

### Minutes from the Kingman County Commission

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. December 1, 2025, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present were Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Jeff Young, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Dale Enyart; Chris Biel, Reach IT.

Online Visitors: Caller 01; AS; Lucy; Caller 02

Staff: Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Jamie Smith, County Treasurer;

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director was in for an evaluation with the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 8:34 a.m. with Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director and Brandon Ritcha, Counselor to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 8:44 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the

motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 8:44 a.m. with no action taken.

Mr. Leroux discussed that he needs new tires for two of his vehicles and would like to get them replaced.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the purchase of tires not to exceed \$1500.00 for two Noxious Weed trucks. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chris Biel, Reach IT was in to discuss the services and the future of equipment.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer discussed the budgeting for the new equipment.

Commissioners asked Mr. Biel if he would mind talking with the Register of Deeds about providing IT services.

patch. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Sowers said they have put notice out for a new Emergency Manager position.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve November 24, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse was in with a Department update for November 2025.

Ms. Schwartz let the Commissioners know that they have had 2 dog bites and 1 badger bite reported.

Ms. Schwartz let the Commissioners know that they have received a positive pertussis case this morning.

Ms. Schwartz informed the Commissioners that WIC services are fully funded.

Ms. Schwartz discussed the Workforce Development/Public Health Infrastructure Grant with the Commissioners.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with a permit for the following:

Haviland Telephone Co. Inc. DBA Haviland Broadband-Lay Fiber Optic cable-North side of Section 1, Township 30, Range 5 (Bennett Twp).

Mr. Arensdorf discussed that he has scheduled Tanner Yost for the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Commission meeting for Flat Ridge 4 & Flat Ridge 5 road close out.

Mr. Arensdorf discussed the Hot Mix Overlay bid letting for NE 10 St (Old 54) will be on December 15, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 9:37 a.m. with Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Brandon Ritcha, Counselor to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:47 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:47 a.m. with no action taken.

Commissioners let Mr. Arensdorf know that they received a thank you note for the overlay on a road.

Travis Sowers, Undersheriff brought in a paper for a dispatch new hire approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the new hire for dis-

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 10:24 a.m. with Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse and Brandon Ritcha, Counselor to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:34 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:34 a.m. with no action taken.

Commissioner Thimesch let the board know that he went to the City of Kingman meeting and discussed the annexation of property for Walker park.

Commissioners discussed the NRP and the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

Chairman Lyon read correspondence received from Becky Birkenbaugh on her opposition of the Solar farms.

Commissioners signed abatements, additions and escaped tax:

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 10:56 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

**96TH ANNUAL  
SANTA CLAUS DAY  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH**

We are excited to have each of you join the  
Cunningham Santa Claus Day Parade!  
REGISTER in the Morning or Before Parade time.

Please read all the information to be aware  
of the categories, prizes and rules.

**Anyone can join the parade.** Youth, ages 18 and under, with  
decorated entries in categories 1-4 and floats will be eligible to win  
prize money. Floats being judged for a cash prize must have youth  
under 18 riding the float.

<b>Prizes for each Category 1-4</b>	<b>Prizes for Floats</b>
1st - \$10, 2nd - \$8, 3rd - \$6	1st - \$75, 2nd - \$50, 3rd - \$25

**BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONCERNS**  
\*\*Drivers in categories 4, 5, & 6  
**MUST have a**  
legally licensed driver 15 yrs or older..

**CANDY MY BE TOSSED BY  
PARTICIPANTS ON FOOT.**  
To protect spectators from  
going out into the street  
while entries are driving in the parade.

**NO MATERIALS/CANDY MAY BE  
THROWN ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE.**

**Parade Categories**

- 1-Battery Cars, Wagons, Tricycles
- 2-Costumes, Pets, & Walking Entries
- 3-Wheels: Scooters, Bicycles  
Skate/Hover Boards, Roller Blades.
- \*\*4-Motorized Vehicles: Golf Carts,  
ATV-4Wheeler/Dirt Bikes  
UTV-Side-By-Sides
- \*\*5-Floats
- \*\*6-Other: Motorcycles, Vintage  
Cars Tractors, Fire/EMS,  
Large Equipment
- 7-Horses

**For More Information**  
Contact  
Jerree Fitzsimmons

# FLU SHOTS

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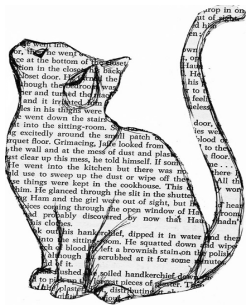
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Meanderings

Geesh! Look at all this space! AAUGH! I am going to have look for another columnist. Any takers out there?

I am really sorry to have ‘lost’ our poetry column. Two or three reasons: 1. I really enjoyed it. 2. Many of the poets featured in the column were ones I promoted as a teacher and librarian. 3. It is always nice to know what is going to fill up that space. For now it is going to be Jody Dyer’s column, which I really enjoy as well. His writings are varied and entertaining and informative. Although feral hogs aren’t exactly on my list of species to learn about, here I am reading his column and learning about feral hogs. Someday that information may come in handy. One never

knows.

\*\*

For whatever reason today I had a thought: “Why is it that junior high/middle school teams can be referred to as “Bullpups” but we don’t refer to our junior high teams as ‘Wild Kittens’?”

And then, the strangest thing. I was over at the Kingman Carnegie Library today, gleaning old news for the old news column and there was a headline, and there in the December 1985 Cunningham Clipper was a headline “Kittens whip Bullpups Tuesday evening” by Coach Nancy Green. Those Wild kittens or Wildcat Kittens? Cindy Becker, Karla House, Julie Kerschen, DeeDee Perry, Billie Jo Perry, Lenita Bartlett, Kelli Smith, Dana Rakestraw, Kim Huffman, Heather Murphey, Julie Theis, and Rebecca Rohr.

Maybe I can figure out how to incorporate “Kittens” into the JH sports headlines...

\*\*

And speaking of sports headlines, I was

looking through papers from 1928, looking for information on our local fire department and I saw this headline: “Kingman Cleans St. Leo’s Plow.” I just laughed. I might have to use that one, too, in a headline. Isn’t there a sports team that is the Threshers? Is it Bethel? Might be able to use that one with Threshers.

\*\*

This last weekend I made it through the Kingman Parade Day Craft Fair with some cards left. Which was good because I was in Sharon the next day. I sold more cards in Sharon than I did in Kingman, and I sold over 100 cards between the two communities. I am so glad I didn’t make plans to attend the craft fair here, as I wouldn’t have enough cards. I am going to Norwich on Sunday for an open house at Ye Olde General Store. I don’t need as many cards there as I would a craft fair here, and I am in the process of making a few more to take along.

I started the craft fair season with no cards, I have made over 100 cards to get me through, with some left over for to start next year – or that was the plan, and I have 10 left. Now that count does not include the cards I have at the four stores that sell my cards. I will need to make more cards before next Christmas season.

The cards with dolls and hankies continue to be a popular item. Since August 1<sup>st</sup> when I began making them I have made about 40. I have one left. Sunday I got some hankies from my mom, picked out a few models to use, made several boxes, and hopefully I will have time before Sunday to make a handful for the open house in Norwich. I have so many other paper craft ideas to get made. I need more time!

\*\*

Filling up space... Cats? Dog? I wish I had a more interesting pet or pets. Like goats. Those baby goats are so cute! Maybe a bear?

That would be interesting. A llama. They are kind of goofy.

There is one young woman I’ve watched on videos who owns a farm called Knuckle Bump Farm and her emu’s name is “Emmanuel”. Emmanuel causes a great many problems while the woman is videotaping.

And I just love watching all those films of animals on rescue farms: pigs, cows, horses, donkeys, emus, llamas, alpacas, all of them. They can make one smile or laugh. Yeah, I need more interesting pets. But I’m stuck with Quin and all his feline companions.

I’ve been working with Quin on understanding “Whisper!” He actually seems to understand what it means. When he starts loud barking because he sees another dog, I say very softly, “Whisper, Quin, Whisper!” it takes a time or two, but he does stop the loud barking. He might whine or give little woofs, but it is definitely not loud. I

do wish he’d just not bark at all when he sees other dogs... that is a dream. Never will it be a reality. But he’s my pup, and I am stuck with him.

My goodness, it is late, I’m yawning, and need to get this column plopped down in its space and hope it fills that space up. I am running very late this week. Last week I had the paper done by 8:00. Here is it 11:15, and I still have about ½ an hour of work today.

Always reading, and currently reading, “The Spook Lights Affair” by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini, Roberta

Just great! All that meandering and I STILL have all this space left to fill.

Oh! Wait.... I have an idea... I'm going ot make the font a bit larger.

Voila! space taken up!

(I have not had time to proofread this, by the way)

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

Well, the first geese of the year have arrived, gliding in over the pond, turning up their wings like air brakes and sticking out their paddle feet to cushion their landing. They are as dependable and predictable as the tides. Late November and early December is the peak time for these arrivals and the Kansas

Department of Wildlife and Parks calculates that between 200,000 and 300,000 of these birds will be visiting our pond and lakes. These high flying honkers include Canada geese, snow geese and white-fronted geese. Though I have seen a few snow geese dawdling about my pond they are far outnumbered by the Canadians, who have been pit-stopping here since this pond was dug in the 1980s.

Of course, Kansas has been in their migratory path for at least 400 years but considering we have

no natural lakes and very few natural ponds it is amazing how they have adapted to the change of scenery below them. Before our explosion of wetlands it’s fair to say they thought of Kansas as fly-over country. My geoses and ganders usually stay until past Christmas, and they have no problem waddling up onto the lawn and resting in the sun for hours at a time. They seem unperturbed by my resident ducks and chickens. Maybe because they are the biggest fowl on the block.

