

# The Cunningham Courier

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

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 (620) 298-2659

\$ 1.50

April 3, 2025  
 Volume 35 Number 14

photo by  
 Berry Bortz

### Janet DeWeese Recognized for Service



Janet DeWeese was recognized at the Billionaires' Banquet for her 25 years of service to the WCKEF. She was the executive secretary at the inception of the foundation, and then was a board member for many years.  
 The floral bouquet was presented to her by Marilyn Glenn.

Molly Morgan photos

### Minutes from February City Council Meeting

February 25, 2025 Special  
 The Cunningham City Council met in special session on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at City Hall, 119 N Main Street.

Present were: Council President, Jason Ruckle; Council Members: Craig Woodard, Bart Ricke, Tim Schultz, and Tanner Newell; City Clerk, Molly Morgan; and City Superintendent, Mesa Sallee.

Guests: Jackie Ruckle, Property Officer; Harold Stark, Fire Chief; Jamie Hower, Strong's Insurance; Scott Strong, Strong's Insurance; Jack Thimesch, Kingman County; Randy Thimesch, R Thimesch Construction.

Call to Order – Council President Ruckle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda – Motion by Ricke, second by Newell, to approve agenda as written. Motion carried, 5/0.

Minutes of January 27, 2025, meeting – Motion by Woodard, second by Ruckle, to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2025, meeting as written. Motion carried, 5/0.

Public Comments – No public comments.

Insurance Policy Renewal – Scott Strong gave the renewal report. Motion by Newell, second by Schultz, to renew the EMC insurance policy with a premium of \$59,574.00. Motion carried, 5/0.

Fire Department Report – Chief Stark reported truck maintenance, upcoming trainings, and equipment ordered. Chief Stark also reported that Reno County Emergency Management

held training in Cunningham on 800 system radios. County Commissioner Thimesch asked Chief Stark if the 400-radio reception was improved. The Chief said the difference is very noticeable and much improved.

Leak Forgiveness – Molly gave the status report on a leak at 421 W First. Motion by Newell, second by Ricke, to approve a credit in the amount of \$140.25 for the 421 W First account. Motion carried, 5/0.

Dilapidated Structure Abatement Application – The Council discussed the creation of a dilapidated structure abatement program like the former Kingman County Improvement Program. Motion by Ruckle, second by Woodard, to approve an allotment of \$1,500 to Josh Arensdorf for dilapidated structure abatement at 211 W Florence. Motion carried, 5/0.

Fall Festival - Motion by Ruckle, second by Woodard, to approve a payment of \$2,500 to Ninnescah Valley Bank to share the cost of hiring a band for the Fall Festival. Motion carried, 5/0.

Maintenance Report – City Superintendent, Mesa, gave the report. \*Water Loss Report is due March 1<sup>st</sup> and is set to be completed this week. \*Mayer Specialty Services completed the sewer line cleaning for the south side of town. They also cleaned out the lift station. \*All repairs on the KDOL inspection report have been made. \*Viking has not scheduled water tower repairs yet, but is expected to have a date in March. \*A two-inch line was installed in the fire station, so that fire trucks can be filled inside during the cold months.

Guest, grant consultant, Christy

### Area Students Receive Rudd Scholarships



Ellie McGuire attends Cunningham High School and is the daughter of Amy and Lance McGuire



Morgan Freund attends Kingman High School and is the daughter of Maggie and Neil Freund.

Rudd Foundation Celebrates Largest Cohort of Rudd Scholars Yet, Expanding Its Legacy Across Kansas  
 Wichita, KS (3/26/2025) – The Rudd Foundation is thrilled to announce its largest cohort of Rudd Scholars to date, welcoming 50 driven and determined Kansas high school seniors who exemplify resilience, a strong work ethic, and a deep commitment to their communities. These remarkable students join a growing network of Rudd Scholars, now represented in 72 of Kansas' 105 counties.

Each Rudd Scholar is awarded a prestigious four-year, full-ride scholarship to attend Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, or Wichita State University. This year's cohort (full list attached), which brings the total number of active scholars to 148 for the 2025-2026 academic year, consists of 6 scholars attending Emporia State, 9 attending Fort Hays State, 21 attending Kansas State, and 14 attending Wichita State. The program also celebrates 69 accomplished alumni who continue to carry forward the vision of Leslie Rudd through their professional and personal contributions to Kansas.

"Leslie Rudd's dream was to see what a young person with work ethic and determination can achieve when the financial burden of college is removed,"

said Darrell Swank, President of the Rudd Foundation.

"He believed in giving a hand up, not a handout, and we are honored to support these outstanding students as they pursue their education and contribute to their communities."

Since its inception, the Rudd Scholar Program has provided over 260 scholarships, an approximate total of \$10.2 million investment in Kansas students. By focusing on more than just financial support, the program inspires scholars to embrace the pillars of support, professional development, mentorship, and giving back.

"The Rudd Scholarship is not just about paying for school; it is about building a lifelong network of learning, growth, and contribution," said Corri Roberts, Vice President of the Rudd Foundation. "Our 148 active scholars and 69 alumni embody Mr. Rudd's vision by supporting one another and striving to improve their communities, creating a ripple effect across Kansas."

This year's Rudd Scholars reflect the Foundation's enduring commitment to transforming lives and strengthening the state of Kansas, ensuring that future generations continue to dream big and achieve extraordinary goals.

[www.ruddfoundation.org](http://www.ruddfoundation.org)  
 Wichita, Kansas 67219

Crews, Hometown Grants, joined the meeting by phone at 7:13.

Leiter Avenue Improvements – Christy explained the DOT Cost Share Grant which is due March 27<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Woodard, second by Ruckle, to authorize the mayor to sign a letter of support for matching funds not in excess of \$150,000 for the DOT Cast Share Grant application. Motion carried, 5/0.

Property Officer's Report – No open cases at this time.

Planning & Zoning Report – Administrator, Molly Morgan, reported that City Attorney, Greg Graffman has sent the 4C Daycare board members and director letters informing them of their personal culpability to remove the

privacy fence that was built without a permit.

Motion by Newell, second by Ricke, to approve permit 2025-01 for a concrete boundary at 212 S Douglas Street as long as the project abides by planning and zoning regulations (e.g. vision triangle.) Motion carried, 5/0.

Financial Report and Payment of Bills – Motion by Newell, second by Ricke, to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Motion carried, 5/0.

Adjournment – Motion by Ricke, second by Ruckle, to adjourn. Motion carried, 5/0.

Council President Ruckle adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

NEW DATE:

JUNE 7, 2025

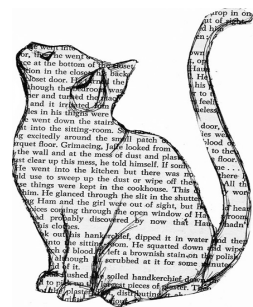
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KINGMAN HEALTHCARE CENTER FOUNDATION

28<sup>th</sup> Annual

GOLF TOURNAMENT





Meanderings

The writing of this column is not going well. I'll try yet again.

I do apologize for mistakes and omissions in this paper. It's been quite a weekend .

Kobbe's Cafe and

Cabana for Cats and Canines became a hospice care facility this weekend. And sleep has been evasive since Friday.

\*\*\*

The problem with having many old cats, is that they die and/or develop health issues at the same time. (as in Barney, Skippy Jones and Eddie Fisher these last few months).

It has only been five months since I lost Eleanor, and now, Eleanor's sister, Dolly, has decided that 17 and

1/2 years of living is enough.

Dolly is not a bit like Queen Eleanor. Dolly didn't like Elearnor. She avoided her as much as possible. Eleanor was loud and bossy and demanding and like to swat. Dolly is quiet and reserved, and I've never known her to swat another cat or dog. Elearnor screamed. A lot. Dolly just chirped. Eleanor didn't eat much, didn't even seem to enjoy eating. Dolly loves to eat. Until Friday. Then she didn't.

She's still with me as I write this on Tuesday evening at 11:00. But she won't be with me much longer. I really thought she'd be gone by the time the paper was done, but she's must have a very strong consitution.

Miss Dolly did not ever sleep with me. (probably because Eleanor did). Dolly doesn't like to snuggle or cuddle or even be held. She does like to be petted, but that's it.

She's been a good kitty for sure. I will miss her, but she won't leave a huge hole in my life, like

Eleanor and a few others have done.

And then there's Luther Heggs. I don't know what he's going to do. Dolly was his companion. His security kitty. He's a weirdo cat, and Dolly kind of kept him from totally weirding out. He does love her and cuddles with her, and I'm not sure what he will do without her to steady him.

I will just have to see what all transpires with him.

I've cried my tears as I talked to Dolly and

shared memories with her. And now I'm just waiting for her to let go.

May not be much sleep tonight, either.

\*\*\*

Isn't it wonderful to see the green and the flowers? I do hope it rains.

It will make everything spruce up for sure.

Always reading, and currently reading, "Deadlock" by Sara Paretsky, Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Moving from home to my first college dorm room was nerve-wracking, but I chalked up my moving-misery to all my eager, trepidatious enthusiasm about taking the “next step” in life. Over the next six years, I moved 12 more times. By the time I finished graduate school, the biggest lesson I’d learned was that moving is the pits. It’s awful, even when you’re mov-

ing for great reasons and/or have professionals do the heavy lifting. And it takes time to recover... unless you’re a chicken or duck.

This week we kicked our special needs duck, Lolly, out of the house and booted our 25 chicks and ducklings out of the shed. Yes, we evicted them but it’s not like we threw our penniless poultry out on the road or didn’t give ‘em any warning. We told them all repeatedly they would be moving but as with most things we say (except PEAS) our words had little effect. So when the appointed moving-hour

arrived, they protested loudly in surprise. Each little heart beat a zillion times a minute. They flapped and flopped in panic, oblivious to the fact that we had not only planned every detail so their move would be a calm transition but also had worked for weeks to make their spacious, fancier digs comfy with heat, food, water and toys awaiting their arrival. All they knew was that moving was a dreadful 20 minute ORDEAL.

I did not enjoy their torment. Nor did I revel in the task of cleaning up the messes left behind. But I got through those

moving-unpleasantries because I knew this move was eventually going to be GREAT for everyone, in part because the house and shed would once again only have human occupants. If Lolly had never been injured, she would have never set a webbed toe inside the house and that would have been just fine with both of us. Living with and caring for her for six months has been one of the hardest, and craziest, things I’ve done. As for the little ones, in addition to the continual worrying that they’re going to DIE (for any number of reasons), they’ve been filth-

ily adorable and needy as any newborn babe. So restoring our living spaces to “poultry-free zones” is no small thing.

But more importantly, this move was the “next step” in their poultry lives. It was time for Lolly to have some non-human and non-feline companions. She is better off spending her days as the matriarch manager of our Run Amok Chick & Duck Day Care. At night, she gets a respite in her own little house while the little ones sleep in a special coop “condo,” temporarily spared for a few weeks from having to work out sleeping ar-

rangements with their adult cousins.

I’m thrilled that the ducks and chickens adjusted to their new surroundings quickly. Once they settled in, they acted like they owned the place and had never known any other home. All our lives are better. Mine is definitely easier, yet I’m not fully used to it...so it makes me wonder why, for humans, is moving so hard?

