

The Cunningham Courier

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(620) 298-2659

photo by
Joyce Depenbusch

May 8, 2025
Volume 35 Number 19

Hilltop Holds Style Show

The Hilltop Manor Sewing Group was started in 2021 by the late Betty Halderman. She thought it would be a way to reach out and give back to others. When the group first organized, they were four residents strong. They still meet weekly, but now they have as many as six to eight residents who help sew and embellish the little dresses under the direction of Judy Link. Their supplies of pillowcases, lace, ribbon and buttons are donated by generous donors, and they are still accepting donations. Betty's original goal was to make and send off 38 dresses to girls overseas. As of this week they have made over 760 dresses that are worn by girls all over the world

Editor's note: If I've mis-identified any of the girls or young ladies, my apologies. I do wish I could have had the room for all the little girls in their dresses. If I have room next week, I'll slip in another one or two. The show was, as always, a delight. The girls seemed to be having fun and seemed quite happy to be modeling. The dresses are adorable. The decorations were clever and fun. Next year, you all should think about attending this bit of culture on a Sunday afternoon.



Rose



Adilynn



Judy was the only resident to model a dress.



Ava and her mom



Ella



Ashtyn



Mira



April Showers Brought May Flowers



Throughout the month of April, patrons were invited to stop by the Cunningham Public Library to meet Librarian Debi Dunlap and to say hi to the volunteers. Visitors could sign up for a chance to win a flower arrangement from The Rusty Rose. Lori Humphrey was the lucky winner and she received her fresh flowers on May Day. Pictured above are Dunlap, Humphrey, and Alesha Arensdorf, owner and talent behind The Rusty Rose.

Be watching for details of upcoming events at the library. Debi is busy making plans for youth and adults this summer.

-submitted by Mary Stackhouse



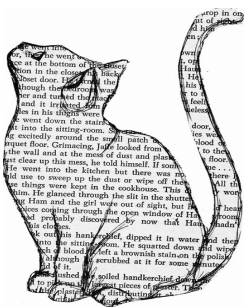
When was the last time **YOU** had a tune-up?
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CUNNINGHAM CLINIC
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Meanderings

Brando is not real smart, I’m thinking. If I’d turn him lose, I’m not sure how long he survived.
Last night I was making myself a sandwich and tore off a piece of cheese about the size of

a quarter and tossed it to him. It landed right in front of him. He looked around. He looked around some more. FINALLY he sees it, leans down and sniffs it, and gags like he’s going to barf. “It’s cheese, Brando! You eat it!” He didn’t. He grabbed it with a claw and tossed it in the air. It landed on his head. He shook his head; cheese fell to the floor and he continued playing with it. After about 5 minutes of that nonsense, he left it on the floor for me to pick up.
What a doofy cat.

**
Tonight the only place I really want to meander to is my bedroom. It’s been a while since I put together a 14-page paper. It definitely takes longer, even though I had plenty to fill it. There are just more pages to decide WHERE everything is going to go. But it is done. It is going to get sent to the printer in a few minutes.
**
My sassy Siamese, Skippy Jones, is in hospice care here at The Kobbe Café and Cabana (and Care home) for Cats

and Canines.
After numerous visits to the vet, and a couple of treatments, it has been decided she has an obstruction or tumor in her nasal cavity.
She is 20 years old. Her heart is good, her lungs are good. Her kidneys are just beginning to fail. And she could live for another year or more... But this obstruction is going to be what kills her within a few weeks. I could take her to K-State and have them run scans and maybe surgery.. but she is 20 years old, so it’s just not going to happen. If she was 2

years old, I’d consider it. But she’s had a good life. A trip of that length would be very stressful for her (and me).
She lays around all day on her heated cushions. (she has two). She still perks up and comes running when I pull out the treats. When I enter the bedroom at bedtime, she races me to see who can get to the bed first, and she curls up in her favorite bedtime place, right next to my pillow. And she does headbutts for attention. Then she purrs and the coughing starts.
She can lay for hours

and everything seems fine. But when she eats or purrs or moves around too much, she starts coughing and wheezing. She sounds horrible. At this time the spells don’t last long, so we manage to get through them.
When she doesn’t want to eat treats or race me to the bed, or ask for attention by head butting, I’ll know it’s time for her to make that last trip to the vet.
Having pets is hard.
**
Always reading, and currently between books! Decisions, decisions, decisions, Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

I can’t be sure how things are in your neck of the woods, but the Annual Spring Burning is pretty much done around here. I did not get the chance to shoot farther down in the Flint Hills this year to watch their incredible conflagration, but I heard it was spectacular. Where I live there was not as much fire as usual because it was either too dry or too windy. And because of this a lot

of CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) will have to wait till next year because of the mid-April cut off. This was something I did not know—that because of the nesting habits of certain Kansas fowl there is a point after which you can’t torch anything for fear of damaging their repopulation. And there are other rules, of course. And I am certain I have unknowingly violated many of these rules as have, well, just about everyone I know. There is no intentional law breaking here, just bliss-

ful ignorance.
Living in the country we burn year round, usually in a fire pit or metal 55 gallon drum. And common sense has kept us from disaster. But though one is not supposed to burn when the wind is over 15 MPH, I wonder if that is even possible around these parts. Residential burning, whether in town or out, is only supposed to be done during daylight hours. Well, heck, where’s the fun in that? And the logician in my brain tells me it is better to burn at night because

if you DO set something aflame that isn’t supposed to be you can see it a lot easier. And here’s a good one—though one cannot use gas to ignite a fire, one may use a mix of gasoline and diesel. Say WHAT? My accelerant of choice, when necessary is charcoal lighter fluid. But most times just newspaper and box matches.
A big regulation is that you never burn anything not designed to burn—like those old tires, rubber and plastic. That’s a big no-no and culprits are generally busted be-

cause the pillars of thick black smoke is a dead giveaway that they are being idiots.
As for the big agricultural burning of cropland, pasture, range, wildlife or watershed management, different rules apply. They can pretty much burn when and where they want, and they need permits and strict adherence to the laws. And for the most part they do a heck of a job, leaving behind them those black parcels of land that checkerboard the state from Missouri to Colorado, from Nebraska

to Oklahoma. But these fires can and do get away, too. Around here a few years ago a crew set out to burn about 160 acres and ended up burning 6000. Not a house or barn or soul was lost but a lot of fence posts lit up like candles. I watched it from my back porch as a convoy of fire trucks from four counties raced down my little gravel road. And, even though by accident, it was as grand as anything the Flint Hills can serve up.
Until next week—keep your eyes on the stars and your back to the wind.

A Column by Dorothy Rosby

Multitasking to Save the World

I don’t hold out much hope for humanity anymore, not since I read the following startling statistic: The average person will spend more than six years of their life on social media—six years debating politics, envying their friends’ vacations and drooling over pictures of other people’s lunch.
Not only that, if we’re average, we’ll spend more than eight years

of our life watching Naked and Afraid, Jerry Springer reruns and other inspirational television programming. In other words, if we’re average, we’ll have around 78 years on this planet and we’ll spend almost 15 of them on drivels.
Before you go thinking that leaves us with more than 60 years of productivity, let me remind you we’ll spend around 26 years sleeping. One third of our lives gone, poof, and we haven’t even gotten out of bed yet. Then we’ll get up and eat for around four years, which is a really long lunch—even for me.
We’ll walk around for

a full year looking for our reading glasses, car keys and whatever else we regularly misplace. We’ll stand in line for five years of our life and we’ll spend 43 entire days listening to recorded messages asking us to please hold because our business is so darned important.
I couldn’t find any evidence to back this up, but I figure we’ll spend the remainder of our precious time on earth deleting spam and blocking robocalls. But I found the rest of these shocking statistics on the internet. And it took me approximately 12 years to do it because I kept getting sidetracked

by fascinating headlines like “The Best Tacos in Every State” and “Are You Making This Huge Mistake with Peaches?”
At any rate, if my math is correct, and there’s no guarantee of that, the most productive thing we’ll do for almost 50 years of our life is sleep and eat—and, if we’re lucky, find our reading glasses.
Mind you, these are averages. I’m sure I’ve used my allotted one year looking for misplaced items, and quite possibly a couple months of yours as well. And I know I’ll spend way more than 43 days of my life on hold, since that’s how I spent the entire month

of March.
Even if you don’t believe everything you read on the internet, and it’s probably best that you don’t, it’s clear we’re wasting a lot of time. How will we ever make progress as a species if we only have 78 years on average, and we spend so many of them doing so little? We have met the enemy and he’s sitting on the couch eating chicken wings and binge watching NCIS reruns.
I see a ray of hope in the statistics though. It appears that researchers have failed to consider the amazing ability of average folks to watch television and eat lunch at the same time.

