

The Cunningham Courier

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

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 (620) 298-2659

April 23, 2026
 Volume 36 Number 17

\$1.50



Andrew Schorr Remembered on Artemis II

Cunningham has a bit of a connection to the Artemis II rocket that traveled around the moon this month, carrying four astronauts.

Stacy (Schnittker) Schorr, CHS graduate of 1982, was married to Andrew Schorr, a NASA engineer who worked on the Artemis program. Andrew passed away in March 2023, but his work and dedication was honored on this flight.

The following excerpt was submitted by Stacy and their daughter, Erika Garcia.

"The legacy of Andrew A. Schorr was carried aboard the Artemis II rocket as a tribute to a career defined by dedication, leadership, and lasting impact on human spaceflight.

Schorr, who served for over 30 years at NASA, played a pivotal role in the de-

velopment of the Space Launch System (SLS), the most powerful rocket ever built to send humans deeper into space. As the SLS SPIE (Stage Propulsion and Integration Element) manager, he oversaw one of the rocket's most critical components—ensuring that propulsion systems and integrated stage elements worked seamlessly together. His work laid the foundation for safe and successful missions beyond low Earth orbit, including NASA's return to the Moon under the Artemis program.

The Artemis II mission represented a major step forward in NASA's plan to return humans to the Moon and prepare for missions to Mars. As the first crewed mission of the Artemis program, its primary purpose was to test and validate the systems needed to safely carry astronauts beyond low Earth orbit for the first time in over 50 years.

At the heart of Artemis II was a comprehensive test of both the Space Launch System (SLS) and the Orion



spacecraft with astronauts on board. While earlier missions, like Artemis I, flew uncrewed, Artemis II sent a crew on a journey around the Moon, allowing NASA to evaluate how the spacecraft performed in real deep-space conditions with humans inside. This included testing life support systems, navigation, communication, and the spacecraft's ability to keep astronauts safe from radiation and the harsh environment of space.

In recognition of his many contributions, two dedications were placed aboard Artemis II—one inside the rocket and one on its exterior—ensuring that his memory was carried alongside the mission he helped make possible.

Inside the rocket, the inscription read:

"This OSA is dedicated to Andrew A. Schorr for his many contributions to

human spaceflight and excellent leadership as SLS SPIE Manager."

On the outside, visible as the rocket began its journey skyward, a second tribute honored both the professional and personal impact he had on his colleagues:

"In memory of our colleague and friend Andrew A. Schorr."

These dedications reflected more than a career—they symbolized the respect and admiration of a community that worked alongside him to push the boundaries of space exploration. As Artemis II carried astronauts around



the Moon, it also carried the legacy of a leader whose work helped make that journey possible.

All Dressed Up at Hilltop Manor

Adilynn

Ava

Delilah

Ember

Henley

Kinley and Mom

Lowen

Oakley

Maggie and Mom

This last Sunday was the annual pillowcase dress style show at Hilltop Manor.

The fashion event was well attended by residents and community members.

I've been going for a few years now, and I am seeing the models grow up. The older girls were more poised and confident than they were when they first started their modeling 'careers'.

It is always a cute show with many lovely models and beautiful dresses.

The residents' sewing club has, over the last several years, made over 1300 dresses. The dresses have been sent to Haiti, Mexico, Philippines, Kenya, as well as other countries through charities such as Redeem United, Heart of God Missions, Lutheran Grain Train Church, Dress a Girl Around the World, and Operation Christmas Child.

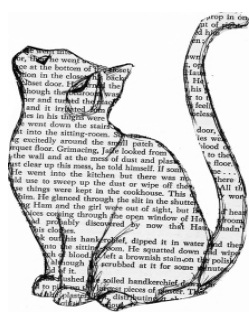
They plan to continue making dresses to send overseas to worthy causes. Contact Hilltop to donate pillowcases and other items for this project.

more photos can be found on page 5

We are pleased to announce that, thanks to our outstanding staff, we have achieved a ranking among the **TOP 20 out of 1,381** Critical Access Hospitals across the United States!



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Meanderings

I started a column last week, but it has yet to make it into this newspaper. There is much going on in and around our community and country, and my column gets bumped to accommodate news of

more importance.

I will have more detailed information next week about the sale of The Cunningham Courier. I will even put the article on the front page of the paper, and maybe I can use this space, then, for my column from last week.

Yes, I did get our newspaper sold. This community will NOT be without a newspaper.

I am looking forward to retirement on June 1st.

True retirement. Well, sort of. I have been asked to continue my column, and I am giving it serious consideration.... At least for a while. I most likely will not write that first week of June. I just want that feeling of not doing any 'papering' -- worrying about the newspaper or starting the newspaper or working to deadline; not driving to Hutchinson to pick up the newspaper, placing labels on them on Wednesday nights, and hauling them to the post office early Thursday

mornings.

And, of course, in my retirement I will be continuing my paper crafting and card making. And whatever else strikes my fancy -- and whatever I have the funds for. (always that!)

I have several ideas for columns that I have not been able to really develop or get written because of time spent on the rest of the paper, or lack of time all the way through my life.

I remember from my days as a kid and my

years as a teacher, the feeling of anticipation that came with school being out and the summer days stretching slowly ahead to August. And I feel like that now. But when August rolls around, I will just continue that break, as the days stretch into infinity. It makes me almost giddy.

Recently, I had a conversation with someone who retired early. He was asked, "Won't you get bored?" He said, "Well, I got bored when I worked, so I probably

will get bored. The feeling goes away." Then he was asked, "Won't you worry about finances?" and he replied, "I worried about finances when I worked, too. But now I'll be enjoying myself." And that is exactly right.

Always reading, and currently waiting for

"Golden Tresses of the Dead" by Alan Bradley

(I requested through our public library's interlibrary loan program.) Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, Well I have made it through the first mow of the season with predictable results. Though all precautions were taken pre-mowing to eliminate obstructions one never can catch everything one's lawn has accumulated over the Fall and Winter. And I sure as heck didn't. Sticks and stones and unidentifiable

bones have cropped up in the oddest of places and I managed to run over every one of them.

But I knew I would. And I always sacrifice my mower blades to the first mow of Spring. It is almost a ritual. Those blades are like the spearhead of an invasion, taking the brunt of enemy fire to pave the way for the many mows to follow. They will be removed and duly rewarded with a nice sharpening and held in reserve till next season. And until then there will INDEED be many mows

to follow and at first it is a renewal, a rite of Spring.

How soon the joy of being out in the crisp April air and the earthy aroma of fresh cut grass grows tedious. So much so as each week goes by I find myself cutting less and less of the lawn. I should say right now this is not so much a lawn as it is acres of brome which when cut to three inches or less masquerades as a lawn. And it takes me and my Troybilt Pony 42" machine about three hours to accomplish the task. In the beginning

of every season, I cut every available blade of grass up all the way up to the tree lines, fields and roads.

As the weeks roll on I tend to cut less and less. I can use saving money on gas or wear and tear on the lawn tractor as an excuse but the truth is I just want to get off the darn mower sooner. This lawn is no putting green, either. It is a rocky, bumpy, root-festooned, undulating obstacle course of a greenbelt. And every year some ancient fossil or rusted piece of farm

equipment manages to break the surface like a hibernating monster and attack my mower deck.

And it will rattle you to pieces. So much so that even after I'm done mowing my whole body still vibrates with the memory. It reminds me of when I played basketball in college and after a game my legs would still feel like they were bouncing off the hardwood.

I really shouldn't complain because not too long ago I used to mow the lawn with a push mower. It was a Toro that

I named Benicio. (Yes, after the actor Benicio del Toro.) It was a self-propelled push mower but you had to PUSH it nonetheless and instead of three hours it would take three days. And I estimated once in order to get the job done I walked about eleven miles. So I'll take all the sticks and stones my lawn can serve up rather than ever doing that again.

Keep your eyes on the stars and your back to the wind.



Every Day is Earth Day Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

The old proverb "society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit," recognizes the small contributions of past generations in forming the outline of the world we live in today and that shapes all of us.