From here they’ll venture on to the southernmost United States, northern Mexico and as far as Florida and Central America. These suckers get around. Between late February and early March they will book their return flights back to the Great White North. And they’ll pop by Kansas again. As an added bonus, each year after the majority of my little flock has left, one mating pair always stays behind. And more years than not they will produce a clutch of goslings who will no doubt imprint upon this pond

and add it as home base for further wanderings in the future. It is interesting to note that some of these geese have decided Kansas is just fine and rather than schlep further south they hang out all winter as long as there is an abundant supply of grasses and water. And Kansas has that in spades.

We’ve all see them flying in that iconic “V” formation. They do this to conserve energy, sharing the updrafts created by their wings with those bringing up the rear. That biological adaptation has also spawned several Dad

jokes about geese. Here’s one. Q: Why when geese fly in a “V” one side is always longer than the other? A: Because there are more geese on that side. It’s okay if you’re groaning because so am I. here’s another one because I am running out of things to say about geese. Q: Why do geese fly in a “V”? A: Because a “Q” would kill them. Groan away and remember to look up...maybe you’ll see some geese.

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



Danger on the Ranch – Fun & Fear with Feral Hogs

“One disadvantage of being a hog is that at any moment some blundering fool may try to make a silk purse out of your wife’s ear.”

J. B. Morton

Of all the adventures we have enjoyed as a family out on the ranch, few compare to our season of

trapping feral hogs.

The feral hog population in the U.S. is estimated currently to be at around six million. Close to three million live in Texas. Feral hogs are amazingly prolific. They can breed at six months of age and have one to two litters a year. Average litter size is four to eight, but they can birth as many as 15. They are omnivorous, eating almost anything, and have few natural predators.

Feral hogs are non-native and descend from three sources. Spanish explorers like DeSoto and Cortez brought swine with them to the New World in the 16th century. These were the first pigs in America. Later, domesticated swine brought with set-

tlers heading west were sometimes abandoned or allowed to roam. These free-ranging pigs became feral over time. Adding to the swine population, in the 1930s Eurasian boars were imported to the U.S. specifically for hunting. Some of these escaped, interbreeding with pigs in the wild.

Farmers and ranchers hate feral hogs because of the damage they do to land and property. They damage planted crops and pasture by rooting, destroy fencing, bust up water troughs, and compete with native wildlife destroying flora and fauna wherever they go. They will even attack and kill livestock.

Our trapping adventure began when we installed a deer feeder just south of the main house out at the ranch. My mother-in-law was fond of sitting in the yard and watching the deer come in to feed on corn in the evenings. Before long, this corn disbursement began to draw hogs. Soon we had fairly large numbers of pigs swarming in each evening. They were fascinating to watch, but we needed to address this problem. A friend helped us set up a trap, circling our feeder with

heavy cow panels and adding a one-way saloon door gate.

Hogs travel in groups or families called sounders. When trapping, you want to try to catch the entire sounder. So, I started by wiring the gate open, allowing the hogs to come and go freely, making sure they felt safe and comfortable. Inspired after a conversation I had with a young man at our local feed store who gave me some advice, I began adding bait tubs to our enclosure. I used commercial hog bait, along with stale beer, Kool Aid, and even strawberry Jello. The hogs loved these creative additions.

When hogs seemed comfortable coming and going from the trap, I removed the wire from my trap gate and replaced it with easily breakable electrical tape. I then ran a lightweight steel cable from the trip lever, through a guide at the top of a step ladder outside the trap, continuing through the top limbs of a nearby oak tree, then down to a corner post just inside our yard fence. This allowed me to observe the pigs from a distance, and when satisfied that the entire sounder

was inside the trap, pull the cable, breaking the electrical tape, closing the gate and and trapping the hogs inside. My redneck trapping method work wonderfully. Our largest catch at one time was 38 hogs. Over the course of a little more than a year, we trapped 154 hogs.

The trapping was fun, but trapped hogs must be dealt with, and that’s when things would get western. Some folks will eat feral hogs, but after learning that they can carry over 25 different diseases, including Brucellosis, which is contagious to humans, I couldn’t stomach them.

Without being too graphic, all the hogs we trapped were dispatched humanly with a carefully placed shot to the brain using a .22 rifle. We then carried them out to the far corner of the ranch where the buzzards had a field day.

It should be noted that once trapped, the hogs were angry, and therefore dangerous. Feral hogs have serious cutters, or tusks. If they can get to you, it’s not good. When I had hogs in the trap, along with my trusty .22, I always carried a side-arm (Glock 9mm), along

with handy 12 gauge nearby, just in case.

We did have one hairy incident which traumatized my wife just a bit. After dark one evening I needed her help with a pen full of irate hogs. Her job was to hold the flashlight and track each hog so I could see to shoot. In this sounder I noticed an especially large wick-ed gray sow. She kept following the light and slamming into the panels on our trap, tracking my wife. Realizing we might be in for some trouble, I singled her out first. But before I could get off a shot, the angry old girl bolted and made a running jump aiming for my wife and the light. I could hear my wife scream as the sow leaped. This old girl was a jumper, and she almost cleared the fence where she would have landed in my wife’s lap. But at the last moment her nose clipped the top of the fence, and she fell back into the trap. I quickly ended her distress, and then my wife was done. She no longer wished to help me with my pigs.

What an adventure... © 2025 Jody Dyer typewriterweekly.com

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Community Bulletin Board

<b>Thursday, December 11</b> JH BB vs Stafford at HOME ***  Falcon Classic at Fairfield	<b>Friday, December 19</b> End first semester ***  11:30 a.m. Early Dismissal School resumes on January 6 ***  HS BB at Chaparral
<b>Friday, December 12</b> Falcon Classic at Fairfield	<b>Monday December 8</b> Falcon Classic at Fairfield
<b>Saturday December 13</b> Christmas Parade	
<b>Monday, December 15</b> Pre K - 12 Christmas Concert	<b>Friday, January 2</b> No School ***  HS BB at Canton-Galva
<b>Tuesday, December 16</b> HS BB vs Argonia at HOME	<b>Monday January 5</b> No School ***  Professional Development and work day for Teachers ***
<b>Wednesday, December 17</b> 6:00 Shop Guild ***  6:00 p.m. at Cozy's Girls Night Out Book Club ***  7:00 p.m. Original Book Club at Rogene's	<b>Tuesday, Janury 6</b> It's time to go back to school ***  HS BB vs Kiowa County at HOME
<b>Thursday, December 18</b> JH BB vs Central Christian at HOME	<b>Wednesday, January 7</b> 6:30 p.m. Shop Guild



- WANTED -


Old Photos from our communities  
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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


Hilltop Manor Holiday Quilt Basket Raffle

Hilltop Manor is having another raffle!  
This time it is a basket raffle. Included in the basket are a queen-sized holiday quilt with a farm theme, a matching pillow, 2 country Christmas mugs, a Starbucks Cocoa and Marshmallows, a plug-in scented wax warmer, a Christmas bottle décor, and a set of 12 handmade Christmas Cards.  
Tickets are \$5.00 each or 6 tickets for \$25.00. Cash, check and Venmo are accepted. Drawing will be live on December 22nd. All proceeds will benefit Hilltop Manor’s Activity Fund.  
Call Hilltop Manor and ask for James or Diana at (620) 298-2781 or Text Diana at (620) 450-7144.

Upcoming Auctions

Sat. December 13, 2025 – 9:30 AM  
2 Miles East of Turon, KS on Hwy 61  
Sellers: Morgan and Janel Haumont

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



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December 13

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

2:00 p.m.

December 14

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

1:00 p.m.

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Kingman Historic Theatre

December 14  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Victorian  
Lantern B&B  
Open House

Benefits the Kingman Historic Theatre

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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Extension Kingman County

K-State Ag Profitability Conferences Aim to Help Farmers Navigate Tough Economy

With Kansas farmers facing rising financial pressures, Kansas State University is hosting a series of Agricultural Profitability Conferences across the state, beginning in December and continuing through early February.

The conferences, *Making ‘Cents’ of a Shifting Ag Economy*, are organized by K-State’s Department of Agricultural Economics, offering insights into economic trends, farm policy, land values and strategies to maintain profitability during difficult times.

“The goal of this is to help crop producers deal with the struggling economy,” said department head Allen Featherstone. “In 2021, only 4.4% of Kansas farmers had a negative net farm income. But in 2024, that number jumped to 28.5%. Many producers are feeling the strain.”

Featherstone said federal government payments helped soften the blow in 2024, noting that \$10 billion was distributed nationwide to support the farm economy.

“There’s talk of a \$15 billion payment this fall,” Featherstone said. “If that occurs, it’s important for farmers to think through how they would invest that money to prepare for what could be a difficult 2026 and 2027.”

The conferences will focus on preparing farmers to navigate economic downturns, manage input costs, and take advantage of new opportunities.

“We want to help producers think through what they can do now to position themselves for when profitability improves,” Featherstone said.

K-State farm economist Robin Reid, one of the conference presenters, said this year’s topics include updates on agricultural policy, farm bill changes, and land values. Reid will be joined by Jenny Ifft, professor and Flinchbaugh Agricultural Policy Chair at K-State, to discuss provisions in the recently passed “One Big Beautiful Bill Act.”

“A lot of the elements

we typically think of in a farm bill were in that act — enhancements to crop insurance, Agricultural Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage, and more,” Reid said. “While the changes are smaller in scope than past farm bills, they will be very beneficial to farmers.”

Reid added that the conferences will also discuss stress and mental health, as well as farm succession and retirement planning.