Plus, while we’re standing in line for five years we’re staring at our smartphones going through our social media feeds. And while we’re wasting seven years of our lives trying to fall asleep, we’re watching TV and tweeting while we’re doing it. That may explain why it’s taking seven years to fall asleep.
The point is, all those years sleeping, eating and standing in line are running concurrently with our TV and social media years. Thanks to multitasking, we should still have plenty of years left over to save the world—or play computer solitaire. Way to be productive, average person!

Poetry From Daily Life

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

Poetry from Daily Life:
‘Don’t talk, just do the poems!’
Poetry from Daily Life

By Constance Levy
My guest this week on Poetry from Daily Life is Constance (Connie) Levy, who lives in St. Louis in a neighborhood of trees, birds, squirrels and other creatures she

welcomes into her poems. Connie started writing poems in first grade. Her first book of poetry, “I’m Going to Pet a Worm Today,” was published in 1991, when she was 60 years old. She is a former elementary grade teacher and adjunct college instructor. A veteran of school visits, conferences, lectures, and workshops, Connie was named a Distinguished Alumna

in Arts & Sciences by Washington University in St. Louis. ~ David L. Harrison

Many classroom visits ago, a second-grade boy rose from his seat as I was introducing a poem and called out, “Don’t talk, just do the poems!” With that in mind I will keep my comments brief and save space for the poems to do their own talking.

Family vacations when our children were young usually included a body of water of some kind. If the water was still and pebbles were available, we would search for our personal pebbles and test our flinging skills. This poem preserves those happy moments we had, enjoying the fun of the contest and the wonders of water. It is in my book, “SPLASH! Poems of Our Watery World.”

Skippping Pebbles
Find a shore
and pick a pebble,
A flat one
you can spin.
Do not plunk it
or slam dunk it:

fling it sidewise
just to skim
the water skin.

Make it touch
as dragonflies do,
skip and touch
and skip again,
to raise a row
of water rings
that grow and grow
and then –

pick a pebble.
Fling it in.
Skilled hands are
handy in other ways, as
well.

The Cook
With a twist
of hand and wrist
In one smooth stroke
he flips
two slippery eggs
in the pan
without breaking
a yolk.

When I first visited classrooms to share my poems and tell how they came about, I found the children eager to tell their own stories and write their own poems. The poetry readings became reading and writing sessions. Any writer who

works with children in the schools will tell you how enriching that experience is for both children and poet.

My own love of poetry began at home with patty-cake and nursery rhymes and progressed to first grade in Miss Yule’s class at Hamilton school. There, I learned and loved “Who Has Seen the Wind?” by Christina Rossetti, “Firefly” by Elizabeth Madox Roberts and “The Little Turtle” by Vachel Lindsay. I still remember them. And there, I wrote my first poems. I peaked in grade three. Then and now, most of my poems are of the natural world: birds, ants, trees, worms, water, grass, frogs, dogs and other interesting creatures.

“Interesting” is a word I use often. As children do, I find many things interesting that others overlook, such as a wasp checking out a weed, a spider wrapping up her recent catch or the surprisingly heavy weight of a bucket of water.

I love the sound of poetry, the music it makes,

its shape and the way it looks framed on the page, and rhymes, alliteration, playfulness, the images it forms, the way it touches our senses and illuminates ordinary things. Words are center stage in a poem and may perform in surprising ways when playing with other words. A poem is your friend when you need one and if you memorize a poem it will stay with you forever.

Constance Levy has received numerous honors and awards including the Lee Bennett Hopkins Award for Excellence in Children’s Poetry, The Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Award, American Booksellers “Pick of the Lists,” National Council of Teachers of English “Notable Book,” The Bank Street College “Children’s Books of the Year,” the “William Allen White Award List (Kansas), and the New York Public Library’s 100 titles for “Children’s Books.” For more information, go to www.constancelevy.com.

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Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, May 8 6:00 p.m. Athletic Banquet	Tuesday, May 13 9:00 a.m. K-8 Awards ceremony *** 11:00 a.m. 8th Grade Promotion
Friday, May 9th 3rd Grade Fitness Day *** Senior Walk and Graduation Practice *** HS Track at Bucklin	Wednesday, May 14 Last Day of School Early Release at 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, May 10 2:00 p.m. Graduation	Thursday, May 15 JH/HS League Track Meet at South Barber
Sunday, May 11 Mothers' Day	Monday, May 19 Drivers' Education begins
Monday, May 12 K-5 Play Day *** 3:30 p.m. Retirement Reception for USD 332 Retiring Teachers *** BOE Meeting	Tuesday, May 22 HS Track 1A Regionals at Greensburg



The Community Calendar is sponsored by

nvalleybank.com

Member FDIC

101 E. First Street
Cunningham, KS
620-298-2511

Retirement Party

Join us to celebrate the retirement of:

Cindy Houtwed

Mary Stackhouse

Bob Stackhouse

Monday, May 12, 2025
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
CHS Gym Lobby

2025 Kingman County Wheat Plot Tour

Tuesday, May 13 at Noon

Conrardy Seeds Test Plot

Location: 7681 SW 80 Ave, Kingman, KS 67068
Lunch provided by: Conrardy Seeds, FCE, and Wheat Alliance

Speakers: **Kelsey Andersen Onofre**
Extension Wheat Specialist
Logan Simon
Southwest Area Agronomist

Contact Grace at 620-532-5131 or gschnei@ksu.edu with questions.

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities, and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Grace Schneider at 620-532-5131. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

School Board Will Meet Monday Evening

AGENDA

Regular Meeting
Monday, May 12, 2025 7:00 p.m.
104 W. 4th,
Cunningham, Kansas

I. Call to Order
II. Approval of Agenda (AI)
III. Guest Recognition
IV. Approval of the minutes of the April 14, 2025 regular meeting. (AI)
V. Approval of financial reports and payment of bills. (AI)
VI. Architect Conversations
VII. Reports
a. Superintendent Report – Dr. Arnberger
b. Principal Report- Mr. Dunlap
c. Special Education Report – Bjorn Halderson
VIII. Old Business
a. Preschool Fees
b. Facilities
IX. New Business
a. Executive session for personnel
b. Accept Resignations (AI)
c. Executive session for negotiations
d. Approval of certified and supplemental renewals
X. Adjournment



- 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

Tractor Safety
Parents and Youth 14-15 years old,
K-State Research and Extension cooperating counties Kingman, Pratt, and Reno, along with partners Kingman and Reno County Farm Bureau, are once again hosting "Tractor Safety" training. This is the federally required course for youth aged 14 and 15 to work for someone other than their parents or grandparents. There can be stiff penalties for farmers who employ youth of this age without this training. We know that you also want to keep your youth safe as they venture out into what will be, for most, their first job.
Tractor Safety will be held on Tuesday, May 27th, at Livingstons Community Building (1830 N Main, Kingman,

KS). Due to an increase in practicum hours required by USDOL (24 hours in total), our training has taken on a new look. Certificates will be awarded to participants who: complete ALL online quizzes, worksheets, and video assignments, attend the entire in-person session on May 27, and complete 6 hours of tractor/implement training with a parent or employer.
As a Kingman County Resident, the Registration fee has

been sponsored by the Kingman County Farm Bureau. Registration for this training is due May 16th. Please sign up early so youth can get started on their online coursework. This can be done at the Kingman County Extension Office (125 N Spruce, Kingman, KS), by phone at 620-532-5131, or by emailing Ag Agent Grace Schneider at gschnei@ksu.edu.

Upcoming Auctions

Consignment Auction
Sat. May 10, 2025 – 9:30 AM

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

Kingman Historic Theatre

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

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

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

Comfortably Dumb

by Bruce Quast

Thank you for Supporting The Courier



Happy Mothers' Day!!!



In Praise of Redneck Mothers

"Life doesn't come with a manual; it comes with a mother."
Anonymous

I like the song – *Up Against the Wall Redneck Mother*. If you need a soundtrack for Mother’s Day, I think it’s appropriate. Written off the cuff by the great Ray Wylie Hubbard after a perilous late-night beer run and bar fight in Red River, New Mexico, and later popularized by Jerry Jeff Walker, it is *questionably* one of the greatest songs ever written honoring mothers - mothers who have loved their sons so well.

