

The Cunningham Courier

\$1.00

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

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Mothers' Day sunset on the Ninesseah
Dan Frick photo

May 12, 2022
Volume 32 Number 18
USPS 006-101

Phil Theis Inducted into USD 332 Hall of Fame

In the fall of 1987 our 2022 Hall of Fame recipient was working as a Nursing Home Administrator in Medicine Lodge, KS when he decided to change his career to teaching, he then started taking classes at St. Mary's of the Plains College in Dodge City, KS. In the fall of 1989 he began driving the school bus for USD 332 at Zenda, KS. Later that school year, in the spring semester of 1990 he student-taught at Zenda Grade School, under Mrs. Linda Adelhardt. The following year, in the 1990-1991 school year, he was hired by Zenda Grade School Principal Al Petz and began his teaching career, teaching 5th grade, he was lucky enough to have his daughter, Tamara in his first class that school year. He taught at Zenda Grade School for 10 years and then was moved to Cunningham Grade School, where he continued to teach 5th grade and also taught 8th grade pre-algebra. In 2004, he obtained his Masters in Counseling from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, OK. He continued to teach 5th grade in Cunningham until 2007 when he then became the USD 332 K-12 counselor. He held that position until 2012 when he then retired from education. He did however, continue to serve the district and drove the school bus until December 2019. Overall our recipient taught in the 332 school district for 22 years and drove the bus for over 30 years. And it shouldn't go unmentioned that during all this time he also was keeping the house clean, the dishes washed and getting the laundry done for his wife Gloria.



This year's 2022 USD 332 Hall of Fame recipient for District wide school service is Mr. Phil Theis. Mr. Theis please come forward to receive your plaque.

BOE Will Meet Monday Evening

- AGENDA**
Monday, May 16, 2022 7:00 p.m.
104 W. 4th, Cunningham, Kansas
- I. Call to Order
 - II. Approval of Agenda (AI)
 - III. Guest Recognition
 - IV. Approval of the minutes of the April 11, 2022 regular meeting. (AI)
 - V. Approval of financial reports and payment of bills. (AI)
 - VI. Reports
 - a. Superintendent Report – Robert Reed
 - b. Principal Report- Mr. Dunlap
 - c. Special Education Report – Travis Thimesch
 - VII. Old Business
 - a. Bond project
 - VIII. New Business
 - a. Executive session for personnel
 - b. Executive session for

- negotiations
- c. Public Comment
 - d. Approve Positions
 - e. Approve Vehicle Bids
 - IX. Adjournment



Ron Morris Speaks to Lions' Club

An interested group of folks attended the Lions' Club presentation last Tuesday. The members of the club had just cleaned up the over-pass/underpass/ramp area there by Love's Travel Center. It certainly looks better.

The presenter of note was Ron Morris, the esteemed journalist from South Carolina, who started us on the odyssey that was Everett Shelton's life. Shelton was the 1943 NCAA Championship coach, who hailed from our hometown of Cunningham, Kansas.

Mr. Morris has spent the last month in Laramie, Wyoming, home of the 1943 NCAA Championship team. He spent his time researching the Cowboys team and their coach, in preparation for his next book.

He was headed home to South Carolina when he stopped here for a few days to visit with Alan Albers, Marilyn Mavity, Leann McNerny, myself, the Lions' Club and interested community members. He visited the school, the area of the Shelton homestead, West Point Cemetery, and the Pratt Historical Museum where he became the proud owner of the Lawndale directory. Lawndale, being the community closest to the Shelton farm.

Ron Morris has written two books about the sports world and was looking for another subject. He grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming and wanted to do something, maybe from that area of our country. He thought about writing about the Black 14, a group of young men who were kicked off the football team when they wanted to wear black arm bands during the game against Brigham Young University in 1969. It would be their way of protesting the treatment of Blacks by the Mormon Church. Because of their request, they were kicked off the team.

But, Mr. Morris, said several books had already been written about that time and those young men, so he hit on the



idea of the Wyoming Cowboys.

He has found a great deal of information about Kenny Sailor, the young athlete who 'invented' the jumpshot, and used it as a Cowboy's strategy, encouraged by Coach Shelton.

He mentioned the famous *Look* magazine photograph that caught the young Kenny Sailor in a jump shot, feet off the floor, and the evolution of basketball began.

Mr. Morris praised Coach Shelton for his ability to motivate and inspire his team. He talked about the incredible mind Everett Shelton had to have to strategize the plays of offense and defense he taught his players. Shelton is most known for developing the offensive weave that is used in basketball today.

He really believed the coach thought differently than the rest of us, and no doubt he did.

Mr. Morris has compiled many folders of the athletes and the coaches. He will spend some more time researching, then interviewing descendants of the players. He is estimating about two years before the book is done.

In next week's Meanderings, I will discuss some of the personal information Mr. Morris shared with us.

-- the Editor

Museum Hosting Grand Re-Opening

- Who: Cunningham Historical Museum**
What: Free Meal and Silent Auction
Where: Community Center and Cunningham Museum
When: Saturday, May 28th
Doors open at 4:00. Meal served from 5:00 to 6:00
Silent Auction winning bids will be announced at 6:45.
Why: Proceeds will be used for improvements and utility expenses at the museum
More information will be forthcoming.
Contact Angie Mertens at 620-532-4354
OR Mike McGovney at 620-770-9507



THANK YOU

In recognition of National Hospital Week (May 8-14), we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our staff, volunteers, and board members for making Kingman Healthcare Center an exceptional place to work and receive care.



Meanderings

Folks, I'll be back next week. I am hot and I am tired. My mind is full of new and old informatin and not much meandering has taken place.

What did Kara say this week in an email to me? "Ugly hot and humid weather." True word. Ugly.

Be sure to read Gaille's fishing story next door here. Dorothy Rosby's column has some fun stories shared by two writers. funny stories, no less. I tend to think writing is a rather boring job.

But I guess it can have it moments.

Mark your calendar for the re-opening of the Cunningham Historical Museum on May 28th.

Angie and crew have made some changes and are inviting folks to come in and check out the bits of history that is part of what makes us Cunningham, Kansas.

Always reading, and currently reading, "The Girls in the Garden"

by Lisa Jewell Roberta

"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

— Toni Morrison

"A museum is a place where nothing was lost, just rediscovered..."

— Nanette L. Avery

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds

by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, We've been "talking" about it for two years and we finally made our family fishing affair happen on the banks of Norton County Lake (also known as Keith Sebelius Reservoir.) I'm so glad we did. It was a blast...in more ways than all of us imagined.

Our "talk" turned serious when my cousin Jeff Stewart said, "the Wipers are biting" and backed it up with photos of hordes of fish he and his son Tyler were pulling out. When my brother Dale and sister-in-law Alicia and I cleared our schedules for April 30th AND my Uncle Rolland and Aunt Carol Stewart were on board, I went wild. All I had to do was show

up. As far as the fishing went, Uncle Rolland had me covered. I didn't even have to pack a pole.

As excited as I was, it still felt unreal. though we had a selected date and all made our travel plans, my brother, cousin and Uncle had all made it clear that everything depended on the weather. I'd been repeated cautioned by all three of them that "we might have to call our fishing trip off." To tell the truth, I'm not very good at fishing. But I consider myself above average in achieving a "gone fishing" state-of-mind. And put me near water on a warm sunny day with family and friends that can make me belly laugh at the drop of a hat? We're talk-

ing zero-stress-get-away-from-it-all total bliss, and when the guys who know fishing finally gave our day a "green light," I pictured our junket panning out just like that.

I noticed a crosswind on my way to Claffin. I'd thrown a sweatshirt in the backseat but had not bothered to pack a hat. But Uncle Rolland had one of those for me, too. I figured it would come in handy. It would keep the sun off my face when that wind died down. And there was plenty of time for that to happen before we hit the lake. Teresa (Jeff's wife) had these crazy-good enchiladas waiting for us so on the way up to Norton, I was mostly thinking about was seeing family...and eating lunch.

We can be a raucous when we get together. I couldn't have been happier chowing down sur-

rounded by that bunch. Then I overheard the fishermen talking and it sank in how far out of their league I was. But what really hit me was that these guys were saying "windy and stormy" is the best fishing weather. I'm glad I didn't back out. Though we brought home only two fish, we caught limitless lifetime memories. What a blast we had laughing, laughing into the blast.

When I told my cousin that timeandtemperature.com claims the wind was only between 22-24 mph that afternoon, he laughed and called it a hurricane. I stayed standing (barely) and even managed a few casts out (poorly.) And it feels good to know I've gone fishing hardcore.

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

Free Cell and Other Coping Mechanisms for Writers: Chatting with Fiction Writer Nancy Christie

April 25, 2022

I admire fiction writers. When I try writing fiction myself, I get so attached to my main character that I can't bear to have anything bad happen to her. And if nothing bad happens to your main character, you don't have much of a story. "Our smart, strong and beautiful heroine woke up refreshed and had another really great day. As usual, she made only wise decisions, and no one bothered her all day." My protagonist would be gloriously happy and very nearly perfect, but no one would want to read about her.

But I happen to know a wonderful fiction writer, my friend Nancy Christie, and I was thrilled recently to sit down (virtually!) with her and have a discussion about the writing life. In lieu of my regular blog, I'm posting our talk here. Nancy's responses are italicized. Visit her website and follow her on Twitter, Facebook and Goodreads. She also has a great podcast, Living the Writing Life. (Full disclosure: I was one of her guests!)

While I don't write fiction myself, writers have more in common than I realized. For one thing, writing is hard work, no matter what you're writing. Readers may think we sit down and the words magically pour out of our brain and onto

the screen. (We wish!) There are days when there's nothing there to pour out. So what do we do when we're suffering from what Nancy calls "creative constipation"?

