasants once. Yet I have refused to accept that they are gone and continued to badger hunters to get me some. I can't say I pester my neighbor and friend Matt Peek the most. But he's the only hunter that brings me pheasants... from South Dakota. My Uncle Rolland and Cousin Jeff do apparently harvest Kansas pheasants but they, and rightly so, always give them to my mother.

My pal Matt's also a wildlife biologist and I when I asked him once

about why Kansas pheasants are so scarce, he told me he's seen a lot of wildlife changes over the years. And that the only thing that never changes is that things are always changing. And then he went on to tell me all the wonderful ways wildlife ADAPT. That means it's possible a pheasant has decided to make its home in Dighton.

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

A Column by Dean Marple

Tired

He was tired.

Tired of the heavy snowfall that began sometime last night and continued to whisper at the windows this morning. Tired of the seven inches that blanketed the farm three days earlier. Tired of a thermometer that hadn't peeked its red head above ten in the last week. By the end of February, he was just plain tired of winter.

Even getting dressed was a hassle. The whole procedure started with his usual shorts and T-shirt,

but his lightweight cotton socks gave way to heavy woolen socks that itched his feet. Next came the bottom half of his insulated underwear followed by the top half, then his stiff blue jeans and a long-sleeved shirt that buttoned up to his chin. These six pieces of clothing got him to the back porch where he put on a quilted jacket which was then covered by dark brown coveralls. Laced up work boots, a hat with earflaps, and bulky gloves finished the job. The entire get-up reminded him of when he was a little boy, and his grandma stuffed him in his snowsuit. He had to tilt his chin way back to keep her from nicking his throat when she yanked

up the zipper.

Finally dressed, he opened the door and clumsily tromped down the porch steps, his ears immediately told him something was wrong. The loud lowing from unhappy cattle told him the pond was frozen over... again. Thirsty steers were noisy steers.

Complaining to himself, he stepped into his shop, grabbed an axe, and headed to the pond where his task seemed never ending. Drinking holes smashed open in the morning froze over during the night. Grumbling, he stood at the edge of the pond and swung the axe over his head, the blade biting into the ice. On the fourth swing the ice retreated, and his front

foot slid into the newly opened pond. Water gurgled past his ankle and over the top of his work boot, as he cursed and yanked his foot back. The cattle could drink now, but he needed to get his foot dry.

He was still grumbling as he lumbered back toward the house, making a sloshing sound with every other step. Off to his right he saw flashing red lights atop a faded yellow school bus as a stop sign sprung from the bus's side. The tires squeaked on the snow as the bus came to a stop at his driveway's end and momentarily paused before the doors swung open. The excited jumble of voices that erupted once the door did open

told him the kids thought a snow induced early dismissal was the greatest occurrence in the history of mankind.

He had to smile when two small forms jumped off the lowest bus step, looked back at the bus and waved, then charged up the driveway. The two scarves his wife had so carefully wound around their necks this morning were nowhere to be seen, but neither boy seemed to notice the cold. Zeke, the eight-year-old, led the charge, but six-year-old Cooper was catching up.

Any sane adult would have headed for the warmth of Mom's kitchen and a cup of hot chocolate, but instead, these two made a beeline for the biggest snow pile in

the barnyard.

Scrambling to the top, they wrestled and yelled as they rolled down the pile scattering backpacks, stocking hats, and excited squeals in all directions.

Steam drifting up from their bare heads as they ignored red ears and runny noses while they dug snow tunnels and lobbed snowballs at every barn yard cat that tried to slink past.

Their dad stood there with a small smile on his face and watched as he seemed to forget about his cold hands and soaked foot. Maybe he really wasn't that tired.

Jody Dyer

Stand By Me – Remembering Boyhood

"A film is never really good unless the camera is an eye in the head of a poet."

Orson Welles

The life's work of some is more visible than others. You might build a solid business, grow a strong family, or cultivate a beautiful garden, and no one ever notices. But make a good movie and all the world knows your name. So it was with Rob Reiner.