For the record, I hold

the term redneck in the highest regard. Redneck mothers are much like regular mothers, but they come with an extra dose of mamma bear courage paired with a titanium spine. They love their babies hard, often raise them in the country, and turn their offspring into fine citizens, for the most part. If you grew up with a redneck mother, you know it, and are better for it.

My mom, a daughter of the Great Depression, grew up in the tiny burg of Hector, Arkansas. She married my dad in 1953 after he returned from fighting in Korea, and they had two sons, one of whom was me.

My mom was a beautiful woman. I remember my fourth-grade teacher describing her as *regal*. She had the most captivating laugh I have ever heard. Good with animals, Mom loved horses and dogs. She was especially fond of mean little Chihuahuas. I still have scars on my hands from our vicious little family pet. Mom was also

a chicken person, so we always had a few hens. She kept a garden, and enjoyed nothing more than harvesting her tomatoes, fresh out of the sun. And she liked onions. She ate them raw with every meal.

Every year when I was in elementary school, Mom was a redneck *Room Mother*. At every holiday and special event, she and one or two of her cohorts would show up at school with cupcakes in hand to help us celebrate.

Mom was ever protective, but not above letting her boys experience new things as we grew. We lived in the country, and she let me drive at the age of eleven. Our family car then was a 1961 Dodge Pioneer with red vinyl seats (Mom’s favorite color was red). With Mom in the front seat, and my slew-foot brother and his baseball cards in the back, we sped along the dirt roads of our little community. I felt like Mario Andretti.

Besides driving, another favorite activ-

ity that we enjoyed were bike rides. Mom would pack a lunch (fried egg sandwiches wrapped in tinfoil) and we would peddle to Englehardt’s store for a Coke and candy bar, stopping at *the pines* for a break before navigating more dirt roads back home.

We were a 4-H family, and Mom was present at every club meeting, county fair, and steer show. She even made it to 4-H camp every summer.

Mom was known for her cooking. Our humble family spread at Thanksgiving was legendary. Mom’s turkey and cornbread stuffing were delectable. At Christmas we were blessed with Mom’s amazing fudge. She would make tubs, and we ate it with abandon. And her banana pudding was to die for.

Redneck mothers are tough, and Mom sure was that. And she had a bit of a temper. If her boys were accosted in any way, Mom never hesitated to jump into a fight.

One memorable episode happened on a visit to our Gramma Nano’s house. To relieve my brother and I from hours of tedious adult conversation indoors, we were allowed to walk a short way to the local “outlet store” as we called it. With little money, we were content to prowl the isles *just looking*. On this particular day, an irritable hag of a store clerk ran us out the back door. She evidently saw us as pint-sized potential juvenile shoplifters and told us to leave the store if we weren’t going to buy anything. When we stumbled back to my grandmother’s house and Mom learned that we’d been kicked out, she was livid. She marched us back over to that store and lit up the place. That cranky clerk received a nuclear level chewing out the residue of which may still hang somewhere in the atmosphere above North America. We were then allowed to stay and shop to our heart’s content.

Mom sometimes made enemies, but as

a redneck mother, she was never too concerned with what other folks thought. Once an ill-tempered neighbor, Mrs. Lay, came riding by our house on horseback with her dog trailing. Mom happened to be out in our steer pen next to the road, and when Mrs. Lay’s Red Heeler darted under the fence and attempted to chase our livestock, Mom went to throwing rocks. The dog was unhurt, but Mrs. Lay was highly offended and the two commenced a cussing war that I think the neighbors still talk about. It was blistering, but all in a day’s work for a redneck mother.

By loving their children well, mothers build the foundation on which we construct our lives. They teach us how to love, both ourselves and others. And that’s the best thing a mother can do. Thank God for redneck mothers. I love you Mom...

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Baby Cry

by Robert Rutaagi

My dear Mother,
Who bore me into this harsh world,
Of sorrow, hunger and loneliness,
Come and baby feed me,
From those delicious teats,
Or else, loudly, I weep.

Dear Mother,
As I here lie in my baby coat,
Under these soft layettes,
And babyhood chains
Of biological disability,
I pray that you come,
From where ever you may be,
And, simply, touch me,
Or else, loudly, I weep.

Dear Mother,
Who cares for me,
Tell me in my mother tongue,
Which you know better than me,

What I command in this harsh world,
Except you, mom, and my capable tongue.
Tell me now, now, now,
Or else, loudly, I weep.

Dear Mother,
Whose maternal tutelage,
I deeply appreciate,
Ask my arrogant father this:
Why can't he attend to me,
Like you do, mother?
Do that or else, loudly, I weep.

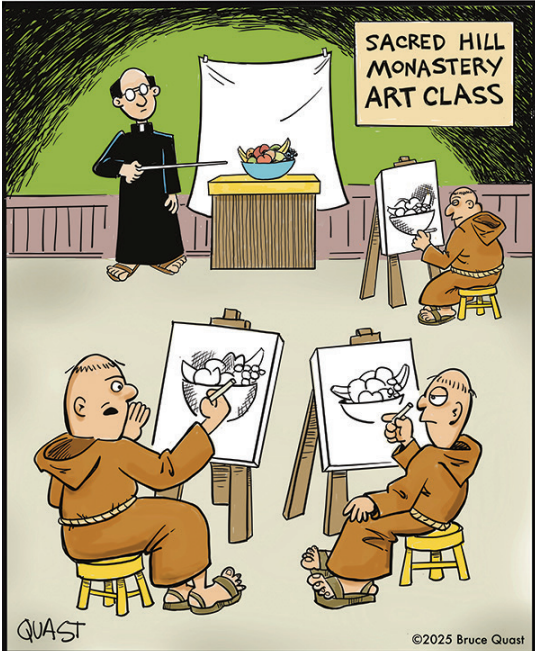
Dear Mother,
All I need in this harsh world,
Is for you and my God,
To accept this, my humble prayer:
God protect my mother;
Mother, always touch me,
Always feed me generously;
I need a clean baby coat
And a good potty -
Or else, loudly, I weep.

Proverbs
20:13-16 NJV
Gold there is,
and rubies in
abundance, but
lips that speak
knowledge are
a rare jewel.
submitted by
Alan Albers



Comfortably Dumb

by Bruce Quast



"They seem to put a lot of emphasis on cross-hatching."

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 needs. This 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 donate 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.
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Pastor vacancy until further notice.



Church of Christ



Penalosa
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

First Christian Church

Cunningham
Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00
Jr High Youth Group 4:00 pm Sunday
Sr High Youth Group 7:30 pm Sunday
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00
Pastor Mike McGovney 620-298-3201



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

2025 Wildcat Graduates



*William Wegerer
is the son of
Kristin & Kevin Wegerer.
Will plans on continuing
his pole vault career while in
college. His college of choice
is undecided at this time.*



*Nate Sterneker
is the son of
Shawna & Tom Sterneker.
Nate plans to attend Fort
Hays State University and
major in Animal Science.*



*Trenton Schnittker
is the son of
Tiffany & Jeremiah Schnittker.
Trent plans to attend Fort Hays
North Central on the Beloit
campus to study in the plumbing,
heating, ventilation and air
conditioning (PHVAC) program.*



*Sy Romine
is the son of
Stacie & Shane Romine.
Sy's plans are undecided
at this time.*



*Dagim Reed
is the son of
Robin & Robert Reed.
Dagim plans to attend
Kansas State University to
study Construction Science
and Management*



*Elizabeth Paris
is the daughter of
Amy Fernandez-Paris
and Craig Paris.
Elizabeth plans to attend
Tabor College and major in
Biomedical and Pre-Nursing.*



*Lexie Shale Murphy
is the daughter of
Marilyn and Brad Murphy.
Lexie plans to attend Wichita
State University, studying Early
Childhood Education Unified.*



*Ellie Vivian McGuire
is the daughter of
Amy and Lance McGuire.
Ellie will be attending Fort
Hays State University and
majoring in health care. She
"looks forward to exploring
the different nursing specialties
such as surgical, orthopedic,
travel, and midwife nursing."*



*Payton King
is the son of
Tosha and Kris King.
Payton plans to go right into the
workforce after graduation.*



2025 Wildcat Graduates



*Kaitlyn Grace Hennessee
is the daughter of
Meghan Hennessee
& Terry Hennesse
Kaitlyn plans to attend Hutchinson
Community College in January
of 2026 for one year and then
pursue a career in cosmotology.*



*Emma Harden
is the daughter of
Shelly and Wes Harden.
Emma plans to attend Wichita
State University to study business.*