As a columnist with regular deadlines, I admit grudgingly that for a writer, deadlines are a useful, but not necessarily welcome gift—like getting socks and underwear for Christmas. A deadline forces the writer to regularly engage in the most effective method there is of preventing writer's block: writing crap. Ideally of course, I don't stop there, but if I keep working at it, eventually it becomes, if not a piece of inspired genius, at least passable before deadline. I find that the more time I spend writing anything, even crap, the more inspired I become—most of the time. That said, sometimes it pays to walk away and come back refreshed, rejuvenated and re-caf-finated. What about you, Nancy?

On those days, Dorothy, I give it maybe a half hour or so of false starts, interspersed with rounds of Solitaire (personally I like Tri-Peaks and Free Cell) and then I just have to get away from it all. That's when I do physical activities like run the sweeper, wash a load of laundry or clean the house. (You can tell how bad my writer's block is by the amount of dust on the furniture. If the surfaces are clean, lots of writer's block. If you can write your name in the dust, my creativity is going full steam!)

I love it Nancy! Clearly I've been too inspired to dust lately. Remember, back in the

day (meaning pre-COVID), authors were expected to do a lot of in-person events. And while many times it was fun to have that in-person interaction with readers, there were times when things didn't go according to plan. I remember when I spoke to a particular group two years in a row at an annual event. The second year, they pulled out a photo album from the past year's affair. "Well look at that," one of the members laughed. "You're wearing the same dress you wore last year. It must be the only dress you own."

Haha! Very funny! Also almost true. But it was a different dress that I spilled a glass of water on shortly before I was to go on stage at another event. I spent ten minutes under the air dryer in the bathroom hoping it would dry in time. Any strangely memorable events you'd like to share, Nancy?

Well, Dorothy, two events stand out in my mind. At one, I was getting my free coffee (a bonus for authors from the bookstore) at the café and told the counterperson that there was no charge since I was doing a book signing. At that, the woman behind me gushed, "Oh, you're an author! I never met an author before!" and then proceeded to talk to me about how exciting it all was to meet one in real life. At first it was flattering, but when she followed me into the restroom and then stood outside the stall—STILL TALKING!—it got a little creepy.

The second one was when I showed up at a bookstore in San Diego, all ready to do an event, and noticed there were no signs in the window announcing my appearance. AND no floor sign inside, saying I'd be there and what date and time. AND no table set up with my books. Actually, no books in the store at all! At that point, it occurred to me that, "Houston, we have a problem"—confirmed when the store manager asked who I was and

why I was there. Turns out the event coordinator had neglected to put it on the store calendar. Luckily I had some books in my car, but that taught me to confirm my appearance and the state of my book order more than once prior to showing up!

Nancy, writers know that the acceptance process can be a long and arduous one. It doesn't matter if we're writing books or articles, short stories or essays, the only thing we can control is the actual writing part of it. The rest—acceptance by an editor or publisher or responses from readers—is basically a crap shoot. And even though we know this intellectually, it can still be devastating emotionally when things don't turn out the way we want. That's when we most need the support of those nearest and dearest, but sometimes they don't quite give us what we need.

That is so true, Dorothy. For example, I remember when I was talking to a family member about my lack of publishing success for my short stories. Every time I sent one out (this was back in snail-mail submission days), that dreaded return envelope would come back with some version of "Thanks, but no thanks." I was terrified that this meant no one would ever publish one of my stories and I would go to my grave not as a "has-been" writer but as a "never was" writer. Her response was "Why don't you get a different hobby?" I knew then that the only people who could really understand what it was like would be others in creative fields who struggled with the same issue.

I totally relate to that sense of "never was," Nancy. I call it the "all washed up before I got off the beach" feeling. I confess I seldom share the tales of my many failures with family and non-writer friends lest they think even less of me than they do now. Consequently, I think they'd be quite surprised

at all I've gone through to achieve my current level of mediocrity. I fear that when I die, my descendants will open my closet, searching for heirlooms. Instead they'll be knocked to the ground by an avalanche of rejections and dusty, unpublished manuscripts, a testament to my wasted life. Then they'll realize that I was quite unstable and that yes, they should go ahead and contest my will.

Our books are like our kids, and like our kids, they are often the source of humorous anecdotes. For instance, here's one that is related to a title for one of my books. It was March 2020. I was steps away from unleashing my third book, Alexa's a Spy and Other Things to Worry About, Humorous Essays on the Hazards of Our Time, on the world when there appeared on the scene a "hazard of our time" I hadn't thought to include: COVID-19. In a book claiming to make light of the hazards of our time, a global pandemic seemed conspicuous by its absence. How did I not see that coming?

Before COVID, people had laughed when I told them the title. But after the pandemic was underway, several people actually said, "Ewww" when they heard it. That's not the reaction you want when you reveal the title of your new book. At that point, no one needed anything else to worry about and they definitely didn't want to hear about more hazards.

I pouted and debated my options for several weeks, hoping the pandemic would disappear—poof. You may have noticed, it didn't. Finally, in an uncharacteristic effort to be rea-

sonable, I changed the title slightly to Alexa's a Spy and Other Things to Be Ticked off About: Humorous Essays on the Hassles of Our Time.

I have one relating to a book title issue, too, Dorothy—in my case for my first book, The Gifts of Change. We were nearing the release date when my publisher called me and said she just found out that another and much better known author in the same self-help field was publishing a book with a title almost exactly the same as mine. Hers was called The Gift of Change. —singular "Gift" not plural, like mine. Worse, from my publisher's point of view, her book was being released at the same time as mine. She asked if I wanted to change the title. I thought about it and decided against it, reasoning since I was an unknown, there was at least a 50/50 chance someone would order my book by mistake and I might get some sales that way!

A second story involves my name, which is the same as a Canadian author. She writes research-heavy academic type books, while mine are short story collections, books for writers and the aforementioned self-help book. Unfortunately, online retail sites (Goodreads, Amazon, Bookshop, etc.) tend to lump us together, either putting my books under her bio or vice versa. Makes for an interesting body of work for one of us!

Thanks Nancy! So wonderful to talk with you. Read more about Nancy at www.nancy-christie.com.

Dorothy Rosby

The Cunningham Courier (USPS 006-101) 320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, Kansas 67035 620-298-2659 © 2018 Periodicals Postage Paid at Cunningham, Kansas 67035 Postmaster: Send address changes to The Cunningham Courier 320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, KS 67035-0038 Published Weekly Roberta L. Kobbe Editor & Publisher Subscription Rates: \$42.00 per year in Kansas \$47.00 per year out of state 320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, Kansas 67035. E-Mail: cunninghamcourier@embarqmail.com

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Thursday, May 12th JH Track HOPL at Stafford ***	Wednesday, May 18th Teacher In-service
HS Track HOPL at Stafford	Thursday, May 19th HS Regional Track Meet at Spearville
Friday, May 13th HS Graduation	Monday, May 23rd City Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 17th Last Day of School Dismiss at 12:30 *** 1:00 - 3:00 Retirement reception for Cindy Panek *** Lions' Club	Wednesday, May 25th 6:30 p.m. Book Club
	Friday, May 27th State HS Track Meet at WSU

It Weren't So Easy in the Big Easy

by Chuck Holcolm

The '21-'22 men's college basketball season came to an end last month with the annual NCAA National Championship aptly known as "March Madness". It's probably not the most accurate way of finding the best team of the season, but it's far and away the most exciting and entertaining.

Think about it --- 68 teams from all over the country-conference tournament champions, deserving at-large teams, and often undeserving teams all thrown together at a variety of arenas spanning the United States. The arguments over who's in and whose left out are almost as entertaining as the games themselves. And then there's the format. Single elimination. Win you move on. Lose you go home. No second chances, no best of series. Upsets abound. Does anyone honestly believe that little St. Peter's has a better basketball team than might Kentucky? Well, they did for one



Helen and Chuck Holcomb

night, and that's all that mattered.

For many college basketball fans this tournament is a roller coaster of emotions. As you watch your favorite teams, you can go from total euphoria to deep depression and back all depending on the bounce or the arc of the ball. March Madness indeed. Few families, though, are affected as are the Holcombs of Cunningham. Of the 10 children of Ted and Loretta Holcomb, nine are graduates of the University of Kansas.

I know Dad would be proud. He was a big KU fan, or more correctly a

big Phog Allen fan. And if you don't know who Phog Allen was, you probably don't know too much about basketball. Mom was a great believer in education and family. Anything that furthered those two goals would be okay by her. Though she would probably be horrified that her offspring could spend so much time and money following a 'game'.

Since 1971, KU has been to 12 Final Fours and at least one Holcomb of our family has been in attendance at 11 of them. Most of us multiple times. Personally, I have been to 7 of the 16 KU Final Fours and 3 of their four NCAA National Championships.

Ted, I'm sure, has been to more than that. And Bob? Well, compared to Bob, I'm still a rookie. He's been to 12 Final Fours. Three of them that KU wasn't even in! And one of those was in Seattle! Halfway across the country to watch a basketball game between two teams that he has no ties to. I may be a little off, but this guy's out of his freaking mind!

So, do we take KU basketball seriously? You betcha. And we have the receipts for tickets, hotels, airlines, gasoline, food and souvenirs to prove it! Do we take it too seriously? Of course. Why would anyone pay good money for a lousy seat in an overpriced

city to watch a game that could be seen infinitely better on TV, just for the privilege of watching your favorite team probably lose? Why? To be there. To be there with family and friends and experience the possibility of being part of an event that a relatively few people will ever have the opportunity to witness themselves. It has become a tradition with us and a sort of rite of acceptance for spouses and in-laws. Besides, there are a lot worse ways to drop a bundle of money. (Hint: Think casinos and Las Vegas).