Four individuals — Jennifer Mathes, Mona Owens, Pam Dougan and Ron Betzen — received recognition for their roles in creating a lot of shade over the past three de-

cadecades by helping to create a five-county Earth Day program in Parsons.

When the local community Earth Day event was discontinued, the Young Farmers and Ranchers of Labette County, led by Mathes, decided to keep the event going with a focus on agriculture and conservation. Her original purpose was to promote agriculture, educate children that today's agriculture is environmentally friendly and to educate teachers and provide them with curriculum ideas to use throughout the year.

The event has mostly dodged serious spring weather with only one rain out. A tornado tore through Parsons only hours after students marked Earth Day in

2000. The event also wasn't held in 2020 and was threatened again in 2021 until volunteers created a virtual option dubbed "Agriculture 4 All" that met the goals of the original mission and is still available to view on YouTube.

Starting with the motto, "In agriculture, every day is Earth Day," the group hosted more than 1,000 attendees of all grade levels in the inaugural year, and the young farmers group continued hosting the event until the turn of the century.

That's when Farm Bureaus from Crawford, Montgomery, Neosho and Wilson counties joined the effort to provide area schools with a day of ag-centered lessons and manage the

army of volunteers necessary to host stations featuring livestock, crops and conservation demonstrations.

Eventually the Earth Day event was pared back to fourth graders to better manage logistics, and nearly 600 attended the most recent event on April 16. The event also included more than 150 area FFA students who volunteered to run stations, serve lunch and help manage 600 fourth graders. Or at least attempt to manage them after they ate dessert.

The four honorees were recognized for their contributions over the previous 30 years. Mathes was honored for her vision to reimagine and continue an event that others didn't see

value in. Dougan and Owens, Farm Bureau coordinators representing Neosho and Labette counties, respectively, poured hours of their time into planning and coordinating the event over the years. Betzen, formerly a district administrator for Kansas Farm Bureau, helped connect county Farm Bureaus and provided plenty of behind-the-scenes support.

In addition to teaching students about agriculture, conservation and environmental stewardship, the Earth Day event also sent every attendee home with one other thing: a sapling. Most often the saplings were eastern redbuds, which are generally showing off their brilliant pink petals this time of year.

Fittingly, the four people honored for the 30th anniversary of the five-county Earth Day will have a redbud dedicated in their honor in the park that's served as the host site. Hopefully someday they get the chance to enjoy its shade where they can consider the thousands of other trees that were planted because of the event.

Shade is a great benefit from past plantings, but a better marker of a society's greatness is an ability to inspire the next generation and have them know that for farmers and ranchers, every day is Earth Day.

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau



America's Mozart - All Summer Long

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

Berthold Auerbach

Music is a special blessing. It can soothe and settle the mind like nothing else. And since the advent of radio and television, pop music has held a significant place in our culture — especially for the young. Whether you grew up in California or Kansas, Texas or Tennessee, if you were

in high school at anytime during the 1960s, 1970s, and beyond, you know the Beach Boys. For many of us, they provided a large part of the soundtrack of our lives. So it was with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of founding Beach Boys member Brian Wilson. He has been called America's Mozart, with good reason.

In my high school, we survived the 70s in part, by listening to the Beach Boys. Before Disco got a toe hold, we listened to the Beach Boys most every day — in school. My lunch hours were usually spent enjoying / cheese pizza and chocolate milk (total cost 75 cents from the school cafeteria) while listen-

ing to the Beach Boys on an 8-track tape player in my friend Phil Flynt's faded red '63 Dodge Dart. With doors open in the heat of the day, we enjoyed the sounds of summer. On days when we didn't have to dress out for P.E. and found ourselves loitering in the gym watching girls' basketball, someone would sneak in a tape player. We would usually listen to the Beach Boys. I still remember and know the words to my favorite tunes ("California Girls" / "Surfer Girl" / "I Get Around" / "Don't Worry Baby" / "Little Deuce Coupe" / "Darlin'" / "The Warmth of the Sun" / "Fun, Fun, Fun" / "All Summer Long"). The Beach Boys are Rock and Roll legends, considered one of the greatest bands of all time. And the heart of the Beach Boys can be found in the musical genius of Brian Wilson.

The Beach Boys began as a garage band in Hawthorne, California, in 1961. The band consisted of brothers Brian, Dennis, and Carl Wilson, along with their cousin Mike Love, and friend Al Jardine. Known for their

amazing vocal harmonies and classical, jazz, and blues elements, the band had a fresh sound that quickly captivated America. One interesting aspect of their music was the use of different and even unusual instruments, including the theremin, French horn, harpsichord, harmonica, and even plastic juice cups. In one of their classic hits, "All Summer Long," you can hear Brian playing the xylophone and piccolo, giving the song an upbeat, eccentric and beautiful sound. As the primary creative force behind the Beach Boys, Brian wrote or co-wrote most of their songs, especially in the early years. And he was the first pop artist to write, sing, produce, and arrange his own songs. He was the master of what he called the "pocket symphony." Some have called him the "George Washington of Rock and Roll."

Many of the Beach Boy's early songs focused on SoCal surf culture. Hits like "Catch a Wave," "Surfin' U.S.A.," "Surfer Girl," "Surfin' Safari," "Girls on the Beach," and others cap-

tured the essence of life in the sun and surf of the West Coast.

Along with surf culture, a number of Beach Boys songs related to muscle cars and drag racing. Hits like "Little Deuce Coupe," "Shut Down," "Don't Worry Baby," "Fun, Fun, Fun," and "409" were hot rod classics. The song "409" celebrates Chevy's big-block 409-cubic-inch V-8 popular in the early '60s. The 409 was a favored option in the Impala SS and was all the rage at drag strips at the time.

It is interesting to note that the Beach Boy's popularity got a boost following the 1973 movie and cruising classic American Graffiti, in which many of their songs were featured. In June of 1974, Capital Records released Endless Summer, a collection of the Beach Boy's greatest hits from 1962-65. If you want a taste of the Beach Boys, listen to this album. It is golden.

Brian Wilson, through his God-given creative genius, propelled the Beach Boys to great commercial success and helped legitimize popular music as a recognized

art form. He wrote 13 top hits before his 25th birthday. Since 1961 the Beach Boys have had 37 songs reach the U.S. Top 40 of the Billboard Hot 100 — the most by any American band. Four of these songs were number-one hits — "I Get Around," "Help Me, Rhonda," "Good Vibrations" (one of their very best songs), and "Kokomo." Rolling Stone ranked the Beach Boys number 12 on their list of greatest music artists ever. Critics have ranked some of their albums among the finest in history. The song "God Only Knows," released on the stellar album Pet Sounds in 1966, is considered Wilson's masterpiece. Paul McCartney called it "the greatest song ever written."

Brian Wilson is rightfully regarded as one of the greatest musical minds of all time. Though his personal life was marred by struggle and tragedy, his genius is undeniable. He once said, "When you make music, that is God talking to you." I think he was right.

God bless you, Brian. We will miss you...

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Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, April 23 HS Track at Norwich	Saturday, May 2 5:00 p.m. Auction for Construction Class Little House
Friday, April 24 Mosley Street Honor Program	Monday, May 4 PreK- 5 Music Concert ***
Saturday, April 25 State Solo and Ensemble at Bethel College	Senior Sneak Day
Monday, April 27 5:00 City Council Meeting *** 7:00 p.m. 6-12 Spring Music Concert	Tuesday, May 5 JH Track at Medicine Lodge *** HS Track at Hodgeman County *** Lions Club
Tuesday, April 28 6:00 p.m. Athletic Banquet	Wednesday, May 6 Shop Guild
Wednesday, April 29 Kay Women's Banquet	Thursday, May 7 9:00 a.m. 4th Grade Wax Museum Program
Thursday, April 30 JH Track at Fairfield ** HS JV Track at Medicine Lodge *** 6:00 p.m. Girls Night Out Book Club at Cozy's	Friday, May 8 HS Track at Bucklin *** Graduation Practice
Friday, May 1 HS Track at Stafford *** Seniors Last Day	Saturday, May 9 2:00 p.m. Graduation



Cunningham City Council Meeting will be held at 5:00 on Monday, April 27

The CHS KAU club would like to invite all women and girls of the community to the Women's Banquet.