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



The Death of the Penny

“A penny will not buy a penny postcard or a penny whistle or a single piece of penny candy. It will not even, if you’re managing the U.S. Mint, buy a penny.”

P.J. O’Rourke

When I was in Jr. High school, I was an avid coin collector. My slew foot friends and I would gather most days in the nerd’s corner of our school cafeteria at lunch to share and discuss our coin treasures. While we salivated over our prized silver acquisitions, as

low-budget collectors, we often focused on pennies. A favorite habit was to shuffle into our local bank after school with a few dollars in hand and buy penny rolls. We would then carefully sort through them looking for much prized Lincoln wheat pennies. Ever since these early coin collecting days, I have been fond of the humble penny. I was saddened to hear of the recent decision by President Trump to discontinue its production. The need for this change is understandable. We are now paying over three cents to produce each one cent coin. Obviously, producing cents makes no sense. But I can’t help but grieve the loss of a small piece of precious Americana. So much for the maxim “a penny saved is a penny earned.” Ben Franklin must be turning over in his grave.

While the value of

the penny has been slipping since the 1970s (today the purchasing power of 10 pennies equals roughly what one penny would buy 50 years ago – over a 90% loss), massive government spending over the past four years has reduced the value of a penny by 21%. Inflation - this was the final nail in the coffin for the penny.

The penny as we know it, with Abraham Lincoln’s likeness presented, was first coined in 1909 under the direction of President Teddy Roosevelt. It was commissioned to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln’s birth. The image of Lincoln used on the penny was created by Victor David Brenner, a Lithuanian immigrant whose talent had been noticed by Roosevelt. Prior to 1909, we had other interesting designs for the penny. From the late 1700s until just

before the Civil War, we minted *large cents* (about the size of today’s quarter) with various depictions. We began producing the more familiar *small cents* in 1856. First came the *Flying Eagle* cent (1856-1858), and then the classic *Indian Head* cent (1859-1909).

Replacing the Indian Head penny, the first Lincoln cents were *Wheat* pennies. Depicting wheat stalks on the back, these were produced from 1909-1958. In 1959, the wheat stalks were replaced with the *Lincoln Memorial* design. In 2009, four new designs were introduced to commemorate the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth. There is the Kentucky or *Log Cabin Penny*, the *Indiana Penny*, the *Illinois Penny*, and the *Washington D.C.* design marking his presidency. Pennies produced since 2010 are known as *Union Shield* cents and

show *E Pluribus Unum* (Latin for *Out of Many One*) on the upper portion of a shield, representing the preservation of the Union. On all pennies coined since 1909, Lincoln’s image appears on the obverse, or front, of the coin, with the differing designs on the reverse, or back.

It is interesting to note that the composition of the penny has varied over time. Originally minted from 100% copper, from 1864 until 1982 pennies contained 95% copper and 5% zinc. Beginning in October 1982, this was changed to just 2.5% copper and 97.5% zinc. That is why modern pennies are lighter and feel fake. If you are inclined to keep, collect, or hoard pennies, look for the 1982 and earlier mint dates. These pennies still contain 95% copper. They are heavier, and you can feel the dif-

ference in your hand.

One exception to the copper and zinc penny composition should be noted, however. In 1943, during the peak of World War II, zinc-coated steel pennies were produced for a time due to the war demand for copper. In the early ‘70s when I was scrounging with my buddies for coin collection pennies, we would occasionally find these.

Barring an act of Congress, which is unlikely, it looks like the penny is soon to die. This is probably for the best. Last year the U.S. Mint reported that it produced 3.2 billion pennies losing \$85.3 million in the process. I suppose all good things must come to an end. But I will miss the penny.

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typewriterweekly.com

Poetry From Daily Life

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

Poetry from Daily Life: Be curious, explore, expand your circle and share what you see  
By Walter Bargaen

My guest today on Poetry from Daily Life is Walter Bargaen, who lives in Ashland, Missouri. Walter started

reading poetry in eighth grade English class and started writing his own poems in high school. For 40 years, Walter has written a poem each month, based on a photograph, for Today’s Farmer Magazine. In 2008, Governor Matt Blunt appointed him as Missouri’s first Poet Laureate. He organized through Missouri high school libraries, a monthly live interview with a Missouri poet. It was broadcast late mornings and open to questions from students. ~ David L. Harrison

If you are a beginning writer or one who has spent months or years gathering the images needed to write a poem, the first advice you probably received is that you will write best what you know best. That is sound advice but it’s not enough.

You must learn to write through what you know into what you don’t know and know it for the first time. Though the words can be sparse or plentiful, it almost always begins at the foot of curiosity and a desire to enter authentically into the world and embrace it in new and surprising ways. Emily Dickinson wrote that “My business is circumference.” She was expanding, always expanding, her vision. The world is always so much more than we imagine. Poets are explorers.

Lew Welch, a mid-20th century San Francisco poet, challenged all writers, all of us, writer or not, when he wrote the poem, Ring of Bone:

\*\*\*

Step out on the planet,  
Draw a circle a hundred feet round.

Inside the circle are  
300 hundred things nobody understands, and maybe,  
nobody’s has ever really seen.

How many can you find?  
\*\*\*

So one day of many days many years ago I was canoeing on the Kawishiwi River in the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota, dazzled by the afternoon sunlight reflecting off the water and I expanded my circumference when I discovered what was in my circle.

\*\*\*

On the crest of each wave  
The day dances with white tap shoes.  
\*\*\*

Oddly, there are two branches of the Kawishiwi River and oddly, each ends in a different lake. Good writing is always full of surprises. And Kawishiwi is a name derived from the Ojibwe language meaning “the river full of beavers’ houses.”

Walter likes to write in verse, but three of his 28 titles — “Feast,” “Theban Traffic,” and “Pole Dancing in the Night Club of God” — are written in prose poems. “Orwell in the Kremlin”, which took two years to complete, focuses on the war in Ukraine. To learn more about Walter Bargaen, go online to <https://winningwriters.com/people/walter-bargaen>.

The Cunningham Courier

(USPS 006-101)

320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, Kansas 67035

620-298-2659    © 2018

Periodicals Postage Paid at Cunningham, Kansas 67035

Postmaster: Send address changes to

The Cunningham Courier

320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, KS 67035

Published Weekly

Roberta L. Kobbe

Editor & Publisher

Subscription Rates: \$48.00 per year in Kansas

\$53.00 per year out of state

320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, Kansas 67035.

E-Mail: [couriernews@yahoo.com](mailto:couriernews@yahoo.com)



Community Bulletin Board

<b>Thursday, April 3</b> JH Track at Pretty Prairie	<b>Thursday, April 10</b> JH Track at Pretty Prairie ***
<b>Friday, April 4</b> PreSchool screenings	WSU Pre-State Track ***
<b>Saturday, April 5</b> 9:00 a.m. Cunningham Christian Church "More Than Conquerors" ***	KSHSAA HS State Large Group Music in Pratt
Regional Solo and Ensemble at Tabor	<b>Friday, April 11</b> HS Track at Pretty Prairie ***
	WSU Pre-State Track
<b>Sunday, April 6</b> 10:00 a.m. KAY Men's BBQ	<b>Saturday, April 12</b> Regional HS Forensics
<b>Monday, April 7</b> JH Scholars Bowl at South Barber	<b>Monday, April 14</b> JH Scholars Bowl finals at Attica ***
<b>Wednesday, April 9</b> HOPL JH Music Festival at Skyline ***	7:00 p.m. BOE meeting
Kindergarten Roundup	<b>Tuesday, April 15</b> HS Track at South Barber ***
	Lions Club

The Community Calendar is sponsored by

NINNESCAH VALLEY BANK

nvalleybank.com

Member FDIC

101 E. First Street

Cunningham, KS

620-298-2511

- 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

Poster Winners

Kingman County Farm Bureau Safety Poster Contest winners. Avery Beat, 1st place and Tabitha Dunlap, 2nd place. (USD 332 photo)

FOR THE MEN AND BOYS OF USD 332

MEN'S

BBQ

CONTEST

Sponsored by CHS KAY CLUB

AT CUNNINGHAM SCHOOL NORTH SIDE OF BUILDING

SUNDAY APRIL 6

CHECK-IN, SET UP, COOKING START: BETWEEN 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

JUDGING: 5:00 PM

POTLUCK MEAL TO FOLLOW JUDGING.

ANY MEN/BOYS THAT WOULD NOT LIKE TO COMPETE, BUT STILL ATTEND, PLEASE BRING AN ITEM TO THE POTLUCK

ENTRY FEE: \$20 PER TEAM

CATEGORIES:

- BEST SMOKED ITEM
- BEST GRILLED ITEM

PRIZES:

- 1ST PLACE - TABLETOP GRIDDLE
- 2ND PLACE - CAMPFIRE GRILL
- 3RD PLACE - FIRE PIT RING

FOR MORE INFORMATION: becky.huelskamp@usd332.com

Kingman Historic Theatre

Tuesday, April 8

Addressing Affordable Housing with Landbanks

FREE EVENT

6:00pm-8:00pm

Presented By: Julie Lyon

Kingman Historic Theatre

Saturday, April 5

LIVE: Larry Gatlin

7:30 p.m.

Tickets available at

www.outhousetickets.com

Kingman Historic Theatre

237 N. Main in Kingman

(620) 532-1253

http://www.kingmantheatre.org/

April 4 and 6

MineCraft

Rated PG

All Seats are \$3.00 (cash or local check only)

Showtimes:  
Friday at 7:30  
Sunday at 2:00 and 5:30

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

REMINDER

The USD 332 Hall of Fame committee is accepting nominations for the 2025 Hall of Fame until April 16th. This distinction is given to qualified recipients who have made an impact within the USD 332 school district. You can pick up a nomination form at the school.

Minutes from Special City Council Meeting

March 11, 2025 Special

The Cunningham City Council met in special session on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at City Hall, 119 N Main Street.

Present were: Mayor, Aaron Murphy; Council Members: Jason Ruckle, Craig Woodard, Bart Ricke, Tim Schultz, and Tanner Newell; City Clerk, Molly Morgan; and City Superintendent, Mesa Sallee.

Guests: Jackie Ruckle, Property Officer; Jack Thimesch, Kingman County; Macee Crowell and John Riggins, Kirkham Michael Engineers; and guest, Casey Renner.

Call to Order – Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda – Motion by Ruckle, second by Ricke, to approve agenda as written. Motion carried, 5/0.

Leiter Avenue and Fourth Street Project Discussion – Engineers from Kirkham Michael presented a graphic for curb, gutter, and pavement for Leiter Avenue and Fourth Street. Engineer, Macee Crowell explained the Opinion of Probable Construction Cost for the project (in minutes book.) Engineer John Riggins explained how the Kansas Department of Transportation Cost Share Program operates and answered questions.

More decisions regarding the Cost Share Program will be decided later.

Review of Engineer Proposal – Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to approve the Agreement for Engineering Services with Kirkham, Michael and Associates, Inc. for engineering the Leiter Avenue and Fourth Street project. Motion carried, 5/0.