The latest gathering of the Holcomb clan was just over a month ago in New Orleans (Pronounced 'Narlins' by the natives) which for my money is ne of the best cities ever to visit and the worst to have to live in. The family did not disappoint. Of Ted and Loretta's 10 children, seven of us: Andrea, Rod, Jim, Bob, Pat, Ted, and Chuck were there, along with five of their grandchildren, Alexander, Christopher, Samantha, Isabel and Teddy and 5 in-laws, Dak, Brenda, Helen, Susan and Cathie. That's seventeen of us. Now some of you reading this article recognize some of the names. Probably most of you won't. But don't be too concerned, Helen had to help me remember a few of them.

The games themselves were awesome. The final between KU and North Carolina was historical. Never in an NCAA Championship game has a team come back from such a large deficit --16 points-- to win. The partying afterward was memorable. At least that's what they tell me. We celebrated in the French Quarter on Bourbon Street until 4:00 in the morning. For one night I was a college kid again. Unfortunately, my college days were 50 years ago. I was up at the crack of noon that day, feeling god-awful. Helen and I headed home towards evening, but we took our time and saw the sights along the way. Two days to get to New Orleans and the better part of five days to get home.

I know that with my advancing age, and declining health the chances of my getting to another Final Four hover between slim to none. But, if by some strange chance the opportunity arose, would I take it? In a heartbeat, if I have one left.



Holcomb siblings: Chuck, Pat, Rod, Jim, Bob, Andrea, Ted



Holcomb Family after the big win Front row: Jim, Mark Heck, Susan, Andrea, Helen, Pat Middle row: Alexander, Rod, Bob, Chuck, Ted, Brenda Back Row: Dak, Christopher, Teddy. (Missing from photo were granddaughters Isabel and Samantha.)

B-29 Museum
is open on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Pratt Army Airfield - 82 Curran Road
Visit them on Facebook at www.prairiebombers.org for more information. If you would like to visit the museum at another time call 672-8321, 672-2444 or 620-797-2919 to schedule an appointment!

Kingman Historic Theatre
Thursday, May 19th
FREE Faith-Based Movie
Faith Like Potatoes
Doors open at 5:45 p.m.,
Showtime is at 6:30 p.m.
SPONSORED BY: KAMI

To reserve the
Cunningham Community Center,
contact Ruth Shelman,
(620) 770-9153 or 318-6042

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

Kingman Historic Theatre
237 N. Main in Kingman
(620) 532-1253
<http://www.kingmantheatre.org/>
All Seats \$6.00
(cash or local check only)
Showtimes:
Friday & Saturday at 7:30
Sunday at 5:30

May 13th - 15th
Father Stu
Rated: R

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. BRADLEY, EDITOR

1942

May 15 – The school year closes with the commencement exercises on this Friday evening, when thirteen seniors will receive their diplomas. Dr. W. W. Peters, president of McPherson College, will deliver the class address.

Those graduating are: Bernice Barkley, Dale Cooley, Wallace Creamer, Mary Anna Ebenkamp, Austin Luce, Guy Vernon Neagle Jr., John Schnittker Jr., Betty Jane Schreck, Roberta Panning, Vidan Rimmer, Frances Wetherall, Martha Joyce Vermillion, and Phyllis Pearson.

The program arranged for the evening consists of the following:

- Processional: Margaret Hilliard.
- Invocation: Rev. Father Fisher.
- “Beautiful Dreamer” by Foster and “America My Own” by Cain: Mixed Chorus.
- Address: Dr. W. W. Peters.
- “When Love is Done” by McLean and “Morning” by Speaks: Girls Sextette.
- Presentation of the Class of 1942: Prof. C. L. Zink.
- Presentation of Diplomas: Mr. C. J. Fee.
- Benediction: Rev. Father Weller.
- Recessional: Margaret Hilliard.

Grade School Graduates

Cunningham: Norma Anderson, Helen Luce, Leonard Morrison, Jack Miller, Eldon Harte Jr., Kenneth Cooley, Bobby Dean Huffman, Norbert Theis, Norma Jean Wilson, Clarabelle King, Zona Harris, Eugenia Cooley, Jean Howell, Darlene Kelly.
Meade Creek: Edwin Mertens and Dorene Mercer.
Union Star: Lucinda Tope, LaVerne Tope, and Robert Cain.

Adolph William Voss, 81, a resident of this community for the past twenty-nine years, passed away at his home north of Cunningham last Thursday, following several weeks illness.

1947

May 16 – The Junior Class was host at a gala Junior and Senior banquet, Saturday night, May 10, at the Pratt Country Club.

The theme of the banquet was “An Old Fashioned Southern Garden Party.” The guests were seated at quartette tables which were attractively decorated with cut spring flowers, nut cups in pastel and place cards of southern belles and gentlemen.

Kenneth Watkins, capable Master of Ceremonies, presented the following program:

- Welcome: Lucille Schreck.
- Response: Esther Sheldon.
- Solo: “May Magic” Rita Cooley.
- Mixed Quartette: “In the Garden of Tomorrow.”
- Salute to Seniors: Harold Watkins.
- Reading: “The Right Road” Kathleen Howell.
- Solo: “Her Dream” Rita Cooley.
- Choosing a Path: A. L. Elrod.
- The evening was spent dancing.

The 8th Grade Graduation Exercises were Held in the High School Auditorium last night, Thursday, May 15.

Six girls, Beverly Amick, Rosanne Boen, Elva Gagnebin, Ann Hauser, Pat Raney and Patsy Theis, and four boys, Ralph Bayer, Burnard Simonson, Richard Wells, and Dale Osborn of Penalosa, received their diplomas.

1952

May 16 – Cunningham Rural High School can lay claim to a distinction not found very often in a graduating class, and that is that they have a grandmother as a member, who will receive her diploma along with the young boys and girls of the class in Commencement exercises at the High School Auditorium Friday (tonight) evening.

Mrs. Mable Huffman, 62, fulfilled a life-long desire, that of going to high school, and has added the second distinction of having accomplished the job in half the usual time.

After the death of Mr. Huffman three years ago, she found time dragging on her hands, and as all her children were grown and her responsibilities to them largely accomplished, she set out to go back to school.

Four of her six children will be on hand to see their mother march with the graduating class, and it will be such an unusual happening, that it will undoubtedly bring many cheers from the audience.

Mrs. Huffman, in turn, will see two of her sons graduate from college this spring, as Bobby will be graduated from Kansas State College, and Billy is a member of the Pratt Junior College graduating class.

Her other children are Mrs. Velda Stubbs of Hutchinson; Elmo, of Sacramento, California; Dale of Fort Custer, Wisconsin; and Delmer, of Cunningham.

She has ten grandchildren.

Her mother, Mrs. Emma Mow, 82, of Grainola, Oklahoma, will also be on hand to see her daughter receive her diploma.

Mrs. E. C. Dafforn and Mrs. Kit Rouse went to Wichita Saturday, where Mrs. Dafforn served as judge of the Wichita Iris Club Show held in the Commons Building at the University of Wichita, Saturday and Sunday. H. F. Murphy, of Stillwater, Oklahoma, was the other judge at the Show.

Cunningham lost a 17 to 16 or a 16 to 15 (no one knows for sure) decision to St. Leo in a practice baseball game at St. Leo last Sunday afternoon. The final score is in doubt, but if a record had been kept of the errors, they would have far exceeded the total runs.

1957

May 16 – Mr. and Mrs. Gene Kitson announce the birth of a son, Friday, May 10, at the Nashville Hospital.

He weighed seven pounds, three ounces, and has been named Gregory Dean.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Gillen.

Graduates of the Class of 1957 are Lois Baker, Herman Bayer, Gladys Becker, Darrel Bowers, Sondra Dunn, Alvin Epp, Melva Fitzsimmons, Heanine Garrigues, Virginia McClellan, Leo Mertens, LeRoy Mertens, Ray Peterson, Ricky Rathbun, Billy Schnittker, Elaine Seever, Larry Shaffer, Kenton Shelman, and Kay Wilson.

The class will leave early next Monday morning (4:00 o'clock) on their annual class trip. They will spend six days visiting Carlsbad Caverns, N. Mex., with a side-trip into Old Mexico.

The Vacation Bible School of the Christian Church, will begin next Monday morning and classes will be held every morning, except Saturday and Sunday, from 8:30 to 11:00 o'clock until Wednesday, May 29. Children from three years of age through the eighth grade are urged to attend.

- Fresh Strawberries, quart, 29c
- Lettuce, 2 heads, 25c
- Bananas, 11c lb.
- Van Camp's Pork and Beans, 2 No. 303 cans, 25c
- Birdseye Frozen Lemonade, 6 oz. can, 11c
- Fairmont's Dressed Fryers, 39c lb.
- Fred Dold's Weiners, 3-lb. cello bag, 98c
- Hauser's Market

1962

May 17 – The Klaver and Wallace Construction Company of Kingman, commenced work this week on the four blocks of North and South Main Streets in Cunningham, which they will curb and gutter and pave within the next six weeks. Workmen are now putting in new copper water lines to meters.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Long announce the birth of a son, Wednesday, May 9, at the Pratt County Hospital.

He weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces, and has been named Scott Michael.

Maternal grandmother is Mrs. Mabel Luce, and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lewis, all of Cunningham.

Cunningham tracksters won three fourth places in the Class B Regional Track Meet at Hutchinson Saturday – qualifying no one for the State Track Meet in Manhattan this week-end.

Graduation Exercises at Nashville Grade School, scheduled for next Monday evening, have been postponed until the following Monday evening (May 28) because the “whole class” has the measles.

The “whole class” is Howard Hart, the only graduate at the school this year.

A windstorm of terrific force, thought to be the passing of an over-head tornado, struck Cunningham last Thursday evening about 8:00 o'clock. The storm, lasting only several minutes, did considerable tree damage in town and community.