Please bring a covered dish to share and your table service. Drinks will be provided.

This year's banquet will be held at **Cunningham High School.**

Wednesday April 29 6:30 P.M. Cunningham High School

GARAGE SALE

April 25th, 2026
7:30 am - 11:00 am

CUNNINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTER

Clothing Kitchenware
Books & Toys
Home décor Furniture

All proceeds will go to Oak Heart Foundation to support scholarships from Cunningham High School graduates

Serving Breakfast
Burritos, Cinnamon Rolls, & Biscuits and Gravy

Cunningham City-Wide Yard Sales

April 25th @ 8:00 a.m.

Sign up 620-298-3077

Thank you for Supporting The Courier

We ALWAYS need photos for the paper!!

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

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Hours:
Tues., Wed., & Thurs. - 11:00 to 7:30
Friday and Saturday - 11:00 to 8:00
Closed Sunday and Monday

All Dressed Up at Hilltop Manor
(continued from front page)



Olivia



Sadie



Vivien



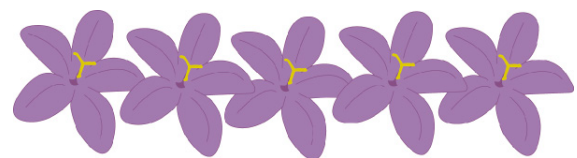
Rose



Willow



Serenity



**Happy Belated Birthday Wishes,
Miss Elia McGinnis**



1 John 3:18 NIV
Dear children, this is the last hours; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come.
submitted by Alan Albers

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

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! OR to donte contact Shawna Sterneker
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)

FREE EVENT

You are warmly invited to
MAY FEST
MUSIC • ART • NATURE

SATURDAY • MAY 2, 2026

2 to 5pm

Refreshments & "3 Little Annies" Drinks




FEATURED PERFORMERS

- Lori Jones • Marie Hanson • Nancy Kerr
- The Cello Chicks • GREEN Dance Academy + more TBA

Free to the community and surrounding region
In partnership with Vernon Filley Art Museum & Clarkson Park

Maypole Performances | Variety of Musicians, Poets & Family Friendly Fun | Indoor & Outdoor Artist Displays & Demos

1 John 3:18 NIV
Dear children, this is the last hours; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come.
submitted by Alan Albers

Catholic Churches		First Christian Church	
	Sacred Heart, Cunningham Sunday 10:00 a.m.	St. John, Zenda Saturday 5:30 p.m.	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
	St. Leo Saturday 4:00 p.m.	St. Peter Willowdale Sunday 8:30 a.m.	
Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627 620-246-5370		United Methodist Church	
Lutheran Churches		Penalosa Worship 9:15 a.m. Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki 620-298-2090	Cunningham Worship 10:45 a.m.
	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.		Zenda Methodist Church	
Church of Christ		Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: Children 8:30 a.m. Adults 10:00 a.m. Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953	
	Penalosa Sunday 11:00 a.m.		

YEARS AGO IN

THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1966

April 21, 1966 - Kansas 4-H Foundation Day will be observed in Cunningham, Saturday, according to Joe Pelzl, Cunningham 4-H Club Leader.

Ten local business firms are participating with the local club in this project. The names of the business firms may be found in an advertisement elsewhere in this issue of the Clipper.

You can support the Kansas 4-H Foundation when you buy from your local participating Cunningham business firm this Saturday. Present to him a 4-H Foundation ticket (available from any 4-H Club member) with the purchase of \$5.00 or more, and he will pay 50 cents to the Kansas 4-H Foundation.

The Better Homes and Gardens Club observed their annual "Guest Day" with a trip to Wichita last Wednesday, where they appeared as guests on the television show, "Party Line," over KAKE-TV (Channel 10).

Hostesses for the occasion were Mrs. Loren Cooley, Mrs. Vera Watkins, Mrs. Iona Shafer, and Mrs. Evan Thornhill.

Enroute to the television studio, the group enjoyed a coffee at the "Branding Iron" Restaurant in Wichita.

During the television show, prizes were won by Mrs. Alvin Cavin, Mrs. O. R. Benningfield, and Mrs. Everett Hauser.

The invited guests included Mrs. Cavin of Medicine Lodge, Mrs. Lon Hoagland of Pratt, Mrs. Clifford McCullough, Mrs. Elmer Freund and Cindy, Mrs. Ben Shafter, and Mrs. Otto Plagens, all of Wichita, Mrs. Hauser, Mrs. Ralph Baber, Mrs. Orville Shelman, Mrs. Kenneth Scripsick, Mrs. Shelly Stanley, and Mrs. Milton Brooks.

Members present were Mrs. Bedford Taylor, Mrs. Donald Thompson, Mrs. Benningfield of Kingman, Mrs. Roy Wetherall, Mrs. Charles Ratcliff, Mrs. Lee DeWeese, Mrs. George McClellan, and the hostesses.

The group were guests of the television station at the Forum Cafeteria in Wichita following the program.

1971

April 22, 1971 - The Cunningham High School Speech and Drama Department, under the direction of Don Shorock, received fine ratings at the State Speech and Drama Contest, held on the campus of Southwestern College in Winfield, last Saturday.

"II" ratings went to Jim England for his extemporaneous speech, and informative speech; Mark Dafforn for his extemporaneous speech, and Linda Jo Cain for her dramatic interpretation.

"III" ratings were awarded to Kris Sheldon for her prose, interpretation, and the one-act play, "The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden." Members of the play cast were Janice Schnitker, Mike Schrant, Jean Eck, Connie Thimesch, Marsha Hansen, and Alan Rohr.

Members of the Past Matrons Club were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bolton in their home, Monday evening, at the club's April dinner party.

The dining tables were attractive with suggestions of the Easter season, and favors of lovely decorative candles, topped with miniature novelty animals, marked each place setting. The usual bountiful dinner was enjoyed by the guests.

The ladies held a brief business meeting conducted by President Mrs. Bess Hauser, after which the guests played Samba.

Present were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wetherall, Mr. and Mrs. Loren Cooley, Mr. and Mrs. Chet Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bradley, Mrs. Frances Nossaman, Mrs. Zola Pearson, Mrs. Pearl Walker, Mrs. Vera Watkins, Mrs. Hauser, Mrs. LaVerna Bradley, and the hosts.

YEARS AGO IN

THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes
Editor: Nancy Briggeman
Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1976

April 22, 1976 -Benny George Orth, 5524 Beverly Lane, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, has been selected for inclusion in the 1976 edition of Outstanding Young Men of America. Mr. Orth is the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Long of Cunningham.

Mary Zrubek called her folks, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Zrubek Sr., last Sunday to say she was leaving Wednesday to fly to London to see her sister, Ramona, who works at the Mildenhall Air Base near London.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Theis of Chase were weekend guests of their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. David Theis and Adam in Oklahoma City.

Honoring the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Finley McClellan, an open house will be held May 1, 1976, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The celebration will be held at Mary's Hiway Café in Cunningham, Kansas.

Hostesses will be their daughters and families, Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Lagree, and M. and Mrs. Roger Gee, and "Mary's Café Family."

Last Wednesday, the Sophomores of Cunningham High chose their class rings. The new program called, "Freedom of choice", offered the ring company, enabled each student to choose which design he or she wanted out of the 38 designs. Also each student chose which color of stone he wanted in his ring. The metals available that the rings came in were: 10 K gold, sterling silver, golden saddle, and palladium plus.

Zenda news: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bixby and family, Larned, were Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Rose Cunningham.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Batt and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Oeding and Danny were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Drieling, Wichita.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Nichols called on Mr. and Mrs. Dean Mantooth and family, Cunningham, Saturday.

YEARS AGO IN

THE CUNNINGHAM CLIPPER

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes
Editor: Florine Kampling

1981

April 23, 1981 - Five Cunningham High School students participated in the 1981 state speech and drama festival held April 11 at Pratt Community College.

There were seven festival locations throughout the state. Cunningham students were joined at the Pratt location by high school participants from 43 communities.