Adjournment – Motion by Ricke, second by Ruckle, to adjourn. Motion carried, 5/0.

Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

April Showers Bring May Flowers at CPL

It has been three months since Debi Dunlap took over the helm as librarian at the Cunningham Public Library. Patrons are invited to visit the library to say hi to Debi or any of the volunteers. Each time you visit during the month of April, you may sign up for a free chance to win a floral arrangement from the Rusty Rose. The drawing will be held in early May.

Reflecting on her time at the library, Debi shares, “These first few months have been a whirlwind of learning. There are so many interesting parts to running the library. My biggest challenge has been in narrowing down the options to a realistic number. I’m looking forward to continuing to get to know the community and figure out where the biggest needs/wants are.” To that end, check out the big Easter egg at the library. Debi welcomes your input as to what you would like to see in your library. Of course, while there are no guarantees, your input is welcome as considerations regarding the collections and programming are made.

Notice

Kingman County Democrat Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 10th 6:30 p.m.

The Rural Muse

214 No. Main

Kingman, KS

Upcoming Auctions

Saturday, April 5, 2025 Consignment Auction - Hamm Auction Center 9:30

For more information and a complete list of auctions, see our website at

www.hammauction.com

107 NE State Road 61, Pratt, Kansas, 67124

620-672-6996

HAMM Auction and Real Estate, LLC



A Column  
by  
Dean Marple

Liam

It was simple. The Thompson brothers were bigger, stronger, and they were bullies. Everyone knew that Jacob and Aiden Thompson ruled the schoolyard. With a Thompson on each side of him, Liam looked like a mouse between two hungry cats.

Jacob, the bigger brother, was amused when Liam took one step toward him. Throwing his hands to his face in mock horror, he exclaimed, “Oh! I’m so scared! What if he hits me?”

“How would you know if it hit you?” Aiden chided. “It’d feel like a

butterfly landed on you. He’s just a little punk.”

To the Thompsons’ surprise, Liam kept moving forward and didn’t stop until he was almost nose-to-nose with Jacob. Or, to be more accurate, the top of his head was just under Jacob’s chin. “Okay, dummy. Take your best shot, go ahead and hit me,” Jacob sneered.

Liam was silent.

“Come on, tough guy. Show me what you got.”

Liam was motionless. His mouth was dry and the sweat running down his back wasn’t due to the heat, but he stood facing Jacob.

“Okay, I’ve had enough of this crap,” Jacob said, his right hand giving Liam a hard shove, forcing him to stumble backward. Hands on

his hips, Jacob snarled, “Hey, little girl, how’d you like that?”

Liam took two steps forward and again stood directly in front of Jacob. Silently.

Jacob wasn’t scared, but he was puzzled because little guys usually ran from him. Not bright enough to think of anything else to do, Jacob stepped forward and shot out both arms, which deposited Liam squarely on his butt about five feet away.

Flexing, in his mind, his huge twelve-year-old muscles, Jacob snarled, “How’d you like that, you little snot? Don’t mess with me.”

Liam slowly drew his legs up under himself, stood, and walked right back in front of Jacob.

“Jacob,” Aiden mut-

tered, “this kid is either nuts or totally weird. He’s not normal.”

“Normal? You want normal? I’ll show you how normal he is after I pound him good.” Talking tough was one thing, but the bewildered look in Jacob’s eyes said something else.

“See my fist?” Jacob cocked his right arm, placing his fist an inch from Liam’s nose. “I’m going to kick your ass. What do you say about that?” Expressionless, Liam just stood there.

This was not going the way Jacob expected. Running, crying, headed back to his mama: that’s what the little guy should be doing by now. The twerp was starting to make him look bad. “That’s it, you’re dead meat!” By now Jacob

was shouting, as he threw the punch that knocked Liam down. Turning, Jacob grinned and spoke to Aiden, “See, look how I showed him.”

“You better look yourself,” was all Aiden said.

Lip bleeding slightly, shirt dirtied, Liam rose—a little unsteady—but he rose. One step, two steps, and again, he was in Jacob’s face. His face hurt, his back hurt, but he wasn’t going away. “What the hell, this is no fun. This guy is just going to keep getting up,” whined Aiden, “I’m bored.”

Jacob wasn’t bored, but he was confused. No one, especially no one that small, had ever stood up to him before. Unsure of what to do or say, he started to bluster, “I’ll rip your head off. I’ll stomp

your guts out. I’ll... I’ll... I’ll... do something terrible! What do you think about that, dummy?”

Liam paused, showed the slightest smile, and then softly spoke for the first time. “I. Don’t. Care.”

And with that, Jacob knew he was beat. Where there was no fear, there was no power. Where there was no power, there was no control. Turning away with nervous laughs, the Thompson boys shook their heads and waved Liam off. Never looking back, they failed to see the proud look on Liam’s face.

He wasn’t so little anymore.

*This a work of fiction. The names used in the story do not represent real people.*

Maybe Tonight

By James Graham

What if the trumpet finally sounded  
And it happened this very night  
The heavens will split wide open  
And reveal a most breathtaking sight

In the eastern skies, it will take place  
Where it is told that Heaven resides  
With authority, our Lord Jesus Christ  
Will summon His church to His side

Tonight could be a special night  
When Jesus beckons us from a cloud  
The glory of the Holy City behind Him  
Heaven’s Choirs heralding Him aloud

He will shine like a mighty beacon  
As His children make their flight  
In a twinkling, they’ll be called home  
And it could happen this very night

It could happen tonight; who knows?  
Only the Heavenly Father knows for sure  
When it is time, the trumpet will sound  
Calling the ones sanctified and pure

Can you imagine the joy in Heaven  
When His children enter the pearly gate?  
They were ready for that trumpet blast  
Knowing that Heaven would be their fate

From every country, they will ascend  
The ones who have acknowledged his name  
They are being called to their reward  
After repenting of their sins, being so ashamed

Tonight, there might be a family reunion  
As ancestors make themselves known  
Having paved the way for the entry  
Of future generations of family, unknown

Maybe tonight will be the very night  
When unbelief will be finally put away  
When the missing will mean the rapture  
And Christ had come on that very day


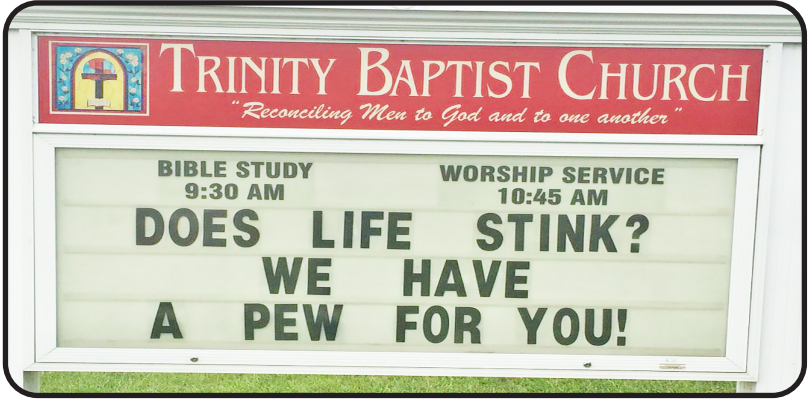
Maybe tonight, His church will leave  
Proving to skeptics that He is the King  
In a twinkling is all that He will need  
To gather His flock while the angels sing

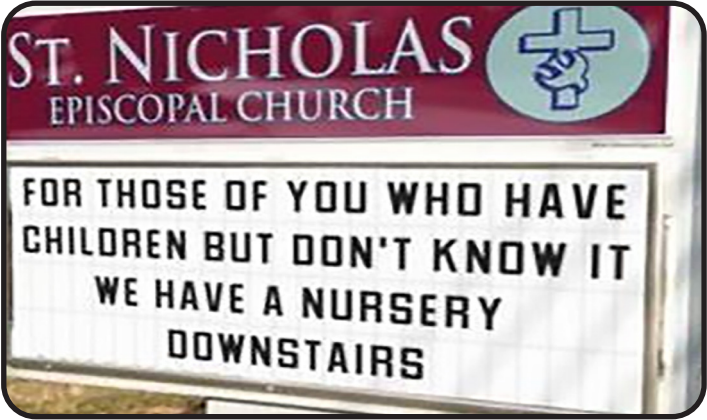
Maybe tonight will be that blessed night  
When we finally get to meet our King  
Have Him welcome us with a hug  
Oh, what a joy that embrace will bring

Just imagine that tonight was the night  
And you never heard that trumpet call  
That Jesus never knew your name  
Passed you by, you stumbled, did fall

Just imagine that if it wasn’t too late  
And you accepted him just in time  
That trumpet sounded; you were gone  
Into an eternity so rich and sublime

Maybe tonight. It’s a sobering thought  
Knowing your eternity rests in your hands  
You can put it off, thinking you still have time  
Or repent and dwell in His promised land





Cunningham Hands of Hope, Inc.

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

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

What: Food

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

Where: 117 N Main (Old School Board Office)

Why: To provide food assistance to those in need.

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

Do you need assistance outside distribution hours?

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

Giving Opportunities in our Community

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

West Kingman County Education Foundation  
Use your Dillon's Card! (to donte contact Janet DeWeese 620-298-2717)

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 Kerri Steffen)

Cunningham EMS (to donate, contact Monte Rose or Kathy Albers)



Catholic Churches


Sacred Heart, Cunningham  
Saturday 5:30 p.m.

St. John, Zenda  
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

St. Leo  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

St. Peter Willowdale  
Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627 620-246-5370




+++++

Lutheran Churches

St. John, Nashville  
620-246-5220  
Sunday School & Bible Class  
9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service  
8:30 a.m.

Trinity, Medicine Lodge  
620- 886-3397  
Sunday School & Bible Class  
9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service  
10:30 a.m.


Pastor vacancy until further notice.



+++++

Church of Christ

Penalosa  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.



+++++

United Methodist Church

Penalosa  
Worship 9:15 a.m.  
Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki  
620-298-2090

Cunningham  
Worship 10:45 a.m.

+++++

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Zenda Methodist Church

Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: Children 8:30 a.m. Adults 10:00 a.m.  
Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953



YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1930

April 4, 1930 – High school students participated in the Fine Arts Festival at Pratt last week-end. Margaret Ratcliff received a Superior Rating in Reading; Mixed Chorus was awarded a Highly Superior Rating; and an Excellent Rating went to the Girls Glee Club.

1935

April 5, 1935 – One hundred and forty-nine citizens trekked to the polls in the City Election, Tuesday, choosing A. I. Jones as Mayor; Norman Hart as Police Judge, and Wayne DeLair, Carde Cannon, Marvin Bahling, Glenn Patton, and O. R. Benningfield as Councilmen.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Raney announce the birth of a son, Thursday, April 4.

1940

April 5, 1940 – Hargus Bainum received over 90 cards and letters congratulating him on his eighty-fourth birthday last month.

Chase Foutch and Martin Pelzl began working for Uncle Sam this week as Census Enumerators for Dresden and Rural Townships.

John Shelman, 52, a resident of Dresden Township and the Cunningham community all his life, passed away Monday.