All patrons and friends of the Cunningham schools are urged to bring well-filled baskets and enjoy a last day of school dinner in honor of the graduates tomorrow (Friday, May 18) in the high school auditorium. Each family is requested to bring their own table service.

1967

May 18 – Commencement Week activities for the two high schools in Unified School District No. 332, Nashville-Zenda and Cunningham, will begin with Baccalaureate Services at both schools, Sunday evening, May 21.

At the Cunningham services, Rev. J. P. Cragar, pastor of the First Baptist Church, will deliver the Baccalaureate sermon to 21 members of the Senior Class. Mrs. Eva Cundiff will play the processional and recessional, with Rev. Ted Duell of the Methodist Church, giving the invocation and benediction.

Rev. Harold Cooper, pastor of the Methodist Star Parish, will deliver the Baccalaureate sermon to the 18 graduates of the Nashville-Zenda High School. Mrs. Arlene Bradley will play the processional and recessional, and Rev. Merlyn Lohrke, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Nashville, will give the invocation and the benediction.

Cunningham High School will have one entry in the State Track Meet at Salina, Saturday. Jim McCune qualified in the high jump by tying for second in that event at the Regional Track Meet in Dodge City last Saturday.

The 52nd annual meeting of the Cairo Co-op Equity Exchange was held in the Cunningham school auditorium, Saturday evening. The Sacred Heart Altar Society served an excellent meal to 491 Co-op stockholders and their families.

Loren Cooley of Cunningham and Lee Hamm of Pratt, were re-elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms, and the stockholders voted for the co-op to become a non-exempt co-op, a change in the present exempt co-op classification.

General Manager Dale Parsons presented the financial statement to the group. He stated that the Cairo Co-op had \$1,512,749.37 in sales for the fiscal year ending February 28, 1967, and realized savings of \$45,399.64. Of these savings, well over 45 percent was paid to patrons in the form of cash on their patronage or in preferred stock dividends. It was also noted that the net savings were down from last year due to the loss of government wheat storage.

Among those from here attending the performance of “The Monkees” at the Wichita State University Fieldhouse in Wichita last Saturday evening were Mrs. Chet Spade, Diana, Vicky, and Mike, and Bill Bradley and Kandi.

1972

May 11 – Unified School District No. 332 will award diplomas to 53 senior candidates in exercises scheduled for Wednesday evening, May 17, at Zenda, and Thursday evening, May 18, at Cunningham. There are 28 1972 seniors at Nashville-Zenda High School, and 25 1972 seniors at Cunningham High School.

The Cunningham Lions Club will hold their annual Broom Sale, Saturday, May 20, beginning at 9:00 A.M., according to Chairman Lynn Darcy. A bus-load of blind-made products will be parked in front of the Lodge Hall on that day. Brooms, and many other household cleaning items, will be sold from the bus and by a house-to-house canvas both in Cunningham and the surrounding community by Lions Club members.

The last full day of school at Cunningham, St. Leo, Willowdale, Zenda, and Nashville, will be Monday, May 22.

Twenty-eight members of St. Leo's Circle, Daughters of Isabella, enjoyed a salad supper at their regular monthly meeting at St. Leo, Monday evening, May 1.

A group of Cunningham Eastern Star members went to Coats, Monday evening, where they attended a Friendship Meeting and the official visit to the Coats chapter of Mrs. Frances Nossaman of Cunningham, District Aide of District No. 53.

Girl Scout Troop No. 55 met at the home of Mrs. Dallas Thornhill, May 2. The girls brought sack lunches and went on a bike hike.

Cunningham Historical Museum will be open Memorial Weekend

Saturday, May 28th
12:00 to 6:00
Sunday, May 29th
2:00 to 5:00
Monday, May 30th
11:00 to 3:00 p.m.



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Museum Hours

Contact:

Angie Mertens at 620-532-4354 or
Alan Albers at 620-298-2725 or
Mike McGovney at 620-770-9503



Women's Retreat

Saturday, May 21, 2022
 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Cunningham Christian Church
 Guest speaker and music: Kit Krehbiel
 All ladies of the community are invited for fun and fellowship! Lunch will be served, so please let us know that you are coming so we know how many to plan for.
 RSVP to Marla Rose 620-672-8356 by Tuesday, May 17th.
 Free will donations will be accepted.

"Don't try to make life a mathematics problem with yourself in the center and everything coming out equal. When you're good, bad things can still happen. And if you're bad, you can still be lucky."
 — Barbara Kingsolver, *The Poisonwood Bible*

Free Bread & Baked Goods at the Cunningham Methodist Church 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays

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 and Third Tuesday from 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 620-491-0292 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Twenty Years After the Twister

The day of May 7, 2002, is one I will forever remember! The day before, we buried Russ's dad, Calvin. It was an unseasonably and extremely hot day for early May. The morning of the seventh, our golden retriever, Ace, was uncharacteristically uneasy. He literally dug a trench on the east side of our porch, not a hole, but a trench! Our little boys were also very unsettled and ornerier than usual! If Calvin would have been living that day and there to witness the mayhem, he would have said, "Those kids, (and the dog) have the weather in their bones!"

Our youngest child at the time was nine month old, Brandon. He had an ear infection and was uncomfortable, so Russ and I headed into town after work to purchase some infant pain reliever. While we were in town we decided to pick up pizza to bring home, just to make life a little easier. As we were driving through the Pizza Hut drive thru, the tornado sirens went off in Pratt. We weren't too shook because we had experienced plenty of false alarms for tornado watches and warnings in our 40 plus years of living in the Midwest! However, when we got about half way home, the sky looked eerily different than I ever remembered seeing it before. There were big puffy clouds in a yellowish green sky with horizontal lightning streaks blazing through it every few seconds! I intuitively knew that we needed to get home and get to the

basement quickly!

When we arrived home we found our other children already in the basement, where they should have been. We flipped on the t.v. news and every station was covering the crazy weather in our area. One reporter was stationed at Highway 281 and 30th Street. The report was that there was a confirmed tornado heading our way. We were in the direct path! The next few minutes was a blur of thoughts. Were we going to survive this? Would our friends and neighbors be okay? How much damage would there be to our house and property?

We gathered all the children in a basement bedroom after losing electricity. At one point we pulled the mattress over us and prayed, sang hymns, and waited. I remember a feeling of pressure, a bearing down on the house, that is unexplainable. No freight train noises, that are stereotypical with tornadoes, but tremendous tearing, ripping sounds. Sounds that I would not be able to clearly identify until a couple of months later. When the noise subsided, Russ stepped out of the bedroom and directed his flashlight up the stairs. He came back and said we had no roof! We didn't have cell phones in 2002, so our sweet friends and family were calling our house phone every few minutes to check on us. Russ was going up and down the stairs over and over to answer the phone and reassure everyone that we were safe! As rain water was cascading down our basement steps our then three year old son, Colton, asked, "Dad, where does God go pee?" Ah, the innocence of a child! Comic Relief! I hesitate to in-

clude that statement, but it was REAL and it was LIFE! I believe God understands a child's wonder and curiosity amidst the craziness of torrential rain water flooding our basement!

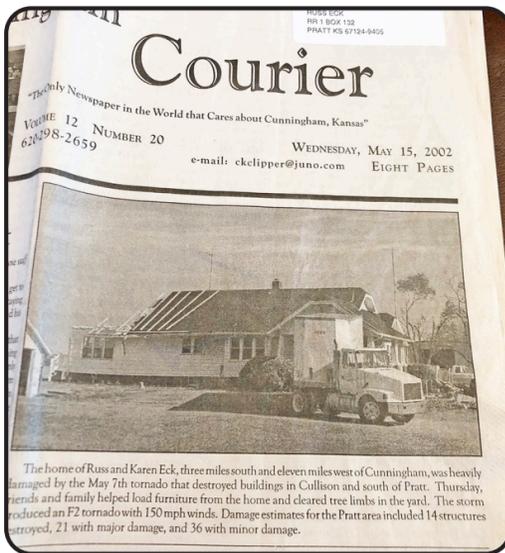
Moments later our dear friends and neighbors, the Fairleigh's joined us in our basement. Our roof was gone on our addition. Our friend's house's roof was intact but the twister blew their window glass into the house and swirled the contents with it. Their house imploded, while our windows were all intact, even the large arched glass just a few inches away from the ceiling!

Our pastor drove out to the house to make sure we were safe and asked to assist us in getting everyone safely into our vehicle. As we walked out of the house, I could see that our very large and ancient redbud tree was toppled. Little did I know, that most of the trees on our property were as well. I remember wryly asking Pastor Bill if maybe our house was built on an old Indian burial ground or maybe we were supposed to be missionaries to Africa? Was God trying to get our attention, or WHAT?!? Were we being tried as if through fire? Keep in mind that

we had just lost our two oldest, precious sons just two years before. He reassured us that God loved us and was in complete control. Amen!

We grabbed a diaper bag, loaded up the family and headed to Kingman to spend the night with Russ's brother Clint and his wife, Patti. One night turned into a couple of weeks as we regrouped and made major decisions. I digress. On the way to Kingman, we turned on our radio and heard that there were tornadoes popping up in almost every direction. To say that I was slightly paranoid would be an understatement! It didn't help that just a few years earlier we had viewed the movie Twister in a theater. Rain, thunder, lightning, darkness, vulnerability! It is one thing to weather the storm underground, but to be in a van on open roads with 7 children while hearing tornado warnings from an overly dramatic weatherman is another! The verse that tells us to "pray without ceasing" took on a whole new meaning!!!

To be continued...
 Blessings,
 Karen Cornelius Eck



The home of Russ and Karen Eck, three miles south and eleven miles west of Cunningham, was heavily damaged by the May 7th tornado that destroyed buildings in Cullison and south of Pratt. Thursday, friends and family helped load furniture from the home and cleared tree limbs in the yard. The storm reduced an F2 tornado with 150 mph winds. Damage estimates for the Pratt area included 14 structures destroyed, 21 with major damage, and 36 with minor damage.