Each participant or group received a I, II, or III rating. Cunningham students attending the festival included: Janice Stillwell, Dramatic Interpretation, II; Naola Thimesch, Poetry, II; Rhonda Ruckle and David Thornhill, Improvisational Duet, I; and Bonnie Fischer and Janice Stillwell, Improvisational Duet, III.

Area residents were among the Wichita State University students honored at the 27th annual WSU Honors Convocation on Sunday, April 5

Area residents honored at the convocation were David Steffen and Roger Theis, both of Cunningham, and Debra Hellman, Nashville.

1986

April 24, 1986 - Treva Westerman and Scott

DeWeese were selected to be pages for Representative Robert Wunsch. Treva and Scott along with Gloria Enns, sponsor, traveled to Topeka on April 8. While there they learned much about the legislative procedure. Mr. Wunsch also took time to go and have lunch with them. This was a very educational trip.

The senior government class held debates last week over the lottery and pari-mutual gambling issues. The class was divided into 4 groups, one for and one against issue. They worked several days in class researching the subjects to put together their debates. The actual debates were very spirited with a lot of arguing. Many of the students said they found it difficult to argue against issues that they believed in. The government teacher, John Kelly, was pleased with the way the debates turned out and the way the students performed.

Michael Beat, Cunningham, is among students at Kansas State University inducted this spring into Phi Beta Kappa.

Beat is senior majoring in biology.

Two Cunningham speech students, Andrea Holcomb and Chris Huhman competed in the Regional Speech contest held at the Barton County Community College at Great Bend, on Saturday, April 19. Andrea read her poem, "The Song of the Shirt" by Thomas Hood, and Chris read cuttings from the book "Jonathan Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach.

Both readings received a "II" rating. They were accompanied by Rubie Cusenbary, speech teacher, and Alvin Rohr, bus driver.

Navy Fireman Rhonda S. Ruckle, daughter of Larry G. and Maryann Ruckle of Cunningham, Ks. Was graduated from Basic Hull Maintenance Technician School.

During the 8-week course at Naval Damage Control Training Center, Naval Bae Philadelphia, Ruckle received instruction on the basics of welding, pipefitting and metalsmithing. She also studied the procedures used to fabricate, install and repair all types of shipboard structures, plumbing and piping systems.

A 1982 graduate of Cunningham High school, She joined the Navy in September 1985.

Thomas Schreck celebrated his third birthday at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schreck. The wiener roast and marshmallow toast was enjoyed by them as well as the honorees' parents, Steve and Nikki, and the following family members: Charlene Gossett, Sherri Gossett, Kenny and Pam Lovell, their sons, Mike and Chris, Diane Scammerhorn and daughter Maghan, Misses Elissa Hatfield and Misty Hennessee all of Pratt. Also enjoying a hot dog was late arrival, little Russell Rohlman. The Kansas breeze did decide the finish of the party, cake and ice cream was enjoyed inside by all.

Museum Hours

Saturday:

Morning 10:00 - 12:00

Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00

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Joe Sterneker 620-243-2534

Alan Albers 620-243-2553



This photo was sent in by Martha Heller. There are no identifying names except first names written on the photo itself. The photo was simply identified as

"1966 Cunningham 4-H club".



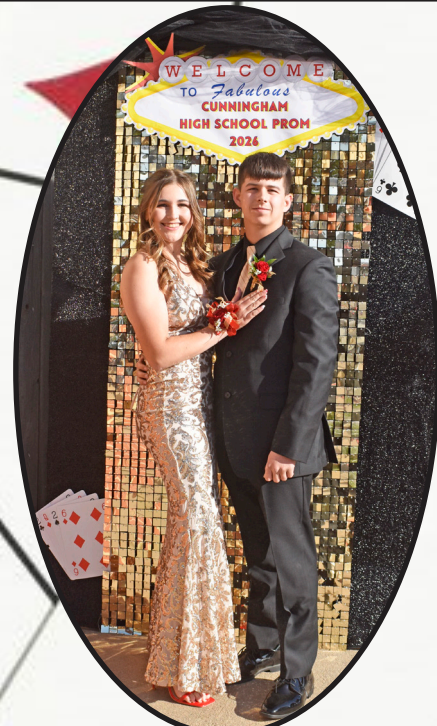
Spotlight on Junior and Senior Prom



*Penelope Kinsler,
Bella Thimesch, &
Wendy Kinsler*



*Blake Swope
&
Caitlynn Perkins*



*Emma Freeman
&
Kollin Fischer*



Sean Kostner



*Jack Harden
&
Grace Schuster*



*Lydia Sciara
&
Skylar Thimesch*



*Logan Kinsler
&
Emily Ogg*



*Aina Tortajada
&
James Henning*



*Larry Heatherman
&
Grace Hageman*



*Carson Strohl
&
Janessa Schnitker*

Photos by Molly Morgan



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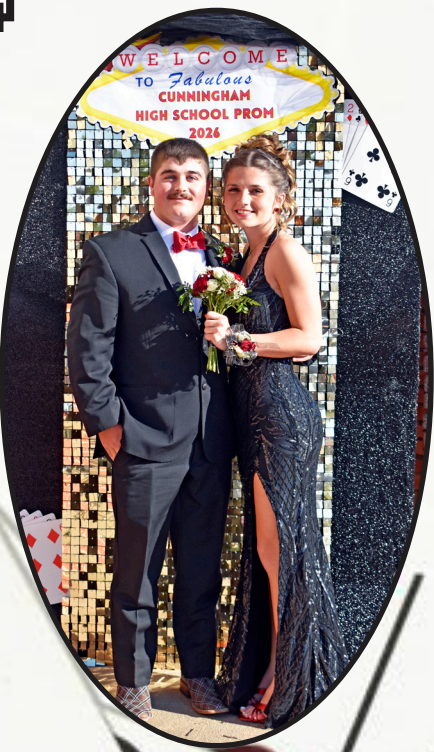


Marcy Allbritten
Leroy Panek
Louise Armstrong
Johnna Freund
Jane Meyers
Liz & Steve Miller
Bill Thome
Lois Becker
Dane Huhman
Kathy & Alan Albers

Mary & Bob Stackhouse
Kathy & Doug Griffis
Molly Morgan & Family
Jeanette & Bob Kerschen
Helen & Chuck Holcomb
Eilene & Jack Crick
Marilyn and Kenny Glenn
Patty & John Huffman
Deanna & Bill Parker
Martha & Ron Albers

Ang & Aaron Murphy
Marla & Mike McGovney
Shawna & Tom Sterneker
Gwen and Mark Betzen
Judy and Scott DeWeese

Spotlight on Junior and Senior Prom



Layne Green & Grayci McCurry



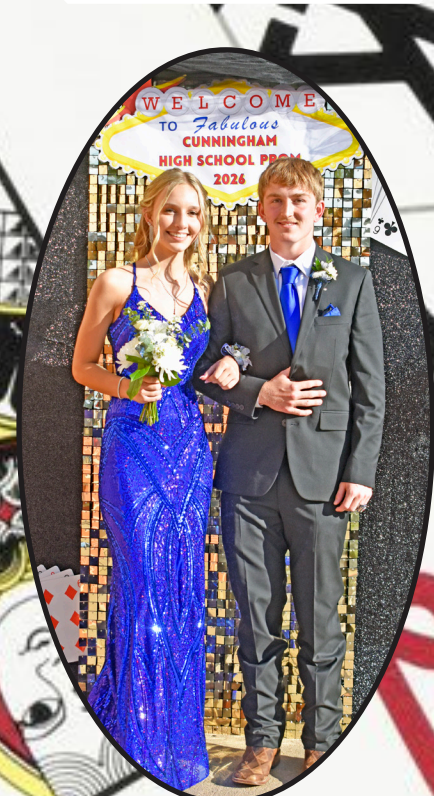
Rylee Miller & Dylan Halderson



Kaylee Mertens



Whitney Mead



Macy Neufeld & Brody Bock



Andrew Schultz & Nora Huff



Kyra Morgan & Kendall Nelson



Kory Morgan & Gracie Smyth



Stephen Kerschen



Berkley McKinley & Kendall Rogers

Photos by Molly Morgan

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Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, April 12