1950

April 7, 1950 – Arch Lovern is a new member of the City Council, replacing Carlos Cannon, who resigned some time ago.

High school musicians, under the able direction of E. R. Smizer, received very good ratings at the District Music Festival in Pratt last week-end. Highly Superior Ratings were awarded Norma Watkins and Marilyn Oak; Superior Ratings were won by Jane Oak, Ann Hauser, Elva Mae Gagnebin, Lynn Glaze, Mixed Chorus, and Girls Glee Club; and Excellent Ratings were awarded Sibyl Spain, Jack Watkins, Beverly Barr, Richard Hazlett, James Ganebin, and Mary Smith.

1955

April 7, 1955 – One hundred and forty-six voters cast ballots in the City Election, Tuesday, and overwhelmingly elected W. G. “Dub” Jones as the new Mayor of Cunningham. Jones collected 92 votes against 33 cast for D. E. Thompson, incumbent.

Henry Gibbens was re-elected Police Judge with seventeen write-in votes.

In the race for the five City Council positions, Lon Hoagland, incumbent, led all candidates with 103 votes. He was followed by Bob Underwood, incumbent, with 94 votes; Herman Hayes, new Councilman, with 84 votes; Eddie Steffen, new Councilman, with 78 votes; and Albert Ditto, incumbent, with 68 votes. Other candidates were Dick Rathbun with 63 votes, Earl Donaldson with 60 votes, and veteran incumbent Floren Rose with 57 votes.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rohling announce the birth of a daughter, Thursday, March 31, at the Nashville Hospital.

She weighed eight pounds, eight ounces, and has been named Janet Marie.

Paternal grandmother is Mrs. Anna Rohling, and maternal grandmother is Mrs. Anna Ebenkamp.

Fifteen buffalo are now pastured at the Calista State Quail Hatchery. The buffalo brought here from the Meade State Game Reserve, where the herd had gotten so large it was necessary to move part of the animals to Calista.

In addition to the state quail hatchery and equipment at Calista, it is expected that the buffalo will be of considerable interest not only to local people, but to the many tourists traveling Highway 54.

The buffalo are now in the pasture south of the road just west of the east river bridge.

1960

April 4, 1960 – The Pratt-Kingman County Line bridge across the Ninnescah River northwest of Cunningham was damaged by fire of undetermined origin, Monday afternoon.

Pratt County Engineer Paul Henderson and Kingman County Engineer Merle Watson had planned to inspect the bridge the next afternoon (Tuesday) to determine what to do about needed repairs on the structure. The bridge is owned jointly by the two counties.

The township fire truck from Cunningham answered the fire alarm about 2:30 o’clock and extinguished the blaze which started at the northwest corner of the bridge.

The stringers and superstructure were damaged before the fire was put out. The two engineers agreed to repair the 140-foot wooden timber bridge temporarily, and open it to one-way traffic.

A pasture with some brush near the bridge was burned.

Fred Garten, grade school coach and fifth grade

teacher for the past five years, resigned this week, effective at the end of the current school term.

Mr. Garten has accepted a position at the Hazelton Grade School, where he will serve as school principal and coach.

During Mr. Garten’s five years at Cunningham Grade School, his basketball teams have won 39 games while losing only seven, and have won the county grade school league championship four out of the five years.

Fifty-four residents of the Cunningham and St. Leo communities donated a pint of blood to the Red Cross Bloodmobile Unit, Monday. The unit’s visit was sponsored by the four churches of Cunningham and St. Leo’s Church.

Chester Spade of Cunningham signed the two-gallon donor poster, and Ralph Hageman and Bill Theis of St. Leo, and Leo Albers, Al Joe Sterneker, and Willis Welch of Cunningham, signed the one-gallon donor poster.

The second annual Talent Show, sponsored by the Cunningham Lions Club, will be held in the High School Auditorium, Saturday evening, April 9, at 8:00 o’clock.

1965

April 8, 1965 – Ninety-four citizens cast ballots in the Cunningham City Election, Tuesday, electing the People’s Party Ticket, the only ticket filed for the election.

Mayor Francis Dafforn received 77 votes as he begins his third term in office. The voters selected a new Police Judge, Lester Yarberry, who received 72 votes. Mr. Yarberry succeeds R. O. (Bob) Underwood in the judgeship.

Two new Councilmen were elected to office, K.C. Jones and Ivan Cain. Mr. Jones led all vote-getters with 86, and Mr. Cain polled 84 votes. Re-elected Councilmen included Roy Lewis (81 votes), Floren (Shorty) Rose (84 votes), and Waldo Graves (81 votes). Retiring Councilmen are Ralph (Rusty) Baber and Roy Ellis.

In the school board member election for Unified School District No. 332, Evan Thornhill received 60 of 72 votes cast for Position No. 1 (Cunningham); Waldo Graves received all 22 votes cast for Position No. 2 (Cunningham); George Beat won over Don Schnittker, 85 to 17, for position No. 3 (St. Leo); Paul Conrardy was elected to Position No. 4 (Willowdale); Joe Strong was a “write-in” winner, 24 to 20, over Richard Morisse for Position No. 5 (Nashville); and Larry Whitmer was elected to Position No. 6 (Zenda).

The Senior Class will present the play, “Bolts and Nuts,” a farce-comedy in three acts, tonight (Thursday) in the high school gym-auditorium. Curtain time is 7:30 o’clock.

The cast of characters includes Carol Strohl, Marleen Cooley, Diana Spade, Jeanne Lackey, Charles Dafforn, Randy Shelman, Steve Cooley, Elmer Adelhardt, Vicky DeLaRosa, Ervin Huslig, Margie Jarmer, Don Kitson, and Bob Witt.

Directing the play are Mrs. Eva Cundiff and Mr. Lewis Mann.

Class members assisting with the advertising are Gerald Schnittker, Gray Miller, Nancy Lagree, and Bill Scripsick.

Seniors assisting with the programs are Ruth Brady, Karen Mertens, Gail Nelson, and Alvin Penka.

Admission prices are adults 50¢ and students 25¢.

1970

April 9, 1970 – Vernon C. (Vern) Hendrixson, owner of Vern’s Mobil Station, died Friday at his place of business, after a heart attack.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin D. Sheldon of Cunningham, announce the engagement of their daughter, Deborah Ann, to Staff Sergeant Henry T. Nare Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Nare Sr. of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Miss Sheldon is a graduating senior at Kansas State University in Manhattan. Staff Sergeant Nare is stationed at Fort Riley, and will be discharged from Army service in June.

A June 6th wedding is being planned.

Advertisement: Cunningham Lions Club Broom Sale; Saturday, April 11; 9:00 a.m.

Buy Blind-Made Brooms and Other Household Items From ...

House-to-House Lions Club Salesmen

Truck on North Main Street

Or Phone Jack Crick, 298-2663 or Larry Marston, 298-2943.

A birthday dinner was held in the Preston American Legion Hall, Sunday, April 5, honoring R. E. Oller and granddaughter, Mrs. Delmar Schnittker.

Avout 100 children enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt at the ball field last Saturday afternoon. The event was sponsored by the Cunningham Lions Club, who “hid” almost 900 eggs, and awarded 15 special prizes.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Rex Zimmerman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1975

April 3, 1975 – Barbara Herd and Herbert Park, both of Cunningham, exchanged vows in a single ring ceremony at 7:00 p.m. on March 1, 1975, in the United Methodist Church in Cunningham. Reverend Harry Graves officiated the ceremony.

Attending the couple were Mrs. Peggy Schoepf of Harper and Ronnie Park of Cunningham.

Mr. and Mrs. Park are now at home near Cunningham.

First Grade News: The kindergarten has been making many things for Easter: Easter rabbits, cotton chicks, baskets, and painted eggs. They have been practicing “M” and “T” sounds in reading and learning numbers up to eighty.

Fifth Grade News: The fifth and sixth grade had a debate. The debate was over slavery. In science the boys drew and painted a rocket. The girls made and painted Apollo space craft. The fifth grade made egg-head people for art and shamrocks pictures for St. Patrick’s Day.

ADV: Yellow formal, size 11, good condition.

ADV: Go cart for sale, good condition. Contact Rick Sterneker.

For sale – 1974 Honda ATC 90, 3 wheeler Curt Rakestraw.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Vickie Lohmann

Reporter: Florine Kampling

1980

April 3, 1980 – Robert N. Schnittker, Cunningham, a Kansas State University sophomore studying business administration, was named individual winner in the 191-pound and above, righthanded class of the University intramural arm wrestling championships. Schnittker is a graduate of Cunningham High School and a member Phi Kappa Theta fraternity.

Mary M. Zrubek called Mr. and Mrs. Leo Zrubek Sr. Sunday evening to say she had returned to Denver after spending three weeks in Kenya, East Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. Danny Theis announce the birth of their son, Joshua Ryan, who was born March 27, weighing 7 lb 11 oz. He has one sister, Nikki Lyn, 3.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Baber and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Theis. Chase.

Great-grandmothers are Mrs. Elizabeth Theis and Mrs. Ruth Cooley.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brady of Lees Summit, Mo. Announce the birth of a baby daughter, Kristal Lynn, born March 27, weighing 8 lbs. 9 oz.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stillwell, Penalosa.

Great-grandmother is Mrs. Lizzie Brady of Penalosa.

1985

April 4, 1985 – Peter L. Preisser, 64, died March 26 of an apparent heart attack while working in his garage at home. Born March 30, 1920, at Haven, he married Cecelia Wedman August 23, 1948 at Caldwell. He was a retired Cudahy employee of Wichita and retired farmer and stockman. He was a lifetime resident of Haven.

He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ost, and a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Basil Franklin Tade was born March 12, 1904 at Novinger, Missouri where he attended school and graduated.

On May 22, 1922, he was united in marriage with Gurneth Ida Speak in Lancaster, Mo. To this union two daughters were born: Arlene Bradley of Cunningham, and Roberta Exline (Mrs. Dan) of Mystic, Ia.

Seven of Cunningham High School math students went to Bethany College, Lindsborg, recently to a math competition. All took the same test, but those taking the test were grouped according to how much math they had taken. Dennis Hageman, Rod Holcomb, Scott DeWeese, and Mark Sant competed against those having two or three years of math. Gail Fischer, Ed Park, and Sandra Strong competed against those with four years of math.

No word has been received yet as to how well the Cunningham students did in this competition.

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### Minutes from the Kingman County Commission

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. March 24, 2025, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Pat Elpers, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk; Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Dale Enyart; Larry Landwehr

Online Visitors: Amanda Stucky; Heather Kinsler; Carolyn; Public; Kingman Activity Center; Amber Hmtley; Ashley Keimig and Jamie Smith.

Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser, Zoning; Amber Hattley, Appraiser; Jamie Smith, County Treasurer and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there were any additions to the agenda. MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the agenda with two executive sessions added. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote 3-0.

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there was any public comment. No Comments made.

Chairwoman Lyon asked Commissioner Elpers if he had decided on the CEOB(Chief Elected Official Board) position for REAP.