*Lucas Hageman
is the son of
Gwen Pritchard and
Darrel Hageman.
Lucas plans to pursue a career in
agriculture and entrepreneurship.*



*Julia Hageman
is the daughter of
Lynnann and LeRoy Hageman.
Julia will attend Wichita State
University and pursue a career
in Finance and Economics.*



*Ava Bock
is the daughter of
Branden and Abby Bock.
Ava will be attending Kansas
State University and majoring
in Integrative Human Sciences
on a pre-nursing pathway.*



*Wylan Betzen
is the son of
Kami Nickelson
and Jeremy Betzen.
Wylan plans to farm.*



*Luke Albers
is the son of
Monica and Cooper Thompson
and Nick and Sheena Albers.
Luke plans to attend Fort
Hays State University to study
General Agriculture.*



*Ada Adams
is the daughter of
Marci and Jay Adams.
Ada will attend Colby Community
College to study veterinary nursing.*



Community Service People Visit Second Graders



Cindy Panek with her student Avery Beat

Piano teacher, Cindy Panek, visited us today and taught us all about her service job. It was fun to hear the background of how she got started playing the piano and then teaching piano lessons. We enjoyed seeing some of her “tools” available to use when teaching her students. The kids enjoyed seeing pictures of former students and doing the Hakuna Matata clapping activity along with asking questions. Thank you Mrs. Panek for your dedication to the students and their learning!



Kaisleigh Johnson with her friend, Sergeant Ken Wright

Thank you to Sergeant Ken Wright from the Pratt Police Department for teaching us all about your service job. We enjoyed learning about your schooling, the duties you perform, seeing your equipment, sitting in the police car, and hearing all the ways you help others. The students especially enjoyed watching you demonstrate how to use the handcuffs on our principal Cody Dunlap ! Thank you for your time and dedication to our class!



Aubrey Wilbanks with her friend, Hayley Pogue

Thank you to Hayley Pogue, from Capital Federal Bank in Wichita, for teaching my class about your CSA-2 banking duties. It was nice for the kids to hear about how banking works and the different types of accounts they can have. We appreciate you taking the time to come out to Cunningham and for answering all their questions!



Casey Raney with his dad, Aryn Raney

Thank you, Aryn Raney, Transportation Supervisor, from Sysco for teaching us all about your company today. We enjoyed learning how the food delivery process works for schools, hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants, and other places that you deliver to. It was interesting to see and hear about all the different workers involved. Thank you for your time and devotion to our class!



Tabitha Dunlap with her friend, Darren Parker

Thank you to artist, Darren Parker , for sharing your love of art with my class. It was interesting to hear your journey in becoming an artist and we loved seeing all of your paintings. It was exciting seeing the process of going from a picture to a sketch and then to a watercolor painting. We appreciate the time you devoted to our class sharing your artistic talent!



Hailey Romine with her friend, Magan Becker

Magan Becker , owner of Magans's Hair Gallery in Pratt, taught us all about cosmetology. She brought in many of her tools and demonstrated several of the services she offers. The students enjoyed learning about the color wheel, seeing the steps to coloring hair, and trying on the hair extension. Thank you Magan for your time and devotion to teaching the students about your service job.

photos and thank yous
submitted by Mrs. Ricke

USD 332 Staff Spotlight:

Henry Huelskamp and Jo McCleskey: Paraprofessionals

STAFF
SPOTLIGHT

Henry Huelskamp

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?

Seeing how much everything has changed for the better since I graduated.

ABOUT ME

experience: 1 year, in Cunningham

hobbies: I love playing games with people, especially board games and Dungeons & Dragons.

pets: I have 2 wonderful dogs, Daisy and Copper, and a handful of chickens

FAVORITES

food: Apple Pie

place: Anywhere with cool air, trees, and running water.

book: The Infinite and The Divine by Robert Rath

subject: Math, history, and science

A little extra:

Remember to stay kind and keep an open heart and mind.

STAFF
SPOTLIGHT

Jo McCleskey

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?

Helping a small country school.

ABOUT ME

experience: 1 year, 1/2 yr. in Cunningham

family: I have 2 beautiful daughters and 7 grandchildren

hobbies: Bicycling and playing pitch

pets: 3 chihuahuas and 8 kitties

FAVORITES

food: Grilled fish

place: In the country by a river

book: Bible

subject: History

Extra Note:

The staff here at Cunningham school is great to work with!

Sunday, April 27

Traffic Stops	3
Civil Paper Service	4
Parking Complaint	NE 60 St & N Hwy 14, Pretty Prairie
Unlock Vehicle	2300 Blk N Hwy 11, Kingman
Miscellaneous	102 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	400 Blk E A Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	3000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman

Monday, April 28

Traffic Stops	4
Civil Paper Service	5
Fraud	200 Blk S Westview St, Norwich
Alarm	30 SE 160 Ave, Cheney
Alarm	16000 Blk SW 10 St, Cunningham
Transport Prisoner	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	400 Blk S Penalosa St, Penalosa

Tuesday, April 29

Traffic Stops	1
Theft	13000 Blk S Main Ave, Rago
Animal Complaint	SE 120 St & S Hwy 14, Rago
Alarm	16000 Blk SW 10 St, Cunningham
Disturbance	200 Blk E C Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Disturbance	400 Blk S Penalosa St, Penalosa
Traffic Complaint	SE 40 St & SE 160 Ave, Cheney
Found Property	2100 Blk N Koch Industrial Rd, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	E D Ave & Fabpro Way, Kingman

Wednesday, April 30

Traffic Stops 4

Civil Paper Service	1
Civil Standby	15000 Blk SE 22nd St, Cheney
Unlock Vehicle	700 Blk E A Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	14000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Traffic Complaint	6000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	E 5th Ave & S Robbins Rd, Norwich
Trespassing	400 Blk S Penalosa St, Penalosa
Thursday, May 1	
Traffic Stops	1
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	8300 Blk SE 10 St, Murdock
Traffic Complaint	16000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Prisoner to Court	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce st, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	200 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Animal Complaint	700 Blk W C Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	700 Blk W Washington Ave, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	SE 100 Ave & SE 80 St, Kingman
Friday, May 2	
Traffic Stops	3
Unlock Vehicle	200 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	3200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Medical	15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
Traffic Complaint	7000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	NW 110 Ave & W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Miscellaneous	200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
Saturday, May 3	
Traffic Stops	5
Agency Assist / Arrest	SW 170 Ave & SW 50 St, Cunningham
Trespassing	NW 10 Ave & NW 20 St, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	SE 20 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman



Jackie Mundt, Pratt
County farmer and
rancher

A few weeks ago, I hit a milestone that seems silly but gave me a huge sense of accomplishment. I reached my goal of closing all three of my fitness rings on my watch for 365 days in a row.

Closing the rings on my watch requires standing at least one minute per hour for 12 hours a day, moving enough to burn 350 calories and exercising for at least 30 minutes a day. None of those activities are very difficult. Even together they are not that impressive. This accomplishment was about consistency. Doing any activity every single day for a year takes determination and persistence.

My original goal

didn't have a time-frame in mind. I wanted to change habits to be healthier, make sure I was moving and doing a little physical activity every day. I set the goal small enough it would be hard to talk myself out of it when life got busy or I was tired.

I started by incorporating walk during my workday, taking a lap around the block a few times each day helped avoid the trap of “not having time.”

As spring grew lovelier, I walked at home. We have a view with Instagram worthy sunset almost every night. In the heat I would walk at first light and enjoy sunrises. Each day passing the same crops and cows up close gave me a view of how they grew and changed in real time.

Midsummer I almost broke my streak. I arrived home after 9 p.m. on a busy day with almost no exercise minutes logged. A thunderstorm had rolled in unexpect-

edly. Not wanting to lose momentum, I walked for 25 minutes around all the rooms in my house, up and down the stairs and anywhere I could get 10 to 15 strides at a time. Poor KitCat, who likes to follow me around, was very confused about my strange pattern and eventually got tired and laid down.

I realized if this goal was important to me, I needed to plan better and be prepared to walk in less than ideal conditions. I got rain boots, a headlamp and various other items to take on whatever Mother Nature threw my way.

I walked in the rain, snow, heat, cold; on nights when it was pitch black and others that felt like hitting my head on the cosmos because the sky was so bright. I walked when I was tired, sick, in pain or just didn't feel like it. I walked on treadmills at hotels, interstate rest stops, the streets of New York, the Mall in Washington, D.C., and

along the rugged coast of Ireland. It didn't matter where or how, I kept up the streak.