Abandoned Vehicle W Hwy 54 & N Hwy 11, Kingman
 Transport Civilian 400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
 Animal Complaint 300 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
 Distrubance 1200 Blk NE 150 Ave, Cheney

Monday, April 13

Civil Paper Service 2
 Traffic Complaint 18000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
 Animal Complaint NW 70 Ave & W Hwy 54, Kingman
 Accidental 911 Dial 16000 Blk SE 120 120 St, Norwich
 Accidental 911 Dial 600 Blk E 2nd Ave, Norwich
 Miscellaneous/Arrest 200 Blk N Sunflower Dr, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 100 Blk E 4th St, Cunningham
 Court/Inmates 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Agency Assist/Medical 200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
 Animal Complaint 200 Blk E Groover Ave, Spivey
 Miscellaneous/Jail Incident 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Tuesday, April 14

Traffic Complaint 1
 Civil Paper Service 3
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Suspicious Person N Main St & E Sherman Ave, Kingman
 Theft 18000 W Hwy 54, Cunningham
 Harassment 15000 Blk SE 170 Ave, Norwich
 Traffic Complaint 400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
 Suspicious Vehicle & Person 100 East 1st St, Cunningham
 Miscellaneous/Jail Incident 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Miscellaneous/Jail Incident 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Wednesday, April 15

Traffic Stops 4
 Civil Paper Service 6
 Abandoned Vehicle 11000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
 Transport Prisoner 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Accidental 911 Dial NW 150 Ave & W Hwy 54, Cunningham
 Agency Assist/KHP/Traffic Stop 13000 SE Main Ave, Rago
 Miscellaneous 400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham

Court/Inmate 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 16000 Blk E Hwy 42, Norwich
 Check Welfare N Broadway St & W Wallace, Kingman
 Follow Up 400 Blk N Ninescah St, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 1200 Blk W Washington Ave, Kingman
 Agency Assist/Medical 1200 Blk W Kelly Ave, Kingman

Thursday, April 16

Traffic Stops 2
 Civil Paper Service 8
 Traffic Complaint N Hwy 11 & NW 60 St, Kingman
 Follow Up SW 10 St & SW 170 Ave, Cunningham
 Transport/Inmate 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 800 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
 Transport/Civilian 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Fraud 15000 Blk SE 10 St, Cheney
 Found Property SE 100 St & SE 120 Ave, Norwich
 Disabled Vehicle NE 10 St & NE 60 Ave, Kingman

Friday, April 17

Traffic Stops 2
 Suspicious Vehicle 16000 Blk E Hwy 42, Norwich
 Miscellaneous NE 20 Ave & E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Miscellaneous 200 Blk W Kansas Ave, Kingman
 Disabled Vehicle 5200 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
 Disabled Vehicle SE 40 St & SE 120 Ave, Murdock
 Follow Up 15000 Blk SE 10 St, Cheney
 Walk Through/School 200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
 Follow Up 400 Blk N Ninescah St, Kingman

Saturday, April 18

Traffic Stops 2
 Agency Assist/KMPD/Miscellaneous 1200 Blk N Chariton St, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 5000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Disabled Vehicle E Hwy 42 & SE 60 Ave, Rago
 Follow Up 400 Blk N Ninescah St, Kingman
 Agency Assist/Medical 400 Blk S Valley St, Cunningham

Pratt County Commission Minutes for April 13

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 13, 2026, at 2:00 pm 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. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Economic Development Update -Legislative Update

Heather provided an update regarding recently passed state legislation related to property tax and its potential impact. On Friday night, a revenue cap property tax

bill was passed. The bill is expected to be delivered to the Governor later in the week, and its status remains pending. Concern was expressed regarding the administrative burden on the County Clerk's Office.

Historical Society Budget Request

Thad Henry, Outgoing Treasurer for the Pratt County Historical Society, addressed the commission regarding funding and operational updates. The county's annual contribution accounts for approximately 60% of the organization's gross receipts. Mr. Henry emphasized the organization's current operations would not be sustainable without County support. A formal request was submitted to increase funding to \$52,000 for the upcoming year. This represents a 7% increase over prior funding levels that have remained the same for the last 6 years. Commissioners acknowl-

edged the request and expressed concern over recent legislation and the impact it may have on funding.

Motion to Hire Gracie Martin for the appraiser's Office at \$16.00/hr was made by Commissioner; motion passed 3-0.

Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Agreement - Noxious Weed Control

The commission reviewed the annual agreement with the KDOT. Equipment and service rates are \$45./hr for Operators, \$75/hr for ATV use, \$95/Hour for Truck Use

Motion to approve and sign the agreement with KDOT for 2026 spraying services made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Fire & Rescue Update

Clayton Kessler provided an update regarding the inspection and purchase of a rescue truck, as well as associated equipment. Terry Williamson

traveled to evaluate the vehicle in person. A list of minor repair items was identified. The seller offered additional incentives contingent upon purchase including a gas generator, payment of travel expenses and delivery of vehicle to Pratt County. Clayton provided additional information regarding equipment quotes received. Estimated delivery timeline is approximately 30 days.

Motion to approve the purchase of rescue tools from Rescue Specialist in the amount of \$43,100 to be paid out of Special Equipment Fire and Rescue funds made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0

Executive Session - Attorney-Client

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Neighborhood Revitalization and cur-

rent proposed State legislation for 20 minutes at 2:30 p.m. made by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 2:50 pm with no action taken.

(con't on page 10)

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Statepoint Crossword Theme: The 1970s

CROSSWORD

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62					63				64		

ACROSS

- Verbal abuse
- *Failed constitutional amendment, acr.
- Google ____, navigation aid
- Strip of roadway
- Dripping faucet sound
- Chef's headgear
- Tel ____, Israel
- Prima donnas' problems
- Occupied (2 words)
- *1974 scandal
- Flight-related announcements, acr.
- Attempt again
- Male aristocrat's honorific
- Town, in Spanish
- Recitaion of wedding vows, again
- Santa ____ winds
- Apnea, in U.K.
- Operatic solo
- ____ or do nothing
- Finish line
- *1976 Woody Guthrie biopic: "Bound for ____"
- Field worker
- Avian rest stop
- What lintel and mantel have in common
- Ring-shaped
- *1979 Nobel Prize-winning nun
- *Alfa Romeo Giulietta, e.g.
- Italian bowling
- Type of tournament
- *#33 Down Oscar winner
- Lie in wait
- Place one's stake

DOWN

- Deli side
- * ____ lamp, 1960s invention popular in 1970s
- Newton, e.g.
- Echo
- "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
- ____ Tooty Fresh 'n Fruity
- Cathedral part
- *1976 Summer Olympics location
- Caribbean color
- Boot-wearing cat
- *Johnny Nash's "I Can ____ Clearly Now"
- Spinning toy (2 words)
- Make a logical connection (2 words)
- 4 x 4 race
- Dead one or Black one, e.g.
- Ottoman Empire bigwig
- Teamsters, e.g.
- Consumed
- *"Sanford and Son" star
- "That's all she ____"
- Buenos follower
- *Eric Clapton's 1970 hit
- Not ever, contraction
- *1975 movie " ____ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

36. *Kung Fu movie star (2 words)

- Domenikos Theotokopoulos, a.k.a. El ____
- Away's partner
- Old master print maker
- Scrawny
- Feel sympathy
- Common hops
- Eight performers
- No problem
- Cheap reads
- Back of neck
- a.k.a. horse mackerel
- *Jacqueline Susann's best-seller " ____ Is Not Enough"
- Noble gas
- "Zip it!"