“There’s a generation of baby boomer farmers out there who may be thinking: ‘Do I want to go through a couple more years of low commodity prices?’” Reid said. “This may be the time to bring in the next generation and teach them how to manage through a down economy.”

She emphasized that despite the challenges, there are still opportunities for farmers.

“There will be marketing opportunities ahead, or possibilities to try new crops or diversifying operations. We don’t want these events to feel like it’s all doom and gloom,” she said. “We are promoting these as profitability conferences, and that’s our focus.”

Each event will include time for open discussion, giving attendees a chance to ask questions and share experiences with fellow producers and experts.

“Interaction during difficult times is important,” Featherstone said. “It helps farmers understand they’re not alone and that others have weathered downturns before.”

Reid noted that conference panels will include K-State economists, Farm Service Agency personnel and others who can provide practical advice.

K-State livestock economist Glynn Tonsor will speak at the Burlington event, focusing on the beef economy, which is a key part of that region’s agricultural landscape. [By Pat Melgares, K-State Extension news service](#)

The Conference held in Kingman will take place on **February 4, 2026, at the Kingman Expo Center (121 S. Main St., Kingman)**, starting at 8:30 am with refreshments and concluding at 2:30 pm. To register, contact the Kingman County Extension Office at 620-532-5131 or [gschnei@ksu.edu](mailto:gschnei@ksu.edu).

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photos for the paper!!



A Column  
by  
Dean Marple

Needed

Tugging on her mommy’s hand, she pranced through the shopping mall’s east-side doors. She was six and roughly the size of the teddy bear back home. If not moored by her mother’s firm grip, she’d cover four aisles in a second. Every Christmas display they passed prompted a missing-tooth grin. She believed in Santa, magic fairies and cute puppies.

I, he trudged through the west-side doors. A small, single-engine plane could land on his ample stomach with a little room to spare. Worn down by his age,

he moved with an old man’s slow, lurching walk. He was 80, his dentures hurt and he didn’t believe in one damn thing.

Breaking free from her parent, she burst into a run that ended with a sliding stop in front of a donation tree. The process was simple: You gave the elf a donation, whatever amount of money you could afford, and the elf gave you an ornament to hang on the tree. She announced loudly to anyone who might be listening that she wanted the ornament with the pink unicorn.

“Mom, I need some money. Give me some money.” Subtleness was not her strong point; enthusiasm was. Snatching the dollar bill from her mom,

she proudly passed it to the elf and grabbed the ornament they offered her. It was not the desired unicorn. Fortunately, a trembling lip—and another dollar bill—produced a unicorn and an excited giggle. She wasn’t greedy; she wasn’t spoiled. She was just six.

At the other end of the store, he heard bells, and they annoyed him. The young woman with the friendly smile next to the hanging pot on the tripod annoyed him. Just because the calendar read December 15, what right did it give them to ask for money? Where were the do-gooders when his wife battled cancer? All he knew was his wife was dead, his kids were grown and no one needed him

anymore.

The little girl flitted to a brightly lit display of prancing reindeer, then to the white-haired sales lady handing out peanut brittle samples. Strolling more leisurely, her mom stopped to admire some holiday sweaters that were on sale, lifting each one by the hanger and letting them cascade down her chest as she observed herself in a mirror. As each moved in their own direction, sweaters and delicious candy soon separated them.

“Mom?” At first, the voice was soft, more of a question than a plea. As it slowly dawned on her that she couldn’t see her mother, the voice developed a quiver and grew in volume. “Mommy, Mommy, where are you?” She walked to her left. No

Mom. She hurried to her right. No Mom. Now definitely scared, she sprinted through a rack of hanging dresses. Her head shoved through the dresses and immediately plowed into something very soft and very big.

He looked down, and she looked up. Her nose and his belly button were on a first name basis. His scowl melted away, first replaced by a look of surprise, then of concern.

“Lost young lady?”

“I can’t find my mommy,” came the tearful reply.

“Well, I’ll tell you what. I’m sure your mom is looking for you. Why don’t we just sit on that bench over there and wait for her to find us?” He held out one very large hand, and one very

small one grasped it. Somehow, she knew he was a good man.

They sat and talked. Well, he sat, and she talked. He heard about the doll she wanted for Christmas. It even had its own diapers. He heard about the puppy they were getting in the spring and the delicious chocolate chip cookies her mom was going to make when they got home. She looked at him with the innocence only a child could display. She needed him.

In a few minutes, it was over. Thanking him profusely, the frantic mother gathered her child. A hug around the neck, a little girl’s kiss on the cheek and they were gone. He stood, smiled and took a few dollars from his billfold. Then he headed for the bell ringer.

Catholic Church Services for Christmas

Christmas Eve: 6:00 p.m. St. John  
Christmas Eve: 11:30 p.m. St. Leo  
Christmas Day: 8:30 a.m. St. Peter  
Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m. Sacred Heart

1 Peter 3:8 NIV Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing.

quote submitted by Alan Albers

Check the Blessing Box east of the Methodist Church.

Anyone can give or take from the Blessing Box at any time.

Free Groceries at the Cunningham Methodist Church 2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays

Thought Skunk Was Cat, Takes It to Church—Trouble

HALLAM, PA., Jan. 9.—The spirit of Christmas took on a reflex action here. H. L. Hershey, on his way to Christmas religious services, spied an animal in the roadway. His heart was touched, for the night was bitter cold. “Kitty, kitty,” he called and the half-frozen creature came to him. He caught it in his arms and took it to church, where it would be warm. In a few minutes the animal was thawed out and there was a precipitate rush to the street by the worshippers before the services had fully started. Hershey had brot a skunk into the church.



A Christmas Lesson

By Verna Cole Mitchell  
With Christmas soon to celebrate,  
I couldn’t wait to decorate.  
I soon found something not quite right,  
A most important oversight.

The Baby Jesus wasn’t there.  
I couldn’t find Him anywhere.  
As I put up the holy scene,  
I wondered what His loss might mean.

What could have been the circumstance?  
Had Jesus gotten lost, by chance,  
And left the place He occupies  
In creche and in my heart, besides?

Had I misplaced Him carelessly,  
His image out of sight from me?  
I searched for Him without a clue  
And pondered over what to do.

Without the Christ Child in His place,  
I couldn’t see His loving face.  
No matter how it was He’d left,  
My heart felt empty and bereft.

Then suddenly, to my great joy,  
I found that precious Christmas Boy  
Behind the manger, hid from view.  
I’d not lose Him again, I knew.

“Lord Jesus, listen to my plea:  
Don’t ever let me careless be,  
Nor lose sight of Your worth to me.  
Stay with me through eternity!

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 donte contact Shawna Sterneker

Hands of Hope (contact any church)

Cunningham Alumni Scholarship Fund  
(send checks to the West Kingman County Education Foundation)

Cunningham Community Center (leave donation at the bank)

Lions' Club

Cunningham Museum (to donate contact Alan Albers or Mike McGovney)

Cunningham Public Library (to donate, contact Debi Dunlap)

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

Catholic Churches

Sacred Heart, Cunningham  
Saturday 4:00 p.m.

St. Leo  
Sunday 8:30 p.m.

St. John, Zenda  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

St. Peter Willowdale  
Saturday 5:30 p.m.

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

Lutheran Churches

First Sunday of the month service is at St. John;  
third Sunday of the month service is at Trinity

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

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

Pastor vacancy until further notice.

Church of Christ

Penalosa  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

First Christian Church  
Cunningham

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Jr High Youth Group 4:00 p.m. Sunday  
Sr High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Sunday  
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.  
Pastor Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

United Methodist Church

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

Cunningham  
Worship 10:45 a.m.

Zenda Methodist Church

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



YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

**1965**

December 16, 1965 - Jack V. Crick, Engineman First Class, a member of Naval Reserve Division 9-61 in Hutchinson, was given recognition for his outstanding effort in recruiting by Commander Terry Ziemann, USNR, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Naval Reserve Training Center in Hutchinson.

Jack, a veteran of the Korean Campaign, who has retained his interest in the Naval Reserve program, has been active in recruiting. His commendation was for his recent activity in enlisting five recruits.

The Naval Reserve unit in Hutchinson trains Boatswains Mates, Electricians, Electronic Technicians, Radiomen, Hospital Corpsmen, and Machinists Mates, plus the necessary non-rated training that leads the trainees to the various aforementioned branches.

Two years of active duty is required by the trainee after completing one year at the Naval Reserve Training Center in Hutchinson. The one year training period at home consists of 48 weekly drills, plus a two-week training period at the Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.

Jack is the rural Route One mail carrier in Cunningham. He and his wife, Eilene, have three children.

The Community YWCA held their regular meeting and annual Christmas party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bradley, Monday evening, with their husbands as invited guests.

President Mrs. Bob Long opened the meeting with a brief business session, after which she gave the devotions, reading the Christmas Story from the Bible.

The program, "Christmas Customs," was conducted by Mrs. R.C. McNerlin, and the members answered roll call with Christmas decoration ideas.

Following the program, the group played games, and enjoyed a gift exchange.

The hostesses, Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Sherman Kincheloe, and Mrs. Ted Duell, served sandwiches, salads, and coffee to Mr. and Mrs. Long, Mr. and Mrs. McNerlin, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ruckle, Mr. and Mrs. Kent Williamson, Mr. and Mrs. James Stucky, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Price, Mr. and Mrs. Albert McGovney, Rev. and Mrs. Duell, Rev. and Mrs. J.P.Cragar, Mr. and Mrs. Merle McCune, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Cusenbary, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley, and Mrs. Kincheloe.

**1970**

Dec. 10, 1970 – Cunningham is ready to welcome Santa Claus on his annual visit, Saturday afternoon, Dec. 12, according to co-chairmen Dean Cooley and Kent Williamson.