The most trying times were when the goal slipped my mind. I had one or two nights where I crawled into bed only to see my watch and remember the rings. Each time I mustered the motivation to change back into workout clothes and head out to get the minutes.

At Christmas time, I was gifted a mini-treadmill that helped me make it through the worst of the winter days that would otherwise have broken my spirit. That was the point I knew I would reach my goal. I had overcome all obstacles and excuses. Nothing would stand in the way because I was committed.

Thirty minutes of exercise sounded simple, but over 12 months I walked 3.5 million steps and more than 1,600 miles. It gave me a new perspective on what it means to be committed.

When you truly commit to something there will be obstacles and trials; make it your priority. Push past the hard and keep showing up — that is how you achieve your goals.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture

*and the lives of Kansans
through advocacy, educa-
tion and service.*

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*News from Kansas
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A promotional graphic for Consumer Cellular. On the left, a large, 3D-style "\$25" is shown with a speech bubble coming from it that says "SAVE \$25". Above the "\$25" is a small tag that says "SWITCH & GET". To the right, a black speech bubble contains the text "Off First Month of New Service!" and "USE PROMO CODE: GZ590". Below this, a white speech bubble contains the "Consumer Cellular" logo. At the bottom, a black banner with white text reads "CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913".

ACROSS

1. Potato chip, in U.K.
6. ____ capita
9. “ ____ the night before Christmas...”
13. Popular garden perennial
14. George Gershwin’s brother
15. *”Follow the Yellow ____ Road”
16. Brickowski of “The LEGO Movie”
17. Pick up a perpetrator
18. Hindu sage
19. *”Flashdance... What a ____”
21. *”Stayin’ Alive” band
23. Actress Gasteyer
24. Windshield option
25. Undergarment
28. Teenager’s woe
30. *Solfège-themed “The Sound of Music” song
35. Capital of Latvia
37. Pilgrimage to Mecca
39. India bigwig
40. Fussess or stirs
41. Belted starman
43. Charged particles
44. Binturong’s cousin
46. Type of salmon
47. Sol, or la, or ti
48. *Eponymous 1978 Franki Valli song
50. To, archaic
52. *Ryan Gosling’s 2023 “I’m Just ____”
53. Part of a jousting outfit
55. Tax pro, acr.
57. *”I Will Always Love You” of “The Bodyguard” singer

61. **“(I’ve Had) _____ of My Life” of “Dirty Dancing”
65. Desert wanderer’s hope
66. Morning condensation
68. Waterwheel
69. Rosetta Stone, e.g.
70. U.N. working-conditions agcy.
71. Perform in a play
72. Through, to a poet
73. First responders’s acronym
74. Force units
- DOWN
1. Carmy in “The Bear”
2. “Emily in Paris” new location
3. **“(This _____)” of “The Greatest Showman”
4. #69 Across, alt. sp.
5. Green layer on copper
6. Contact on social media
7. E in B.C.E.
8. Torah teacher
9. H.S. math class
10. Solomon-like
11. Advil target
12. Sleigh runners
15. Poet and “Surrealist Manifesto” author André _____
20. Jack Black’s Libre
22. Tight one, in football
24. Tiresome
25. Health food pioneer of liquid aminos fame
26. Peter Fonda in 1969 role
27. In the past
29. DEA agent
31. *Prince’s “Purple _____”
32. Digital tome
33. _____ Carlo
34. “A Doll’s House” playwright

36. Away from port
38. *The Lion King” composer
42. Ax mark
45. Sleeping sickness vector
49. Kind of trip
51. Not closed
54. Not mainstream
56. Lack of muscle tension
57. Terry Crews on “America’s Got Talent”
58. The Hippocratic one
59. ____-friendly
60. Farmer’s storage
61. Scarce bills
62. Formerly Persia
63. Three blind ones
64. Chows down
67. Freddy Krueger street

[illegible]

Pratt “Protectors” Meet for Rally

On Thursday, May 1, a group congregated along First Street at the Avenue of Flags to make known their desire to protect the democracy of the United States. Forty-eight adults and four children from four communities (Pratt, Cunningham, Greensburg, and Kingman) held up posters stating their many concerns for the country. Messages included: Protect Public Education, Protect Our Veterans, Protect Due Process, Estados Unidos Necesita Inmigrantes (translation: The United States Needs Immigrants), Medicaid and Medicare Matter, Love not Hate Makes America Great, and many more.

The rally was a grassroots event organized and encouraged by “a group of old ladies who wondered why couldn’t we do this in Pratt,” said Pat Schwartz, retired Pratt

teacher. People of all political persuasions were welcome at the rally. Schwartz noted that her reason for participating was based on the quote from Gandhi, “Make injustice visible.” Being able to see injustice at work is one key way the American public can know where their focus needs to be.

Everyone present had their reason(s) for being there. The varied concerns were important and, in general, all were valued by each and every person there.

Greg Hanson, retired meteorologist who worked for the National Weather Service in several areas of the country before returning home to Pratt, shared his concern, saying, “The National Weather Service was decimated by government cuts. There are not enough meteorologists to watch the weather. The office in Goodland is so short staffed that it has to shut down over night.” Dangerous weather often hits Kansas in the nighttime.

Hanson went on to say, “There has been no planning around these cuts and not just to the weather service. To downsize the government is fine, but in-

discriminate cuts are harmful.”

Another retiree who returned to the place where she grew up was Dr. Debra Trock, professional botanist and former Director of Science Collections at a large natural history museum. Trock said she attended the rally because “I am appalled at what is happening to science, research, educational institutions, and reason. Societies are held together by people working together, using their knowledge, talents, faith, and, yes, even their money to lift each other up.”

The rally took place for an hour at 5 PM, in hopes of reaching the after-work crowd. There was much horn honking from drivers in cars and semi-trucks. Trock also stated that she was “very happy how many people came out [to the rally] and how much support was given by those driving by, both local and out-of-state drivers.” Prattian Cara Hanson said this is a “great place we live in where we can gather and express our opinions.”

Rose Shoup, who helped get the word out about the rally, spoke of her reasons for participating, saying, “Whether Republican or Democrat, there are some essential actions that the government has taken that threaten our way of life, including the safety of our food, our drinking water, our soil and air. Also, the current government wants to privatize too many of our lands and services. It is incumbent in the power of the Constitution to maintain

the balance between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government.”

Retired United Methodist clergy, Rev. Billie Blair attended, garbed in clergy robe and stole. Her reason for being there was “to support Rev. Dr. William Barber II, who was arrested at the Capitol Building for praying in an area where worship had occurred two weeks earlier with no repercussions to the crowd supporting the current administration.” She also shared her concern for “the lack of due process for immigrants and, now, even U.S. citizens who are being picked up or harassed by ICE agents.”

Other reasons for being present included Beth Novotny saying, “I believe the American people can stand for what they believe in in this way, protecting our democracy,” and Jeff Conley who stated “I’m here because what we’re seeing is unprecedented and scary for people who don’t look like me. I fear for others.”

Rallies were intentionally held on May



Ruthann Barker (Pratt), retired teacher

Day around the country this year. Robert Reich, American professor, author, lawyer, and political commentator, stated in his May 1 Substack article that there are two applicable meanings behind May Day. The first is a commemoration of the “solidarity of the labor movement 139 years ago when workers gathered in the streets of Chicago to demand eight-hour days.” The second is the use of “Mayday” as a “distress signal by pilots in imminent danger.”

The phrase is derived from the French phrase “m’aider” which means “help me.” Those present at this Pratt event wanted to help.

The protest and protect rally ended after one hour with everyone gathering in a circle and singing “America the Beautiful.”

photos and story submitted by Billie Blair



Rev. Billie Blair (Pratt), retired UM clergy



KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Lazarus

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Lazarus needs a home. He’s a cutie. Two of his other friends have been adopted and now he’d like to find a nice home as well. He is about 2 years old and has been at the shelter since April 26. His adoption fee is \$35.00.

Brandy

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



Brandy is an Anatolian Shepherd / Great Pyrenees. She weighs about 110 pounds and is at her full growth at about 3 years old. She, too, is a member of the FABO Program, so there is no adoption fee for this great dog.

“There’s Big. And then there’s BIG! 110 lbs of love. This gentle giant is good with kids, other dogs, cats, and has been around most livestock. She likes chickens but wants to carry them around in her mouth which is not a chicken friendly thing to do. She’s housetrained, sleeps in the house at night but loves to be outdoors. Her owners do not have a fenced yard and are looking to rehome her because she likes to explore the neighborhood. She’s spayed and current on her vaccinations. Our shelter is full so Brandy is part of our FABO program (For Adoption By Owner). Which means there is no fee to adopt. P.S. Brandy is part of a bonded pair so we will make every effort to keep Brandy and Buster together. If you like big dogs, send us your application for Brandy and Buster and we’ll take it from there.

