

The Cunningham Courier

October 16, 2025

Volume 35 Number 42

Photo by Teresa McClendon

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

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Minutes from the BOE RNR Meeting

The West Kingman County Board of Education special Revenue Neutral Rate meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on Monday, September 8, 2025, by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Travis Thimesch, Vicki Oldham, Jason Osner and Megan Green; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and Guests, Roberta Kobbe and Kathy Webster.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Vicki Oldham, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

President Brent Miller welcomed the guests.

Dr. Arnberger reviewed the proposed Budget mill rates compared to the Revenue Neutral rate presented by the county and last year's rates.

Member Abby Bock arrived to the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

President Miller called for a motion to approve the resolution to exceed the Revenue Neutral rate. Hearing no motion President Miller declared that USD 332 would not exceed the revenue neutral rate as the resolution died for lack of motion.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Bjorn Halderson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes from the BOE Budget Hearing

The West Kingman County Board of Education budget hearing was called to order at 6:50 p.m. on Monday September 8, 2025, by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Travis Thimesch, Vicki Oldham, Megan Green, Jason Osner, and Abby Bock; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and Guests, Roberta Kobbe and Kathy Webster.

President Miller welcomed the guest.

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

Discussion was held regarding the proposed 2025-2026 budget.

Guests Dylan Halderson, Andrew Schultz and Emily Ogg arrived to the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Megan Green, to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes from the BOE September Meeting

The West Kingman County Board of Education meeting was called to order at

7:09 p.m. Monday, September 8, 2025, by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Travis Thimesch, Vicki Oldham, Megan Green, Jason Osner, and Abby Bock; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; and Guests, Roberta Kobbe, Dylan Halderson, Andrew Schultz and Emily Ogg. Mrs. Nix and 5th Grade class via zoom.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

President Brent Miller welcomed the guests then turned the meeting over to Cody Dunlap. Cody recognized Mrs. Nix and her 5th Graders for their help with the preschool kids at lunch. They have been assisting them every day since the start of school to help lunch go smoothly for our littlest Wildcats.

Mrs. Nix and the 5th grade class ended their zoom link at 7:20 p.m.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2025 regular meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Dr. Arnberger discussed with the board the upcoming meetings and events including his testament at the tax committee meeting in Topeka. He has two companies, Kruse and CMW putting in bids for our HVAC system maintenance. Lastly he discussed our strategic plan scheduled events to address goal #1.

Principal Dunlap Showed Aims Web and IXL sample data. He also shared information about accreditation and our staff LETRS training as well as upcoming student events.

Member Bjorn Halderson reported that the Negotiated Agreement and Harper Head start program were approved at the meeting.

Dr. Arnberger asked the board if any new thoughts about next year's Football classification had been brought to the board.

Guest Roberta Kobbe stepped out of the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Discussion followed. No action taken but the consensus was still to recommend changing to 8 man football.

Guest Roberta Kobbe returned to the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Dr. Arnberger next asked the board for feedback on how they want to proceed with a future building proj-

ect. Dr. Arnberger will reach out to Landmark and BG consultants to schedule interviews.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to approve the 2025-2026 budget as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve the lease/purchase of a 2024 14 passenger bus. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Vicki Oldham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

The next meeting was discussed as it falls on a JV football game night.

Minutes from BOE Special Meeting

The West Kingman County Board of Education special meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Travis Thimesch, Vicki Oldham, Jason Osner Abby Bock and Megan Green; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and Guests, Vince Haines.

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

President Brent Miller welcomed Vince Haines from Gravity Works Architecture and turned the meeting over to him. Vince answered questions from the board and presented information about his company.

Guest Vince Haines left the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Guest Dana Williamson of Williamson Architecture arrived to the meeting at 7:00 p.m. She answered questions from the board and presented information about her company.

Guest Dana Williamson left the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Bjorn Halderson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes from BOE Special Meeting

The West Kingman County Board of Education special meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Travis Thimesch, Vicki Oldham, Jason Osner and Abby Bock; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and

Guests, Sarah Sipe and Grace Hageman.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve the agenda as presented. none. Motion carried 6-0.

President Brent Miller welcomed Sarah Sipe with Landmark Architecture and turned the meeting over to her. Sarah answered questions from the board and presented information about her company.

Guests Sarah Sipe and Grace Hageman left the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Guests Clint Hibbs, Grant Urban, and Carter Klise of BG Consultants arrived to the meeting at 6:50 p.m. They answered questions from the board and presented information about their company.

Guests Clint Hibbs, Grant Urban, and Carter Klise left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

The board discussed all Architect firms interviewed, the pros and cons of each one, and the possible needs the district would need them to fulfill.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Abby Bock, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.



The field across the street from the football stadium has been a haven for many butterflies this fall. I believe the crop is alfalfa.

Photo by Casey Renner

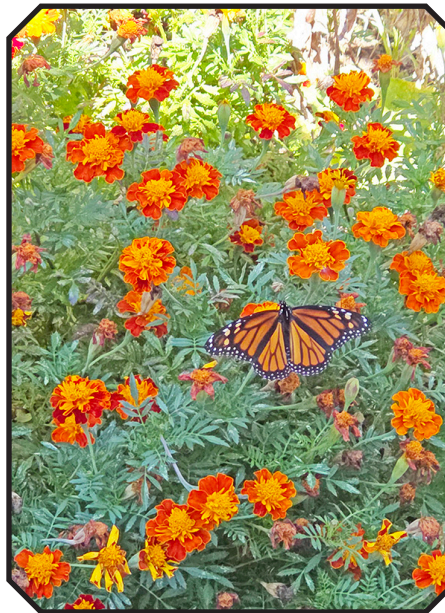


photo by Donna Crowley



Smash and Dash
Mammogram #2 Night

WHEN: October 22, 2025 (2nd Night!)

5:00pm - 8:00pm

WHERE: Kingman Healthcare Center

- 3D Mammos offer the latest technology
- Light snacks and Cocoa Dolce desserts

PLEASE SCHEDULE WITH TIFFANY AHEAD OF TIME AT 620-532-0129. THANK YOU!



warm and fed. And Quin, the mighty dog, as well. It is a good feeling.

My least favorite part of the day is getting up in the morning to raucous cries for treats, and the mighty Quin bouncing on the bed wanting to play or have his belly scratched. He can bounce very well.

If I pull the blankets up over my head, things will quiet down until I again, try to rise and maybe not shine, but dimly glow. Then the demands

begin again. Treats are dispensed, belly and ears scratched, and my day can begin.

**

Aren't the proliferation of butterflies marvelous. It is amazing the number and the different kinds. Fall is my favorite time of year, and the butterflies' visit make it all the better.

**

I will have my cards at the Ladies' Night Out event this Thursday

evening (Oct. 16th). If you're in Pratt, come to Treasures Three Fabric and purchase a card or two. There will be four or five other vendors there as well.

On November 1st, I will be showing my wares at the Holiday Market in Cheney at the Fair Grounds. This is the first time I've attended the event, and I'm hoping to sell a card or two. If you enjoy craft fairs and don't mind the drive,

come on over and see what others are crafting.