The parade will start at 2:00 o'clock. Features will be the six children's divisions; horses; floats; the Cunningham School Band under the direction of Calvin Buller; the Wichita Horseless Carriage Club; and the Wichita Model A Ford Club. Because of a previous commitment, the Kingman Shrine Club Ringmasters will be unable to appear in the parade...

The men of the Christian Church will serve ham and beans, vegetable soup, pie, and coffee at the Lodge Hall on Santa Claus Day.

The parade divisions are bicycles, tricycles, wagons, dolls and doll buggies, pets, horses, and floats.

Is there anyone around Cunningham sleeping in a tent? Five tents belonging to the Cunningham Boy Scout Troop, have disappeared during the last year. If you have one of these tents, and have been sleeping in it, please return it – it's getting too cold for that kind of nonsense.

Again we are indebted to Editor Bob McQuin and his staff at the Kingman Leader-Courier and Journal for enabling us to publish this week's issue of the Clipper. We still can't "get the heat up" on the Clipper's Linotype, but expect to this week-end.

The "third time was the charm" for the Cunningham Wildcats.

Starting the season with two defeats, Cunningham won their first basketball game, Tuesday night, edging out Skyline, 45 to 43, in a non-league game played

at Skyline.

The Wildcats jumped off to an early lead, and maintained it the entire game. They led 17-9 at the end of the first quarter; 27-21 at half-time; and 38-33 at the end of three quarters of play.

Center Mike Schrant paced the Wildcat scoring with 19 points; Jack Martin had 13; Steve Albers and Ronnie Park, 4 each; Bill Ogden, 3; and Leon Fischer, 2.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Vickie Lohmann

Reporter: Florine Kampling

**1975**

December 11, 1975 – The 4th Annual Holiday House Tour will be held December 12, in the Cunningham area. The tour is sponsored each year by the Kingman County Extension Home Economics Advisory Council.

Four homes will be decorated for the Christmas season and should provide lots of ideas for anyone participating. Hostesses will be Mrs. Dean Dyche, Mrs. Kenneth Glenn, Mrs. Ken Kerschen, and Mrs. Jack Meyers. Two of the homes are relatively new, one is a large remodeled older home and the fourth a redecorated farm home.

The public is invited to come at their convenience between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Friday, December 12.

The Kayettes will host a pop bottle campaign Monday after school. The girls will do door to door and ask you to donate the empty pop bottles you have for the new scoreboard for the football field. If you do not plan to be home and would like to donate your bottles, please leave them on the front step with a note for the girls to pick them up.

The Kayette girls will also have a table at the Youth Center Saturday. All proceeds will go toward the new scoreboard. To date, we have collected 4420 for the scoreboard.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Rex Zimmerman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

**1980**

December 11, 1980 – Kerri Sinnett and Dave Steffen were united in marriage at the Christian Church in Cunningham on Nov. 7, 1980 with Rev. Hary Fare officiating.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Dave Saunders, Kingman, and Mr. and Mrs. Dewin Steffen, Cunningham.

The couple are at home on the farm near Cunningham following a three-week trip to the Oregon coast and through California.

Grandparents present at the wedding were Mrs. Pearl Sinnett, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Albrecht and Mrs. Anna Steffen.



Mr. and Mrs. David Steffen

The Cunningham High School football team has received an honor with the recent naming of Wade Ruckle as first team linebacker on the defensive team of the Wichita Eagle.

Naola Thimesch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thimesch, is the first student from Cunningham High School for the 1980-81 school year to receive a scholarship.

Naola has received word that she will be the recipient of the \$500 scholarship from the Keith Welch Scholarship Fund. Naola intends to enter the court reporting profession and plans to attend either Amarillo Community College, Amarillo, Texas, or a court reporting school in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ellen Colucci, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Colucci of Cunningham, has been informed that she is the recipient of a \$750 music scholarship from

Baker University.

Miss Colucci, during a senior weekend at Baker, auditioned by playing the oboe. Her talented performance was the primary factor in her receiving the scholarship. Miss Colucci plans to major in music therapy and music education at the University.

Elizabeth Sheldon has returned to her home from St. Francis Hospital after a fall in her home last week. She is in a leg cast.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Stillwell were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stillwell, Sr.

**1985**

December 12, 1985 – Well! Saturday was so busy, not everyone got to visit with Santa while he was in town, so we decided to write him a letter just to be on the safe side. We hope Santa can fill all our orders, along with the second graders. School is really a lot of fun. We are looking forward to Christmas vacation in one way, and yet it's all going to be boring with nothing to do and no one to talk to.

We First and Second graders wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dear Santa, My name is Jasono. I have been good this year so I would like a robet flashlight. Jason Kenneth Osner

Dear Santa, My name is Jared. I have been pretty So I would like cowboy and Indian. Jared Glenn

Dear Santa, My name is Curtis. I have been pretty good this year so I would like pupptts. Curtis Eugene Beat

Dear Santa, My name is Brent. I have been pretty good this year so I would like Ewok cabbage Patch football gym set electric football waterbed. Brent Miller

Dear Sants Claus, I hope you bring me these things: Upsy Baby, fish, John Deere tractor, a Toy Boy, toy Santa, toy Mrs. Santa, and toy Montague. A toy dog named Taffy. Love, Barbie Seiwert

Dear Santa, I love you, Santa Claus. I want a toy phone. How are the reindeer? I wonder what Rudolph's nose looks like. Santa, how did you make all the toys? Love, Toni Seiwert

Dear Santa, How are you, Mrs. Santa and the elves doing? I bet your all very busy. Would you send this order to the "Elves Department?" I would like a guitar, optimusprime and a race track. We have a baby sister now. Her name is Mandi. Please bring her some toysso she doesn't chew up my school papers. Your friend, Kurt Preisser

Dear Mr. Santa Claus, How are you doing? I am doing fine. How are all the reindeer? I bet Rudolph has a pretty nose. How is Mrs. Santa? She is pretty I think. For Christmas I want an upsy baby. I LOVE YOU, SANTA! P.S. ARE YOU GOING TO COME TO MY WINDOW AGAIN? Love, Dana Seiwert

Dear Santa, My name is Karen I have been pretty good this year so I would like a premie and some jewelry. Karen Huhman

Dear Santa, I have tried to be good this year! I hope your elves and Rudolph are fine. Has Mrs. Claus been baking? Does she fix you a big dinner to have after your hard work on Christmas Eve?

I watch you every day on TV, Santa, with Toy Boy and Montague. Thanks for coming to the parade and for letting me help you at the nursing home. I would like to have my little pony, a mop top hair shop, a barbie kitchen and Barbie closes, and a Lite Brite.

Thank you, Santa, for coming to see me last year and for all the toys you brought to my house in Cairo, Ks. Love, Laney Albritten Cairo, Ks.

Adv: Lost, small chrome hubcap between southwest part of town and High School. 298-2868

Names of 1,081 Kansas State University student who expect to complete degree requirements this month will be listed in the fall commencement program. Formal cap and gown ceremonies will be Saturday, Dec. 14, in McCain Auditorium. Individuals listed in the commencement program by county and home town: Stan Adelhardt, Nashville, Ks.



Museum Winter Hours

Saturday:

Morning 10:00 - 12:00

Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00

For guided tours call

Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

Joe Sternreker 620-243-2534

Alan Albers 620-243-2553



JH Lady Wildcats Add Three More Wins

The Cunningham JH Lady Wildcats added three more victories to their record with wins over Pretty Prairie (27-15), Chase/Raymond (30-6) and Fairfield (30-13).

The Pretty Prairie and Fairfield games were both Heart of the Plains League games and the Lady Wildcats now have a league record of 2-0 and are 6-0 overall.

In the game at Pretty Prairie on Thursday Nov. 20, Cunningham led 12-8 at the half, then used a strong fourth quarter to put the game away. Scoring for the Pretty Prairie game: Lux Thimesch 8, Carly

McGuire 9, Mackley Glenn 4, Alyssa Osner 2, Leah Rogers 4.

The Lady Cats then hosted the Chase/Raymond Bullpups on Monday, November 24. The host team Lady Cats were never challenged and led the game 24-0 at the half and 28-0 after 3 quarters, before winning 30-6. Scoring for the Chase game: Carly McGuire 2, Mackley Glenn 4, Alyssa Osner 10, Leah Rogers 8, Vaughn Preisser 2, AnnMarie Kerschen 4.