Buster

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



Buster is a Anatolian Shepherd/ Great Pyrenees. He is almost two years old so has reached his adult weight of about 100 pounds.

Even better, as he is a ‘member’ of the FABO Program (For Adoption By Owner), there is no adoption fee on this handsome guy.

He is people friendly, housetrained, good with cats and dogs and kids.

He is bonded to Brandy and it would great if they could be adopted together.

“WOW! Great dog, no fee to adopt! Neutered and vaccinated. Buster is a big boy and less than 2 years old. His owners need to rehome him because they do not have a fenced yard and Buster likes to explore. He’s friendly and does well around other animals including livestock and chickens. P.S. Buster is part of a bonded pair so we will make every effort to adopt Buster and Brandy together. He’s just a big, fun, goofy guy and would love to be part of a big family.”



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,
from 8:00 - 5:30
(except during lunch 12-1)
on Wed., from 8:00 - 12:00
Call for Saturday hours.
1015 East U.S. 54, Kingman, KS

Kingman County Commission Minutes

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. April 28, 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; Melissa Thimesch, Extension Agent; Grace Schneider, Extension Agent

Online Visitors: Amanda Stucky; Jamie Smith; Lucy; Caller 01

Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser, Zoning; Sheriff Brent Wood 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 as amended. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote 3-0.

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there was any public comment.

Larry Landwehr discussed that he didn't understand why the City made the decision about the EMS vehicle without having the EMS Advisory Board meet.

Jon Wollen, City Mayor was in to discuss that he apologized for the City not following through with quarterly reports and meetings with EMS Advisory Board. Mr. Wollen said that the City will hold meetings quarterly as that was within the agreement that was agreed upon.

Dale Enyart let the Commissioners know that Lt Governor Colyer will be at the next GOP meeting on May 15th, 2025.

Commissioners discussed an Integris IT bill-

ing that they have been holding onto and would like answers to why the expenses were made and would like to discuss it with the Register of Deeds.

Chairwoman Lyon let the Commissioners know that she will put together an email and send it to the Register of Deeds.

Commissioners discussed a tower agreement with the school district for use of the tower. Mr. Ritcha, County Counselor requested waiting until the School district reviewed the agreement at their upcoming board meeting

Commissioners discussed a name change for a depository that currently holds funds for the County.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve Resolution 2025-R11. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Sheriff Brent Wood was in with Deputy Corey Pierce who has returned to work.

Sheriff Wood presented leave extension request for an employee and a new hire form for approval from the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the Sheriff Department new hire. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the vacation extension for a Sheriff Department Employee. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the April 21, 2025, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the April 21, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unani-

mous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners discussed the KCCA meeting that they attended last week.

Melissa Thimesch and Grace Schneider were in to go over things that they have done and what they have coming up this summer.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed getting an opinion from the Extension on land not being farmed being taxed as other.

Ms. Thimesch let the Commissioners know that there are 180 children enrolled in 4H in Kingman County and there may be a sixth club being established in the County.

Ms. Thimesch discussed programs that they have coming up and they will be hiring some interns for the Summer.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with an update on the FAS 989 Hot Mix Overlay and the Federal Fund Exchange Program for the County Commissioners.

Commissioners discussed the two miles

north of Cunningham overlay going out for bid. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to let Mr. Arensdorf move forward to go out to bid for overlay from First Street in Cunningham to NW 20th St. Commissioner Elpers 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 amount they are to receive from the Federal Fund Exchange program is \$74,599.52.

Mr. Arensdorf would like to have inspection once or twice a week by Kirkham Michael on the Kingman Wind Energy 1.

Commissioners signed abatements.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 10:17 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Pratt County Commission Minutes

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 28, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director.

Economic Development Update

Heather Morgan reported successful submission of ARPA reports for Pratt, Preston, Sawyer and Iuka.

Commissioner Shriver reported Coats also completed their report. The Gas project for Sawyer is ongoing and Heather is working in coordination with the KCC. The electric rate study completed for Sawyer showed no rate adjustment is needed. Heather gave legislative updates on the Affordable Tax Credit Act and on House Bill 2125.

Pratt Historical Society Budget Update & Request

Thad Henry and Tim Kuhn with Pratt

Historical Society presented the 2026 budget request for the Pratt Historical Society. They requested a \$7,000 increase of annual funding.

Road & Lake Department Update

Doug Fruend, Road Department presented the Northeast 30th Asphalt Project final signatures. The documents were reviewed and signed. Doug also presented a project funding request for Northwest 70th (Byers Road) widening.

Motion – To sign the project plan for Byers Blacktop with a 10% local match of funding

Motion by Commissioner Shriver; Seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; Motion passed 3-0.

Doug presented a quote from InteGreen to repair the non-operational fish cleaning station.

Motion – To repair the fish cleaning station at a cost of \$12,900 plus labor at \$100/Hr at an estimate of 12-16 hours to repair.

Motion by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; Motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion – To approve the minutes from April 21, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Trinkle; Seconded by Commissioner Shriver; Motion passed 3-0.

Closure of Old RSVP Account

A final signature from Commissioner Shriver was gathered to officially close the RSVP account the remaining \$5.42 will be transferred to the new account as previously requested.

Emergency Preparedness Position

A revised job description for the Emergency Preparedness position was presented and approved to post and make available. Discussion included a salary shift for Jimmy White from an assistant role in Emergency Preparedness to his existing budget from the Sheriff's department.

Joint City/County Meeting Scheduling

Date proposals were discussed for an upcoming joint meeting. Tentatively proposed date is Monday, May 12th at 11:00 am.

Consideration of Freedom Claims Insurance

Commissioners agreed they would like to move forward with Freedom Claims Management for Health Benefits

Motion– to give Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk authority to move forward with Freedom Claims and give Commissioner Trinkle the authority to sign any documents needed after

legal review.

Motion by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; Motion passed 3-0.

Spyglass Savings Report

Savings report shared by Mark Graber, IT showed an annual savings of \$47,577. Mark has been working in conjunction with Spyglass to identify areas of reduction.

Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

Motion – To move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss HR Issues at 2:45 p.m. for 15 minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; Motion passed 3-0.

Motion – To move to come out of executive session at 3:00 p.m. with no action taken

Motion by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; Motion passed 3-0.

Motion – To move to extend executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel Exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss HR issues at 3:01 p.m. for 15 minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; Motion passed 3-0.

Motion – To move to come out of executive session at 3:16 p.m. with no action taken

Motion by Chairman Jones; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; Motion passed 3-0. No action taken.

Senior Services Employee New Hire

Motion – To Hire Michael-Renee Busha as a part-time Bus Driver for RSVP at \$10.20/Hr

Motion by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Chairman Jones; Motion passed 3-0.

Executive Session – Attorney-Client Privilege

Motion – To move to executive session under the Attorney-Client Privilege exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss potential BOTA appeal and also vacating the road that has been publicly presented in prior meetings at 3:19 p.m. for 15 minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Motion – To move to come out of executive session at 3:30 p.m. with no action taken

Motion by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion passed 3-0. No action taken.

Letter of Engagement

Motion – To sign an engagement letter with Fleeson Gooing Law Firm for representation in potential BOTA appeal.

Motion by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Chairman Jones; motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Vouchers

Motion – To approve the vouchers for April 28, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Room Heat/Air Repair

Motion – To approve the bid from InteGreen to replace the heating and air unit in the commissioner room for \$8,295.00 to be paid out of Capital Improvement.

Motion by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0.

Adjournment

Motion – To adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; Motion passed 3-0.

Governor Kelly Announces April Total Tax Collections at \$1.33B; 1.3% Above Estimate

TOPEKA – The State of Kansas ends April 2025 with total tax collections at \$1.33 billion. That is \$17.6 million, or 1.3%, above the estimate. Total tax collections were down 5.9% from April 2024.