**

I often marvel at what people can create. I saw some cute little baby booties the other day on an on-line craft site. They were made from paper. I googled “paper baby shoes” and found a die to use in the die-cut machine. I just got the die today. I cut out a couple and tried to assemble them. They look okay, but I need to practice

the assembling. It really amazes me how someone came up this idea and the design for the die.

Always reading,
And currently reading,
"Fallout"
by Sara Paretsky,
Roberta

*"Would you give up
the craft of your hands,
and the passion of your
heart, and the hunger
of your mind, to buy
safety?"*

— Ursula K. Le Guin,
The Farthest Shore

Dear Readers,
As I watch my chicks meander about the place as if they own it and in their little minds (they do) I am fascinated by the fact that they are direct and living dependents of the dinosaur. With their scaly legs and hollow bones they are generally accepted as the closest living thing we have to theropods. That could be T. Rex. Thank

goodness chickens were domesticated about 8,000 years ago. Otherwise we'd be running in panic as they swoop down from the trees and attack us from above like little clucking pterodactyls. In this day and age when it comes to chickens we are the predators, harvesting them for meat and eggs. But we are also their protectors, so much so many people keep them as pets.

And chickens do make great pets. They like to sit in your lap and be petted. They cackle and coo and cock their heads and there are folks out

there who have categorized their vocalizations to the point where you can almost tell what they are thinking and feeling. And if you take the time to observe them closely you'll find they have very distinct personalities. Conversely, I have another prehistoric critter on my property that is not so endearing. As a matter of fact they are downright terrifying. And that is the snapping turtle.

Kansas is home to 14 species of turtle. Our state turtle is the Ornate Box Turtle. A cute little thing. We have sliders

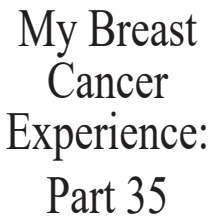
and softshell and painted turtles and many species of mud turtle. But the two that put the fear into anyone who's ever dangled their feet in the pond are the snapper and alligator snapper. Talk about prehistoric. These guys have a fossil record going back 90 million years. They can grow to between 50 and 200 pounds and live longer than most people. And all they do is eat things and make little snapping turtles. Though they are generally not aggressive towards people they will lash out when threatened.

or provoked. And their bite? And alligator snapper's bite has been measured up to 1,000 PSI. That is strong enough to crush bone. Hopefully not your bones. But should they feel like it they can. They can snap a broomstick in half like it was wheat straw.

I have several snapping turtles in my pond but no telling how many. They do not sun themselves as frequently as other breeds so they're hard to count. But my fisherman friend has had his stringers full of two pound bass decimated

by a snapper he swears was as big around as an inner tube. Growth charts would put that sucker at over 50 years old. We dubbed him Godzilla and he is indeed a monster. And I will admit I am torn between the awesomeness of having that prehistoric creature sharing my pond with me and being scared to death of him. Needless to say I wont be dangling my footsies in the water anytime soon.

Until next week-keep your eyes on the stars and your back to the wind.



By Beth Blasi 2025
Fall 2025 – In my last update, I was lamenting how dry it was and the little rain we received around Easter. Then recently, we had all been lamenting about how wet it has been. We hate to complain, and remain thankful for the rain, but wheat harvest was tough to finish and now trying to get wheat planted, corn harvested, and hay baled is the next challenge with all the muddy fields. We've had some dry days (notice I say "Days") and everyone is very busy. Hopefully the waiting time was enough for the army worms to feast on the volunteer wheat and move on. And mowing the lawn!

Usually by now, we have put the lawn mower away or might have one final round kicking up dust. However, it has been a weekly job, when you could squeeze it in between the rain and waiting for the morning dew to dry. The grasshoppers still ate things they shouldn't even with all the green stuff around. Was it my imagination that they were fatter than normal?

Surprisingly, bloodwork was not required to determine if I should continue the estrogen blocker pill. I guess it's a relatively new test called a Breast Cancer Index Panel (BCI). It uses some of the original tumor tissue to look at the activity of 11 genes to determine if continuation of the hormonal therapy is beneficial. Remember, at the start, there was an ONCO score to help determine whether chemotherapy would be beneficial. I also had a genetic test to determine that I did not have the BRCA gene. Not sure if they now do the ONCO and BCI testing at the

same time or wait? A big wonder is thinking about the fact that the original tissue has been preserved somewhere! In reading the pathology from that time, it seems they sliced and diced the tissues and preserved it? And where is this huge warehouse that preserves all these tissue samples? It is truly amazing how all this works. The Doc says they keep the tissue for 10 years. Alas, my results indicated I would benefit by continuing to take my estrogen-blocker for another 5 years.

Even though it appears the risk of cancer returning is a low percentage (about 5.6%), continuing the pill reduces that to around 2%. The Doc says that if the cancer returns, it returns with a vengeance and is very nasty. So, even though I was hoping to discontinue at least one pill, I will continue. I don't seem to have any huge, noticeable side effects from the estrogen blocker so I continue – sigh.

Earlier this year, one of my lower molars de-

cided I was getting old. This tooth had a root canal and crown but the remaining tooth underneath decided to deteriorate. At first, I thought I had a large canker sore on my gum but eventually discovered it was actually a pus pocket. So, the tooth had to come out. I hadn't had a tooth extracted since having my wisdom teeth out years ago. You can actually hear a cracking sound as the dentist is standing up and pulling the tooth out. Thankfully, it all came out in one piece. The next decision was: Just leave a blank space where the tooth was, put in a bridge (which effects two other teeth), or do an implant – the last two options having a cost to them, of course. Since there was a lonely tooth at the back of my mouth (on which is a crown – said crown then pulled off with the help of a Milk Dud), I decided to try the implant as a test run for future tooth issues. I didn't realize that implants are a long process. The tooth was extracted and a bone graft inserted, and a re-

turn visit to check on the healing and a full mouth x-ray. 3 months later, the screw was screwed into the bone (literally the dentist was standing up and using a small wrench to screw it in!). Another 10 days, then another 3 months to check on the healing. Of course, as my luck goes, the “healing cap” that is screwed into the implant cone, fell out as I was eating Raisin Bran one morning while on a short vacation (so glad I didn’t swallow it!). So, another trip to the dentist to get that put back in. All they had to do was just screw it back in and, of course, another x-ray. However, after that, another week and they scanned the area for the tooth and another week and finally, finally, the fake tooth was finally locked in place after 9 months. What a process (and the dollars)! But, I am so glad to be able to fully chew things on that side again!

Friendship meals finally restarted in September. The program (hot meals at least) was shut down for a couple

months while SCKAAA regrouped after firing Everful. But, it's up and running again and I'm delivering meals a couple days a week.

My 1975 N-Z class had a 50-year class reunion. Wow, just mentioning "50-year" class reunion could make a person feel old! It's just not possible! Anyway we had a great time. Amazing how some of us look the same and some of us look completely different – hmmm, couldn't have anything to do with extra pounds and different hair color (or lack of hair), could it?

We'll be off on a Snake River Cruise in Oregon and Washington in the next month. Planning to pack clothing for all seasons since I'm not sure if it will be hot or cold or a little of everything.