Commissioner Elpers said that he did not want to be on the board for REAP. Chairwoman Lyon said she would offer to be on the board if no one wanted to be on it. MOTION: Commissioner

Thimesch moved for Chairwoman Lyon to be on the REAP Chief Elected Official Board to represent Kingman County. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners signed one abatement:

Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; Carol Noblit, County Clerk; Amber Hartley, Appraiser and LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer were in to discuss the current NRP program and a possible change moving forward.

Commissioners discussed possible changes to the NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Plan). 9:09 a.m. Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser was in to discuss the NRP with the Commissioners. The current NRP was discussed and how it has been going.

Ms. Stucky presented the County Commissioners with information from several other counties and what their plans look like in comparison to Kingman County NRP.

Commissioners decided that May 31<sup>st</sup> the new plan will not include residential.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve changes on Commercial and removing residential for 2025. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Ms. Stucky presented the Commissioners with the following building permits:

I. Amanda Green for a new home in Section 19, Township, Range 05W.

Montana Soderberg for a Barn Extension in Section 18, Township 30, Range 05W.

Laurie Hickle for a storage building in Section 18, Township 28, Range 05W.

Jarus Henning for a

new home in Section 36, Township 27, Range 05W.

Aaron & Chandra Robertson for a new home in Section 33, Township 29, Range 06W.

Colt Dodge for a home extension in Section 7, Township 27, Range 07W.

Krista Owens for an in-ground pool in Section 36, Township 27, Range 05W.

Dean Simon for a pole barn in Section 23, Township 27, Range 05W.

Greg & Kathy Scheer for a storage shed in Section 31, Township 29, Range 06W.

Laurie Hickle for a car port & shed in Section 18, Township 28, Range 05W.

Brian Woody/ F & S Fanns for a Farm Equipment Storage in Section 34, Township 29, Range 09W.

Ms. Stucky discussed an issue with a parcel that was sold at 14.7 acres and to build on it, it will need to be 20 acres.

Commissioners suggested for the individual to purchase another 5.3 acres to get it to 20 acres or rezone the property to residential.

Commissioner Elpers discussed that Macay Ewy needs to go out and do perculator tests and onsite inspections on all the new additions going in.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Elpers moved to go into executive session at 9:54 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:06 a.m.

Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Elpers moved to go into executive session at 10:06 a.m.

with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:11 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:11 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch per statutorily authority to transfer funds in excess of \$50,000.00 from the Register of Deeds technology fund and will be used in part for her IT costs. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:16 a.m. to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:26 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:26 a.m. to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:31 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to ap-

prove new hire sheets as amended. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners would be willing to discuss this with any employees or department heads if they schedule a time with the Commission.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the minutes of the March 17<sup>th</sup> 2025, Commission meeting for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the minutes of March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Commission meeting. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioner Thimesch let the board know that he did a walk through with four companies to discuss central heat and air for the Courthouse and what it would take.

Commissioner Elpers discussed the Norwiche meeting and the discussion that was had with hometown grants.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in to review the 2024 County Road Supervisor's Annual Report with the Commissioners.

Mr. Arensdorf and Commissioners discussed the application that was submitted for the cost share program.

Regional Solid Waste Plan hearing was opened for discussion.

Commissioners discussed the 5-year Solid Waste Plan and asked Mr. Arensdorf if all the individuals listed are still in the plan.

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that they are still in the plan. MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the 5-year Solid Waste Management Plan. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that the bridge on old 54 will be opened soon. Mr. Arensdorf left the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Ms. Stucky was in to discuss that she received a legal description and would like to submit a resolution to the County Commission to get it to the Kingman Leader-Comier for publication.

Commissioner Elpers asked the Commission if they will be attending the KDOT bypass meeting on Thursday in Pratt from 5-7 p.m.

Commissioner Thimesch said he will attend the meeting so notice will need to be given as Commissioner Elpers will be attending also.

Ms. Stucky was in with a resolution to be approved for a re-zone from A-1 Agriculture District to a Rural Residential District in Section 23, Township 27, Range 05W.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve **Resolution 2025-RIO, A RESOLUTION CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS, UNDER THE AUTHORITY**

**GRANTED BY THE ZONING REGULATIONS OF THE COUNTY AS ORIGINALLY**

**APPROVED BY RESOLUTION NO. 2007-38.**

Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:28 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

### Remember when the Zenda Lumber Yard was a Lumber Yard?



I received the above photo the information below from Rick Dirks. Please note the photo is dated 1975.

"These men (one was my dad Joe Dirks) purchased the Lumber Yard in order to keep it open and allowing Zenda to have a hardware store. I remember dad talking about how they worked with the local Co-op so that both could survive. They would both communicate about their inventory so they wouldn't have double stock. This later become the Lumber Yard Steakhouse and from what I've heard it going to open again this April.

From left to right, Joe Dirks, Jim Bohrer, Bill Adelhardt, Jerry Vanlandingham, RL Shark ? Bob Rutan and Larry Whitmer. I don't know who RL Shark was, maybe he was in charge of selling it. All of the other men I know put in their own money. All of the men are no longer living."



### Hope Springs Eternal

Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

There have been noticeable signs that spring has arrived on our farm. Following a snowfall during the kids' spring break, the sun has come out and the temperatures have warmed up. It's a different feel of seasons.

The flowers have begun appearing in my yard and on my fruit trees. The bees have been out scouting and gathering water. The wheat in the fields has begun to turn a vibrant green. Migratory birds are moving north. The daylight is present longer.

The consistent signs of this season I watch for every year are once again, like clockwork, appearing. It's something I find peace in knowing that while there are many unknowns in this world,

there are natural elements of the season that steadily persist year after year.

One of the consistent events on our farm every spring is the preparation for planting. The winter shop work has been completed. The machines and equipment have been serviced and we prepare to plant seeds in the ground once more.

Over the years, I've heard time and time again that one must be an eternal optimist in order to farm as there are so many uncertainties. There are so many things one does not and cannot control in farming, which still determines the outcome of the investments we make. Weather, pests, disease, costs and the markets are just a sampling of areas that could cause sleepless nights for many if one allows those uncertainties to consume their thoughts.

Yet, just like clockwork, we still plant those seeds into the ground every spring. We believe the sun will rise and the right amount of rain will come when needed. We

believe we will have enough hands available to help harvest the crop. We trust there is demand for our grain, which will allow us to continue for another year.

This year is no different. We are preparing to begin the planting our fall crops in the coming days.

We are preparing for the spring rains that will provide essential moisture to these newly planted seeds. We are preparing for the routines of the work that is done every year as we raise a new crop for another season.

We are preparing for the consistencies we experience every year during this season and are mindful that inconsistencies will appear.

Yes, there are many things we can't control which at times can cause concern.

Yet despite those unknowns, we still prepare to plant the next crop. We prepare to plant seeds that are full of hope.

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The Junior High Cast and Crew from "The Container of Sharks"



(photo courtesy of USD 332)



HS Forensics students traveled to the St. John Tournament last Thursday where Nora Huff placed 4th in Serious Solo and 3rd in Prose, Julia Hageman placed 6th in Poetry, and Sean Kostner placed 2nd in Oration and 2nd in Extemporaneous Speaking.

(courtesy of USD 332)



Melvin Ormiston and Steve Miller at the Billionaire's Banquet, presenting an award of appreciation to Janet DeWeese for her involvement in the Foundation over the last 25 years.

Molly Morgan photos

I received a "Hold The Presses" directive from Coach Kerschen so the information about the powerlifting meets will be in next week's paper.



USD 332 Staff Spotlight:  
Debbie Sulenes  
JH and HS History Teacher

STAFF  
SPOTLIGHT

Debbie Sulenes

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?

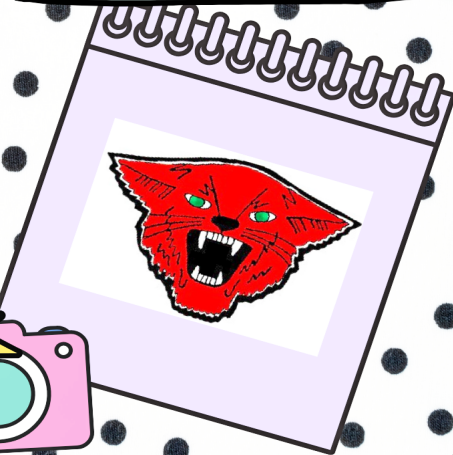
I enjoy the closeness of the staff I work with and getting to watch the students growing from year to year.

ABOUT ME

experience: 7 years, all 7 in Cunningham  
family: Between my two older brothers, I have three nephews and six nieces.  
hobbies: Reading, listening to music, and gardening.  
pets: 1 dog - Cleo 1 cat - Binx

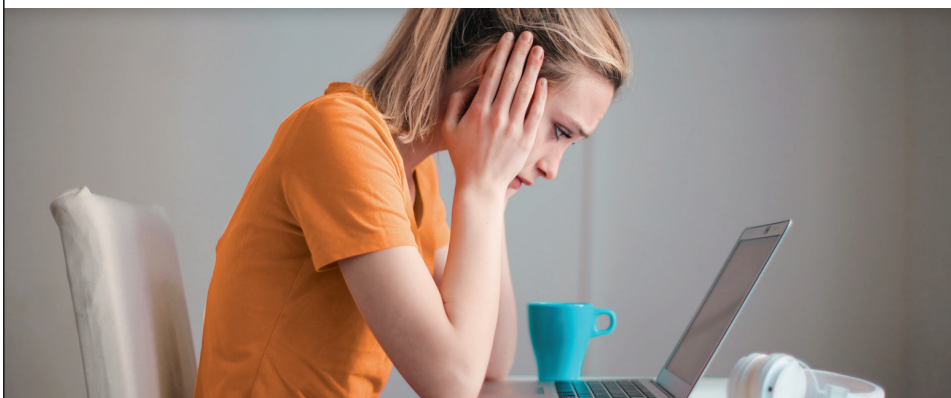
FAVORITES

food: Potatoes of pretty much any kind.  
place: Southeast Kansas/Southwest Missouri  
book: Currently The Martian and Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir  
subject: History



submitted by USD 332

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Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, March 23	
Traffic Stops	3
Non-Injury Accident	N Main St & E D Ave, Kingman
911 Accidental Dial	5100 Blk NW 50 Ave, Kingman
Monday, March 24	
Traffic Stops	7
Alarm	4800 Blk E Hwy 42, Rago
Traffic Complaint	2000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	14000 W 42 Hwy, Nashville
Disabled Vehicle	9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Tuesday, March 25	
Traffic Stops	2
Civil Paper Service	2
Follow Up	900 Blk S Main St, Kingman
Alarm	14000 Blk SE 60 St, Norwich
Warrant Service / Arrest	400 Blk E Copeland Ave, Kingman
Gas Leak	800 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	200 Blk W B Ave, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	6500 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Agency Assist	8000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Wednesday, March 26	
Traffic Stop	1
Civil Paper Service	3
Agency Assist	8000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Disturbance	200 Blk N Pine St, Kingman

Traffic Complaint / Arrest	4900 Blk NE 10 St, Kingman
Warrant Service / Arrest	2000 Blk S Hwy 14, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	1300 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	13000 Blk E Hwy 42, Norwich
Thursday, March 27	
Civil Paper Service	2
Fire / House	4800 Blk NE Tumbleweed Ln, Cheney
Agency Assist	7000 Blk SE Sugar St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Friday, March 28	
Traffic Stops	2
Civil Paper Service	3
Suspicious Persons / Arrest	1200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Miscellaneous	1700 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	1700 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	SW 40 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman
Miscellaneous	1200 Blk N Broadway St, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	12000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Suspicious Vehicle	300 Blk N Logan St, Cunningham
Suspicious Acticity	100 Blk S Spruce St, Penalosa
Saturday, March 29	
Traffic Stops 2	
Disabled Vehicle	12000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Check Welfare	700 Blk NW 170 Ave, Cunningham
Miscellaneous	500 Blk N Lasalle St, Kingman

More Fred Kirk

My last writing for The Courier was about an itinerant farm hand and loyal friend of my grandpa, Ben Albers. My ideas from “Coco” about the Day of the Dead and that when we stop thinking and talking about our loved ones is when our deceased loved ones really are gone.