“Kansas' current financial health is strong,

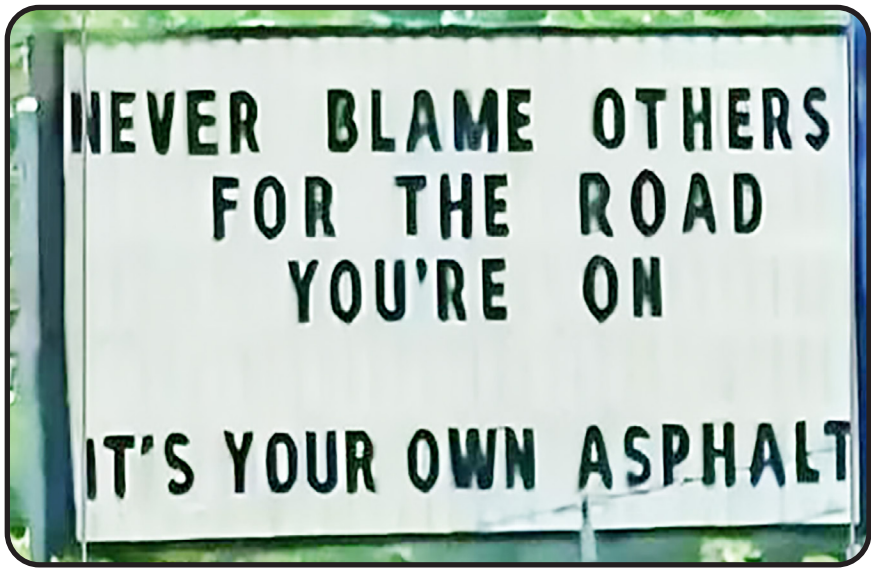
but we must remain committed to fiscally responsible budgeting to ensure lasting stability in the future," Governor Laura Kelly said.

Individual income tax collections were \$684.8 million. That is \$10 million, or 1.5% above the estimate, and down 7.5% from April 2024. Corporate income tax collections were \$316.5 million. That is \$1.4 million, or 0.4% above the estimate, and down 6.4% from April 2024.

Combined retail sales and compensating use

tax receipts were \$296.3 million, which is \$5.5 million, or 1.9% above the estimate and up \$1.2 million, or 0.4%, from April 2024.

To view the April 2025 revenue numbers visit https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/KSOG/2025/05/01/file_attachments/3248010/10_April_Revenue_FY2025_05-01-2025_Final.pdf



Wheat Scoop:

Building Tomorrow’s Markets:
Wheat’s Role in Food Aid Programs
in East Africa

See a need, fill a need. That was the vision of the Kansas wheat farmer who first proposed donating surplus Kansas grain to people in need around the world. Today, U.S. food aid programs continue to serve this goal, using about one million metric tons (36.74 million bushels) of U.S. wheat annually. Kansas Wheat CEO Justin Gilpin joined a recent learning journey, organized by U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), to get an up-close look at food aid programs at work in East Africa and how this goodwill lays the foundation for future trade relationships.

“Food for Peace and Food for Progress are key programs and policies that were originally started by U.S. farmers and still supported by U.S. farmers,” Gilpin said. “We are in an increasingly important environment right now with dynamic changes in policy, seeing the critical work that food aid provides for those who are in need.”

“We are also introducing our product into a market. Africa creates a unique opportunity where we can provide humanitarian assistance to those who are in need through food aid with wheat, specifically being a high priority food, but then ultimately building goodwill and developing a commercial partner.”

The food aid learning journey took U.S. wheat industry leaders to Kenya and Lesotho to examine the transportation, distribution and impact of the two main U.S. food assistance programs — Food for Peace and Food for Progress.

Food for Peace Feeds Hungry People
The Food for Peace program supplies in-kind donations of food products, of which wheat makes up the largest proportion of emergency food assistance. The program started as a proposal by Kansas farmer Peter O’Brien in September 1953. In 1954, U.S. Senator Andy Schoepel, a Kansas Senator, sponsored the precursor to today’s food aid programs as legislation, which was later signed by another Kansan, President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The team saw the impact of Food for Peace donations firsthand at the Kakuma Refugee Camp, which hosts about 300,000 refugees from a variety of countries across East and Central Africa. The camp is managed by the World Food Programme (WFP), which aims to provide refugees with the standard 2,100

calories each person needs daily. Reaching that goal is not always possible.

Peter Laudeman, USW director of trade policy, explained that due to other global conflicts and distribution issues, the camp was only able to provide 65 percent of the caloric need in the provided ration. At the time of the learning journey, that ration was down to 40 percent with the expectation that it could move as low as 20 percent, making it imperative to get resources — like available U.S. HRW wheat — moving into these programs.

“This is not a well-rounded meal of fresh fruits and vegetables; it’s truly just the basic calories of what you need for the month to live,” Laudeman said. “When you think visually about it, you’re basically getting a two-cup scoop and that’s what you get for the month. What we saw more than anything is that there is a substantial need for more food in that camp. We know we have wheat available in the United States.”

The Food for Peace program is administered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which is set to be absorbed by the U.S. Department of State. The U.S. wheat industry is actively advocating for the Food for Peace program to be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which already administers the sourcing and procurement of commodities like wheat for the Food for Peace program.

“Moving Food for Peace into USDA is going to be more efficient and more effective,” Laudeman said. “Not just for farmers in the United States to have more predictability, but also for groups like the WFP to have consistency, so we are working really hard to make sure that’s a possibility.”

Food for Progress Builds Economies
The second major food aid program in the United States is the Food for Progress program. Under this program, donations of wheat are monetized, which refers to the sale of in-kind donations of U.S. food commodities in recipient countries for local currency. Through monetization, the United States, through USDA and USAID, provides food commodities, like wheat, to a cooperating sponsor, a recipient government or a non-governmental organization. The recipient then can sell that commodity to local processors or traders and the proceeds can be used for developmental projects.

On the learning journey, Gilpin traveled with Laudeman to Maseru, Lesotho, to get a look at the STEPS Food for Progress project run by Venture

37. The project was funded by wheat monetization in Tanzania that is building capacity for the poultry sector within Lesotho.

“The project in Lesotho is actively working across the entire poultry value chain to enhance productivity, target strategic long-term investments and build economic opportunity in partnership with the United States,” Laudeman said. “As an added benefit, many elements of the STEPS project connect to commercial export opportunities for U.S. farmers.”

This project is an example of the vision of the Food for Progress program — how government-facilitated commercial scales can build up economies and establish relationships with future trading partners. The wheat industry actively advocates for this program, including recent support to ensure a spring food aid shipment of 286,000 metric tons (10.5 million bushels) of HRW wheat proceeded as planned.

That shipment came through the port of Mombasa in Kenya, which the team visited earlier in the learning journey, along with the mill that worked to bring in the shipment of wheat and move it through Kenya to the end destination of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While no subsequent shipments are currently scheduled, this shipment represented the work needed to ensure food aid programs provide the right resources in the right places without market distortions.

“We worked to make sure that shipment went out to commercial partners in different markets that were planning on receiving that wheat,” Laudeman said. “We’re hopeful that once we have a better vision of how food aid will be structured in the long-term there will be more opportunities to share how shipments of wheat like this one work well in these programs, whether it is in Kenya or anywhere else.”

Food Aid Makes Good Cents
Overall, the USW learning journey underscored the enduring legacy and critical role of U.S. wheat in food aid programs. For Kansas wheat farmers, this work serves as a strong reminder of the power of feeding the world — both those in need today and those who will buy tomorrow.

“This USW learning journey gave us a great opportunity to learn about these important food aid programs that were originally started by farmers and still supported by farmers,” Gilpin said. “We were able to see tremendous growth through East Africa, including the role wheat plays in that market as humanitarian assistance and the market potential for future commercial activity.”



Letters TO THE Editor

Less is More

Bill Faflick, KSHSAA Executive Director

When students are involved in education-based activities, they are better! We all know the connection with peers, with coaches and sponsors, and to the community support their academic success as well as their physical health and mental wellness. However, can some students take it

too far and be doing too much?

Earlier in April, I listened intently to the doctors, athletic trainers, school nurses and school leaders serving on the KSHSAA Sports Medicine Academy as they talked about a significant concern becoming more prevalent in their work with students. That topic is burnout. While the discussion was

focused on supporting the many students who experience overuse injury, it also included students who have lost the love of the game. It was reported:

Over 50% of high school athletes report training related injuries which contribute to mental and physical exhaustion which can lead to burnout.

Teenagers who overtrain are also at a higher risk of eating disorders and sleep problems.

36% of high school student-athletes report

feeling burned out because they feel pressure to succeed from their coaches and parents.

30-40% of young athletes experience burnout at some point in their sports careers and 70% of kids drop out of organized sports by age 13.

Overtraining and burnout are linked to higher rates of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.