Recently we absorbed

the tragic news of Rob Reiner's passing, along with his wife Michele. I find myself grieving. Circumstances surrounding their deaths are beyond horrific, and I am so, so very sorry. Though Reiner's political leanings were far from mine, I've always admired his work. Creative genius, even in its roughest forms, I believe reflects the glory of our Creator. Rob Reiner was a creative genius, and arguably one of the greatest movie makers of our time.

The son of famed comedy legend Carl Reiner, Rob Reiner came to prominence on the classic TV sitcom All in the Family. Reiner played Mike "Meathead" Stivic, the perfect foil to his Nixon-loving father-in-law Archie Bunker. For five seasons, All in the

Family was the number one TV show in America. Reiner came into his own, however, as a director, making movies. Known as an actor's director, his string of hits in the 1980s and early 1990s cemented his standing in Hollywood. These included This is Spinal Tap (1984), The Sure Thing (1985), The Princess Bride (1987), When Harry Met Sally... (1989), Misery (1990), and A Few Good Men (1992).

But, in my humble, if twisted opinion, Reiner's greatest work was his epic boyhood story, Stand by Me (1986). The movie is poetry on film. And yes, before the movie world was digitized, in 1986 Stand by Me was shot on 35mm film (Kodak's Eastman 100T Color Negative Film 5247) using Panavision cameras.

The movie is based on Stephen King's 1982 novella The Body. Set in the fictional town of Castle Rock, Oregon, the movie has an amazing soundtrack, featuring songs from the 1950s and early 1960s from groups like The Coasters, The Bobettes, The Del-Vikings and more. Included is the iconic song that gives the film its title, Stand by Me,

by Ben E. King.

Reiner's unforgettable movie stars Wil Wheaton (as Gordie Lachance), the late River Phoenix (as Gordie's best friend Chris Chambers), with Corey Feldman and Jerry O'Connell (as friends Teddy Duchamp and Vern Tessio). The story centers around a journey to find the dead body of a missing boy, undertaken by the four friends over Labor Day weekend in 1959, as remembered through the eyes and words of Gordie.

An underlying theme in the movie is death. One of the most difficult things we are forced to do in life is process grief. As a boy, Gordie faces the trauma of losing his older brother Denny (played by John Cusack) in a Jeep accident. As an adult, the story begins with Gordie reading a newspaper article about the death of his childhood friend, Chris Chambers.

Much of the movie is an extended flashback, with Gordie remembering and writing and grieving. It is interesting to note that Richard Dreyfuss, who portrays adult Gordie as a writer, was in real life a childhood friend of Rob Reiner.

This movie takes me back to my boyhood. I

was Gordie, the same skinny, sensitive kid in a ballcap, destined to become a writer. My best friend at age twelve was Mike O'Rafferty, the spitting image of Chris Chambers. Mike and his brother Billy were my best boyhood companions. My first year in junior high, I met the best friend I've ever had in life, Danny Reed. I miss those guys.

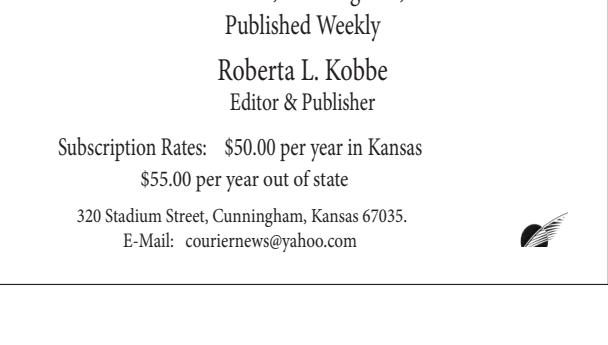
In my youth, we were just like Gordie, Chris, Teddy, and Vern. We swore like sailors. It was a bad thing. Stand by Me is rated R, primarily because of the swearing. But that's how we really were as boys (sorry Mom). In the movie the boys play cards in their tree house. For me and my slew-foot friends, most of our card playing was done on the dusty floor of cabin #13 at 4-H camp every summer. We played poker, five card draw, for pennies and peanuts. Like Gordie, I was a reader, spending my money on magazines (True West, Sports Afield, Guns & Ammo, and Fur, Fish & Game). In our dirt road neighborhood, we even had a junk yard dog, just like in the movie. Our menace was a giant, coal black German Shepherd named "Ace."