Grandpa Ben is the same. I never met my grandpa, but I heard many stories about him from his old friends and even family members. When old friends tell loving stories about the

deceased, I hope I’m remembered equally as well when I’m gone.

Back to Fred Kirk. I mentioned Fred’s drinking problem during Prohibition and the gallon of moonshine that was dropped down in the neighbor’s pasture that he would often receive. Dad (John) said that when Fred would retrieve the moonshine he would immediately take the jug to Grandma Maggie. Grandma would pour off one fifth of the brew and keep it for Fred after he finished his multi day binge. The purpose

of the fifth was his sobering up liquor. Some would consider what Grandma and Grandpa did would be enabling an alcoholic but it allowed this damaged friend to be able to function.

Other people also had Fred Kirk stories. Henry Kershen (Heinie) told me stories about Fred. Heinie told stories of when he was a young farm hand working with harvest crews which included Fred. Being an Irishman born in Ireland; Fred was unfamiliar with snakes. Fred’s fear of snakes was well known.

So, his coworkers would find snakes in the field and try to scare him. Heinie told of the time that one of the coworkers found a snake and hid it in the toolbox of the threshing machine and then telling Fred he needed a tool out of the toolbox. When Fred opened up the toolbox his heart almost stopped when he opened and stuck his hand in only to grab a snake. The laughter was great, and Fred was the butt of that joke.

One other Heinie story was that when it rained during harvest, a card

game in the hayloft of the Young family barn. Henry, being the youngest of the crew, was given the job of locating Fred when he was absent from the hayloft for too long. After looking long for Fred, he finally found him passed out between a couple of sows in the pig sty. After rescuing Fred from the pigs, the game went on.

Dad also told the story about how Fred had got Jake Leg. During Prohibition an alcoholic would drink anything that contained alcohol. Some unethical individu-

als made wood alcohol, which would cause severe illness. Fred consumed some of this wood alcohol and was paralyzed from the drink. Being a veteran Fred was eligible to use the services of the VA Hospital in Wichita. Because of the VA Hospital Fred was eventually able to recover from the Jake Leg. Brother Gene and I met Fred one time and I’ll tell that story next time.

-Alan Albers  
03-30-2025

News Breaks

by Charles Keller

A new kind of soda is being bottled. The inventor's son explained, "That's my pop."

A newly patented sandpaper was discovered by a man who really had it rough.

A new kind of walnut is being sold but people thought it wasn't what it was cracked up to be.

The next space satellite will contain cattle. It will be the herd shot around the world.

The first horse shelter was opened to provide animals with a stable environment.

*“My love is pizza shaped. Won’t you have a slice? It’s circular, so there’s enough to go around.”*

— Dora J. Arod, Love quotes for the ages. And the ageless sages.

*“I love my pizza so much, in fact, that I have come to believe in my delirium that my pizza might actually love me, in return. I am having a relationship with this pizza, almost an affair.”*

— Elizabeth Gilbert, Eat, Pray, Love



Cozy's Pizza

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620-298-7000

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Friday and Saturday - 11:00 to 8:00

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SUDOKU

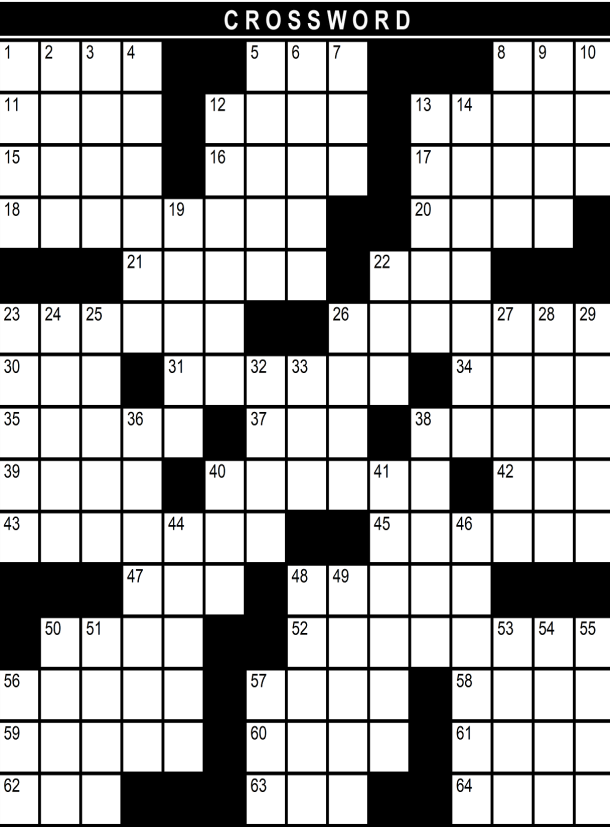


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Statepoint Crossword

Theme: Desserts



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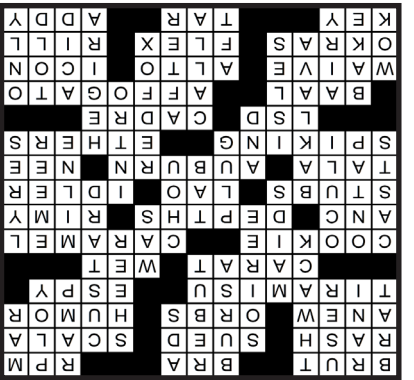
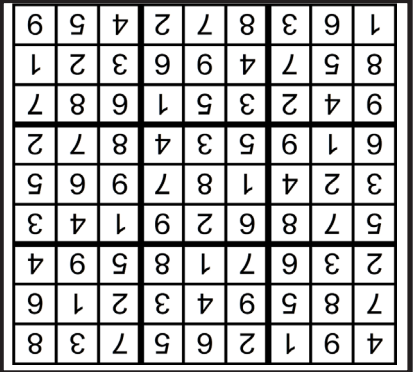
ACROSS

- Like some champagnes
- Undergarment
- Dashboard acronym
- Poison ivy woe
- Took to court
- Milan’s La \_\_\_\_
- Afresh
- Globes and such
- SNL’s forté
- \*Ladyfingers+coffee liqueur
- Grammy of sports
- Jeweler’s unit
- \*Like walnuts on ice cream
- \*Thin Mint or Carmel deLite
- \*Apple dip
- Nelson Mandela’s org.
- Profoundness, pl.
- Frost-covered
- Ticket leftovers
- Pathet \_\_\_\_
- Lazybones
- Samoan money
- A in AU, Alabama
- Heidi Samuel \_\_\_\_ Klum
- Contaminating punch
- Flammable anesthetics
- a.k.a. acid
- Military group
- Jezebel’s deity
- \*Espresso+gelato
- Forgo
- Palo \_\_\_\_, CA
- Sacred image
- Southern cuisine pods
- Show the guns

DOWN

- Small stream
- “The Star-Spangled Banner” author
- Toni Morrison’s “\_\_\_\_ Baby”
- Adeline or Addison, for short
- Troublesome child
- Jasmine of “Aladdin,” e.g.
- Olympic cast-out
- Smack
- Anatomical sac
- Overthrow by argument
- Marketing creations
- Wild onion
- Clever tactic
- Spanish sea
- Evening party
- See-through
- \*Eggs+milk+sugar
- Old \_\_\_\_, or unpopped popcorn kernels
- Be, singular past tense
- Uses a fishing reel
- Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
- Round openings
- Cabbage, in France
- “The House at Pooh Corner” author
- African chieftain
- Ancient Greeks’ harps
- Socket counterpart
- Bar bill
- \*Filo dough+nuts+honey
- Book opener
- Uniting conjunction

- Robin Hood in Disney’s “Robin Hood” (2 words)
- Keys
- Mecca to Medina exodus
- Type of lily
- Happily ever when?
- \*Make Alaska
- Gossamer
- Vinegar or lemon juice, to a chef
- Communicated
- James Bond’s “For Your Eyes \_\_\_\_”
- Asian cuisine pan
- Astern





## Pratt County Commission Minutes

The Pratt County commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 10th, 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, Tricia Clark, deputy county clerk and Mark Graber, IT director.

Heather Morgan, Economic Development, reported the January unemployment was up .4%. Last month Pratt County was at about 3%. There is a new oil and gas company looking to go into the industrial Withers building on Highway 54. They are working with PADC on an incentive package.

PCC is holding a meeting tonight with Barton Community College related the nursing program. They want to talk about how to better the healthcare workforce needs in the community.

City of pratt did receive notice that the federal funds have been unfrozen for their utility infrastructure substation redundancy projects. This will be important for the businesses in town. Legislature is working on

several tax bills this week having to do with property taxes, evaluations and individual income tax.

Cheryl Phye/Brandi Gruber, Elder Care/Friendship Meals, gave an update on the funding and programs for the senior citizen meals in the county. The funding that Elder Care was getting from Southwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging went through the Older American act has not been extended as of now. The Friendship Meals the senior building offers are not actually free. They have had extra funding the last 5 years but food costs started rising in 2024 by 11%. In October they were told that federal funding was going to cut \$.29 cents per meal. The current average cost is \$7.00 a meal. They are looking for ideas for additional funding such as community involvement, businesses, and sponsorships to keep the program going. \$1500.00 month in donations would come close to cover meal cost. They have sent out over 100 letters to businesses/agencies to try to get the sponsorship and donations. All funds will stay in Pratt County. They want to stay in the loop regarding the building movements due to them holding the food license as well as most of the equipment.

DJ McMurry, appraiser, reported they should have this year’s appraisals in by end of the week, possibly beginning of next week.

Tyson requested an executive session for attorney client privilege to discuss the appraisal of properties. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss the appraisal of properties for 10 minutes at 2:32 pm. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to come out of executive session at 2:41 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motioned carried 3-0.

Jodi Drake, Extension Office, reported they are partnering with the area schools to help with health and nutrition information for students. She also reported the 25th year for Walk Kansas will be held in March.

The county fair will be held a little later this year, July 23rd-26th.