If you haven't noticed, there are bunches of Monarch butterflies. We just saw groups of them in the trees getting out of the wind. They just make me smile!

Until next time!

edited by
David L. Harrison,
Missouri's Poet Laureate

This week's guest on "Poetry from Daily Life" is Marjorie Maddox, who lives in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, home of the Little League World Series. Marjorie published her first poem in Campfire Girl Magazine at the age of 8. She writes poetry, fiction,

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creative nonfiction, and children's literature. Recently, she loved writing "In the Museum of My Daughter's Mind," a collaboration with her artist daughter, Anna Lee Hafer (www.hafer.work) and other artists. A unique fact about Marjorie is that she is the great grand-niece of Branch Rickey, the famed General Manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who helped break the color barrier by signing Jackie Robinson to Major League Baseball. ~ David L. Harrison

Ode to the ordinary

In a world awash in tragedy, it's easy to overlook the ordinary: the simple beauty of the everyday, the breeze that reminds us to inhale and exhale, the still moments that whisper, "Look. See. Live." Yes, poetry allows us to grapple with hard questions, but it also leaves room for daily gratitude.

Slow down. Breathe. Note three miracles about the body. Look in front, in back, and to each side of where you are standing. Acknowledge any change in perspective. Embrace surprise.

In your backyard or at a park, observe one creature, one motion, and one color that bring you joy. Walk to a different location and repeat. Talk with a stranger about what you discovered.

Before you write anything, revel in something ordinary, something that — like most of us — you may very well take for granted: the way shadows angle across the floorboards; how baked bread reminds you of your great aunt; or why a firefly, suddenly appearing out of the dark, brings the light you needed.

This, too, is the stuff of poetry: the ritual of laundry, the aroma of rain, the whirl of a fan, the taste of

brussels sprouts. Years ago, as a student editor of The Louisville Review, I read a poem entitled something like “To the Chicken I’m Cooking.” Though I don’t recall the author, I remember well the sense of freedom that even a chicken (even the chicken that I’m cooking right now in my real and ordinary kitchen) can, indeed, be the stuff — or stuffing — of poetry. It’s good to be reminded: We write to discover what we don’t know; we also write to discover more about what’s been right in front of us all along.

The everyday is where we live. Find something in it to praise.

Praise Poem for the Ordinary

For the pebble, the worm, the clothesline,
the warm bread, the simple turn of head
that says, "I heard you," the burr that lets go
on its own, the bluebird that returns to perch
where the dogwood's blossoms glow, the dim
light outside, the bright light within, the low
hum of hope when the unseen grows deep
in the hole you've dug in dry dirt
on an ordinary afternoon
just this side of Eden's
repeated hallelujahs.

Marjorie Maddox is Professor Emerita of English and Creative Writing at the Lock Haven campus of Commonwealth University and the author of 20 books, including "Begin with a Question" (Paraclete). Her newest book, "Seeing Things," contains a series of episodes, including the one above, which first appeared in *One Art*. Find out more at www.marjoriemaddox.com

Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, October 16 Pre-K visit to Pumpkin Patch *** 4:00 p.m. JH VB vs Pretty Prairie at HOME *** Pink Out *** 4:00 p.m. JH/HS Cross-country HOPL Meet *** 6:00 p.m. JH FB vs Pretty Prairie at HOME	Tuesday, October 21 HS VB Sub-state *** 4:00 p.m. HS JV Scholars' Bowl at Macksville *** 7:00 p.m. FAFSA Night *** Lions' Club Meets
Friday, October 17 HS FB vs Attica/ Argonia at HOME ** Booster Club Night *** Senior Night *** Pink Out *** 5th Quarter at Cozy's	Wednesday, October 22 Health Rescreenings
Saturday, October 18 JH VB HOPL Tournament	Thursday, October 23 4:00 p.m. JH VB - HOPL Final Four at Central Christian
	Friday, October 24 Kansas Commissioner of Education visits district *** 6:00 p.m. HS FB at Tescott
	Saturday, October 25 HS Cross Country Regionals *** HS VB Substate

The Community
Calendar is sponsored by



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- WANTED -

Old Photos from our communities
Call (620) 298-2659 or email to
couriernews@yahoo.com

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



PLEASE SEND
BIRTHDAY CARDS
TO PO BOX 396
CUNNINGHAM,
KS. 67035

Bob Kerschen Turns 90 October 23

Bob Kerschen has a big day to cheer,
His 90th birthday has arrived this year.
Back in 1935, his story took form,
Spending much of his life laying brick and raising corn.

A simple man, a good Catholic at heart,
With faith and hard work, he’s long played his part.
He’s enjoyed a rich life, one hard to outdo,
Even Donald Trump can’t claim quite this view.

For nearly 70 years with his bride Jeanette,
He’d marry her again—of that you can bet.
This nonagenarian has achieved quite a lot,
With wisdom and kindness, a life well-taught.

He loves working the land, a true agrarian,
And cherishes his role as a proud family guardian.
With children and friends, blessings never end,
16 grandchildren, and 36 great-grands to commend!

What’s the secret to a long life so sprightly?
His rural community and going to bed early nightly.
Happy Birthday to a husband, a dad, and a grandpa, too,
A brother, an uncle, a father-in-law true.

So hear ye! Hear ye! Let us all rise,
For Bob Kerschen turns 90 in 2025

N-Z Class of 1975 Celebrates 50 Years



Standing: Rick Dirks, Dale Thieme, Rod Goetz, Nancy (Pagenkopf) Killion, John Oller, Ronald Dick, Mike Gillen, Karen (Depenbusch) Schmidt, Randy Nowak

Sitting: Lois (Goetz) Symmonds, Beth (Westerman) Blasi, Margie (Blasi) Islas, Deb (Thimesch) Klausmeyer

Class of Seventy-Five
It’s amazing we’ve survived
But it’s darn nifty
That we made it to fifty!

The Nashville-Zenda High School class of 1975 celebrated 50 years on October 4, 2025, at the Klausmeyer Dairy Farm & Pumpkin Patch near Clearwater, KS (coincidentally, one of the proprietors is a 1975 classmate!). Even though the Farm & Pumpkin Patch is a busy place that includes mazes, all kinds of things to climb on or through, animals, and zombie paintball, the group opted to settle down to a lunch of barbecued meats, yummy sides, and treats.

Thank goodness we didn’t have to find our way through a maze to be able to get lunch – we’d probably still be searching for a classmate or two! The group spent time catching up, looking at year-books and other memorabilia – including the Class Prophecy and the Class Will (good thing none of us took jobs predicting the future!). Trivia from 1975 was shared and “interesting” door prizes were awarded. There was also much discussion about how everyone looked just like their senior pictures (ha ha ha ha) and that Kansas remains home to all.