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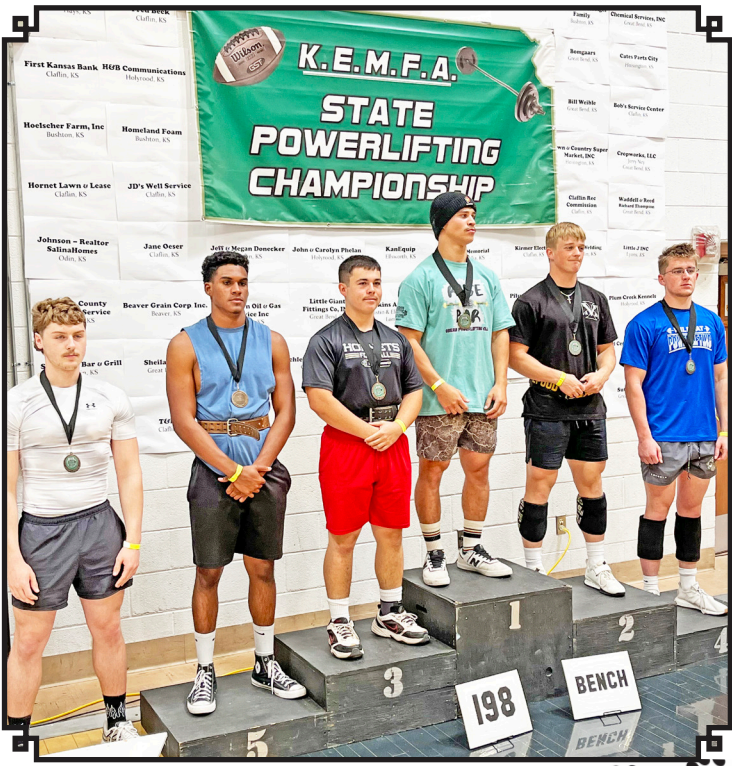
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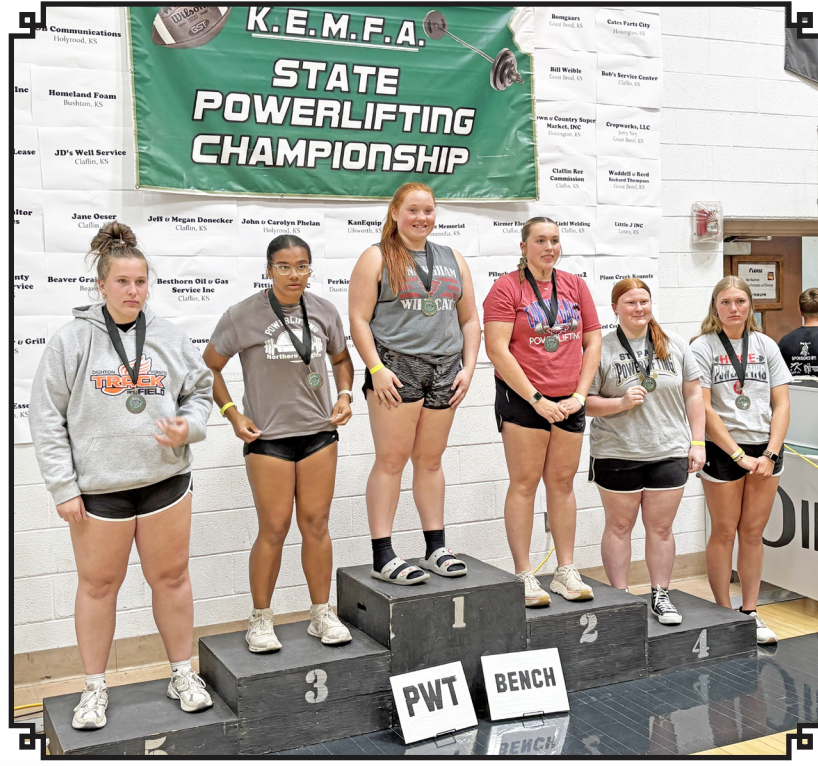
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Two CHS Athletes Place at State Powerlifting Meet



Stephen Kerschen stands in on the 2nd place podium



Kyra Morgan stands in on the 1st place podium

Congratulating to all the kids who participated in the 2026 1a State Powerlifting meet in Claflin, KS on Saturday, April 18th. What a great opportunity and investment for each of these kids for themselves and their teams! I love seeing kids work hard for something and improve in their craft. Any given day might be tough, but in the long game the kids make such great improvement. As Mr. Johnson used to say, "its all about the journey." In the future I would love to take a big team and bring home the title. Our kids CAN do it if they wanted!

A special congratulations to Kyra Morgan for finishing 3rd place overall and to Stephen Kerschen for finishing 2nd. overall! Coach Kerschen

Kingman County Commission Minutes

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. April 13, 2026, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Jeff Young, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk; Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Visitors: Dale Enyart; Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Ted Hall; Greg Reno; Doug Twietmeyer; Sam Reno; Sheri Miller; Randall Miller; Dan Garber; Kaleb Howell; Don Marrs, DMA Architects PA; Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief; John Riggins, P.E., Kirkham Michael Vice President

Online Visitors: Caller 01; AS; Buffy; DH; Caller 02; HK; the Rock; Mary Schwartz

Staff: Tonja Stamm, Courthouse Maintenance; Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director; Misty Jacobs, Office Assistant; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer.

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Chairwoman Lyon would like to add an atty-client privilege executive session; Commissioner Thimesch would like to add an atty-client privilege executive session.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an atty-client privilege executive session. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was

approved with a 3-0 vote. Chairwoman Lyon asked for public comments.

Ted Hall was in to discuss the K3 Subdivision and that the land is not a place to build. Also, Mr. Hall discussed that there are four things that the zoning is to cover land, applications, development planning and environmental protection.

Mr. Hall let the Commissioners know that he spoke with Janelle Phillips and she stated that the County needs a Civil Engineer and they need to do a Surface & Ground Water study. Also, she said that a soil survey needed done.

Mr. Hall let the Commissioners know that Midwest Land Group is putting false information out about the subdivision plots to sell them.

Dale Enyart reminded the County Commissioners about the Thursday night Republican Committee meeting this week and let them know that Pat Proctor will be there to talk at 7:00 p.m.

Greg Reno from Cheney let the Commissioners know that people don't come to Kingman County, they escape to Kingman County.

Doug Twietmeyer, Vinita Township officer was in to discuss having the subdivision in their township will cost the taxpayers more money to maintain the roads. Also, they may have to raise their budget as the cost of fuel has risen.

Sam Reno, Evan Township Officer was in and discussed the Silver Creek Subdivision and that it will not bring revenue into their township.

Tonja Stamm, Courthouse Maintenance was in to discuss the

Register of Deeds air conditioner in the vault is not working and the options that are available at this time.

Ms. Stamm discussed the air conditioner split cleaning bids received with the County Commissioners.

Commissioners asked Ms. Stamm to rebid for the split air conditioner bids.

Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning Director was in with Resolution 2026-R12 for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Resolution 2026-R12. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 2-1 vote with Commissioner Young voting against.

Mr. Garber presented the original plat and a possible revisions to the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Young discussed the flooding and that the road does flood with big rains.

Mr. Graber and Ms. Stucky let the Commissioners know that they have talked with Janelle Philips and the emails received from her.

Commissioner Young read emails and discussed testing that should be done.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed the property. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the K3 Subdivision plat map. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. Commissioners discussed the flooding and all the steps that have been taken. The motion was approved with a 2-1 vote. Commissioner Young against.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Resolution 2026-R13. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a 2-1 vote with Commissioner Young against.

Ms. Stucky presented the Silver Creek Subdivision for approval by the County Commissioners.

Mr. Howell and Mr. Graber discussed the subdivision and the plat map with the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Young asked Mr. Howell if the lots will be sold by a realtor. Mr. Howell let Mr. Young know that the lots will be sold by a realtor. The realtor will have to disclose the oil wells to the purchasers.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to approve the final plat of Silver Creek Subdivision Resolution 2026-R14. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Howell, Mr. Garber and Ms. Stucky left the meeting at 10:01a.m.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Misty Jacobs, Office Assistant, were in to update on the CDL procedure. Ms. Jacobs presented a contract for an employee that has entered the CDL program. MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve CDL training reimbursement agreement. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

John Riggins with Kirkham Michael was in to talk about the bridge inspections of 350 bridges at a cost of \$300.00 each which is the same price as last year.

Mr. Arensdorf discussed a federal grant-Safe roads for all with Kiowa County handling the reporting. The only thing county would have to do is have people on the steering committee and provide a meeting place.