Darcie Van der Vyver, Health department, reported she is working on 2025-2026 grant year that starts July 1st. They have 3 grants through Kansas grants management system they are applying for. In addition, they are

requesting \$24,700.00 through Kiowa for Family Planning since Kiowa is the parent agency for Family Planning/WIC. Darcie will get copies to clerk after grants have been signed. They are in the process of changing cleaning crews due to increase in rates. Darcie also reported they will need a new vaccine refrigerator due to a continuous leak, the new refrigerator is about \$5,500.00.

Jon Roach, Noxious Weed, reported there are 3 new weeds that will be added to the noxious weed list. The new sprayer on the side by side is not working, they are taking it to be looked at in the morning.

Tyson requested an executive session for attorney client privilege to discuss the change in laws concerning noxious weed. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss the change in laws concerning noxious weed for 5 minutes at 2:55 p.m. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to come out of executive session at 3:00 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

J a s o n   W i n k e l ,

Landfill/Recycling, reported the state inspection at the landfill was done and they passed without any violations. The 2015 963 Track Loader needs to be replaced. He has found a replacement through Cat. Landfill can pay for it out for it out of special equipment fund. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to waive the purchase policy and approve the quote from Foley Equipment. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0 Jason also reported recycling has been busy. The acid caninet in the HHW will need to be replaced soon.

Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to approve the minutes from March 3rd 2025, Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Tyson requested an executive session for attorney client privilege to discuss agreements related to the Ninnescah Flats solar project. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss the Ninnescah Flats solar agreements for 10 minutes at 3:15 p.m. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to come out of executive session at 3:20 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner

Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to sign a decommission agreement with Nexterra on the solar farm. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to sign the contribution agreement with Nexterra on the solar farm. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to sign the road use agreement with Nexterra on the solar farm. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver gave an update regarding emailing the commissioners. He stated if you email all 3 commissioners in one email, they cannot answer due to being outside of the meeting. If you email one individually, they can answer a question.

Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to approve the payment vouchers from March 10th, 2025. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones motion to adjourn at 3:34 p.m. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## Pratt County Commission Minutes

The Pratt County commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 24th, 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.

Heather Morgan, Economic Development, reported PADC approved one incentive application for an oil and gas supply company moving to town. Approval is contingent on Sandhill’s tax generation and contract signing. Heather also reported the housing study was released publicly via Zoom on Friday. The recording will be posted on the Pratt Chamber’s website. She reported key findings from the housing study showed rural areas struggle with property maintenance and dilapidated housing. Urban areas face outdated zoning regulations such as parking requirements. Accessibility for second-floor housing on Main Street would also be beneficial. Another factor is aging population and housing availability. Larger homes remain occupied by aging residents, limiting availability for families. Potential solutions include developing senior housing, patio homes or duplexes. Pratt has fewer duplexes and simplexes compared to other areas. Construction costs are

high, making it difficult for new builds to appraise at bank-approved levels. State housing programs could help bridge the cost gap.

Commissioner Shriver asked if the study also looked at where to put housing, Heather reported they did and identifying available land for housing development is part of the plan but the lack of vacant lots remains a challenge. Heather also gave an update on the Sawyer project. There is an April 1st deadline. They are currently awaiting results to determine funding availability for the three communities.

Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to approve the minutes from March 17th, 2025. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Hoffman presented a bid to the commissioners to fix the air/heat unit in the commissioner’s meeting room. Integreen recommended replacing the unit with a mini split at the cost of \$8295. Clerk Hoffman will update the commissioners with the current available courthouse budget and also the ending balance of 2024 so they can review. The commissioners agreed to revisit the bid at a later meeting

Vikki Mader with Horizons Mental Health Center presented their quarterly update. Vikki reported 600 individuals were served in Pratt County with over 9,000 services provided, including therapy, community psychiatric support, crisis services, family therapy, and respite care.

Patients range in age of 4 years to 89 years old. The largest age group is 10 to 19 years old, followed by 5-9 years old and 30-44 years old. She also gave an update on facility expansion and staffing. They are currently combining two buildings and adding 4-5 new offices to expand therapy and mediation management services. She reported they have stable financial performance but the Medicaid payment rate has decreased as service volume has increased. There is no indication of funding cuts for mental health services and there is strong federal support for mental health.

Commissioner Jones asked for last year’s data to compare and Vikki said she would be happy to present that at the next meeting.

Aimmee Peschka with Family Crisis Center presented a proclamation to make April Sexual Abuse Prevention Month for Pratt County. Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to adopt the proclamation. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Kayla Bailey with family crisis center presented a proclamation to make April Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month for Pratt County. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to adopt the proclamation. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Hoffman requested to split the current election deputy pay between clerk and election funds to better reflect the work load and more

accurately track department cost for budgeting, approval was given to split pay. She also reported that complaints were received about the floor condition and asked to seek bids for professional floor cleaning services. Commissioners asked to get bids for initial deep cleaning and ongoing

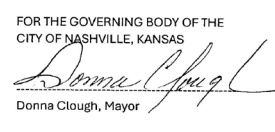
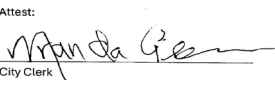
maintenance.

Clerk Hoffman updated the commissioners about polling place arrangements with the move of the city police to from the LEC building to the Community Center. Currently the west side is being used by seniors and lacks sufficient space for election setup as is. The

old PRRC building could be used for a location for the senior program or possibly election so the building is utilized and maintained.

Commissioner Shriver will be reaching out to city officials to discuss possibilities and Clerk

*continued on page 12*

Public Notice	
<p>Published in the <i>Cunningham Courier</i>, the official city newspaper on Thursday, March 27, 2025 (2t)</p> <p><b>CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 1 - 2025</b></p> <p><b>A C H A R T E R O R D I N A N C E E X E M P T I N G T H E C I T Y O F N A S H V I L L E , K A N S A S F R O M T H E P R O V I S I O N S O F K . S . A . 1 5 - 2 0 1 , R E L A T I N G T O T H E E L E C T I O N O F T H E G O V E R N I N G B O D Y , T H E I R T E R M S O F O F F I C E , T R A N S I T I O N S T O N O V E M B E R E L E C T I O N S , T H E F I L L I N G O F G O V E R N I N G B O D Y V A C A N C I E S , A N D N O M I N A T I O N P E T I T I O N S ; A N D P R O V I D I N G S U B S T I T U T E A N D A D D I T I O N A L P R O V I S I O N S O N T H E S A M E S U B J E C T .</b></p> <p><b>B E I T O R D A I N E D B Y T H E G O V E R N I N G B O D Y O F T H E C I T Y O F N A S H V I L L E , K A N S A S :</b></p> <p><b>Section 1.</b> The city of Nashville, Kansas, by the power vested in it by Article 12, Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution hereby elects to and does exempt itself and make inapplicable to it the provisions of K.S.A. 15-201, which applies to this city, but is part of an enactment which does not apply uniformly to all cities.</p> <p><b>Section 2.</b> Commencing with the election of members in November, 2025, the governing body shall consist of a mayor and three council members to be elected to terms as set forth herein. The mayor and council members shall be residents and qualified electors of the City of Nashville, Kansas.</p>	<p><b>Section 3.</b> General elections shall take place on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November, 2025, and succeeding general elections will be held every two (2) years on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November for all such governing body positions whose terms have expired.</p> <p><b>Section 4.</b> The mayor and council members shall have two (2) year terms and until their successors are elected and qualified.</p> <p><b>Section 5.</b> In the general election taking place in November, 2025, and each succeeding regular city general election thereafter, there shall be three (3) council members elected along with a mayor.</p> <p><b>Section 6.</b> Commencing with the general election taking place in November, 2025, the term of office for newly elected and qualified members of the governing body positions shall commence the second Monday of January following the certification of the November general election.</p> <p><b>Section 7.</b> All elections for the City of Nashville, Kansas, shall be nonpartisan.</p> <p><b>Section 8.</b> In case of a vacancy in the council occurring by reason of resignation, death, or removal from office or from the city, the mayor, by and with the advice and consent of the remaining council members, shall appoint an elector to fill the vacancy until the next election for that office. In case any person elected as a council member neglects or refuses to qualify within thirty (30) days after election, the council member shall be deemed to have refused the office and a vacancy shall exist. The mayor may, with the consent of the</p>
	<p>remaining council members, appoint a suitable elector to fill the vacancy.</p> <p><b>Section 9.</b> In case of a vacancy in the office of mayor, the president of the council shall become mayor until the next regular election for that office and a vacancy shall occur in the office of the council member becoming mayor.</p> <p><b>Section 10.</b> In accordance with K.S.A. 25-205 and K.S.A. 25-2110, and amendments thereto, any person may become a candidate for city office elected at large by having had filed on their behalf, a nomination petition or a declaration of candidacy, accompanied by any fee required by law. The nomination petition must be signed by five percent (5%) of the qualified electors of the City of Nashville, Kansas.</p> <p><b>Section 11.</b> This Charter Ordinance shall be published once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the official city newspaper.</p> <p><b>Section 12.</b> This Charter Ordinance shall take effect sixty-one (61) days after the final publication unless a sufficient petition for a referendum is filed, requiring a referendum to be held on the ordinance as provided by Article 12, Section 5, Subsection (c)(3) of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, in which case this Charter Ordinance shall become effective upon approval by the majority of the electors voting thereon.</p> <p>Passed by the Governing Body,</p> <div><div>FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE, KANSAS</div><div></div><div>Donna Clough, Mayor</div></div> <div><div>Attest:</div><div></div><div>Amanda Green City Clerk</div></div>



# KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

## Dominic

Sponsored by Kathy and Alan Albers



Just look at this unusually handsome fella. Those whiskers are impressive.

Not much is said on the KCHS website about Dominic. But he has been at the shelter since Valentine's Day and he does want a new home.

He is a bit over a year old and weighs about 10 pounds.

Drive to Kingman and meet Dominic, he may be just the gentleman you need in your life.

## Molly Grace

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



What a sweet face Molly Grace has. Her bio on KCHS website is pretty empty. It does tell us she is an Australian Shepherd weighing around 65 pounds. She's an older pup at about 8 and 1/2 years old. She's new to the shelter, only arriving on March 23.

Her adoption fee is \$150.00.

### Public Notice

First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, March 20, 2025.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

LIVONA MAE PRICE, a/k/a LIVONA MAY PRICE, Case No. KM 2025 PR 6

Deceased.

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Kathy D. Price, an heir of Livona Mae Price, a/k/a Livona May Price, deceased, praying:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate, situated in Kingman County, Kansas:

Lots Fifteen (15) and Sixteen (16),

in Block Ten (10) in the Town of Zenda (formerly New Rochester) as shown by the recorded plat thereof.

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 8, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the city of Kingman, in 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.

Kathy D. Price  
Petitioner  
BY: Matthew W. Ricke  
349 N. Main, PO Box 113  
Kingman, KS 67068  
(620) 532-3103  
Attorney for Petitioner

### Public Notice

First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, April 3, 2025.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: DARREL L. TRICKEL Deceased.

Case No. KM 2025 PR 13

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Justin D. Trickel, an heir of Darrel L. Trickel, deceased, praying:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate, situated in Kingman County, Kansas:

Lots Sixteen (16) and Seventeen (17), in Block Twenty-four (24) in the Town of Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas.