Of the 22 classmates, 13 and several spouses attended, 4 were unable to attend, and 5

are deceased. Those attending were Margie (Blasi) Islas, Karen (Depenbusch) Schmidt, Ronald Dick, Rick Dirks, Mike Gillen, Rod Goetz, Lois (Goetz) Symmonds, Randy Nowak, John Oller, Nancy (Pagenkopf) Killion, Dale Thieme, Deb (Thimesch) Klausmeyer, Beth (Westerman) Blasi. Those unable to attend were Dale Adelhardt, Terry Danahy, Kathy (Dicke) Ryberg, Mary Sue (Lubbers)Trammell. Deceased classmates are Gary Adelhardt, Jim Goetz, Pete Leland, Don Miller, and Sheila (Henning) Dick.

Submitted by Beth Blasi



Cunningham Public Library
Book Sale and Basket Raffle
Sat., Oct. 25, 9-1 p.m.
Come enjoy a cinnamon roll, choose some books,
and enter for a chance to win a basket!

Thank you for
Supporting
The Courier

Kingman Historic Theatre

October 17 - 19
Gabby's Dollhouse

Rated G

Friday and Saturday 7:30
Sunday at 5:30

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR
Kingman Historic Theatre.

Kingman Historic
Theatre

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

October 22
Vaping:
Community Town Hall

6:30 p.m.

FREE Event
Presented By: Kingman County Health Coalition

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR
Kingman Historic Theatre.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1970

October 22, 1970 - Learning gets a boost and is more fun in schools across the nation because of the National School Lunch Program, which celebrated its 24th anniversary this year. National School Lunch Week, with the theme, “School Lunch Supports Effective Education,” was observed October 11-17 in over 77,000 schools across the nation.

In Unified School District No. 332, some 480 youngsters are served nutritious lunches at the Cunningham, Nashville, St. Leo, Willowdale and Zenda schools this year through the National School Lunch Program. The lunches are prepared according to planned nutrition standards and supply about one-third of the nutrients boys and girls need each day. This program is one in which the schools receive financial and food assistance from the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S Department of Agriculture, in addition to the contributions of States and local communities. Last year nearly 21 million children across the nation benefited daily from lunch at school, including nearly five million needy children.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Rex Zimmerman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1975

October 16, 1975 – Mr. and Mrs. Gene Albers of Cunningham announce the birth of a daughter, Christina Lynn, born at 10:37 a.m., October 11, 1975, at the Pratt County Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds and 3 ¼ ounces. The Albers’ also have a son, Gary, 3.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Henning, Willowdale and Mr. and Mrs. John Albers, Cunningham. Great grandfathers are Anthony Henning, Sr., Willowdale and William Schwartz, Great Bend.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Meyers and family have moved into their new home in the south part of Cunningham.

ADV: Heavy old hens to give away. Paul Fitzsimmons

For Sale: 1973 Monte Carlo, all power, cruise control, extra sharp.

Hilltop: “Brownie Joe” Northrop, our bulldog, had two delicious chicken dinners last week, on Wednesday and Sunday.

A miscellaneous bridal shower was held Sunday, October 5, at St. Leo for Miss Martha Osner, bride-elect of Ron Albers.

Hostesses for the afternoon were Roselyn Thome, Delores Albers, Helen Young, Diana Wegerer, Priscilla Eck, Janet Sterneker, Martha Albers, Ruth Shelman, and Debbie Theis.

Mrs. Albert McGovney, local Multiple Sclerosis Chairman, has announced that a Read-a-thon for Cunningham and St. Leo pre-school through eighth grade children will be held from Wednesday, October 15, through Saturday, November 15. Participating children will collect donations from sponsors according to the number of books they read. Sponsorship sheets may be obtained from the teachers or at the Cunningham Public Library. Assisting Mrs. McGovney with this project will be Mrs. Donna Amick, Mrs. Debbie Glenn and Mrs. Ellen Larson.

First grade: Story time is quite hair raising to complement our room, what with ghosts, skeletons, and witches floating around.

We have a new activity now; cards with letters and pictures which we get to figure out on request. You don’t suppose it is part of the learning process and we’re just being tricked.

We enjoyed the visit to our class of Chris Huhman’s grandmother, Mrs. Lilian Wilkinson of Leeds, England.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Vickie Lohmann

Reporter: Florine Kampling

1980

October 16, 1980 – Cunningham citizens are reminded of Ordinance No. 213 that states: “The parking, storing, or leaving of any wrecked, junked, wholly or partially dismantled, inoperative, or abandoned vehicle, whether attended or not, for a period of time in excess of 30 days upon any private property and-or street, alley, highway, thoroughfare, or other public property within the City of Cunningham, is unlawful.” Violation of this ordinance (upon conviction) can result in a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 or imprisonment for a term of not less than 10 days nor more than 30 days, or both a fine and imprisonment.

Six more area residents became CPR trained in a class held in Cunningham on September 30 and Oct. 1. Those learning the procedure were Ron Deviney, Kenny Glenn, Linda Kohtz, Kathy Webster, Richard Webster, and Janet Sterneker.

The Western Reno Softball League finished 1980 competition last weekend with the League Tournament at Sylvia. The Cunningham boys and the Zenda girls were this year’s champions.

Hilltop: Friday was bingo time and we want to thank Elsie Witt, Elsie Hergert, and Zola Pearson for a fun afternoon. Thanks to Joan Thimesch also for the bingo prizes. We also have a need for prizes especially something men would enjoy, if you have anything you are wanting to get rid of maybe we could use it.

1985

October 17, 1985 – Although the evening was cold and damp, a good crowd turned out for the Fall Festival and the football games with Norwich on October 11. Treva Westerman, who had been selected earlier by vote of the student body, reigned as queen. Her atten-

dants were Kathy Beat and Kristy Rohr. Escorts for the queen and her attendants were Scott DeWeese, Rod Holcomb, and Kurt Rohlman. Nicholas Albers was the crown bearer and the flower girl was Cheri Strohl.

Spaghetti Supper: Sponsored by Pep Club in the school cafeteria. Public is invited. Donations will be taken. Homemade pie. Oct. 18 5:00 – 6:30.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Eck, Kingman, announce the birth of their son, Travis Alan on October 1, 1981, at Kingman Community Hospital. He weighed 9 lb. 9 oz.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Eck, Kingman and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Fischer, Nashville. Great-grandmothers are Mrs. Gertrude Adelhardt, St. Leo and Mrs. Hilda Fischer, Sharon. Mrs. Eck is the former Gail Fischer.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Sternerker are happy to announce the birth of Leah Ann on October 12 at Wesley Hospital in Wichita. She weighed 9 lb. 6 oz.. A sister, Stephanie, awaits her at home.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Al Joe Sterneker, Cunningham, and Mr. and Mrs. Byron Reida, Cheney. Great-grandmother is Mrs. Roselyn Thome of Cunningham.

The Cunningham Junior High Social Studies classes attended the Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty Pageant in Medicine Lodge on Friday, Oct. 11.

The classes’ activities for the day started with a short trip west of Medicine Lodge to view the natural vegetation and the geographical terrain that has made that part of Kansas one of the prettiest in the state.

The second stop on the trip was to view the parade. On the way to the parade, we stopped and were given a tour of the Grand Hotel that was being remodeled for the use of a restaurant. After the parade the class walked to the Carry A. Nation home to visit a part of local history. Mrs. Nation was famous for tearing up a saloon in Kiowa with a hatchet to oppose the drinking of liquor.