On Thursday, December 4, the Lady Wildcats hosted Fairfield and put in their best defensive effort of the year holding Fairfield to just 5 points over the first three quarters, before winning the game 30-13. Scoring

in the Fairfield game: Lux Thimesch 4, Carly McGuire 4, Mackley Glenn 2, Alyssa Osner 8, Leah Rogers 12.


by Coach Bart Ricke




Second Graders Write Their Letters to Santa

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi Santa! How many elves do you have? My family came in October. Please bring me a black puppy and a yo-yo. Merry Christmas Santa!**


Love, Romina Aguayo

 Dear Santa,  
**Hello Santa. How old is Rudolph really? I went to the lake this summer. I wish to have a new Apple I pad, wireless headphones, and a PS5 but anything will work. I wish you a Merry Christmas Santa.**

Love, Trey Albers

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi there Santa! What is your favorite type of cookie? I got a new baby sister. Please bring me a power wheel, a tablet, and a legos set. I wish you a Merry Christmas.**


Love, Kainen Barber

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi Santa! What is the reindeer's favorite food? I have a new dog named Goldie. I wish to have a new pokemon card and shoes. I wish you a Merry Christmas.**

Your friend, Chevy Cluchey

 Dear Santa,  
**Hello Santa. What is your favorite cookie? My birthday is in 2 months. Can I get a picture frame for Christmas? I wish you a good Merry Christmas.**

Love, Tucker Henning

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi there Santa, How cold is it at the North Pole? I went to Red River. I wish to have head phones, a Furby, and a 3-D printer. I wish you a Merry Christmas.**


Love, Aspen Hildreth

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi there Santa! Do you help make cookies with Mrs. Claus? I got a toy for Christmas last year. Please bring me a new pair of shoes please! I wish you a Merry Christmas Santa!**


Love, Carsyn Johnson

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi Santa! How are you doing Santa Claus? I got a new puppy named Thor. Can I please get an Apple I pad and a desk and a gaming set-up? I wish you a Merry Christmas.**


Love, Max Kernohan

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi Santa! What is your favorite color Santa? I played football this year. Please bring me a Nintendo Switch gaming set-up and anything else. I wish you a Merry Christmas.**

Love, Mason Osner

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi there Santa. Who is your favorite elf? My Aunt Casey had a baby. I wish to have a remote controlled car, lego kit, and a desk. Merry Christmas to you.**


Love, Jett Preisser

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi there Santa! What do you feed the reindeer? My cousin is having a baby. I hope that I get some hair stencils and a 3-D printer. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.**

Love, Emma Ruckle

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi there Santa! How many elves do you have? I found a new kitten. I wish to have headphones and hair stencils. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas.**

Love, Kate Thimesch

 Dear Santa,  
**Hi there Santa! How many elves do you have? I got to play softball in the summer. I wish to have a light, art set, and a puzzle. Merry Christmas to you Santa!**

Love, Breckyn Tyler



STREAMNOW

HELPS SANTA STAY JOLLY

IT'S THE GO-TO GUIDE FOR MERRIER STREAMING

The North Pole experiences 24 hours of darkness in January. To stay entertained, Santa likes to kick back and stream the latest movies and series. How did he first get comfortable with replacing his cable TV service with streaming? He used the StreamNow guide.

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### Championship Saturday!

The Wildcats rolled into Greensburg on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, looking to take down the Weskan Coyotes and bring home the 6-Man State Championship trophy. While nearly all of Kansas was lamenting the cold spell and fierce wind, senior Logan Kinsler reminded fans at the send-off pep rally that morning that the forecast called for Excellent Football Weather.

This year's championship matchup started with a 38-yard kickoff return by Skyler. The initial excitement was short-lived, however, as the Wildcats fumbled on our second offensive play. Weskan took full advantage of our nerves and struck first in three plays, capped by an impressive 46-yard TD run. With the ball back in our hands, the Wildcats put together an eight-play series, including Skyler's 16-yard run and Stephen's 23-yard run, but we ultimately gave

it up to the Coyotes on downs. Weskan responded with a three and out with back-to-back tackles for a loss. One was "Drilled and dropped!" by Dylan. Dylan and Brody tag-teamed the second one. After receiving the punt, the Wildcat offense started off with a 22-yard broken play pass completion from Logan to Stephen to put some pep in our step. A series of short runs and penalties in our favor followed, including Skyler with 9 yards up the middle, then 17 yards outside to the 7 as the clock ran down. The opening quarter ended 0-8 in a rare defensive slugfest, but the Cats were knocking on the door of our first touchdown.

The Wildcats got on the board early in the second quarter with Skyler's 4th down, 3-yard touchdown after an eight-play drive. Extra point no good, but momentum was already building. Wildcats down 6-8. Sophomore Brody Bock got the crowd on their feet when he picked Weskan's first pass of the

game at the 40-yard line and ran it to their 14. Wildcat offense turned it over on downs after the interception. Whomp-Whomp. Weskan ball on their 21. Back on defense, Kollin and Brody teamed up for a tackle, then Brody stripped the ball for a 15-yard scoop and score! Cats up 12-6 after another failed PAT. A big 4th and 2 stop by Dylan and Logan gave us the ball again near mid-field. "Who says defense isn't a thing in 6-man?!" An "absolutely insane" throw and catch at the 27-yard line from Logan to Dylan turned another broken play into a TD for the Wildcats. The Wildcats were having fun with some "backyard football" at this point, and the crowd went wild. Stephen rushed in for the point after. Cunningham up 19-8. "Cunningham's defense is flying around" as Dylan dropped Weskan's #1 on the return. Dylan with another tackle for a loss followed by Brody with a tackle for loss. "I'm not hardly believing what I'm seeing today!" Brody stripped

yet another ball to end the half. Cats up 19-8 and Cameron Birney of KCMC was in awe.

Three first-half touchdowns for the Wildcats: one defensive, one broken play, and one scripted.

Cunningham started the third quarter with an onside kick and the wind at our back, confusing some fans who didn't realize that keeping the ball out of the hands of the "#1 returner in the state" was the goal. Four and out. "Maybe that's why you onside it. You know your defense will get the stop." Exactly, Cameron. On the second offensive play from the 40-yard line, Skyler took off for a 40-yard touchdown. Cats up 25-8. With hefty pass-pressure from Kollin, the Wildcats forced a short pass that got destroyed by Dylan for a huge loss. "This isn't a 6-man tackle, this is a big boy football tackle." Can't stop with the Cameron Birney quotes! "You got barbecue back there and didn't invite him. You hurt his feelings." Another tackle for loss, this time from

Stephen, set up a 4th and 16 for the Coyotes. Wildcats took over on downs after an incomplete pass. "Oh, sweet Mama!" On the next play Stephen ran a 37-yard tightrope down the sideline for another Wildcat touchdown! Cats up 32-8 after Brody caught the extra point pass. "He got planted into the earth by Brody Bock!" for a loss, but then Weskan earned a rare first down on the next play, taking them to our 33 yard line, only to give it up on downs 4 plays later. "Unreal what this Cunningham defense has done to one of the best offenses 6-man has seen." A big 31-yard run from Skyler ended the third quarter. One quarter to go and the Wildcats are feeling it!

The Cats gave it up on downs to start the 4th quarter, but the Coyotes couldn't do anything with the ball, even with the wind at their back. Wildcats took over on their own 15. Stephen ran 14 yards, another 6, and then 24 yards. Skyler waltzed in untouched for the 3-yard touch-

down. Liam caught the extra point on his back to add a little flair to the game. Wildcats lead 39-8. Brody Bock kicked and recovered the onside kick, because why not?!. Stephen got loose for a 37-yard touchdown. No extra point. Cats up 45-8. Weskan 4 and out. The Wildcats got another chance with the ball and blocked big, clearing the way for Skyler's 56-yard touchdown. Extra point no good. Wildcats up 51 to 8 with just a couple minutes on the clock before securing the trophy. Managing only two penalties and two turnovers the entire game, the Wildcats fumbled with 1:15 left on the clock, but nothing feels anticlimactic when you just scored fifty-one straight points and claimed the State Championship!

Congratulations, boys! Soak it all in!

All quotes credited to KCMC announcer, Cameron Birney.



## Wildcat Basketball Action



photos by Molly Morgan

Kendall Rogers



Logan Kinsler



Stephen Kerschen



Sage Thimesch



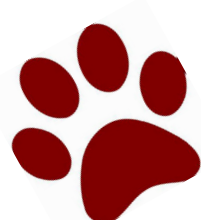
Macy Neufeld



Emily Ogg



Rylee Miller



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SEPTIC SYSTEMS




Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, November 30	
Civil Paper Service	5
Non-Injury Accident	2200 Blk SE 10 St, Kingman
Alarm	9900 Blk NE 10 St, Murdock
Follow Up	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Lost Animal	700 Blk KM State Lake Rd, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	17000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Monday, December 1	
Traffic Stops	4
Civil Paper Service	1
Vehicle Unlock	4700 Blk NE 130 Ave, Cheney
Found Property	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Comtrol	1700 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Follow Up	310 N Logan St, Cunningham
Agency Assist / KHP / Arrest	8000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Tuesday, December 2	
Traffic Stops	4
Civil Paper Service	7
Suspicious Vehicle	N Logan St & E 3rd Ave, Cunningham
Follow Up	300 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Animal Complaint	3100 Blk E Hwy 42, Rago
Non-Injury Accident	N Main St & E H Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Suspicious Vehicle	11000 Blk NE 20 St, Murdock
Traffic Complaint	9000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Wednesday, December 3	
Traffic Stops	5
Civil Paper Service	6



Traffic Complaint	15000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Miscellaneous	400 Blk E F Ave, Kingman
Welfare Check	14000 Blk SE 10 St, Cheney
Follow Up	100 Blk N Main St, Spivey
Follow Up	100 Blk W Stanley Ave, Spivey
Miscellaneous	120 North Spruce St, Kingman
Court / Inmates	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Activity	100 Blk N Main St, Norwich
Traffic Complaint	1700 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Thursday, December 4	
Traffic Stops	9
Civil Paper Service	1
Miscellaneous	100 Blk E Burns Ave, Norwich
Agency Assist / KHP	8000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Court / Inmates	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle	15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
Court / Inmates	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist / KHP	3200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Friday, December 5	
Traffic Stops	5
Miscellaneous	400 Blk W Sherman Ave, Kingman
Illegal Trash Dump	5200 SW 120 St, Spivey
Transport Civilian	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle	1600 Blk NW 10 ave, Kingman
Unlock Vehicle	300 Blk N Main, Zenda
Saturday, December 6	
Traffic Stops	5
Animal Complaint	13000 Blk E Hwy 2, Norwich
Suspicious Vehicle	N Main St & E D Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	3000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman



KANSAS FARM BUREAU  
The Voice of Agriculture

### Winter Connections

Kim Baldwin,  
McPherson County farmer and rancher

There have been clear signs we have transitioned into another season on the farm. The temperatures have dropped, the geese are flying and the kids are counting down the days until their winter break begins.