Applications are due by May 1st. There will be no cost for the County to participate. MOTION:

Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the County joining the 5 County coalition for the Safe Roads for All Federal Grant with Kiowa being the Lead and Pratt, Barber, Comanche

and Kingman as the Coalition. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Riggins let the Commissioners know that he will let Kiowa know that Kingman County would like to join the Coalition.

Commissioner Thimesch let Mr. Arensdorf know that Mark with Nextera and that repair cost would be \$148,00.00 to overlay the Neville Road. Mark from Nextera would like to know if the County would pay half of the cost.

Commissioners discussed that there is a concesses to approve the proposal with Nextera.

Don Marrs, DMA Architects PA was in with floor plans to discuss codes with the Commissioners.

Mr. Marrs let the Commissioners know that he will give this information to OSE for the future remodel.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer, was in to let them know that the auditors were in last week for one day in house and that everything went well.

Ms. Stegman let the Commissioners know that she will be attending a budget training on May 20th, 2026, in Wichita.

Ms. Stegman went over the March financials with the County Commissioners.

Ms. Stegman submitted the City/County EMS Fiscal Year 2026 for the first quarter to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Young approved an employee's new hire sheet for the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the April 6, 2026, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the April 6, 2026, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon read correspondence from Norwich Recreation Commission for their Summer Fun Celebration on the 11th of July.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the request for the Norwich Summer Fun Celebration July 11th, 2026. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon read Correspondence from KCCA for Dues \$372.46.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the KCCA membership dues of \$372.46. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon read correspondence from the Kingman Historical Theatre for a donation for the 250th Celebration.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed the letter to the editor written by Scott Sparks.

Commissioners discussed a request for information that was received.

Commissioner Young discussed the plat maps and that he just wants people buying and building in the County to know what kind of land they are receiving.

Commissioners approved one abatement: EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 1:03 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 1:13 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 1:13 a.m. with no action taken.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed that the Commissioners would at budget time look at buying down the residential property tax with Pilot money.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 1:16 p.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 1:13 a.m. with no action taken.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed that the Commissioners would at budget time look at buying down the residential property tax with Pilot money.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 1:16 p.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.



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Pratt County Commission Minutes for April 13

(con't from page 8)

Emergency Vehicle Permit Application

Motion to approve Emergency Vehicle Permit Application for Doug Reh made by Commissioner Shriver; motion passed 3-0.

Sheriff Personnel Request

Motion to approve status change for Johnny Cardoza from Part-Time Detention Officer to Full-time Detention Officer at \$17.50/hour made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Health Insurance Discussion

The Commission reviewed health insurance renewal options from FCMI and PIC.

Motion to approve renewal with Freedom Claims plan funding at the same savings level as the previous year made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Motion to approve renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Comments – Hospital Update

Commissioner Shriver addressed recent constituent inquiries regarding the status of PRMC. Commissioner Shriver noted that when constituents send emails to all three commissioners simultaneously, it restricts the ability to respond. Constituents were encouraged to have direct communication with individual Commissioners if they wish to receive a response and engage in discussion. The Commission is currently working toward a solution with PRMC through legal counsel. Discussions are ongoing and a joint public announcement will be made once details are finalized. Commissioner Shriver emphasized that the Commission shares the same concerns as the public and is working toward a resolution.

Approval of Minutes
Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the minutes of April 6, 2026.
Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the vouchers for April 13, 2026.
Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

May Day Community Dinner
Friday, May 1st - International Workers' Day
6:00pm - Municipal Building
117 W 3rd St, Pratt, KS

BRING YOUR APPETITE... Pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, and of course...dessert! Free-will donations gratefully accepted.

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Second Thursday of every month - 7:00pm
All Saints Episcopal Church
218 N Main St, Pratt, KS

PRATT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

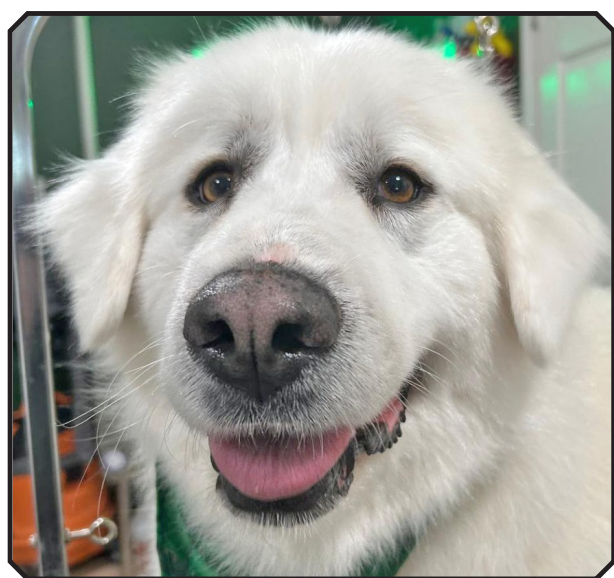
KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Dakota

Sponsored by Kathy and Alan Albers

Max

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Max and Dakota are identical in almost every aspect. These siblings have been together their entire lives and would miss each other terribly if they were separated now. Fortunately, they are both very well behaved and will do great

whether they are family pets or a working pair. They are gentle and sweet and get along great with other animals but will sound the alert if there is someone on the property that shouldn't be there or a predatory animal threatening their flock

or herd. They enjoy being outside unless there are thunderstorms, gunshots or fireworks. Both are housetrained but do not particularly care to be in a crate. Max and Dakota are very well mannered, gentle and both walk well on leash. This is an

awesome pair of dogs.



David
Sponsored by Cunningham Courier



David looks to have a bit of Siamese in his genetic background. Those blue eyes and the darker legs and tail are almost sure traits of a Siamese.

This handsome fella is about 2 years old, has been at the shelter since mid-March and is only \$40.00 to adopt.

He has many assets. He is good with other cats, good with kids, is litter box trained, and would love to have a home of his own.

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Seth Thibault, OD
Andrew W. Piester, OD

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Pratt, Kansas 67124
620-672-5934
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M - F

604 N. Walnut
Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104
620-886-3222
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Seth Thibault, OD
Andrew W. Piester, OD
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Kingman, KS 67068
620-532-3154
1-800-371-3154
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Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Friday

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Substitute City Clerk for Turon, KS. We are looking for an organized, reliable person to perform basic office tasks. You will be trained on the tasks you are expected to do. This is a part-time as needed position with the option of picking up extra hours. Need to fill this position immediately.

Help Wanted

The City of Turon is looking to hire Lifeguards and a Pool Manager for the City of Turon's swimming pool. If interested please call the city office at 620-497-6443. The City of Turon is also asking for donations to provide free admission to the pool again this year.

Help Wanted

City of Kinsley is hiring a City Manager, send cover letter, resume and references to Attention Mayor Venters PO Box 7, Kinsley, KS. 67547 or email city-clerk@cityofkinsley.org

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Trash Talk

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

Trash and recycling schedules are available at City Hall.

If you have large, bulky items for pick up (i.e. appliances or furniture) please call Nisly at 620-662-6561. They pick up bulky items once a month. This service is included in your trash bill with the city! No extra charge!

To book the Community Center
Call Molly at 620-298-3077
Signed rental agreement and \$150 deposit required at the time of key pick up.
Keys must be picked up during regular office hours at City Hall and returned immediately following event.

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.prairie-bombers.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!

Public Notice

First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, April 9, 2026.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

DONALD M. CRESS, a/k/a DONALD CRESS, Deceased.
(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)
Case No. KM 2026 PR 11

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Barbara L. Cress, an heir of Donald M. Cress, a/k/a Donald Cress, deceased, praying:

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

An undivided one-half (1/2) interest in the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SW/4 NE/4) and the West Half of

the Southeast Quarter (W/2 SE/4), less right of way, in Section Thirty-three (33), Township Twenty-nine (29) South, Range Eight (8) West of the 6th P.M., Kingman County, Kansas.