Catholic Churches
 Sacred Heart, Cunningham Sundays 10:00 a.m.
 St. John, Zenda Saturdays 5:30 p.m.
 St. Leo Saturday 4:00 p.m. St. Leo
 St. Peter Willowdale Sundays 8:30 a.m.
 Father Roger Lumbré 620-243-5451 620-246-5370

Lutheran Churches
 St. John, Nashville 620-246-5220
 Sunday School & Bible Class 9:15 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
 Trinity, Medicine Lodge 620-886-3397
 Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 a.m.
 Worship Service 8:30 a.m.
 Our worship service is found on the YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCrenCH1219nmpcojCFyYLA>
 Pastor Dennis Fangmeyer Cell: 620-886-0911

Church of Christ
 Penalosa Sunday 11:00 a.m.

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

United Methodist Church
 Penalosa Worship 9:15 a.m.
 Zenda Worship 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School: Children 8:30 a.m. Adults 10:00 a.m.
 Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki 620-298-2090
 Pastor Ken Keeling 620-491-0680

The Bible, Through the Eyes of a Child

Here's our version of the stories of the Bible if they were to be told by a child.

Creation
 In the beginning, which was close to the start, there wasn't anything except God, darkness and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord, thy God, is one," but I think He has to be much older than that.

Anyway, God made the world and then He said, "Give me some light," and somebody gave it to Him. He split an atom and made Eve. Adam and Eve didn't wear any clothes, but

they weren't embarrassed because God hadn't invented mirrors, yet.

Adam and Eve sinned by eating one bad apple and they were driven out of the Garden of Eden. I'm not sure what God drove them in because He hadn't invented cars, either.

Adam and Eve's son, Cain, hated his brother as long as he was Abel. After a while, all of the first people died, except Methuselah, who lived to

be, like, a million years old.

Noah
 The next important person was Noah. He was a really good guy, but one of his kids was a Ham. Noah built a big boat in his back yard and put his family and a lot of animals in it. He asked his neighbors to join them, but they said they would have to take a rain check.



Happy Birthday Wishes to Blaz McGinnis!!

Fundraisers & Charitable Opportunities in our Community
4C Day Care Shop smile.amazon.com or contact Kathy Albers 620-298-2725 or 620-388-0774 or leave a donation with the Methodist Church.
West Kingman County Education Foundation Use your Dillon's Card! Shop smile.amazon.com (to donte contaceJanet DeWeese 620-298-2717)
Hands of Hope (contact any church)
Cunningham Alumni Scholarship Fund (send checks to the West Kingman County Education Foundation)
Cunningham Community Center (leave donation at the bank)
Lions' Club (Money is being raised to dig a well in the village of Kakindu, Kenya)
Cunningham Museum (to donate contact Alan Albers)
Cunningham Public Library (to donate, contact Kerri Steffen)

The 2022 Class of CHS



Levi Adelhardt

is the son of Renee and Stan Adelhardt. Levi plans to attend Pratt Community College for one year, then transfer to Kansas State Polytechnic to finish a Bachelor's Degree in mechanical engineering.



Nathan Cannon

is the son of Christine Cannon. His future plans are undecided at this time.



Madison Crystal Dowsey

is the daughter of Stacy and Jeremy Betzen. Madison has been the class president for four years. Her plans are to attend Hutchinson Community College and pursue a nursing degree.



Anabelle Hansen

is the daughter of Kim and Brandon Hansen. She plans on attending Colby Community College to study veterinary medicine or horse production.



Keiden Mills

is the son of Sheri and Randy Mills. He plans to attend Fort Hays State University.



Thank You To Our Spotlight Sponsors!

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Robin & Bobby Reed
Deanna & Bill Parker
Lois & Don Becker
Diana & Gary Wegerer
Helen & Chuck Holcomb
Patty & John Huffman
Sheena & Nick Albers
Marilyn & Roger Krug

"It always seems impossible until it's done." -- Nelson Mandela



Kelden Mills

is the son of Sheri and Randy Mills. He plans to attend Pratt Community College for two years.



Ashlynn Miracle

is the daughter of Jere' and Randall Miracle. She plans on attending Pratt Community College to study social work.



Hazel Osenbaugh

is the daughter of Roberta and Melvin Osenbaugh and Kevin Osenbaugh. She plans to attend Pratt Community College to study agriculture.



Erik Paris

is the son of Amy Fernandez-Paris and Craig Paris. He plans on attending Pratt Community College to study athletic training.



Isaiah Reed

is the son of Robin and Robert Reed. Isaiah is class vice-president. He plans on attending Wichita State University to study physical education.

Many Thanks to Our Sponsors! Remember to Support Local Businesses!

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4C

HEARTLAND SOIL SERVICES
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620-298-2780

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GREG BEAT
620-491-0293
415 West Santa Fe, Cunningham
We now have a Tire Machine

6th/7th Grade Boys Take First

The Cunningham Junior High track team participated in the Norwich Invitational track meet on May 3, 2022. The 9 team meet consisted of teams from Cunningham, Norwich, Pretty Prairie, Kingman, Reno County Home School, South Barber, Attica, Argonia, and Resurrection Ravens. The Cunningham 6th/7th grade boy's teams placed 1st with 120 points. This was 35 more points than their closest competitor.

by Coach Bob Stackhouse

Results:



Grace Hageman



Kyra Morgan



Cole Gridley

	6-7 th Girls	8 th Girls	6-7 th Boys	8 th Boys
High Jump		Emily Ogg 2 nd 4'2" Grace Hageman 4 th 4'0"	Andrew Kerschen 8 th 4'	Dylan Halderson 7 th 4' 4"
Long Jump	Piper Parkins 15 th 9'9.5" Makenzie Hartley 14 th 10'4.25" Janessa Schnittker 19 th 7'11.5"	Emily Ogg 3 rd 12'3" Grace Hageman 4 th 12'.75"	Andrew Kerschen 6 th 13' 2" Gunner Glenn 14 th 10' 8"	Skyler Thimesch 2 nd 15'11.5" Logan Kinsler 16 th 10'7.5"
Triple Jump	Macy Neufeld 9 th 22'8.75" Morgan Oldham 11 th 20'0"		Andrew Kerschen 6 th 28'5" Adam Sterneker 14 th 21'6" Caleb Lohrke 16 th 20'6"	Kendall Rogers 4 th 30'5.5" Andrew Schultz 5 th 22'6.5"
Shot Put	Whitney Mead 3 rd 29'3.75" Kourtnei Fischer 6 th 27'3.75" Nora Huff 5 th 23'4.25"	Kyra Morgan 3 rd 33'8"	Stephen Kerschen 2 nd 38'3" Layne Green 3 rd 31'7.75"	Dylan Halderson 4 th 33'6.5"
Discus	Nora Huff 3 rd 66'11" Whitney Mead 5 th 63'5" Kourtnei Fischer 9 th 56'9"	Kyra Morgan 3 rd 80'0"	Stephen Kerschen 1 st 129'3" Layne Green 2 nd 100'1" Nathan Ndambuki 5 th 83'1"	Dylan Halderson 2 nd 102'3" Andrew Schultz 5 th 91'2"
Pole Vault	Macy Neufeld 2 nd 6'6"		Jack Harden 1 st 7'0" Kollin Fischer 2 nd 7'0" Hank Adams 6 th 6' 0"	Skyler Thimesch 1 st 9' 6" Andrew Schultz 4 th 5' 6"
100m	Brynn Wyatt 3 rd 14.36 Andi Young 16 th 18.64 Stasia Sheldon 17 th 22.14	Emily Ogg 1 st 13.95 Grace Hageman 10 th 15.03 Bella Thimesch 17 th 17.16	Stephen Kerschen 1 st 12.47 Brody Bock 17 th 16.82 Cole Gridley 22 nd 18.65	Richard Vaughn 6 th 13.05 Blake Swope 9 th 13.74
200m	Brynn Wyatt 4 th 30.56 Rylee Miller 11 th 32.35 Morgan Oldham 20 th 36.61	Emily Ogg 1 st 29.45 Grace Hageman 5 th 31.67	Stephen Kerschen 1 st 26.2 Caleb Lohrke 15 th 34.96 Gunner Glenn 16 th 35.37	Dylan Halderson 7 th 27.48
400m			Gabriel Chapman 16 th 1:25.97 Caleb Lohrke 17 th 1:26.84 Myles Thimesch 18 th 1:30.76	Skyler Thimesch 2 nd 58.34 Richard Vaughn 6 th 1:03.71
800m			Jack Harden 2 nd 2:29.72 Will Halderson 11 th 3:08.5 Weston Rogers 12 th 3:11.28	Blake Swope 1 st 2:28.47
1600m			Jack Harden 2 nd 5:37.12 Will Halderson 11 th 6:40.82	
100m Hurdles			Cole Hageman 3 rd 19.17 Weston Rogers 7 th 21.59	Richard Vaughn 3 rd 18.54
200 LH	Makenzie Hartley 5 th 42.51		Cole Hageman 3 rd 33.88 Gabriel Chapman 6 th 40.5 Weston Rogers 7 th 41.08	Kendall Rogers 4 th 33.81 Blake Swope 6 th 37.28
4X100 Relay	Andi, Oldham, Schnittker, Parkins 7 th 1:03.02		Hank, Romine, Bock, Hageman 6 th 1:05.72	
4X200 Relay	Wyatt, Hartley, Miller, Neufeld 4 th 2:15.77		Fischer, Green, Glenn, Ndambuki 1 st 2:04.30	
Medley Relay	Parkins, Neufeld, Miller, Wyatt 6 th 2:27.25		Fischer, Hageman, A. Kerschen, Harden 1 st 1:59.75	Vaughn, Rogers, Halderson, Thimesch 2 nd 1:59.47