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 22, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the city of Kingman, in 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.

Justin D. Trickel  
Petitioner  
BY: Matthew W. Ricke  
349 N. Main, PO Box 113  
Kingman, KS 67068  
(620) 532-3103  
Attorney for Petitioner

### Public Notice

First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, March 20, 2025.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

LARRY E. PIERCE, Deceased.

Case No. KM-2025 PR 7

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

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on March 14, 2025, a Petition was filed in this Court by Monice L. Mart and Leia M. Lawrence, the Co-Executors named in the "First Codicil to the Last Will and Testament of Larry E. Pierce," deceased, dated April 17, 2015, along with the "Last Will and Testament of Larry E. Pierce", deceased, dated July 13, 1988, praying the will and first codicil filed with the Petition

be admitted to probate and record; Petitioners be appointed as Co-Executors, without bond; and Petitioners be granted Letters Testamentary.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 8, 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.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236. If demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Monica L. Mart and Leia M. Lawrence, Petitioners  
Matthew W. Ricke, #20995  
ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC  
349 North Main, P. O. Box 113  
Kingman, KS 67068  
(620) 532-3103  
Attorney for Petitioners

### Comfortably Dumb

by Bruce Quast



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You or your business can sponsor a Humane Society pet for \$10.00 a week per pet. Fifty percent of the profits will be donated to the Humane Society.

Please consider volunteering or adopting or fostering or donating to your local Animal Shelter.



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620-672-2502

Laubhan, Harbert & Haas, L.C.  
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Joseph A. Harbert, CPA  
217 N Main St. Kingman, KS 67068  
620-532-3667  
Lorin Haas, CPA  
420 S. Jackson Suite 200  
Pratt, KS 67124  
620-672-3400

### Agriculture

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120 West 3rd  
Cunningham, KS  
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620-532-0110

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Cunningham, KS 67035  
620-298-2397

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Kingman Healthcare Center

### Insurance

State Farm Insurance  
Jon Wollen, Agent  
152 N Main Street  
Kingman, KS 67068  
Bus: 620-532-3179  
Toll Free: 800-824-6681  
www.jonwollen.com

### Optometrists

Troy Maydew, OD  
Seth Thibault, OD  
Andrew W. Piester, OD  
216 S. Oak  
Pratt, Kansas 67124  
620-672-5934  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M - F  
604 N. Walnut  
Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104  
620-886-3222  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
Seth Thibault, OD  
Andrew W. Piester, OD  
104 West C Ave.  
Kingman, KS 67068  
620-532-3154  
1-800-371-3154  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Friday

### Pharmacists

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Days - store ph. 620-532-5113  
Emergency after hours call  
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Nancy Milford 491-0774  
Lexi Miller 532-5204  
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Effective October 1, 2024: Ads are \$6.50 per column inch. Front page ads are \$11.00 per column inch. All ads are subject to approval of this paper, which reserves the right to edit, reject, or properly classify any ad. Note: The views and opinions expressed in advertisements in The Cunningham Courier do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Courier or staff. Errors will be corrected when brought to my attention.  
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DEADLINES: 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays

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cunninghamautoservice@gmail.com



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The Courier on  
April 14

Recycle - Reduce - Reuse - Repurpose

To reserve the  
Cunningham  
Community Center,  
contact  
Lauren (Murphy) Beat at  
620-770-6054  
murphyLauren2001@gmail.com

Miscellaneous

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-888-519-3376 You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider.

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Sporting Goods

WORLD'S LARGEST GUN SHOW – April 5 & 6 - Tulsa, OK Fairgrounds. Saturday 8-6, Sunday 8-4. WANENMACHER'S TULSA ARMS SHOW. Free appraisals. Bring your guns! www.TulsaArmsShow.com

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

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Lifeguards Wanted



The City of Cunningham is taking applications for lifeguards. Apply in person at 119 N Main St or print application at cunninghamks.net.

Maintenance Help Wanted



The City of Cunningham is taking applications for seasonal maintenance worker. Potential to be a year round position. Apply in person at 119 N Main St or print application at cunninghamks.net.

Pool Help Wanted

The City of Turon is hiring for a Pool Manager, Assistant Pool Manager and lifeguards! Applications are at the City Office Monday-Friday 8-11 and 12-3 or call 620-497-6443.

Help Wanted

The City of Turon is looking for a part-time sub-clerk, if interested please call 620-497-6443.

Kingman Public Transportation

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The Cunningham Courier

320 North Stadium Street

Cunningham, KS 67035

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription Rates:

In Kansas: \$48.00 per year / Out of State: \$53.00

Students: \$33.00 and \$38.00



Joe Raney

Iuka - Joe Truman Raney, 82, passed away March 26, 2025 at his home. He was born October 25, 1942 in Nashville, Kansas to Ralph and Audrey (Washburn) Raney. Joe married Shirley (Roberts) Raney on January 29, 1981 in Pratt. They were married for 44 years.

Joe graduated from Cunningham High School in 1961. He then went on to attend Pratt Community College and Pitt State graduating with his Bachelors Degree in teaching. During his time working, he drove truck for Raney Inc. and RC Williams and eventually retired from Southwest Trucking in 2015. He enjoyed going to the auction, working in his shop, watching football and westerns, working on his lawn and taking care of his garden, caring for his wife, Shirley, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Raney of Pratt, Kansas; sons, Larry (Lisa) Eisenhauer of Iuka, Kansas and Troy (Carla) Raney of Nevada, Missouri; daughter, Lori (Steve) Anschutz of Iuka, Kansas; sister-in-law, Shirley Raney of Cunningham, Kansas; sister, Carol (John) Fast of Haviland, Kansas; grandchildren, Corey (Dakota) Raney, Tyler (Alexis) Raney, Brandon Raney, Conner Raney, Ally Raney, Emily Raney, Tucker Eisenhauer, Toree Eisenhauer, Tanner Schonfeldt, Kady Anschutz, Kory Anschutz, Austen Anschutz and 4 great-grandchildren.

Joe is preceded in death by his parents; sons, Terry Raney and Tracey Raney; brothers, Roy Raney, Gary Raney and Dennis Raney and his sister, Pat Hageman.

Funeral services were held Monday, March 31, 2025 at Larrison Mortuary with John Hamm presiding. Interment followed at Iuka Cemetery, Iuka, Kansas

Memorials may be made to Interim Hospice or Cunningham Christian Church in care of Larrison Mortuary. Online condolences may be made at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com).



Barbara TEMAAT

Pratt - Barbara Sue (Martin) TEMAAT, 84, passed away Wednesday, March 26, 2025 in her home. She was born on June 17, 1940 in Hutchinson to Robert S and Jennie Almeda (Chapman) Martin.

Barbara graduated from Hutchinson High School in 1957 and was fall homecoming queen. She worked as a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell.

Barbara married James A TEMAAT in 1962. To this union, three boys were born, Scott, Michael, and Todd. They divorced in 1984.

She had an in-home daycare, worked in the Pratt County Treasurer's office and then worked and retired from Alco and the Wichita Eagle.

She was a member of Abundant Harvest Church of the Nazarene and First Christian Church in Pratt. She enjoyed doing ceramics, knitting, and flower gardening.

She is survived by her sons, Scott (Roxan) TEMAAT of Derby, Michael (Shannon) TEMAAT of Whitestown, Indiana, and Todd (Sherra) TEMAAT of Edmond, Oklahoma; brother, Robert (Ann) Martin of Marietta, Georgia; grandchildren, Priscilla "Pat" (Zack) McShane and Cristi TEMAAT, Brillana and Elliot TEMAAT, Erich, Austin (Kayla), Isaac, and Ashlyn TEMAAT; and eight great-grandchildren.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents and infant brother, Larry Martin.

A graveside service was held a Monday, March 31, 2025 at Fairlawn Cemetery, Hutchinson.

Memorials may be made to American Heart Association in care of Larrison Mortuary. Online condolences may be made at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com).



Pratt County Commission Minutes

(continued on page 9)

Hoffman will be in communication as well.

Catherine Rohrer, SCKCCA, presented a Sumner County juvenile evidence-based programs grant for approval. Since they are also a part of the 13th Judicial District they collaborate with Pratt County on juvenile cases. Commissioner Shriver moved to approve the juvenile evidence based grant, commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Doug Freund presented a KDOT contract and resolution for KDOT for paint stripping east of 281 highway. Tyson explained there is zero cost to the county, we are giving the state of Kansas authority to reward the bids that it received within the engineers estimate.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to sign the authority to award contract for commitment of funds in the amount of \$442,385 for stripping, commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners discussed the Rattlesnake Creek working group project that was presented last week. Commissioners agreed Pratt County needs to budget for and contribute funds in 2026 to the project to avoid an impact on county assessments in Pratt County. Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to pledge \$25,000 out of the 2026 budget for the Rattlesnake working group through acres and Kansas corn commission. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Tyson, reported the Kansas Municipalities Fighting Addiction is hosting a regional summit. He has reached out to Tracey Beverlin as well. The purpose of the summit is to discuss uses of the opioid related money we receive. There are stipulations on what the funds can be used for

and they are providing guidance at the summit. He encouraged at least one of the commissioners attend.

Tyson also gave an update on the tax foreclosure sale. It was well attended. All the properties sold for at least what were owed in cost. The county will get back \$7,779.71 in cost, in addition \$8,764.10 was recouped in delinquent taxes plus the amount that was recouped pre sale. The total recouped was \$37,346.90 and with the sale roughly \$45,000 was brought in. The funds get distributed amongst the tax entities. The next tax foreclosure is in progress. Demand letters were sent out. Initially 78 properties were on the list, there are now only 35 properties.

Tyson requested authority to hire first American Title to do the title work for the upcoming sale. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to give Tyson authority to hire first American Title at \$200/track not to exceed 35 tracks. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver reported he had a phone call asking if the land by the public safety building would be for sale. Tyson gave an update on previous conversations. There were Issues with zoning, traffic concerns, emergency vehicles using the roads and potential for other county buildings to the north. The land is also currently being farmed. Commissioners agreed to revisit if needed.

Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to approve the payment vouchers from March 24th, 2025. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones motion to adjourn at 3:09 pm. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

A Note of Thanks

The West Kingman County Education Foundation Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Billionaire's Banquet - attendees, mystery participants, auction buyers, donors, servers, and the many people who helped in big or small ways! Thanks to John Hamm for conducting the auction, which resulted in \$5,700 towards scholarships for USD 332 graduates. Special thanks to Marilyn Glenn, Nadine Hope, and Dr. Arnberger for making a delicious meal!

Cards by Roberta Kobbe  
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If you are unable to attend but have seeds to share, you may drop them off at the Sharon School.

## SEED EXCHANGE and GARDEN FAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 AT THE SHARON SCHOOL  
10:00am - 4:00pm

- Free Family Event - bring your friends and neighbors!
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- Information from county extension office on gardening and pest/weed control

Call 620-294-5432 or email [sharoncityclerk@outlook.com](mailto:sharoncityclerk@outlook.com) to reserve a table

Gardening stories appreciated. Any leftover seeds will be added to our new seed bank. \$\$ Donations accepted.

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