His back was as high as the seat on my bike. Ace would chase us boys. I could outrun him for short distances on my bike, but it was always close, and breathtaking. Along with playing baseball, shooting marbles, and prowling the hills with a .22 rifle, as boys we savored adventure. In a time when even protective parents didn't worry so much about our safety, boys could be boys. Our biggest danger was being caught by Old Man Christianson who patrolled the backroads of his property in a Cadillac, with a .38 revolver on the front seat beside him.

We were always on the lookout and afraid of being shot when sneaking over to Foxy's Lake, hiding our bikes in the nearby eucalyptus grove before we explored. The danger made it all the more fun. So much of this movie speaks to my childhood. My Dad even drove an old 1957 Chevy truck (long bed in faded orange), just like you see in the movie.

Boyhood friends leave a mark. You never have any friends later on like those you had when you were twelve. Thank you, Rob Reiner, for helping us remember...

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Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, February 19	Saturday February 28
4:30 p.m. U.S.D. 332 Site Council Meets	Boys Sub-State Basketball semifinals
Friday, February 20	Monday, March 2
HS BB vs Pretty Prairie at HOME *** Senior Night *** Booster Club Night	Girls Sub-State Basketball Semifinals
Saturday, February 21	Tuesday, March 3
National FFA Week begins	Parent Teacher Conferences *** School Improvement Day *** Lions Club Meeting
Monday, February 23	Wednesday, March 4
Boys Sub-state quarterfinals *** PCC Academic Olympics	FFA Horse Evaluation *** 6:00 p.m. Shop Guild
Tuesday, February 24	Thursday, March 5
Girls Sub-state quarterfinals	Parent Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, February 25	Friday, March 6
JR. Spring ACT *** 7:00 p.m. Book Club at library	Boys Sub-State Finals
Thursday, February 26	Saturday, March 7
6:30 p.m. Parent Meeting for Track Athletes *** 6:00 p.m. Girls' Night Out Book Club at Cozy's Pizza	Girls Sub-State Finals
HS HOPL Music at South Barber *** KAY family Game Night *** BOE Meeting	Kingman Healthcare Center Named a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital by the Chartis Center for Rural Health

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.

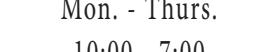
Wed. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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.

10:00 - 7:00

Friday: 10:00 - 6:00

Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00

Closed on Sundays

(620) 672-3041

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!

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.

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

WEST KINGMAN CO. EDUCATION FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

ALL AMERICAN



TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

\$100 PER PERSON

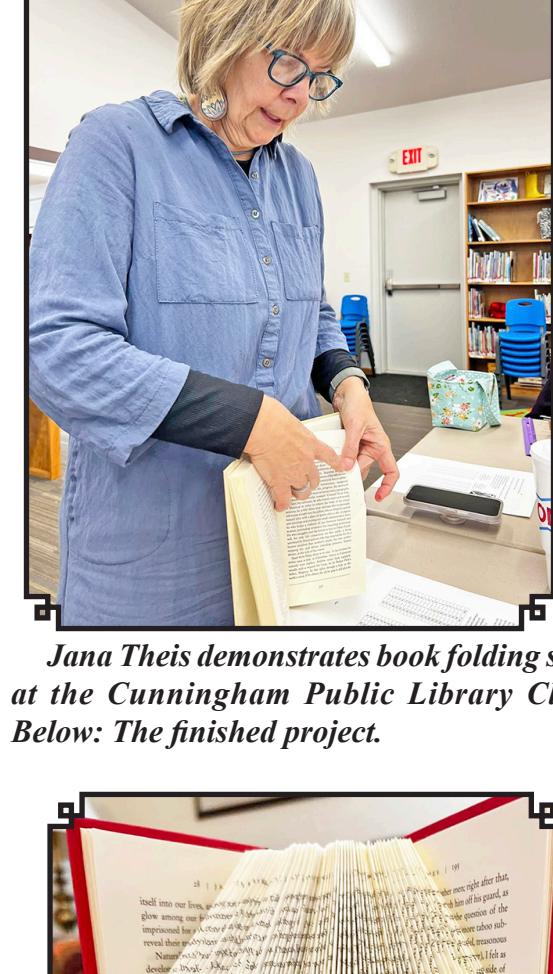
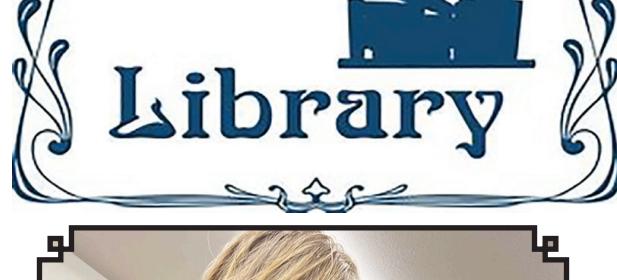
HORS D'OEUVRE MEAL, WATER & TEA INCLUDED