Kendall Rogers



Cole Hageman

photos by Molly Morgan

Cunningham Track Team Performs Well at Chaparral



Wylan Betzen



Elizabeth Paris



Will Wegerer

this photo taken by Taylor Schultz



Trent Schnittker

photos by Molly Morgan



(Coach's comments can be found on page 9)

Annual Madame Tussaud's Vahsholtz's Wax Museum



Top row: Walker Winfrey - Doc Holliday; Ava Neywick - Annie Oakly; Joey Vaughn - Kobe Bryant; Leddie Parkins - Beatrix Potter; Calvin Fischer - Paul Revere; Carter Wyatt - Lane Frost; Casyn Miller - Elvis Presly;; Jonathan Fowler - King Tut

Middle Row: Mrs. Vahsholtz, Lane Green - Lou Gehrig; Brody Halderson - Walt Disney; Vaughn Preisser - Selena Quintanilla; Lux Thimesch - Katharine Hepburn; Carly McGuire - Clara Barton; Landen Hageman - Daniel Boone; Cooper Neufeld - John Wayne; Bryer Barber - Steve Irwin,

Front Row: Alyssa Osner - Gertrude Ederle; Mackley Glenn - Dolly Parton; Jace Oldham - Davey Crocket; and Lucas Theis - Philo Farnsworth.

photo by Carrie Vahsholtz

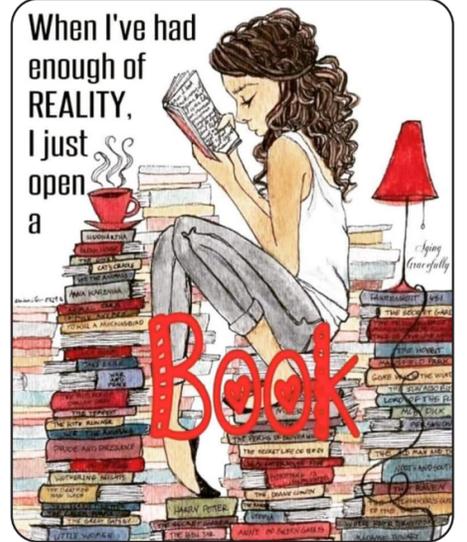
WHEN I AM REALLY INTO A NOVEL, I'M SEEING THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY DURING THAT TIME — NOT JUST FOR THE HOUR OR SO IN THE DAY WHEN I GET TO READ. I'M ACTUALLY WALKING AROUND IN A BIT OF A HAZE, SPELLBOUND BY THE BOOK AND LOOKING AT EVERYTHING THROUGH A DIFFERENT PRISM.

— COLIN FIRTH

grammarly

“Every book, every volume you see here, has a soul. The soul of the person who wrote it and of those who read it and lived and dreamed with it. Every time a book changes hands, every time someone runs his eyes down its pages, its spirit grows and strengthens.”

— Carlos Ruiz Zafón, *The Shadow of the Wind*



Kingman County Humane Society Pets for Adoption

Muasy

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Male Retriever, Labrador / Shepherd, Australian
Weigh: 8 pounds
Age: 3 months
2 weeks
Adoption Fee: \$250.00
Intake Date: 3/25/2022

Notorious member of the infamous Puppino Gang. Born to be bad. Get your application in now. This gang won't last long....

Cali

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



Female Calico Domestic Shorthair
Weight: 6 pounds
Age: 1 year, 1 month
Adoption Fee: \$50.00
Intake Date: December 8, 2021
Purrrrrr-feet kitty!

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

KCHS Donation Wish List

The pets at Kingman County Humane Society are in need of the following items:
dry cat and kitten food
clumping cat litter
canned dog food
Purina Puppy Chow
long-lasting chews
8-quart stainless steel flat sided water buckets
paper towels

bleach
liquid laundry detergent
poop bag rolls
disposable gloves (large)

The items can be brought to KCHS at 811 East C Avenue in Kingman
Monetary donations can be sent to KCHS
P.O. Box 103
Kingman KS 67068



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

“Books are like puppies, they wait for you with unconditional love and welcome you back whenever you return.”

— J.D. Barker

Can You Imagine?

I love thinking up new ideas to build!

I'm not real, but I'm pretty cute!

Great ideas... ...come out of books

The Imagination Station

The Dreamer
Building castles in the air!
2 Things Put Together
skateboard

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Minutes from Kingman County Commission for May 2, 2022

Chairman Foley called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse.

Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Larry Landwehr; Leslie Schrag, Economic Development Director; Aaron Corcoran, Motorola Representative; Michaela Divoll, Motorola and Brett Wilkinson, Kirkham Michael.

Online Visitors: Caller 01; Caller 02; Heather Kinsler and Joyce Foley.

Staff: Sheriff Randy Hill; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director

Chairman Foley asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Commissioner Henning would like to have an attorney-client executive session.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unani-

mous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Foley asked if there was any public comment.

Leslie Schrag, Economic Development Director was in with an update on the dilapidated and façade program with the Commissioners.

Ms. Schrag discussed the base grant and the discouragement on the way the funding went.

Commissioners discussed their discouragement on the way the funding was distributed for the base grant monies.

Ms. Schrag discussed childcare task force and that she is working on that.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to discuss attending a KGFOA meeting on May 19th, 2022.

Commissioners let Ms. Stegman know that they appreciate her letting them know that she is attending the conference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Brandon Ritcha, County Attorney to discuss pending administrative proceedings at 9:07 a.m. pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client rela-

tionship, and they will return to open session in the board meeting room at 9:22 a.m. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:22 a.m. with no decision made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Brandon Ritcha, County Attorney to discuss pending administrative proceedings at 9:22 a.m. pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, and they will return to open session in the board meeting room at 9:36 a.m. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:36 a.m. with no decision made.

Commissioners discussed the AEP invoice for 2021 service.

MOTION: Commissioner Henning would like to approve the invoice to be sent to AEP. Commissioner

Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Aaron Corcoran, Motorola representative was in to discuss placing towers in Kingman County and pricing summary.

Commissioners discussed their concerns with the coverage and the cost for it.

Sheriff Hill, Undersheriff Hillman and Ms. Kinsler discussed the current radios and the coverage.

Sheriff Hill let the Commissioners know that he would like to go with the two tower sites to help with coverage.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Brett Wilkinson with Kirkham Michael were in with W.3-8.0 Bridge Replacement (#8176050) bids received from the following:

Bridges Inc. \$828,904.60

Reece Construction \$858,540.75

A.M. Cohron & Son Inc. \$908,469.25

L & M Contractors \$994,480.20

Engineer Estimate was \$988,302.00

Commissioners discussed the bridge replacement and that the bridge needs replaced. MOTION: Commissioner

Henning moved to accept the bid from Bridges Inc. in the amount of \$828,904.60 out of the bond monies. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that FAS 693 Pre-Construction Conference scheduled for May 3rd, 2022.

Mr. Arensdorf discussed what to do if there is a large quantity of waste millings arise.

Commissioners would like for the company doing the project to contact Mr. Arensdorf if there are millings to disburse.

Commissioner Thimesch asked Mr. Arensdorf if he could look at a right of way and if he could possibly mow the area.

Commissioners asked Mr. Arensdorf if he has heard from ONYX and he let them know he hasn't heard anything yet but would look into it.

Mr. Ritcha presented two agreements for the Dispatching contract and the addendum amendment to EMS.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the EMS addendum to the contract. Commissioner Henning

seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to approve the Dispatch contract for 2023 with the City of Kingman. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

County Commissioners received bids for 80 cases of 8 1/2 X 11 copy paper from the following:

RH-L \$3,516.00

Office Plus \$ 3,116.00

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the bid for 80 cases of copy paper from Office Plus in the amount of \$3116.00. Commissioner Foley seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Foley read correspondence received.

Commissioners discussed the Motorola quote received.

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:28 p.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.



Endorsing Agriculture

Glenn Brunkow, Pottawatomie County farmer and rancher

Warning: Today's column is about politics and the upcoming election. Wait, don't stop reading because what I have to say is especially important and will affect your farm and ranch for a long time to come. I know we are all tired of the constant fighting and mud-slinging and what happens in D.C. and Topeka seem to be millions of miles away. I am here to tell you what happens in both cities hits close to home.

Over and over, I hear about how good people have turned off politics and just do not participate anymore. Friends, we have to change that.

I am begging, no I am pleading, with all of you to get involved in this next election cycle and help make Kansas Farm Bureau's voice stronger.

Voters Organized To Elect Farm Bureau Friends (VOTE FBF) has a great record when it comes to endorsing candidates, but this is no time to get complacent. We must make our voice heard. VOTE FBF's track record when it comes to endorsing candidates is so strong because we involve, or try to involve, every county and every member in the process. I know I sound like a broken record, but our strength is our grassroots.

This is the time of the year when VOTE FBF starts to make decisions on which candidates to endorse in both our federal and state elections. The very core of the process is the recommendations from each county. It is important, especially in state races, because you know your candidates,

your voice and opinions carry great weight with the VOTE FBF board.

It's true, you need to have at least donated \$5 to VOTE FBF, but that is a small price to have a say in who makes the rules and laws that affect our livelihoods. We need to make sure we are surfacing and supporting legislators who understand and back agriculture. The only way things will get better is if we are involved, and that has to start now.

First, familiarize yourself with the candidates in your area. Read their websites and go meet them. Find out who supports your way of life and who will represent your point of view in D.C. and Topeka. Then go to your county office, pay your \$5 if you haven't already and ask to be part of the process. I will bet you won't be turned down.