Fall harvest kept us

busy for an extra month this year. We were extra thankful to wrap up that work during a season that presented many challenges.

There are still some farms in the area that didn't finish before the last round of rain and still have some sorghum left to harvest. But more often than not, the grain is out of the fields and the cattle have begun to arrive to graze those stalks for the next few months.

On our farm, work in the office and shop have commenced. Visits from seed dealers have begun. And the winter meetings

covering policy and education within agriculture are kicking off.

It also means that many of our nights or Saturdays are spent driving to and sitting in the rural school gyms scattered throughout our area to watch basketball games.

Following a season of AM radio in the tractor cab, meals eaten in the field and solo trips back and forth to the nearest elevator to deliver grain, the winter season of both meetings and games on the hardwood are a welcome change for both the introverts and extroverts

in our family.

In both instances we are reconnecting with others in our communities.

There's harvest debriefs, pest management discussions, market talks, seed evaluations and machinery comparisons all taking place over either donuts and coffee, barbecue lunches or concession stand meal deals.

All the while, there's also talk of new offensive plays, discussion of early morning practices, reviews of bleacher seats and chats reminiscing the glory days of standing room-only games between rival towns.

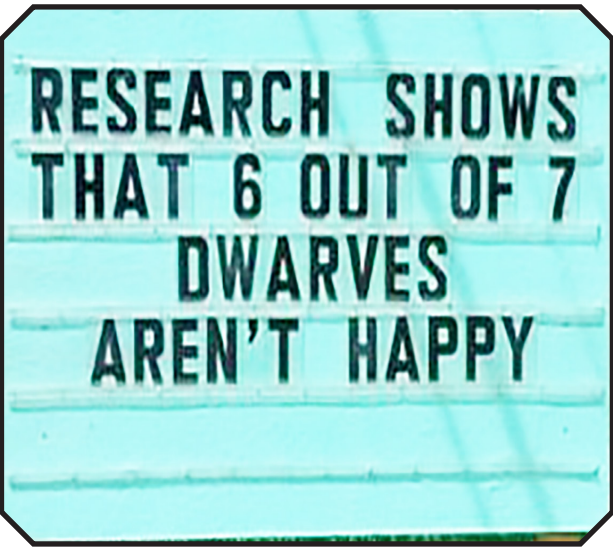
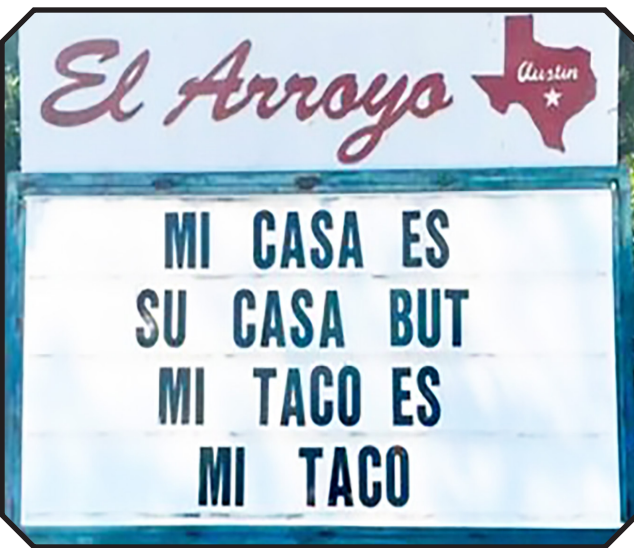
Yes, this season provides a much-needed opportunity to reconnect with others.

There's a lot to talk about. There's a lot to learn about. There's a lot of recommendations or decisions to make during this season.

Whether it's in a meeting room full of cushioned chairs, discussion

and gavel taps or a historic small-town gym full of banners and sneaker squeaks and cheering fans, I'm thankful for the opportunity to reconnect with others during this season.

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6							4	
			9		2	4	8	
7				3				6
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	7							5
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1	3			2			7	

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### Statepoint Crossword

Theme: At the Bar

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
16					17			18			
19				20		21	22				
		23			24						
25	26	27		28	29		30	31	32	33	34
35			36	37		38	39				
40				41			42	43			
44			45	46				47			
48				49	50		51	52			
			53	54		55	56				
	57	58	59			60		61	62	63	
64					65	66		67			
68					69			70			
71					72			73			

ACROSS

1. Slovenly ones

6. To do this is human?

9. Not flip

13. Mistress or lover, arch.

14. Precedes de Rivoli

15. Lift a hefty load

16. Sheep-like

17. Invoice qty.

18. Republic on Arabian Peninsula

19. \*Aromatic additives

21. \*Beer with Bloody Mary, e.g.

23. Major Uziel Gal-designed gun

24. Clarified butter

25. Although, for short

28. Distressed cry

30. Bamboozled

35. What a willow did?

37. J in B. J. King

39. Raspberry drupelets

40. Pelvic bones

41. Birch family tree

43. Banned apple spray

44. Impolite dinner sound

46. Left, Latin prefix

47. Dissenting clique

48. a.k.a. chickadee

50. Four seasons

52. Abode for #1 Down

53. Do, re or mi

55. Buddy Holly's "Peggy \_\_\_\_"

57. \*Measuring tool at a bar

60. \*Not shaken

64. Dough or cabbage

65. "Gross!"

67. Lacking guile

68. "The Day the World \_\_\_\_ Still"

69. Intelligence org.

70. Ruhr's industrial center

71. Job for a body shop

72. Finish

73. Condemn

DOWN

1. #1 Across, sing.

2. Jeans maker Strauss

3. Leave out

4. Swahili and other languages

5. One of the seven dwarfs

6. Victorian one and Elizabethan one, e.g.

7. \*Liquor in Hurricane and Painkiller

8. \*Verb related to hangover

9. Fine print add-ons

10. Feeble

11. Above and beyond

12. Mightier than sword

15. Shenzi of "The Lion King"

20. \*Spanish dry red wine

22. "For \_\_\_\_ a Jolly Good Fellow"

24. Seductive stare (2 words)

25. \*Citrus peel

26. Greeting

27. Laudanum ingredient

29. \*Same as rail at a bar

31. South American wood sorrels

32. Trickeries

33. Roleplay

34. \*Like martini with olive brine

36. Queen of Hearts' pastry

38. Campbell of "Scream" fame

42. Cook in the oven

45. Sent a modern message

49. Ballerina's support

51. Decayed or disintegrated

54. Cease-fire

56. Use other end of pencil

57. Burlap fiber

58. Desktop picture

59. Small cave

60. Herring's cousin

61. Microprocessor design, acr.

62. "\_\_\_\_ and anon"

63. Controvert

64. Psychedelic drug

66. \*Liquor in Tom Collins and Gimlet

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<div><div>Pratt County Commission Minutes for December 1</div><div>Joint City/County Meeting</div><div>The Pratt County Commissioners met in special joint session Monday, December 1, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at Pratt City Hall Commission Meeting Room. The following county members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson</div></div>	<div><div>Eisenhauer, County Counselor and Tricia Clark, Deputy County Clerk. The following City members were present: Kyle Farmer, Mayor, Doug Meyer, Vice-Mayor, Monte Hostetler, Jeanette Siemens, Commissioners, Brianna Garten, City Clerk, Regina Goff, City Manager, Joe Ohler, Chief of Police, Jeff Shanline, Public Works Director and Cody Smith, City Attorney. Chase Galle, PAEDC was also present. Gary Schmidt</div></div>	<div><div>was not present.</div><div>Commissioner Tom Jones called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm</div><div>Neighborhood Revitalization Program Discussion</div><div>County Counselor Tyson Eisenhauer spoke on the current Neighborhood Revitalization Program. The current program does not follow the statutory framework for the program. City Attorney, Cody Smith, agreed with Tyson regarding the guidelines. The cur-</div></div>	<div><div>rent program expires on March 1, 2026. City manager, Regina Goff, spoke about the dilapidated houses in the area and how they have not used the program. Tyson states the majority of homes that used the program would not have qualified under the statue. City Attorney, Cody Smith, agreed with Tyson on the program not being used correctly. Both commissioner boards agreed that they are for getting away from the current program and want to accomplish</div></div>	<div><div>economic development in a different way. City manager, Regina Goff, suggested a small sub-group to get together and come up with some ideas for a new program.</div><div>Housing Incentive Program</div><div>Chase Galle spoke on the Housing incentive program through Economic Development. It was approved at their November meeting, and it Is fully functioning. They are going to continue working through the Chamber as the contract</div></div>	<div><div>goes through June 2026. They are still working on the pitchbook.</div><div>LEC Update</div><div>Regina informed the Commissioners that the January 1 date to move the LEC is not going to happen. More bids are coming in at a lower amount so they are getting with Chase on that. Tyson and Cody will be working together to get an addendum to the current LEC agreement done.</div><div>Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.</div></div>
<div><div>Pratt County Commission Minutes for December 1</div><div></div><div>The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 1, 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.</div><div>Economic Development Update – Heather Morgan</div></div>	<div><div>New agreement between Sawyer and Kansas Gas has been reached. She has not received that agreement yet. There cannot be any amendments so they will need to call a special meeting to adopt the new agreement. The project will still be completed under the budget allocated.</div><div>Heather spoke to the Department of Commerce and for their transparency database the city and county numbers do have to be submitted separately. Heather will be getting with Amy and DJ to get those separated out with all the required fields.</div><div>Zoning/Planning – Consideration of</div></div>	<div><div>Resolution Approval</div><div>Cameron Reece – Chair of Planning Board</div><div>Motion made by Commissioner Shriver to approve Zoning Resolution 12-01-25; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle. Motion carried 3-0.</div><div>Commissioners spoke with Allen Henderson, Legal Counsel for NextEra. He agreed with the updated resolution and stated they put together a version of the plans and hope to have it to zoning in a month.</div><div>Road Department – Correction on the road crossing application</div><div>Motion to approve signing the corrected road crossing application from</div></div>	<div><div>Shelby Resources to bore under 70th and 80th St made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.</div><div>Council on Aging Personnel Request</div><div>Tara Pagenkopf</div><div>Motion to hire Zane Heminway for part-time at \$10.40/hour made by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion passed 3-0.</div><div>Motion to approve a \$.50 raise for Christina Gonzales for her 6-month evaluation made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.</div><div>Snow Removal Bids</div></div>	<div><div>3 quotes came in for snow removal at courthouse and sheriff office</div><div>CR Services \$2634.68</div><div>Younie \$1060.00</div><div>TK Handyman \$1835.00</div><div>Motion to accept the quote from Younie for snow removal at courthouse and sheriff office made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.</div><div>Executive Session – Attorney-Client</div><div>Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss HR issues for 15 minutes at 2:24 p.m. made by Commissioner</div></div>	<div><div>Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.</div><div>Commissioners came out executive session at 2:39 p.m. with no action taken.</div><div>Commissioner unanimously approved the minutes from November 24, 2025. (They were not available at the time of this newspaper’s publication.)</div><div>Commissioners unanimously approved the vouchers for December 1, 2025.</div><div>Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.</div></div>