Runaway City Horse

Stops for Red Light

PHILADELPHIA, March 1—(P)—

A milk wagon horse took a walk without its driver in the center of Philadelphia.

But it wasn't hard to catch, because it was a big-city horse.

Police found the animal waiting for a red light to change yesterday

Museum Hours

Tuesdays, Thursdays,

and Saturdays

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

or contact

Angie Mertens at 620-532-4354 or

Alan Albers at 620-298-2725 or

Mike McGovney at 620-770-9503

(Volunteers Needed at the museum)

From the Cunningham Clipper October 16, 1980

The old Hiway Cafe has been demolished and a new one is being erected in exactly the same location. Completion date is set for November 9, barring more bad weather. The map indicates the highways which are served by the business and there is some question as to when it was painted on the building.

Junior High Wildcat Sports Action



Addyson
Huffman



AnneMarie
Kerschen



Avery Kinsler



Lux
Thimesch



Carly
McGuire



Elsie
Ruckle



Shandie
Romine



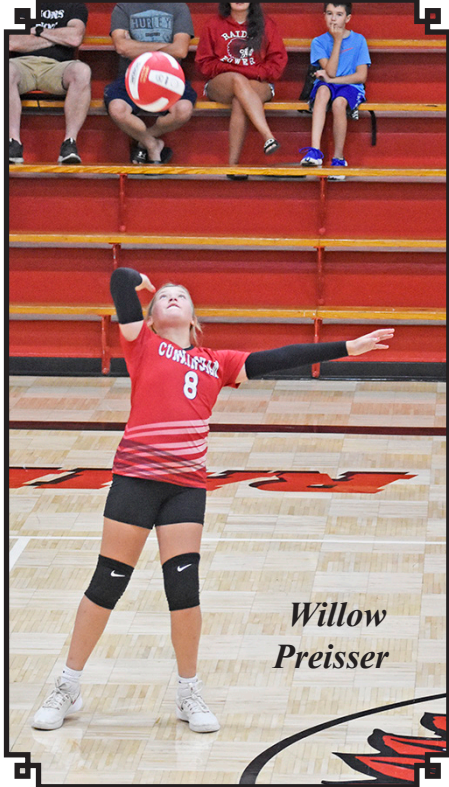
Parker
Miller



Paisley
Westerman



Vaughn
Preisser



Willow
Preisser



Above: Casyn Miller hands
off to Landen Green

Above right: Landen Green

Right: Offense getting ready to play



Wildcats Place at Goessel Meet

The Wildcat runners had another great meet at Goessel. Five of the 8 came away with season best times! JV boys came away with a 3rd place team finish behind Andale and Moundridge. Newt Heatherman won the JV race with a new personal record of 19:35. Will Halderson was 2nd with a new season personal record of 20:02. Hank Adams was 23rd in 22:48 and Larry Heatherman was 26th in 23:28. Kane Reid was 46th in 29:15.

In the varsity boys race with some tough teams and bigger schools senior Blake Swope was 40th in with a new personal record of 20:04 and Sean Kostner got another personal record of 22:38 placing 70th. 6th grader Colton Zwierzychowski placed 25th in the mile with a new personal record of 6:53. Way to go Wildcat runners! I'm extremely proud of all of these boys! We compete in league next Thursday.

-Coach Ingrid Ricke



Pink Out is October 14th



Pink Out for HS volleyball is Oct 14th! We will wear our pink out shirts which were sponsored by T&R Excavation - Dig Pink 😊. And, thanks to the money raised from our concession stand on July 4th, we have pink jerseys to wear at the game. JH volleyball also has a Pink Out on the 16th and football has it on the 17th.

I asked Mr. Ricke if we could plan a dig pink event early in the season because I've seen several volleyball teams among other area high schools hosting Pink Out or Dig Pink events to raise awareness and, sometimes, money for local or national causes related to breast cancer research. While I believe we all are aware of breast cancer, I view the night as a way for the community to rally together in honor of those who have been affected by breast cancer or in support of those who are currently fighting. My thought is that each player will recognize friends or family that have been diagnosed with breast cancer by filling the lobby walls with pink volleyballs with their names. Think of a dedication wall - "I play for xyz" - maybe people stop and read these names, offer up a prayer for the families, share a memory with others or consider a donation for gas cards or groceries to a family in need or to a local agency caring for these patients. It's unfortunate how many people are impacted by cancer and I think it's important for us to look out for one another if we are able to because we never know if/when we might be the ones needing the help.

The outpouring of support in this community is so strong and I think this is just another way for us to be there for each other. Also, seeing the girls' faces when they received their pink jerseys was something I won't forget! They are excited to wear them again and I'm excited for the positive energy I hope the crowd will bring!

--Coach Carrie Knee



courtesy photo

The Culinary Essentials class enjoyed the fruits of their labors this week: mini fruit pies!

Meet and Greet Before School With the Wildcat Cross Country and Wildcat Lady Volleyball Teams



courtesy photos



KANSAS
WHEAT

Wheat Scoop:
October is
National Co-op
Month

Whether stopping by for a quick chat and a cup of coffee or picking up fertilizer for planting, local elevators are a hub of activity and advice for farmers, especially during the busy fall season. Each October since the 1930s, the American agriculture industry has

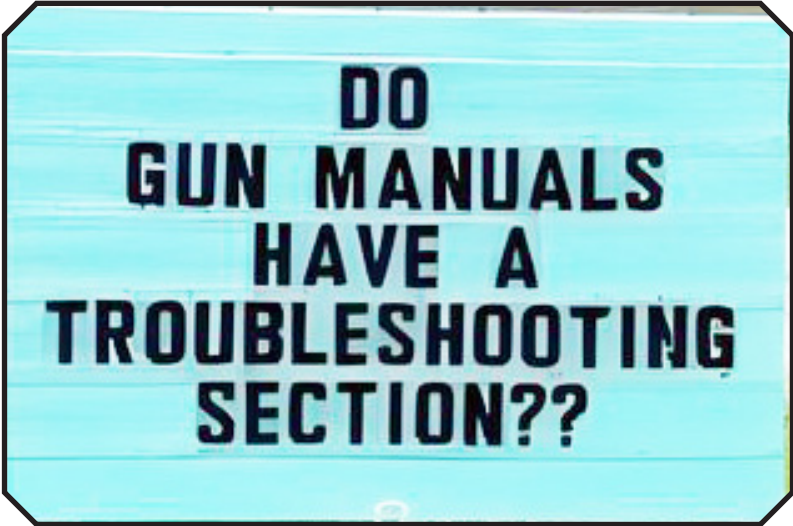
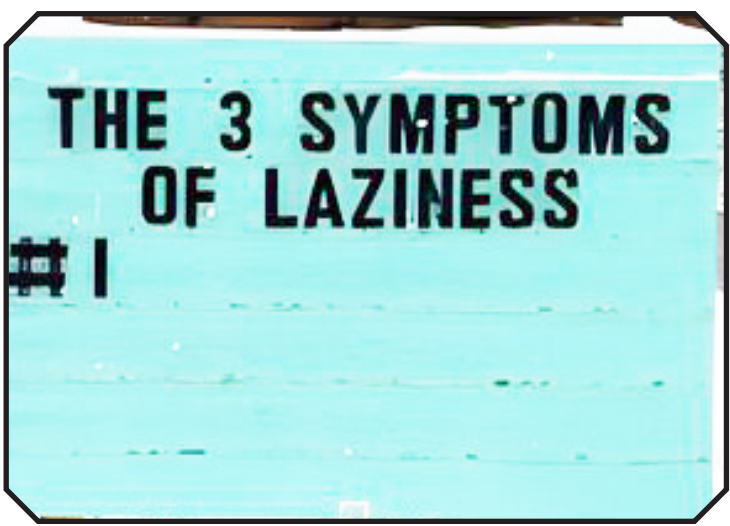
shown appreciation for these member-owned, member-controlled businesses during National Co-Op Month. The 2025 theme, “Cooperatives Build a Better World,” highlights how agricultural cooperatives continue to evolve to meet the needs of their farmer member-owners. Just as Kansas farmers adopt new technologies and management practices, agricultural cooperatives invest in infrastructure, leadership programs and services to help their members succeed. “Local farmer-owners of Kansas cooperatives are the backbone