I hope there will be deep, meaningful conversations about which candidates to back around

those board tables. Most of all, however, I hope we have feedback from all 105 counties. I can't emphasize how important the next two election cycles are to agriculture and rural Kansas. We must make sure we have a say in which candidates represent us.

Get informed and get involved because we need your input to ensure we endorse pragmatic leaders who understand agriculture and rural Kansas. Now is the time to get involved and make sure Kansas Farm Bureau and VOTE FBF continue to be the Voice of Agriculture in the years to come.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

Public Notice

Published in The Cunningham Courier on Thursday, May 12, 2022 (3t)

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

According to K.S.A. 25-204 you are hereby notified that a Primary Election will be held on the 2nd of August, 2022, this being the first Tuesday in said month, at which time candidates for the following offices will be nominated according to the provisions of law by EACH of the political parties of this state who qualify to participate in said Primary Election as specified by law:

One Candidate for United States Senate (Districts to be determined) One Candidate for United States Representative (Districts to be determined) One Candidate for State Senator (Districts to be determined) One Candidate for State Representative (Districts to be determined) One Candidate for County Commissioner 1 st District One Candidate for Clerk in each Township One of the following officers will be elected in EACH of	the political parties of this state (Republican & Democrat) who qualify to participate in said Primary Election as specified by law. One Precinct Committeeman in each Township & Ward on Democrat Ticket. One Precinct Committeeman in each Township & Ward on Republican Ticket. One Precinct Committeewoman in each Township & Ward on Democrat Ticket. One Precinct Committeewoman in each Township & Ward on Republican Ticket. The filing deadline for all local offices in this election will be NOON on June 1st, 2022. The Testimony Whereof, I here-to set my hand and cause to be affixed my official seal. Done at the County of Kingman, State of Kansas on the 9th day of May, 2022. (SEAL) Carol D. Noblit Kingman County Election Officer
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Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, May 1st	2
Traffic stops	700 block Kingman State Lake Road, Kingman
Traffic complaint	S Peters ST & SW 20 St. area, Kingman
Traffic complaint	SW 150 St & SW 165 Ave area, Nashville
Traffic complaint	3000 block W Hwy 54 Kingman
Disturbance	4000 block NE 10 St. Kingman
Disturbance	1000 block E Hwy 54 Kingman
Suspicious person	NE 50 St & NE 50 Ave area, Kingman
Trespassing	NE 50 St & NE 160 Ave are, Cheney
Monday, May 2nd	2
Traffic stops	8000 block E Hwy 54 Murdock
Chase	800 block E. D Ave Kingman
Electrical hazard	SE 150 Ave & SE 60 St. area, Cheney
Fire outside	SE 30 Ave & SE 40 ST. area, Kingman
Suspicious person	
Tuesday, May 3rd	
Traffic complaint	SE 20 St & SE 60 Ave area, Murdock
Animal	S Carter St. & W. First St. Nashville
Public service	100 block Spruce Kingman
Suspicious persons	400 block W First St. Cunningham
Vehicle unlock	8000 block SE Burns Ave. Kingman
Vehicle unlock	200 block S Parkway St. Norwich
Vehicle disabled	5000 block W Hwy 54 Kingman

Wednesday, May 4th	1500 block SE 70 ST Kingman
Traffic complaint	SW 145 ST & SW 165 Ave area, Kingman
Traffic complaint	100 block N Spruce St. Kingman
Assist other agencies	
Thursday, May 5th	
Traffic complaint	10000 block SW 90 Ave Zenda
Assist other agencies	3000 block NW 50 St. Kingman
Disturbance	5000 block SW 50 St. Kingman
Harassment	200 block S Robbins Rd Norwich
Theft	100 block W Burns Ave Norwich
Utilities -trees/wire/leak	1000 block W. D Ave Kingman
Friday, May 6th	
Traffic stops	4
Traffic complaint	16000 block W Hwy 54 Cunningham
Traffic complaint	NW 50 ST. & NW 140 Ave area, Cunningham
Damage	8000 block W Hwy 54 Cunningham
Fire outside	700 block Kingman State Lake Rd. Kingman
Public service	200 block N Main St. Kingman
Suspicious vehicle	200 block E Ave B. Zenda
Vehicle disabled	14000 block W Hwy 54 Cunningham
Saturday, May 7th	
Traffic stops	1
Traffic complaint	SW 170 Ave. & SW 60 St. area Cunningham
Public service	E Hwy 54 & NE 150 Ave area Cheney
Public service	4000 block E Hwy 54 Kingman
Suspicious person	500 block S Parkway Norwich

Minutes from Pratt County Commission for May 2, 2022

The Pratt County commissioners met in regular session, Monday, May 2, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. in the commissioner room, 1st floor of the courthouse. The following members were present: Rick N. Shriver, Thomas W. Jones III, Dwight Adams, Tyson Eisenhauer, county counselor, Lori Voss, county clerk and Mark Graber, IT director.

Heather Morgan, economic development/COVID consultant, reported on the legislative session which wrapped up last week. They will be back in late May to work on at least the congressional redistricting map which was thrown out by the courts. She mentioned that sports wagering passed and is on its way to the governor. A significant amount of that revenue will go towards a fund to lure a professional sports team to Kansas. She mentioned that almost \$100 million was appropriated for housing and specifically for rural housing along with \$120 million being approved for rural housing developers.

She encouraged any person interested in building in Pratt County to contact her to get connected with these new programs. Additionally, she mentioned that only one veto was overridden,

and it had to with able bodied people working in order to receive food stamps. She mentioned that the legislature passed and the governor indicated she would sign the food sales tax percent a year until it reaches zero.

She also mentioned that the legislature passed a bill that would prohibit local mask mandates for any health condition. This bill did not receive overwhelming support so could be vetoed but that is yet to be seen. Heather then informed the commission that she had been assisting the small cities with their ARPA reports and had met with the Pratt County Historical Association Board about funding for their HVAC needs. She and Commissioner Shriver had met to discuss the furniture and equipment needs for the public safety building. ARPS funds could be used for this expenditure. However, she indicated that because of the amount of the purchase that procurement practices would need to be used and suggested buying off the state of Kansas contracts which have already gone through procurement to ensure the county receives the best prices for goods.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for the public safety building with ARPA funds and to ensure the purchases are made off the state con-

tracts. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Darrell Lavender, PRMC CEO, Alan Waites, PRMC CFO, Darrell reported on bill 286, the Covid extension, the governor vetoed. PRMC will celebrate National Health Care Week, May 8-14. They have hired a rheumatologist. Alan Waites gave a quarterly financial update. He reported the cost of labor and supplies are up. Completed the refinancing of the bond.

Andrea Polf, Arrowhead West, gave a short update on the services and annual report. She turned in her budget for 2023 in the amount of \$90,600 which is the same as the current 2022 budget.

Joshua Deardon stated he had a complaint about the RSVP bus transportation. He would like a resolution to his problem. Chairman Adams stated it was a privilege to ride the public transportation. He feels there have been no other complaints. Joshua would like to have the permanent ban removed so he can once again ride the public transportation. No decision was made at this time.

Tara Pagenkopf, RSVP director, requested to rehire Aleta Gatz as a RSVP driver. Commissioner Jones made a motion to rehire Aleta Gatz as a driver at \$10.00 per hour.

She received the grant that Tiffany has

previously applied for and received what was applied for. She presented checks for signatures. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to pay the Pratt Tribune invoice not to exceed \$195. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recess into executive session at 2:58 p.m. for ten minutes to discuss non-elected personnel.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to return from executive session at 3:13 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Jon roach, noxious weed director, stated the 2003 big rig spray truck needs to be replaced. All the electronics went down. Commissioners said to go ahead and have it checked out see what needs to be repaired and get a quote.

Billy Hampton, fire/rescue chief, reported the air bags have been received. He has hired two new employees for fire/rescue, Clint Phye and Robbie Thomas. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recess into executive session at 3:24 pm for fifteen minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones

made a motion to return from executive session at 3:39 pm with no action taken. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to hire Clint Phye and Robbie Thomas for fire/rescue. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from April 25, 2022. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Adams made a motion to recess into executive session at 3:45 pm for five minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Jones made a motion to return from executive session at 3:46 pm with no action taken. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Adams asked for a ten-minute recess at 3:42 pm. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Jones made a motion to return from recess at 3:52 pm with no action taken. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve payment vouchers for May 2, 2022. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to pay \$100.00 to the silver haired legislature. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recess the meeting at 4:06 p.m. commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting recessed until May 3, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. for a budget prep meeting with Scot Lloyd, accountant with Loyd Group, LLC.

The Pratt County commissioners met in recessed session, Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. in the commissioner room, 1st floor of the courthouse. The following members were present: Rick N. Shriver, Thomas W. Jones III, Dwight Adams, Tyson Eisenhauer, county counselor, Lori Voss, county clerk and Mark Graber, IT director.

Scot Loyd, Loyd Group, LLC gave a presentation on the 2023 budget process to the county department heads. He will be setting up individual meetings with the department heads at a later date.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to adjourn at 2:12 pm. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned.

Kansas Agriculture Exports Surpassed \$5 Billion for the First Time in a Decade

~Kansas Agriculture Exports Were \$5.35 Billion in 2021, a Growth of 32.35% Compared to the Previous Year~

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly announced that Kansas exported \$5.35 billion in agricultural goods in 2021. This is the first time that Kansas agriculture exports exceeded \$5.0 billion in at least a decade. Those exports were also \$1.30 billion, or 32.35%, more than 2020.

“Kansans have long-known that farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers are vital to our state’s economy,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “Kansas is a national leader in agriculture, and setting these records solidifies the important role the state also has on a global scale.”

The top export for Kansas in 2021 was meat, which made up \$2.06 billion, or 54.07%, of all agriculture exports. The second was cereals making up \$1.51 billion, or 39.75%, of total agriculture exports in 2021. Other products exported include oilseed, vinegar,

beverages, dairy products, milling products, fats, vegetables, flour, and starch, among other products.