Wheat Scoop: Registration Now Open for 2026 Women Grow the Farm Conference

Registration is officially open for the 2026 Women Grow the Farm Conference, the premier event dedicated to inspiring, connecting and empowering women shaping every facet of agriculture. The conference will be held February 12–13, 2026, in Manhattan, Kansas, and will feature two transformative days of cutting-edge knowledge, powerful networking and professional inspiration.

Building on the foundation of the Women Managing the Farm Conference since 2006, this annual gathering has grown into one of the

most dynamic events in the industry. The conference equips female farm owners and agribusiness professionals with the tools, strategies and community support needed to navigate the evolving challenges and opportunities in agriculture.

New Format & Preconference Sessions

Feedback from past participants inspired a slight change to the conference format this year. Optional preconference sessions will be held Thursday morning, with the full conference beginning at noon Thursday and concluding Friday afternoon.

Preconference sessions include:

Pre-Partum Conditioning and Calving School

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications in Farming

Building Resilience Surrounding Mental Health

Keynote Speakers

Erica Leubner is a Farm Business Consultant and recognized expert in communication, conflict resolution and interpersonal challenges affecting farm families, including stress, anxiety, depression and substance abuse. She will draw on her experiences growing up on a dairy farm, as co-owner of Tim’s Pumpkin Patch, the wife of a diversified dairy and crop farmer and the mother of three daughters, formerly known as the NY Farmgirls.

Marilyn Vetter will talk about her path to becoming the president and CEO of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in February 2023 when her professional and personal worlds combined. Her professional background also includes 30 years of strategic leadership, business management and political advocacy in the biopharmaceutical sector. Vetter has also been a board

member for several non-profits and will share with participants how they can get involved and bring their expertise to organizations and communities looking for leadership.

Janice Person brings deep experience in communications, suggesting a focus on actionable strategies: how attendees can take what they’ve learned during the conference and turn it into real-world growth, both personally and in their operations.

These keynote speakers exemplify the evolving vision of Women Grow the Farm: combining technical expertise with holistic leadership, intergenerational perspectives and community-building.

Attendees will also select from 25 breakout sessions covering production, risk management, financial and legal issues, succession planning, agritourism and more.

Special Evening Event

On Thursday evening, attendees can explore the Museum of Art and Light (MoA+L), the first contemporary museum designed to showcase immersive, digital and permanent collections from inception. The event will highlight the intersection of art, technology and creativity, providing a unique networking experience.

Key Conference Takeaways

Unrivaled Expertise: Industry trailblazers will lead action-oriented sessions, covering everything from smart business growth and next-level management strategies to vital risk mitigation in today’s complex market.

Forge A Powerful Network: The conference offers attendees a chance to build authentic, lasting relationships with fellow female producers, ranchers and agribusiness leaders, creating a strong, local support system.

Post Conference

Support: The inspiration continues long after the final session ends: participants will gain access to an exclusive online discussion group, ensuring ongoing support and learning.

Registration

Registration is available at womengrowthefarm.com. Rates are \$175 before January 10, increasing to \$200 afterward. Optional preconference sessions are \$25. College and high school students may register for \$75.

For questions or more information, contact the Women Grow the Farm team at wgf@kswheat.com. The conference is made possible with the support of generous sponsors, including Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, Kansas Soybean Commission, Kansas Bankers Association, Kansas Wheat and many more. Visit women-growthefarm.com/sponsors to see the full list or become a sponsor.

<div><div>Advent Lessons Learned</div><div>We at Cunningham United Methodist Church are doing an Advent study in these weeks approaching Christmas. This Advent study is using “The Journey” by Pastor Adam Hamilton. The first week has to do with the faith of a young girl (Mary), possibly only 14 being willing to risk her life in accepting the call to be the mother of Jesus. After all she wasn’t married and a pregnant unmarried girl would be</div></div>	<div><div>stoned if found pregnant.</div><div>Our second week study was all about Joseph. In Matthew 1:18-19 “Matthew tells us that Mary was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Her husband (engaged to be) being a righteous man planned to divorce her.” Our discussion revealed our view that he was truly a righteous man-- he was trying to save her life by taking the blame on himself instead of exposing her to be pregnant by someone other than he.</div><div>It took a visit from an angel to get his head</div></div>	<div><div>around what had really happened. I’ve known several men who have taken children who they didn’t father and raised them as their own. What a noble gesture and showing love to both the mother and the child. Joseph was a righteous man for sure.</div><div>The study goes on to compare Joseph with King Herod. It’s pointed out that Joseph doesn’t even have a single word quoted to him in the New Testament readings to do with the Lord’s family. Joseph seems to be the epitome of the quiet dedi-</div></div>	<div><div>cated father that always looked out for his family’s best interests.</div><div>In the comparison with Joseph and Herod it seems they were stark opposites. The study points out that Herod only lived about 3 miles from Bethlehem. The two men’s styles couldn’t have been more opposite. Joseph the humble carpenter and Herod the cruel king sanctioned by the Roman Empire. Pastor Hamilton says, “Herod seems constantly to have been working to prove his own greatness to others (and perhaps to</div></div>	<div><div>himself) and to secure his place in history.”</div><div>Pastor Hamilton also points out Herod’s great building plan. Herod’s biggest ego-propping project was his castle on a man-made mountain which he named after himself and called Herodium. This 500-foot mountain castle would have been visible to Joseph’s family 3 miles away.</div><div>Reading this study about the life of Joseph and King Herod is an eye to our times. The insecure self-praising Herod seems very much</div></div>	<div><div>the image of our present national leader. Herod went on to do even worse abuses and hopefully the comparison won’t go there. Others reading this same study also noticed the similarities between these two leaders. While King Herod was trying to impress and glorify himself for the sake of a legacy it was the humble Joseph who made the real lasting mark on all of history. A good lesson learned. -Alan Albers-</div></div>
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*"God did everything necessary to get Herod's attention. He sent messengers from the East and a message from the Torah. He sent wonders from the sky and words from Scripture. He sent the testimony of the heavens and the teaching of the prophets. But Herod refused to listen. He chose his puny dynasty over Christ. He died a miserable old man."*

- Max Lucado





Vote for Freddy Fox and the Hotrods



The band Freddy Fox and the Hotrods has been nominated for induction into the Kansas Music Hall of Fame, and this group asking for votes from fans to win their rightful place in the list of other Kansas musicians.

For over 30 years the band sang the rock songs of the 50s, 60s, and 70s in the small towns and cities of Kansas. Begun in August of 1983 by band leader, Fred Prosser, the group played their final concert in September of 2017. Now they are being honored with this nomination.

If you have ever seen them perform and enjoyed the fun and music that was their show, you can vote for them to be honored at [www.KMHOForg/Join](http://www.KMHOForg/Join). (The editor checked this out, and my understanding is that you have to join the KMHOF in order to vote. The cost to join is \$25.00)

You might want to check out Freddy Fox and the Hotrod’s Facebook page, as well as the website for the Kansas Music Hall of Fame, located in Beloit. Their website has interesting bits of information including the many inductees into the Hall of Fame from the inception of the honors in 2005.

Voting deadline is December 31st.

courtesy photo

Public Notice

Notice of Budget Hearing for Amending the 2025 Budget  
The governing body of **City of Cunningham** will meet on the day of December 29, 2025 at 6:30 PM at 119 N Main Cunningham, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of funds.  
  
Detailed budget information is available at 119 N Main Cunningham, KS and will be available at this hearing.

Fund	2025 Adopted Budget			2025 Proposed Amended Expenditures
	Actual Tax Rate	Amount of Tax that was Levied	Expenditures	
General	45.170	168,485	527,414	702,791
Employee Benefits	4.920	18,351	22,486	22,921
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0

Molly Morgan  
Official Title: City Clerk

KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

**Kermie**  
Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



Kermie is an active mixed-breed cattle dog. He is about 4 years old and weighs around 50 pounds. And, though he’s been at the shelters only since late November, he would love some dogs and kids to play with this Christmas. Please consider adoption this handsome dog for \$180.00.

**Grungo**  
Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Grungo maybe missing an ear, but he looks to be a pretty laid back cat. He’s a senior kitty, the site lists his age as almost 10 years old. He is very thin and needs some good nutritious and fattening food for Christmas this year, but probably more than that, he wants a home where he can be an indoor-only kitty, and where someone(s) will pamper him in his later years.