of the Wheat State,” said Russell Plaschka, president and CEO of the Kansas Cooperative Council, the organization that has represented the cooperative business model in the Sunflower State since 1944. “When we talk about a circular economy, cooperatives exemplify this through the cooperative principle of concern for community. The majority of the dollars generated from wheat and other commodities typically stay local, supporting local economies and helping sustain our rural communities into the future.” The Kansas

Cooperative Council represents cooperatives across all sectors, including agriculture, finance, utilities, housing and more. The organization provides education, advocacy and public outreach to promote the cooperative business model and strengthen the network of member-owned organizations throughout Kansas. Cooperatives play a vital role in Kansas communities, employing more than 5,000 people across 575 locations statewide and serving more than 100,000 members. Kansas is also home to three of the nation’s

top 100 agricultural cooperatives, showing the state’s deep roots in collaboration and shared success. By definition, a cooperative works for the mutual benefit of its members, who own and control the business. Nationally, nearly one in three Americans are member-owners of a cooperative of some type, according to the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. Agricultural cooperatives enable producers to pool resources and expertise to strengthen their operations while returning earnings, known as pa-

tronage, to members. In Kansas, cooperatives continue to invest in the grain industry through projects that expand storage capacity, improve efficiency and update facilities. These investments reflect a proud tradition of matching the innovation and dedication of Kansas farmers while keeping dollars in local communities. To learn more about the Kansas Cooperative Council and its members during National Co-Op Month, visit kansascop.coop or follow the organization on Facebook.



There was no report from the Kingman County Sheriff's Office this week.

Windows and Opportunities

Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

October is generally jam-packed for my family, and this year is no exception. Attending my son’s football games, finishing up our calving season, celebrating birthdays, continuing fall harvest and preparing to sow wheat have taken up the majority of my family’s attention and effort this month. My mother-in-law, the kids and I added to our October schedule by recently participating in a market of farms pop-up event organized by Shop Kansas Farms and Kansas Farm Bureau. Producers from across Kansas brought their products to the pop-up market to increase visibility, connect with customers and ultimately sell

their goods. My family, minus my father-in-law and husband who stayed home to keep harvesting, took our popcorn and popcorn popper to the event and had a fantastic day of handing out samples, having great conversations and sending customers home with our product. A number of people I visited with at the market have since connected with me through social media or email. Many of these messages have centered around October being Farm to School Month and how many Kansas schools participate with other states within the region in an annual Crunch Off competition. The goal of the October Crunch Off is to see how many students, staff and community members can crunch

an ag product from their state as a way to highlight locally grown items. Since many schools have their own popcorn poppers, and popcorn makes a great crunchable snack, we’ve sent bags of our Kansas-grown popcorn to schools all across our state for these events. While there’s still plenty of October remaining, it’s been quite rewarding to connect with schools, see pictures from their social media of their students crunching our popcorn and even discussing opportunities to incorporate our little popping crop in their school concessions or cafeterias to use well beyond Farm to School Month. As Kansas farmers, we know the wheat, sorghum, corn and soybeans we harvest annually on our farm help feed and fuel the world — even though we don’t know

exactly who uses the grain once we deliver to the elevator. Our popcorn crop, on the other hand, has allowed us a personalized window into the lives, homes and communities of those we are helping feed. It’s allowed us the opportunity to connect with consumers, to share our story and to serve as a resource. It’s become increasingly clear to me that more and more people want to know about their food and the people who grow it. Events like the pop-up market and school Crunch Offs are examples of ways to create connections between family farms and consumers while highlighting the great products being produced within our state. Copyright © 2025 Kansas Farm Bureau, All rights reserved. News from Kansas

Farm Bureau Our mailing address is: Kansas Farm Bureau 2627 KFB PLZ Manhattan, KS 66503

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Statepoint Crossword
Theme: Scary Movies

CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS
- Awestruck
 - Paid player
 - Precedes pedia
 - Oxen connector
 - Sonic sound
 - ____ Dondarrion, "Game of Thrones" Lord of Blackhaven
 - Bibliographical abbr. (2 words)
 - *2025 Pete Davidson horror flick, "The ____"
 - Wear away
 - *Movie director of "Knock at the Cabin" fame
 - Manage without help
 - Subway coin
 - Boar's mate
 - *Jordan Peele's directorial debut (2017, 2 words)
 - Richard Gere in 1980 movie, pl.
 - Bit of binary code
 - A way to steal gas
 - *"It's ____" (1974)
 - Estrogen producer
 - Have a bug
 - Glue on, e.g.
 - Comme ci, comme ça
 - Nice to look at
 - Opposite of WSW
 - Opposite of #40 Across
 - Cordwood units
 - The night before
 - Warm down-slope wind
 - Blood component
 - *Trip to Sweden gone wrong (2019)
 - Like certain radiant energy
 - Pakistani tongue
 - "Ill at ____"
 - Not together
 - Ooze
 - Bulgarian, e.g.
 - Like certain grape beverage
 - Get it wrong
 - Shakira's don't lie?
- DOWN
- Roll call answers
 - Visi____ or Ostro____
 - Thumbs-up
 - Italian frozen dessert
 - Southern England's coastal town
 - *____ Polanski, director of "Rosemary's Baby"
 - *The story of Damien Thorn, with The (1976)
 - *Americans' attacker in London (1981)
 - Pump it!
 - Pirate Captain ____
 - Frozen H2O
 - Devotional worship, in Hinduism
 - Haze over
 - Timid
 - Envy, biblically-speaking
 - Duck follower
 - Diplomat on a mission
 - Badger or bug
 - Happy Gilmore's game
 - Forever prisoner
 - Sheep-like
 - Movie "Battle of the ____"
 - Pay as you earn, acr.
 - Step on it

36. *Mia Farrow in Roman Polanski's movie (1967)