Even though supply chain issues impacted many industries, Kansas exported agricultural products to 187 foreign markets in 2021. Mexico, Japan, and China were the top three countries to purchase Kansas agricultural goods. Mexico purchased \$1.91 billion, or 44.33%, of all agriculture exports. Japan followed by purchasing \$822.78 million, or 19.90%, of all Kansas agriculture exports. China was third with \$701.30 million, or 16.96%, purchased. South Korea, Taiwan, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Brazil were other countries in the top ten.

“Through the work of Kansas farmers, ranchers, other agriculture producers, and ag and food processors, in partnership with our Division of Agricultural Marketing, Kansas leads in agriculture,” Agriculture Secretary Mike Beam said.

Find the full report here. https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/KSOG/2022/04/27/file_attachments/2142599/International%20Marketing%20and%20Trade%20Statistics%20FINAL%20UPDATED.pdf

Avoid Mortgage Loan Modification Scams: Know What to Do

By: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

WASHINGTON – Millions of homeowners struggled to make their mortgage payments during the COVID-19 pandemic, and now they’re worried about inflation and the economic impact of the war in Ukraine. It’s especially important for homeowners who are financially vulnerable to know about mortgage loan modification scams and how to avoid them.

Mortgage loan modification scams are schemes to take your money – often by making a false promise of saving you from foreclosure. These so-called foreclosure or mortgage consultants

often use public notices or lists of distressed borrowers purchased from private companies to find their targets. They may offer to “prevent” foreclosures or “rescue” desperate homeowners from foreclosure through advertising, email, phone calls or in person.

Examples of scams related to mortgage modification and foreclosure prevention include, among others:

Foreclosure rescue and refinance fraud. Scam artists offer to act as intermediaries between homeowners and lenders to negotiate repayment plans or loan modifications. They may even “guarantee” to save your home from foreclosure. They tell you to make mortgage payments directly to them so they can forward payments to your lender. Instead, they may pocket your money and leave you in worse

shape on your loan.

Fake “government” modification programs. Scam artists create websites that mimic federal websites and use business names like those used by government agencies. They may use “federal,” “TARP” or other words, acronyms and abbreviations associated with official government programs. These tactics are designed to fool you into thinking they are approved by, or affiliated with, the federal government.

Leaseback and rent-to-buy schemes. Con artists entice you to transfer your home title to them with promises of new and better financing. They say you can rent your home and eventually buy it back. But, if you do not comply with the terms of the rent-to-buy agreement, you can lose your money and your home. Scammers have no intention of selling your home back to you; they want your home and money.

Scammers may:

Ask you to pay fees upfront to receive services

Promise to get you a loan modification

Ask you to sign over the title to your property

Ask you to sign papers that you do not understand

Say you should start making payments to someone other than your servicer or lender

Tell you to stop making mortgage loan payments altogether

If you believe you have been contacted by

a scammer or if you have been the victim of a mortgage scam, report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission, or to your state Attorney General. Stop paying the scammer. You can also seek help from an attorney.

If you can’t pay your mortgage or are worried about missing a mortgage payment, you have options. The first thing to do is call your mortgage servicer. Learn the steps to take, relief options, and places to go to get help with your mortgage.

If you need more help, reach out to:

HUD-Approved Housing Counselors. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-approved housing counselors can discuss options with you if you’re having trouble paying your mortgage loan or reverse mortgage loan. This may also include forbearance or a modified payment program.

Attorneys. If you think you may have been a victim of a mortgage loan modification scam, you may also want to consult an attorney. There may be resources to assist you through your local bar association, legal aid, or if you are a servicemember, your local Legal Assistance Office.

State Attorney General. You can contact your state attorneys general office for more information about state protections as well as file a complaint.

Support during a child's mental health crisis is a phone call away.

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Sara Eckhart

Sara Katherine Eckhart, age 37, passed from this earth on May 2, 2022 after battling Multiple Sclerosis for 18 years. Sara was a loving and very much-loved daughter, step-daughter, grand-daughter, sister to Kyle (Wendy), Tony, Veronica, Sam, Joey, and Ben, aunt to Trenton, Parker, and Mary and niece and cousin to many loving family members.



Sara was born on October 22, 1984 in Richland, Washington to Stephen Eckhart and Sandra Hameister Eckhart Dunlavy and raised by them and step-mother Kay Eckhart and step-father Jan Dunlavy. She attended schools in Vancouver, Washington, RAF Upper Heyford, England, Belle Plaine, Kansas and Fort Hays State University where she earned her Bachelor's Degree. Sara started working in Hays, Kansas for NEW, a Call Center for Direct TV. She became a supervisor and switched to work-from-home when she moved to Haysville, Kansas to be closer to family assistance until she was no longer able to work. After moving to Mulvane, Kansas in 2017 she found a volunteer position at the Mulvane Public Library where she truly loved being surrounded by books.

As well as books Sara had a love of music, movies, and sports being a huge fan of KU basketball, the Chicago Cubs and Bears, and the Miami Dolphins. Above that though, she was an avid lover and collector of all things Star Wars. As a young girl she loved family vacations and camping trips especially to the mountains and beaches of the Northwest. More recently as her ability to enjoy reading became more difficult and her vision deteriorated, she found her entertainment in listening to Podcasts. She continued to live in her home in Mulvane with the assistance of in-home caregivers until her death.

Sara was preceded in death by her father Stephen Eckhart, grandparents Amil and Beverly Eckhart, grandfather Harry Hameister, aunt Beverly Hameister, uncle Richard Eckhart, and cousins Phillip Gwaltney, Bud Eckhart, and Debra Eckhart.

A celebration of Sara's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday May 20, 2022 at the Belle Plaine Methodist Church Belle Plaine, Kansas with visitation with family from 10:00-11:00. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Anna Reid

Anna Marie Reid, 56, died May 2, 2022 in Wichita.

She was born March 3, 1966, in Topeka the daughter of Vincent and Gloria Martinez Hernandez. A longtime resident of Kingman, she was a Register Nurse and Nursing Instructor at Pratt Community College.



Anna attended the Covenant Assembly of God Church and was a mentor for Youth For Christ, both of Kingman.

On Aug. 12, 2000, she married Justin Reid at Wichita. Other survivors include son Stephen Gutierrez and Jaxson Reid; daughters Jessica Cox, Haley Prosser and Carly Reid; her parents Vincent and Gloria; brothers Eddie Hernandez and David Hernandez; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Monday, May 9, 2022 at Covenant Assembly of God Church, Kingman. The service will be live streamed at the Covenant AG Kingman Youtube Channel. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Sunday, May 8, 2022 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Burial will be in the Walnut Hill Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Anna Reid Memorial Fund or the Anna Reid Pre-Nursing Scholarship with Pratt Community College, both in care of the Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman, KS 67068.

Mary Gillen

Mary C. Gillen, 88, died May 10, 2022 at Wheatlands Healthcare Center, Kingman.

She was born Dec. 8, 1933, at Colwich the daughter of Sylvester and Catherine Heitz Ewertz. A long time resident of the Willowdale and Kingman communities, she was a homemaker.

She was a member of the St. Peter Catholic Church and Altar Society, both of Willowdale; and the Daughters of Isabella, Kingman.

On Aug. 26, 1953, she married Bernard Gillen at Colwich; he died Sept. 28, 1994. Survivors include son Mike; grandson Ross Gillen and his fiancé Michaela Wilkins; granddaughter Joanna Cooper and her husband Chuck; great-granddaughter Callie Cooper; and sister JoAnn Delcambre. She was also preceded in death by daughter-in-law Janene Gillen; 3 brothers; and 4 sisters.

Parish rosary will be 7:00 p.m., Thursday at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Friday at St. Peter Catholic Church, Willowdale. Burial will be in the St. Peter Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the St. Peter Catholic Church, Rivercross Hospice and Wheatlands Healthcare Center all in care of Livingston Funeral Home.

Gary Leslie

Gary R. Leslie, 80, died May 10, 2022 at his home in Kingman.

He was born Sept. 28, 1941, at Kingman the son of Jack and Mary H. Pritner Leslie. A lifetime resident of the Zenda, Spivey and Kingman communities, he was a farmer and stockman; and worked in the oil fields.

Gary was a member of the Zenda United Methodist Church; and was a member of the Ninnescah Lodge #230 A.F.&A.M., Kingman.

On Aug. 1, 1959, he married Joan Mark at Kingman. Other survivors include two sons Alan and Mike (Deanna); two daughters Kim Adelhardt and Kelli Leslie (Russell); sisters Jackie Arb and Judy Barker (Dennis); grandchildren Brandi Leslie (Mike), Garret Leslie (Aime), Jason Adelhardt (Reagan), Jeremy Adelhardt (Tabatha), Zachary Leslie, Mandy Smith (Chris), Afton Leslie (Russ) and Trevor Leslie; ten great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by parents and a brother Monte.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Monday, May 16, 2022 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Sunday at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Nichols Cemetery outside Zenda.

Memorials may be made with Rivercross Hospice and St. Jude Research Hospital both in care of the funeral home.

Pudge Madison

Francis G. "Pudge" Madison, 71, died May 9, 2022 in Wichita.

He was born May 7, 1951, at Wichita the son of Lewis and Imogene Swingle Madison. A longtime resident of Kingman, he was a retired Zumba instructor and avid rollerblader.

He was a U.S. Army veteran.

Pudge is survived by son Greg; daughter Leslie Schrag; brother Ben; sister Kathryn Landwehr; and 4 grandchildren.

Memorial services will be 2:00 p.m., Friday, at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Interment will follow at the Walnut Hill Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Kingman County Humane Society or the Pudge Madison Memorial Party Fund.

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