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

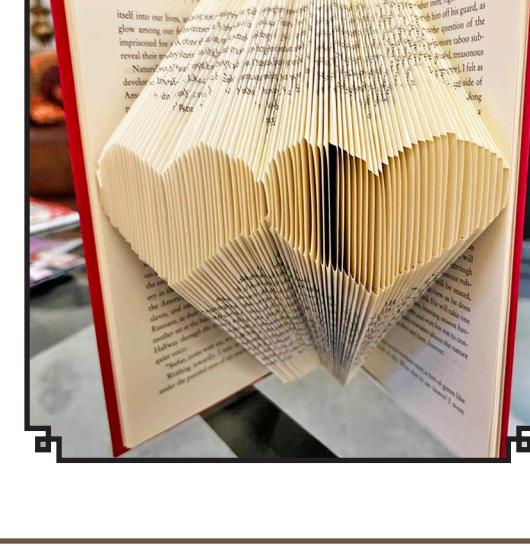
American Legion Lorraine Post 98 Isabel

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



Jana Theis demonstrates book folding steps at the Cunningham Public Library Class.

Below: The finished project.



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

2/22/2026: 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



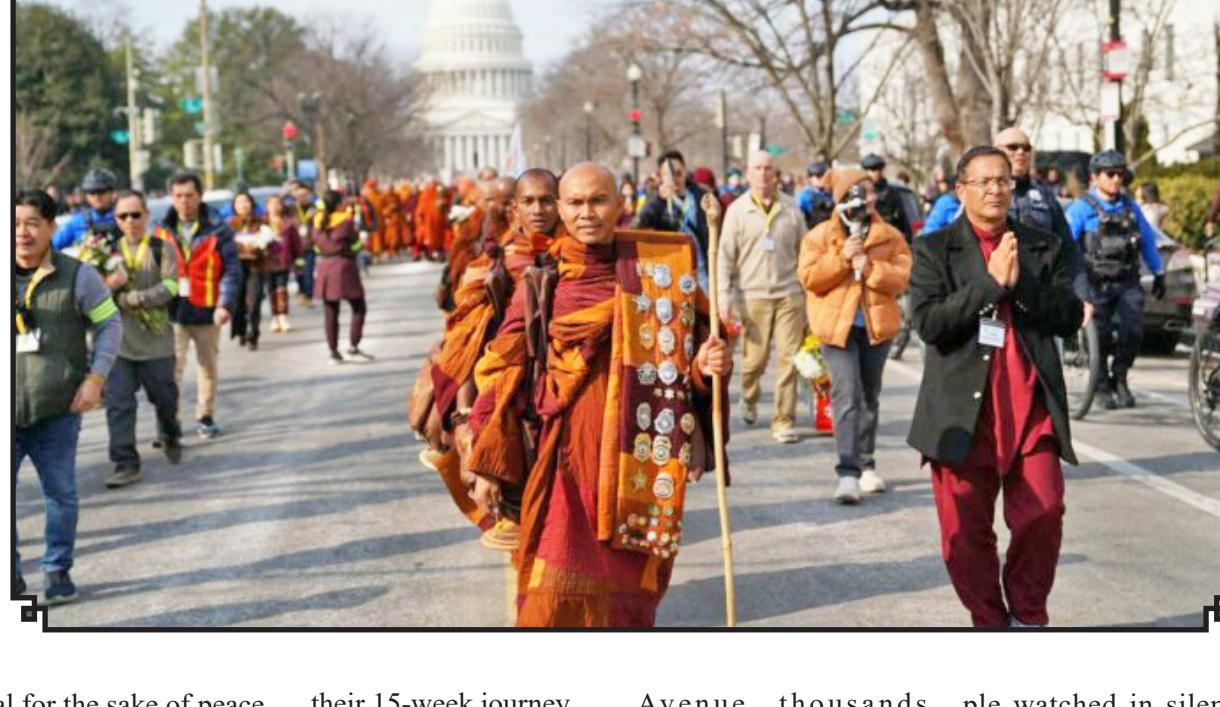
Monks Arrival After 15 Weeks of Walking Fills DC Streets With Peace and Compassion