38. Poetic although

40. Before of yore

41. Depletes (2 words)

44. Manifest

46. Catch in a net

48. Firearm shooter

49. More eccentric

50. Shoshonean people

51. Panache

52. Dante's Beatrice, e.g.

53. Mauritania's Eastern neighbor

54. Hurry up, acronym

55. RPMs

56. *James Wan's directorial debut (2004)

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Kingman County Commission Minutes Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. October 6, 2025, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk; Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Jeff Young, Dale Enyart. Online Visitors: AS, Caller 01, Caller 02; Caller 03; Chief Brooks. Staff: Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Mendy Frampton, Expo Center Director; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director. Chairwoman Lyon asked if there were any	additions to the agenda. Chairwoman Lyon would like to add an atty-client privilege executive session. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an atty-client privilege executive session. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 2 for-0 against vote. Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director was in with a replacement agreement for the KDOT spraying with Kingman County Noxious Weed. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the replacement agreement from April 7th, 2025, with the State for Noxious Weed Spraying. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against vote. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 8: a.m. to discuss the County’s position in pending mediation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and that they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:03 a.m. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against. Commissioners returned to regular session at 8:43 a.m. to discuss the County’s position in pending mediation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and that they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:08 a.m. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against. Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:03 a.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 8: a.m. to discuss the County’s position in pending mediation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and that they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:03 a.m. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against. 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The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against. Ms. Frampton let the Commissioners know that during the Fourth of July event they will have Go Cart Races. Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with a department update. Mr. Arensdorf requested a signature on Form 1302-KDOT Project Request-Bridge U.8-17.0-Located 3.2 miles north and .2 miles west of Rago, KS on SE 100 Street. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the KDOT Project Programming request for Bridge U.8-17.0. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against. MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to have the County Commissioner meeting next Tuesday,	Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the September 29, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against. MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to have the Annual County Christmas Dinner on December 12th, 2025, with the County Offices closing at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against. Commissioners discussed attending the upcoming KDOT meeting in Pratt on October 13, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 9:49 a.m. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 2 votes for and 0 against.
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Pratt County Commission Minutes The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 06, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director. Economic Development Update -Heather Morgan Economic Development Incentives Reporting Heather reported the Economic Development Incentives Reporting is a much larger project than anticipated, requiring hand-entry making it very laborious. Sawyer Gasline Project Heather has had no contact since the last meeting, but notification was received that things are happening behind the scenes. Heather is hopeful for movement soon. Rural Health Transformation Program Ideas for the Rural Health Transformation Program were due last Friday. EMS Association submitted ideas, including one to allow the county EMS to bill for visits. The Governor named an Executive Steering Committee, which includes the Kansas	Department of Local Health Departments, Hospitals and Nursing Home Associations. PAEDC Update A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 3:30. Discussion items include full cycle waste and the housing incentive application. Executive Session -Attorney-Client Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss donations for 10 minutes with Dan Ailstock and Justin Seaman at 2:07 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Commissioners returned from executive session at 2:17 p.m. with no action taken. Sheriff K-9 Request Dan Ailstock and Justin Seaman presented information to implement a dual-purpose K9 Program for both narcotics and search & rescue/ tracking. The K9 will be able to help combat narcotics and help with search and rescue and tracking of missing persons, runaways, etc. The current reliance on outside agencies for K9 assistance is causing logistical issues due to availability, transit time and detention limitations. The startup cost is the biggest expense which include vehicle upfitting, initial training, dog purchase and kenneling. Veterinarians are willing	to sell food at cost and offer yearly vet expenses at no cost. The startup Cost estimate is \$49,000 with yearly expenses of \$5,000 to \$10,000 {baring emergencies}. The Sheriff’s office would like to start in November so training could start in January. Commissioners requested time to review the budget for potential funding sources. Sheriff Personnel Request Motion to hire Johnny Cardoza as a part time Detention Officer at \$15/ hr made by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0. Landfill and Recycle Department Update Jason Winkle reported his new loader is working great. He also reported he attended the Solid Waste conference and found it informative. Jason was able to sell the cardboard at \$65/ton, which is low but up \$30 from the last sale. The Acid Cabinet at the Hazardous Waste Facility was cleaned out by HHW Cleanup. Jason reported all required items are complete for the KDOL Report. He will submit the report when finished. Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Motion to move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act with Jason Winkle to discuss extended leave for 10 minutes at 2:28 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by	Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Commissioners returned from executive session at 2:38 p.m. with no action taken. Health Department Generator Repair BJ Hayes presented a bid from Foley Equipment to repair a generator. Motion to approve to pay Foley Equipment to repair the Health Department generator in the amount of \$2,687.13 made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0. Executive Session -Non-Elected Personnel Motion to move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act with BJ Hayes to discuss wages for 10 minutes at 2:44 p.m. with BJ Hayes made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Commissioners returned from executive session at 2:54 p.m. with no action taken. Executive Session -Attorney-Client Motin to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act with BJ Hayes to discuss zoning regulations for 10 minutes at 2:56 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0. Commissioner returned from executive	session at 3:03 pm with no action taken. Courthouse Maintenance The Courthouse flag pole rope snapped due to wind and old age, the rigging is sticking and the eyelets are broken. Terry Williamson will be contacted to repair. A pigeon was also located on the 4th floor in a storage room. They are still getting in despite blocked vents. Anderson Wildlife will be contacted to investigate the entry point and do clean up and sanitation. Approval of Minutes The minutes of September 29, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved. Commissioners Comments Commissioner Shriver consulted with Scot Loyd on the Senior Services budget regarding wage increases for drivers. The commissioners would like to wait until the end of the year to assess raises for Public Transportation Drivers so the budget could be revaluated when a clearer operational picture is available. Commissioner Shriver also reported he attended the 911 Meeting last week. The LEC tower has been struck by lightning twice in less than a year, causing major damage. He presented a plan to ground the tower and all electric lines to prevent further damage and repair cost. The City of Pratt agreed to pay 50% of the project cost.	Motion to approve up to \$5,000 paid to Randy’s Tower Service to ground the tower at the Law Enforcement Center paid out of Capital Improvement made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Radio Repair The second lightning strike damaged the radio used for county-to-county communication. The cost to repair is less than the cost to replace. Motion to approve up to \$1,000 to repair the Radio equipment to be paid out of Communications made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Executive Session -Attorney-Client Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Sheriff Policies for 10 minutes at 3:20 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner returned from executive session at 3:30 p.m. with no action taken. Vouchers Commissioners unanimously approved the vouchers for October 6, 2025. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.
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KCHS Pets Ready
for Adoption

Tuna

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Tuna needs a new name. In all the photos of her on the KCHS page this lovely lady looks so sweet and calm. She'd make a wonderful lap kitty. Tuna just isn't a name for such a delightful feline.

She's about 1 year old, has been at the shelter since the end of September. Her adoption fee is \$40.00.

"Very sweet and affectionate little lady. She likes to groom (lick and nibble) your face and ears, so watch out."

Gandalf

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



Gandalf isn't a wizard in disguise, he's a Great Dane / Catahoula Leopard mix. He's large. He is about 3 years old and weighs about 75 pounds. He's been at the shelter since September 5 and can be adopted for \$180.00.

He does need to be in a single dog home, but he does like people.