While I support the notion of learning to work hard to achieve at the highest level, many of our students are exhaust-

ed. We need to teach our students to work smarter, not necessarily more! As we prepare for summer, which has been transformed from an opportunity for students and coaches to recharge and pursue options not possible during the school year, into a fight for more training and more competition. Is it too much?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends students not spend more than 5 days a week playing or practicing one sport and 2-3 months per year of

no organized sports. The KSHSAA SMAC suggested a general rule of thumb for a student is for the maximum hours of training, practice and competition per week to not exceed the age of the student or 16 hours per week (whichever is less).

As you head to summer, I encourage you to lead the discussion on how less can be more. Thank you for supporting the healthy development of students.

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Seth Thibault, OD
Andrew W. Piester, OD
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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
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1-800-371-3154
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Monday - Thursday
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City Wide Garage Sales

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

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Public Notice

First Published in The Cunningham Courier, Thursday, April 24, 2025.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
BRUCE I. KINSLER, Deceased.
CASE NO. KM-2025-PR-19
(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on April 17, 2025, a Petition for Issuance of Letters Administration was filed in this Court by Heather Kinsler.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Heather Kinsler,
Petitioner
Matthew W. Ricke
Ricke & Ritcha Law Office
349 N. Main, PO Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
Attorney for Petitioner

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
City of Garnett, Kansas, Comprehensive Plan

The City of Garnett requests proposals from qualified consultants or firms to review city comprehensive plan and develop comprehensive plan for the City. The new, updated plan will provide vision, goals, objectives, and policies to guide the City's development and redevelopment for the next 20 to 25 years. The plan will guide the City Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, staff, developers, property owners, and residents on the appropriate growth and redevelopment for the City. The updated plan will integrate all aspects of urban development, including demographics, land use, public facilities and infrastructure, transportation, environmental, and economic growth recommendations. A critical component of the plan will be setting a vision for the City's development and redevelopment, including areas in the City and possible annexation land. The vision component will need to analyze existing and future infrastructure needs and how technology will play a role in community outreach and City operations. The qualified consultant will need to take a creative and innovative approach to reviewing the needs of the community, while obtaining public input about the plan. The planning process shall develop a comprehensive vision for the City, business opportunities, amenities and programs, as well as complement the recently-completed parks plan.

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE
One (1) electronic copy in PDF format, in accordance with this RFP, will be accepted no later than 3:00 PM CST on May 30, 2025 and shall be submitted via the following email address: dwilson@garnettks.net

Full document and information are
available at www.simplygarnett.com.



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Ruth Bridgeman

Ruth Ann Bridgeman, 84, passed away April 25, 2025 at South Wind Home, Pratt, KS. She was born May 8, 1940 in Milwaukee, WI, the daughter of Louis and Jean (Walsh) Gettelman. On April 23, 1960, she married Ronald Bridgeman in Menomonee Falls, WI.



Ruth was a Registered Nurse and Nursing Instructor. She attended Garden City Community College, Fort Hays State, Herzing University and Friends University. She obtained her Master's Degree in Nursing Education, graduating with honors. She was a member of the American Nurses Association.

Surviving in addition to her husband, Ronald Bridgeman of Pratt, KS are one son, Andrew Bridgeman of Scott City, KS; two daughters, Jean Marquez of Pratt, KS, Lisa (Mark) LaMastres of Garden City, KS; 12 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren and one on the way; two brothers, David Gettelman of Watertown, WI, and Gael Gettelman of Kennewick, WA; two sisters, Judy Mingari of Hubertus, WI and Teri Peterson of Colgate, WI; several nieces and nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, one son, David Bridgeman, one brother, Mark Gettelman and one sister, Debbie Gettelman.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 30, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Rd., Pratt, KS, 67124 with Pastor Tom Walters officiating. Inurnment will be at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Zenda, KS.

Memorials may be made to South Wind Home or CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) in care of Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Rd., Pratt, KS 67124. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

Bill Erdman

William August "Bill" Erdman, 62, died Sunday, May 4, 2025, at Wheatlands Healthcare Center, Kingman.



He was born June 9, 1962, in Kingman, the son of Abe, Sr. and Mildred Henning Erdman. A lifetime resident of Kingman, he was a newspaper courier for Hutchinson News and Wichita Eagle.

Bill was a member of the St. Patrick Catholic Church, Kingman.

Survivors include brothers Abe, Jr. and Roy; sister Julianne (Jim) Mahathy; nephew Mikabe Erdman; and niece Brandy (Lammar) Powell.

Bill took great pride for 40 years as a courier in making sure all newspapers were delivered. He loved animals and mowing lawns.

Parish Rosary will be 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Kingman, Kansas. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday also at St. Patrick Catholic Church. Friends may call from 1-5 p.m. on Wednesday at Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Burial will be in the Walnut Hill Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the St. Patrick Catholic School in care of Livingston Funeral Home., 1830 N. Main, Kingman, Ks 67068.

Eila Arabella McGinnis



Joan Thimesch is proud to announce the birth of her 18th great-grandchild, Eila Arabella McGinnis.

She was born April 14 and weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces.

Eila's proud grandparents are Jackie and Ray Schonlau of Union, Missouri. Her proud parents are Stevi and Jesse McGinnis of Creswell, Oregon.

Welcoming her home are Sarairah, 20, Aabel, 18, Aaven, 15, Blaze, 10, Acotas, 8, Penelope 6, and Clover, 2.



Angela Bennett



Angela Rose Bennett, 41, passed away Sunday, May 4, 2025 at Pratt Regional Medical Center. She was born on September 27, 1983 in Shattuck, Oklahoma to David Lynn and Teresa Gwyn (Carmin) Bennett.

Angela graduated high school in Wichita. She worked at The Boys Home and was a Home Health Nurse. She enjoyed reading, looking at the stars, cooking, baking and spending time with family.

She is survived by her children, Myka (Chad) Koehn of Emporia and Dylan Coykendall of Orange, California; mother, Teresa Bennett of Pratt; brother, Shawn (Darlene) Bennett of Burlington, Kansas; sister, Daniele Bennett of Syracuse; grandchildren, Cylas, Ariya and Blair Koehn; nephews, Blake (Alondra) Roberts of Stafford, Corbin Bennett of Shreveport, Louisiana and Kody Klein of Syracuse; and nieces, Haley Bennett of Kansas City, Missouri, Tayler Dillon of Burlington, Kansas and Layla Whisler of Syracuse.

Angela is preceded in death by her father, David Bennett and brother, Joshua David Bennett.

Cremation has taken place. The family will have a memorial service at a later date.

Memorials may be made to DCCCA in care of Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt.

Cards by Roberta Kobbe
Handmade Greeting Cards for sale.
Shop for cards at N'Cahoots in Pratt, Cleo's in Kingman and Cheney, Ye Olde General Store in Norwich, and or contact me.
Will mail or deliver.
Cards and stamps make nice gifts for shut-ins.
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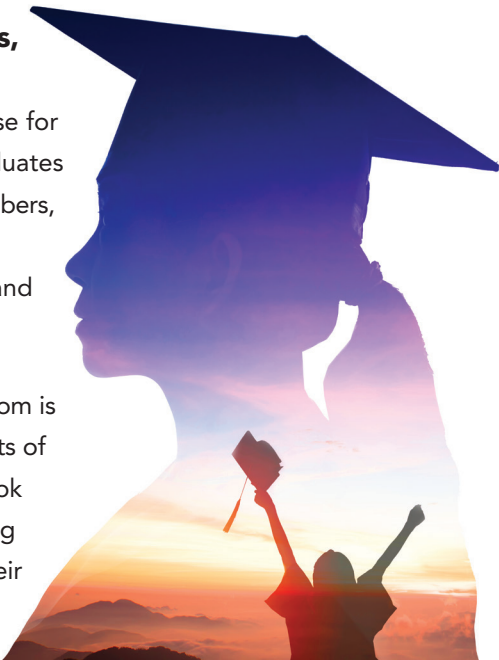


Free Groceries
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2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays

WE WISH EVERY GRADUATE A BRIGHT FUTURE

Life is filled with milestones, and some of the biggest are graduations. They're cause for celebration not only for the graduates but also for all of the family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, and coaches who provided support and encouragement along the way.

As a community member, SCTelcom is proud to see the accomplishments of our area's students. We can all look forward to a bright future knowing these young people will apply their talents toward helping to make the world a better place.



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

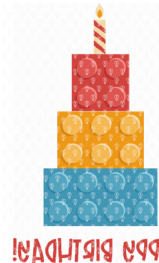
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