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 breathing taught by the Buddha, one which Ven. Pannakara taught at Dharma talks along

their 15-week journey.

For a country that is often espoused to be a Christian nation, the 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 people

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

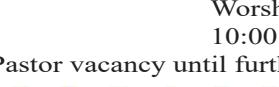
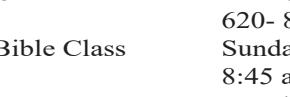
St. John, Zenda

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

St. Peter Willowdale

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

620-246-5370



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 Sherman, 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 topic 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 Sternecker, eighth grade son of Al Joe and Janet Sternecker; 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 Sternecker 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 Sternecker 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 4.

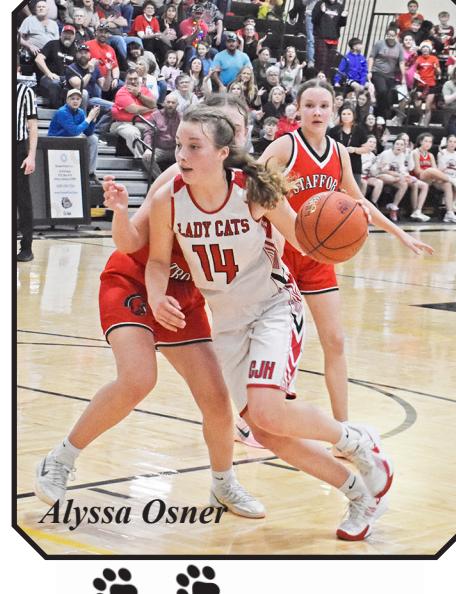
The win advanced the Lady Cats to the championship game for the first time since 2017, where they would take on the Stafford Trojans, the three seed in the tournament. In the championship game, the Lady Cats came out a little nervous and had trouble with taking care of the ball, but were able to keep 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 halftime 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



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



Katie Ogg



Kyra Morgan



Megan Oldham



Grace Hageman



Wildcat Action vs. Skyline



Logan Kinsler



Kendall Rogers



Larry Heatherman



Brody Bock



Kingman County Commission Minutes

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 Alternate 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 + BULL SALE

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

Near Isabel, Kansas, at Poland Angus Ranch



PAR Emerald 724 • #21329191

CED: +10
BW: +.6
WW: +63
YW: +123
MILK: +27
SC: +.16
MARB: +.74
RE: +.77
\$B: +145
SC: +255



CB 503 Kindred • #21353872

CED: +10
BW: -.4
WW: +65
YW: +124
MILK: +28
SC: +.80
MARB: +1.23
RE: +.94
\$B: +201
SC: +331

40 Fall Yearling Angus Bulls

Selling 40 Yearling Angus Bulls

POLAND ANGUS RANCH

Richard Poland
11230 NE Harvest Rd. | Isabel, KS 67065
620.739.4587 - home | 620.886.1720 - cell
richardpoland18@gmail.com
www.polandangus.com