"Someone just called me "Dorky".... what does that mean? It's not my name and it's not my breed. I'll bet it means I'm a smart dog! Cuz I am! I already know several basic commands like Sit, Wait, Come, Bed/Place. And I know I can learn more. And I'm house-trained too (aren't you glad). I have lots of energy so I'm looking for an active household and would welcome a few kids. I'm not Dorky....I'm Gandalf!"

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Public Notice

First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, October 9, 2025. (3t)

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

BERNIECE MARIE ROWLAND, Deceased.

Case No. KM 2025 PR 17

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on October 7, 2025, a Petition was filed in this Court by Brent Lee Rowland and Michael Eugene Rowland, duly appointed, qualified and acting Co-Executors of the Estate of Berniece Marie Rowland, deceased, praying Petitioners acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled

thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioners be finally discharged as the Co-Executors of the Estate of Berniece Marie Rowland, deceased, and the Petitioners be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before October 28, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Brent Lee Rowland and Michael Eugen Rowland, Co-Executors
Matthew W. Ricke, #20995
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GINNY PELZL

Virginia Rose Hill Pelzl, affectionately known as “Ginny,” passed away on October 7, 2025, at the age of 82. Born on November 5, 1942, in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, to Rose Stewart Hill and William J. Hill, Ginny’s early life was marked by resilience. Her father passed away when she was approximately four years old, after which her mother remarried JL Hairell, who became a beloved father figure to her.



Following her graduation from Wichita Falls Senior High School, Ginny attended and graduated from Texas Women’s University (formerly Texas State College for Women). Upon graduation, Ginny relocated to Houston, Texas, where she pursued studies and embarked on a distinguished career in the banking industry. A true trailblazer in finance, she rose through the ranks, earning recognition in Who’s Who in Banking. Her notable positions included Senior Vice President at Allied and Texas Commerce Bank, President of a First City Branch, and Chief Financial Officer at McClellan Associate. Throughout her professional life, Ginny was a dedicated mentor, guiding and inspiring numerous junior associates.

On December 8, 1990, Ginny married Jim Pelzl, beginning a loving partnership that spanned 35 years. She cherished her family deeply, adopting her children as adults to formalize their bond. Ginny is survived by her devoted husband, Jim Pelzl; her son, Jim Pelzl Jr., and his wife, Kerrienne; her daughter, Elizabeth Brown; her grandchildren, Susan Grace Pelzl and Reese Brown; her sister, Mary Evans; her niece, Abby Ray; and many other extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, MC Hill.

Ginny’s passion for life extended far beyond her career. An avid traveler, she explored countries including China, Europe, and Africa, forging lifelong friendships, particularly in Italy. She and Jim served as godparents to Paolo Jr. and Arturo, hosting them for extended visits at their home on Lake Travis, Texas.

Retirement brought new adventures for Ginny and Jim, who relocated to Lake Chapala, Mexico, for approximately 20 years. There, she delighted in cultivating her flowers and fruit trees amid a welcoming community. Ever the active participant, Ginny immersed herself in local causes, serving on boards, volunteering with clubs, and even judging chili cook-offs. Her commitments included the Rotary Club in Chapala, where she held offices such as Treasurer and President and received the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Award; Tepehua Centro Comunitario AC, an orphanage in Chapala; animal rescue efforts; the Red Hat Sorority in Pratt, Kansas; and annual support for the Miss Kansas Pageant in Pratt, Kansas.

A compassionate soul, Ginny had a special passion for rescuing dogs, welcoming many into her life, including Duke, Diablo, and Coche, to name just a few.

Ginny lived a life rich with purpose, love, and service—a good and faithful servant whose legacy of kindness, mentorship, and community spirit will endure in the hearts of all who knew her.

HAROLD VENARD

Harold Douglas Venard, 82, passed away October 12, 2025 at Ascension via Christi St. Francis in Wichita. He was born June 6, 1943, in Nashville, Kansas to Harold and Hazel (Keith) Venard. Harold married Ann (Eck) Venard on September 14, 1968, in St. Leo. They were married for 57 years.



Harold graduated from Nashville High School in 1961. He then joined the United States Army where he worked as a radio operator. After the military, he worked as a lineman for Ninnescah Rural Electric Company. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus. He enjoyed wood-working, hunting, fishing and coaching children and his children in youth baseball. Harold was a jack of all trades, always fixing things and making improvements. He was an excellent baseball player. Harold and Ann organized the group that founded the baseball program for Pratt High School.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Venard; daughter, Janell (Steve) Ziegler of Kingman, Kansas; sons, Doug Venard of Pratt and Heath Venard of Pratt; brother, Lloyd Venard of Cunningham; sister, Bonnie (Gary) Strodman of Hutchinson; grandchildren, Dakota, Cooper and Chloe Venard; great-grandchild, Wren Venard.

Harold is preceded in death by his father, Harold Douglas Venard; mother, Hazel Edna Venard; brother, John Venard; sister, Betty Hauser.

Cremation has taken place. A Rosary service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, October 16, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pratt with Father Charles Atuah presiding. Inurnment will follow at 2:00 p.m. at St. Leo Catholic Cemetery, St. Leo, Kansas.

Memorials may be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church Building Fund and mailed to Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt, Kansas. 67124. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

ANTHONY POWERS

Anthony Michael Powers, 30, passed away October 9, 2025 at his home. He was born October 13, 1994 in Pratt to Misty Powers.

Anthony graduated from Kiowa County High School in 2012. He worked at the service desk in Walmart in Pratt. He was a member of the NRA and he enjoyed cars, guns and video games.

He is survived by his mother, Misty Powers of Haviland, Kansas; and brother, Alexander (Lacey) Powers of Pratt, Kansas.

Cremation has taken place. Memorials may be made to Larrison Mortuary in care of Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt, Kansas. 67124. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

ROY YOUNG

Roy Lee Young, 80, died Oct. 12, 2025 in Wichita.

He was born July 10, 1945, in Kingman, the son of Merle W. and Hilah M. Field Young. A lifetime resident of the Pretty Prairie and Kingman communities, Roy was a retired farmer and stockman and co-owner and operator of R&R Carwash.

Roy was a member of the Pretty Prairie United Methodist Church; a former president of the Pretty Prairie Booster Club; and one of the developers of The Links Golf Course at Pretty Prairie.

On Aug. 29, 1981, he married Regina “Rosie” Keeler. Other survivors include daughters Kristina Young-Cox and her husband Lonnie Cox, Gina Young-Kienzle and her husband David, and Holly Youngers and her husband Tom; 5 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Forrest and Daryl; and sister Phyllis Stucky.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Friday, Oct. 17, 2025, at the Pretty Prairie United Methodist Church. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025 at the Livingston Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Lone Star Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Pretty Prairie United Methodist Church and sent in care of Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.



A Note of Thanks

Thanks to all who came to my 90th Birthday Celebration. Your visits, cards, and gifts were wonderful. Thanks to my family for making my day special, too. - Eilene Crick-

Upcoming Auctions

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Monday, October 27, 2025 1:30 p.m. 281 +/- Acres Pratt County, KS Dryland

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

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