“If animals could speak, the dog would be a blundering outspoken fellow; but the cat would have the rare grace of never saying a word too much.”  
— Mark Twain



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Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104  
620-886-3222  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
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Andrew W. Piester, OD  
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Kingman, KS 67068  
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Help Wanted

The City of Turon is looking for  
a part-time sub-clerk, if interested  
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Public Notice

James R James and or /Carolyn F George: You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Kingman County, Kansas, regarding an abandoned 1991 Chevy Classic with VIN #1G1BN53E7MW158488 contact Michael Fortune at (620) 491-0434.

Public Notice

Published in The Cunningham Courier on Thursday, December 11, 2025 (1t)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04

ARESOLUTIONREQUESTING THAT KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS, ENACT REGULATIONS THAT WOULD LIMIT SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN 1.5 MILES OF THE CITY LIMITS OF CUNNINGHAM, KANSAS

WHEREAS, the City of Cunningham is aware that Kingman County is currently considering zoning regulations for the development of solar energy collection sites; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cunningham is concerned that this type of development within close proximity to its borders would hinder its future development and diminish property values of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cunningham wants to make clear to Kingman County officials that the City of Cunningham governing body does not support the development of solar energy collection

sites within 1.5 miles of its corporate city limits; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cunningham believes regulations for solar energy development should be carefully considered and that the views of its governing body should be taken into account when such regulations are developed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CUNNINGHAM, KANSAS that the City of Cunningham requests that Kingman County enact any and all regulations necessary to protect the City of Cunningham from solar energy collection sites being constructed within 1.5 miles of its corporate city limits and to respect the wishes of the locally elected governing body when developing any regulations on this subject.

Adopted this 4th day of December, 2025.

/s/ Aaron Murphy, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Molly Morgan, City Clerk

Public Notice

First Published in The Cunningham Courier, Thursday, December 4, 2025.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:  
EUGENE A. HENNING,  
Deceased.  
CASE NO. KM-2025-PR-53  
(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on November 25, 2025, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary was

filed in this Court by Rhonda Mattal.

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.

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

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Burnard Simonson

Jason Burnard Simonson, 92, passed away at his home on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. He was born on July 16, 1933, in Acres, Kansas to Jason and Elsie (Lunsford) Simonson Osborn. Jason married Evelyn Coleen (Fitzsimmons) Simonson on September 7, 1952. They had 70 wonderful years together. She preceded him in death on March 31, 2023. They lived a full and adventurous life.



He learned at an early age that the only way to succeed was through hard work and long hours. This enabled him to become a superintendent, building grain elevators all over the Midwest. He moved back home to Cunningham in 1971, where he went to work for Cairo Co-op, once again moving up quickly to become the manager at the Cunningham Co-op. During his retirement years, he and his wife spent time in Branson, Missouri, becoming their second home when not in Pratt. They made lifelong friends in Branson. Burnard was the go-to man for finding solutions for any problem. He worked hard and he played hard. He enjoyed boating, motorcycling and dancing with the love of his life, Coleen.

He is survived by his daughters, Jane (Joe) Adelhardt of Cunningham, Kansas and Terri (Kenny) Simon of Nashville, Kansas; sister; Bess Gilliland; grandchildren, Matt (Heidi) Simon, Josh (Shiyrah) Adelhardt, Mike Simon and Cass (Luke) Greenwood; and 7 great-grandchildren.

Burnard is preceded in death by his wife; parents; sister, Darlene Schreck and a still born daughter.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Larrison Mortuary with Pastor Mathew Musyoki and Pastor Kathy Webster presiding. Burial was at Cairo Cemetery, Cairo.

Memorials may be made to Cunningham Methodist Church or St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. Online condolences may be made at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com).

Vonda Bauer

Vaughndalee Bauer, 95, died Dec. 4, 2025 at Wheatlands Healthcare Center, Kingman.

She was born April 20, 1930, in Pratt, Kansas the daughter of Lester and Clara Felhut Cromer. A Kingman resident since 1944, she was a homemaker and retired co-owner/operator of Walker’s Jewelry Store.



Vonda was active in various clubs and activities including the CWF, Hobby Club, the Mother’s Club and Painting Classes.

On Aug. 11, 1949, she married Billy Bauer on the radio show Bride and Groom in Hollywood, California; he died in 1994. Survivors include sons Linzy, Lonny and LaShawn; daughter April Erb; 5 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her brother Troy Cromer.

Graveside services were Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025, at the Walnut Hill Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Kingman Public Library, the Kingman County Humane Society and Rivercross Hospice, and may be sent to the Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman, KS 67068.

Don Bramwell

Donald Gene "Don" Bramwell, 85, died Dec. 8, 2025 at Wheatlands Healthcare Center, Kingman.



Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025 at the Livingston Funeral Home.

A more detailed obituary will be forthcoming.

Phil Shrack

Phillip Samuel Shrack, 82, passed away December 6, 2025, in Pratt. He was born on July 28, 1943 in San Antonio, Texas to George and Phyllis (Kipp) Shrack. Phil married Kathleen (Engstrom) Shrack on June 6, 1968, in Salina, Kansas. They were married for 46 years.



Phil graduated from Pratt High School in 1961. He then went to Kansas State University and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Agriculture Economics. Phil loved being on the farm and advancing methods and technology to his farming practice. He was a long-time member of First United Methodist Church. He served on the First United Methodist Church Board, Pratt Hospital Board, Pratt, School Board, K-State Alumni Board and other conservation boards. He enjoyed golfing, traveling and going on adventures, bike riding, playing cards with friends and spending time with family. He loved the Pratt community and was often taking part in making it a better place.

He is survived by his daughters, Christine (Chad) Lovich of Overland Park, Kansas and Susan (Justin) Becker of Blossom, Texas; grandchildren, Ross Lovich, Jackson Lovich, Eli Lovich, Samantha Becker, Katelyn Becker and Calvin Becker; siblings, Kipp (Pat) Shrack of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Chris (Marsha) Shrack of Iuka, Kansas, Louise (Lonnie) Cline of Elm Mills, Kansas, and Kent (Karen) Shrack of Lawrence, Kansas.

Phil is preceded in death by his parents, George and Phyllis Shrack; wife, Kathy Shrack; and son, David Shrack.

Cremation has taken place. A Memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm, Saturday, December 13, 2025 at First United Methodist Church, Pratt with Pastor Tim Bever and Pastor Chelsea Shrack Bell presiding. A private family inurnment will take place at Rose Valley Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church or PRMC. Online condolences may be made at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com).

The Great Timing Debate: Should I Claim Social Security Early or Late?

(StatePoint) Retirees become eligible to claim Social Security benefits at age 62, but the timing of when you claim can drastically impact your benefit amount. Still, when to claim will be entirely dependent on your unique situation. As you approach retirement, it’s important to understand the impact that timing has on your benefits.

“The timing of when you elect to receive your Social Security benefits warrants thoughtful consideration,” said Rich Guerrini, head of PNC Wealth Management. “This decision can significantly influence not only the total benefits you receive, but also the trajectory of your investment income, your tax obligations, and even your healthcare premiums.”

How Your Benefit is Calculated

Your benefits are based on your top 35 years of earnings, adjusted to account for changes in wages from the year they were earned. The Social Security Administration

then applies a formula to those figures to arrive at your specific benefit amount at full retirement age (FRA), also referred to as your primary insurance amount (PIA).

There are three options for when to claim your benefits: claim early, claim at your FRA, or claim at age 70. Each comes with its own benefits and risks.

Claim at age 62

You can begin claiming your benefits as early as age 62, but your benefits will be permanently reduced. Still, there are instances when claiming early makes sense:

- You’re in poor health – The benefit of receiving Social Security early may be worth it, particularly if you’re unsure if you’ll live beyond your break-even point;
- You’re maximizing benefits with a spouse – Timing your claim to Social Security with your spouse can help you maximize a long-term benefit, while fulfilling cash flow needs in the present;
- You no longer want to work – The lifestyle benefits of not working may outweigh a larger future financial benefit from Social Security; or
- You want to preserve assets with growth po-

tential – Claiming Social Security early may preserve investment or savings accounts.

Claim at your full retirement age

The primary benefit of waiting until your FRA is that you are then entitled to 100% of your benefits, without possibility of reductions over time. Your FRA for purposes of Social Security is based on the year you were born. For those born between 1943-1954, their FRA is 66. For those born between 1955-1959, there FRA is 66 + 2 months for every year after 1954 until 1960. For those born 1960 and later, their FRA is 67.

Delay your claim to age 70

You can delay claiming your benefits until the maximum age 70, with the primary advantage of increasing your benefits for the remainder of your life. Delaying a Social Security claim may make sense if:

- You have other forms of income – You may realize tax benefits from pulling from sources such as retirement accounts or savings;
- You’re still working – Working beyond your FRA may allow you to meet lifestyle expenses

while increasing your future benefit; or

- You’re concerned about spousal or survivor benefits – When you delay claiming your Social Security, your spouse may be entitled to a larger spousal benefit and/or survivor’s benefit as well.

Further, cost-of-living-adjustments (COLA) begin giving your potential benefit a boost at age 62 – and that boost will continue to compound every year you delay making your claim.

Tax and Other Impacts

Generally, your Social Security income will be tax dependent on your “combined income,” which factors in gross income, nontaxable interest earned, and half of your Social Security income. Potential effects on healthcare premiums should also be factored in.

Additional insights can be found by visiting [www.pnc.com](http://www.pnc.com).

While the question of when to claim Social Security benefits will be unique to your individual financial situation, it’s a decision that warrants careful consideration – and potentially even a professional opinion.

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