CB FARMS

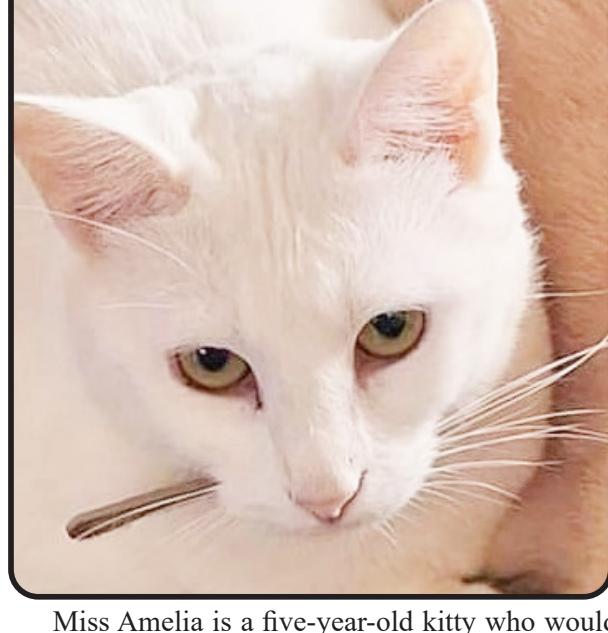
Berry Bortz
Brandon Bortz

DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions
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KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Amelia

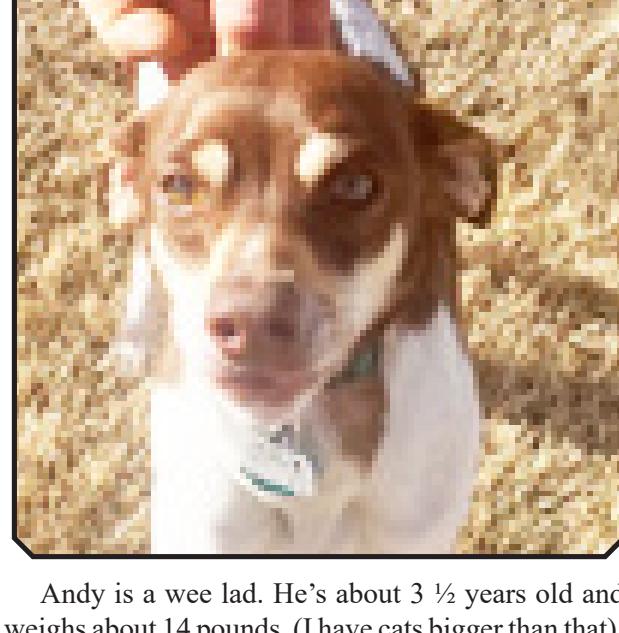
Sponsored by Kathy and Alan Albers



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

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Andy is a wee lad. He's about 3 1/2 years old and weighs about 14 pounds. (I have cats bigger than that). This little Italian Greyhound/Jack Russell Terrier mix likes other dogs, he likes kids, he gets along with kitties, he likes people, he's house-trained. And he has no adoption fee. (although I would encourage a donation to the shelter).

From the shelter: "The best things always come in small packages! Andy is active and always on the go-go. He loves being outside, playing with the kids or his doggy friends and would love to have a fenced yard. He's a great snuggler and fits in any size lap. He's crate trained and used to sleeping inside in his crate. Andy is funny and adventurous and would be a great fit for an active family."

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Andrew W. Piester, OD

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620-886-3222

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Trash Talk

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

Trash and recycling schedules are available at City Hall.

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



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

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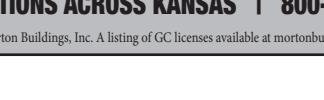
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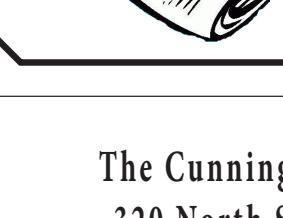
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Sean Crowley

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 (Jeremiah) 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: Aubrienne, 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

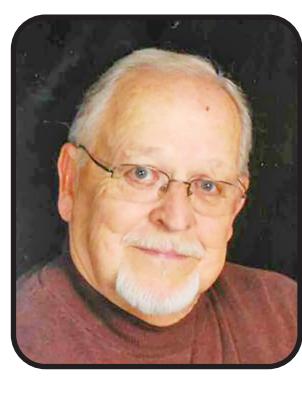
all animal lovers and raised a skunk "Flower" from a kit to a house pet and a chicken hawk, "Henry". He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping with his best friend Richard Kimble. Winton's family referred to him as "Lyle" as a child and he carried that name through school at Union 5 grade school and Nickerson 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.

Winton VanMeter

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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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"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*

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. 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.kswomensinag.com.

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, 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 gscnei@ksu.edu or 620-532-5131.