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

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before May 4, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the city of Kingman, in Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

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

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Monday, May 4th, Begins Closing at 6:00 P.M.
Auctioneer's Note: After a lifetime of work and farming, Max Peck & Family have made the decision to retire. Max is the first owner of many of the items being offered and much of the equipment has been meticulously kept and shedded. Wiggins Auctioneers is honored to present this very clean, well-maintained line of farm equipment. * Location: 13910 E. Blaine Rd., Hunter, OK 74640 * Preview: Saturday, May 2nd, 1-5 PM & Sunday, May 3rd, 1-4 PM * **Quentin & Lynsie Sturgeon, Auction Mgrs., 580.554.7133/580.554.2633**
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The Courier on
April 27


Denise Davis

Denise Davis, whose life was marked by compassion, curiosity, and a deep love for animals, passed away on February 18, 2026 while on vacation in the Galápagos Islands of Ecuador, a place that reflected her lifelong appreciation for nature and wildlife. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness and service that spanned from the heartland of Kansas to the shores of Florida.



Born October 27, 1954 in Nashville, Kansas to Norbert and Dolly Neises, Denise grew up on a dairy farm, where her love of animals began at an early age. She could often be found tending to newborn calves, caring for farm cats, and learning the quiet responsibility that comes with nurturing living things. These early experiences shaped a lifelong devotion to animal welfare and conservation.

Denise was a graduate of Cunningham High School, Cunningham, KS. She is survived by her husband, David Davis, and her siblings: Jean Evers, Ted Neises and wife Pat, Marilyn Barto and husband Dave, and Judy Neises, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Preceding Denise in life was her sister, Shirley Shifflet, and father and mother, Norbert and Dolly Neises.

Denise shared 31 loving years of marriage with her husband, David. Together, they built a life grounded in mutual respect, companionship, and shared values, creating memories that will be cherished by all who knew them.

Denise's heart was also devoted to her beloved dogs—Fancy, Tillie, and Rocket—who preceded her in life and brought her deep companionship, joy, and purpose. They reflected the unconditional love and care she extended to all living beings.

In later years, Denise dedicated much of her time and energy to the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center in Juno Beach, Florida. There, she was a passionate advocate for sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and education. Whether supporting conservation efforts or sharing her enthusiasm with others, Denise was proud to play a role in protecting these remarkable creatures and the ocean they call home.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 20, 2026, in Juno Beach, Florida, at the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center—an especially meaningful place that reflects Denise's enduring passion and legacy.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials in Denise's name may be made to the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center, 14200 US-1, Juno Beach, FL 33408. <https://marinelife.org>

Randel Drake

Randel Allan Drake, 81, passed away Saturday, April 18, 2026 at his home. He was born on April 6, 1945 in Harper to Allan Edwin and Elizabeth Ann (Selm) Drake. Randel married Ruth Ann (Gatlin) Drake on July 19, 1969 in Atwood, Kansas. She preceded him in death on August 20, 2020.



Randel graduated from Attica High School in 1963. He worked in the gas industry for 32 years, lastly as a compressor superintendent. He was a member of Iuka Methodist Church, Pratt County Fair Association, and Iuka Volunteer Fire Department. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, following the grandchildren and attending their activities, woodworking and traveling with his wife, and welding.

He is survived by his children, Christopher Drake of Iuka and Jennifer (Glenn) Brunkow of Wamego; sisters, Linda Drake of Medicine Lodge and Jean (Harold) Angell of Medicine Lodge; brother, Steven (Lynette) Drake of Harper; grandchildren, Isaac Brunkow of Clay Center, Nebraska, Tatum Brunkow and Madeline Drake both of Washington DC and Caroline Drake of Preston; nephew, nieces and other family members.

Randel is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Ruth Ann Drake; and infant sister, Lana Drake.

Visitation will be Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. with family receiving friends from 5-7 at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 24, 2026 at New Beginnings Global Methodist Church. Burial will follow at Iuka Cemetery, Iuka.

Memorials may be made to Iuka Methodist Church.

Bette Skaggs

Bette Jacque (Mills) Skaggs, 85, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 19, 2026 at Parkwood Village in Pratt, Kansas, surrounded by her family. She was born on February 5, 1941, in Newton, Kansas to William Jack and MaudAllis Mills.



Bette spent her childhood in Newton, Kansas, before relocating to Pratt with her family. She graduated from Pratt High School in 1959, Pratt Community College in 1961, and received her degree in education from Kansas State University in 1963.

On August 16, 1963, Bette married her college sweetheart, Gary Skaggs in Pratt, Kansas. They shared 62 beautiful years together.

Once married, Bette supported Gary in his military career as a proud Army wife. During this time she taught Elementary Education in several locations. In 1969, they returned to Pratt and eventually owned and operated the family business, known as Skaggs Ace Hardware. She retired from their business in 2003.

Bette enjoyed traveling with her family and friends. Her favorite travels included Alaska, Europe, and South America and trips that she and Gary shared with their grandchildren.

Bette built a life centered around her community and most importantly her family. She enjoyed her family, especially her grandchildren, playing cards, working puzzles, reading and baking cookies. Bette loved hosting "Tea Parties" with the grandkids and hosting family gatherings. She was devoted to hospice care in Pratt and she was an active member in her community, and always supported community events. Bette was a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, P.E.O., The American Association of University Women, Pratt Pilot Club, and Job's Daughters International. She also belonged to All Saints Episcopal Church, several bridge groups, and cooking clubs.

Bette is survived by her husband, Gary; her children, Douglas (Anneliese) Skaggs of Toledo, Ohio, William (Kim) Skaggs of Pratt, Kansas, and Ann (Dennis) Rausch of Topeka, Kansas; sisters Sylvia "Toby" Wilber of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Judith "Judy" Alterman of Wichita, Kansas; grandchildren Abigail (Kyle) Farmer, Tyler (Michaela) Skaggs, Sarah (Wyatt Kolb) Skaggs, Nicholas (Paige Gilbert) Rausch, Natalie and Collin Rausch, Sadie, Carmen, and Clayton Skaggs; also 4 great-grandchildren.

Bette will be remembered by everyone for her unwavering kindness, generosity, and gentle wit.

Visitation will be Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. with family receiving friends from 5-7 at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, April 24, 2026 at Larrison Mortuary, Pratt with John Hamm presiding. Private inurnment will be held at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Pratt Public Library, Pratt Historical Museum or Pratt Area Humane Society.

Donna Holder

Donna Holder, 92, passed away April 14, 2026, at Parkwood Village. She was born on December 19, 1933, in Pratt to Forrest and Nellie (Eubank) Watson. Donna married Kenneth Holder on August 5, 1950, in Pratt. They were married for 67 years.



Donna graduated from Pratt High School in 1951. She was a co-owner of Suburban Service Inc. where she ran the business. She was a member of All Faith Methodist Church and formerly in Saddle club. Donna took part in different art clubs and volunteered at the library in Golden, Missouri. She enjoyed cooking, painting, ceramics, and took great pride in her flower garden. Before their cabin at Table Rock Lake, they had an RV where they would often travel with their grandchildren. She enjoyed going to Table Rock Lake for the summers, especially with her family, going out on the boat and jet ski, helping at the Boy's Home and taking them to the lake for a ride on the boat. She was a very kindhearted woman who loved helping people. She enjoyed learning history and sharing with the grandchildren and helped the grandchildren make the most meaningful gifts for their loved ones. Family was a major part of her life. She loved visiting and seeing her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Mitch (Coni) Holder of Kingman, Kansas, Mark Holder of Pratt, Kansas and Darci (Rick) Barker of Cunningham, Kansas; grandchildren, Garth Holder, Galane Holder, Jim Butler, Kent Holder, John (Sean) Barker-Seabridge and Logan (Katie) Barker; brother, Denny (Meagan) Watson; and 6 great grandchildren.

Donna is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kenneth Holder; grandson, Garret Holder; sister-in-law, Joyce Watson.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Monday, April 20, 2026, at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt with Rick Barker and John Barker-Seabridge presiding. Inurnment will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch and mailed to Larrison Mortuary.

Letters TO THE Editor

Dear Roberta,

You have done a great job with our Cunningham newspaper. All the hard work and dedication that you put in weekly to publish a paper that most of us can't wait to read.

Your photographs in the paper are so clear and colorful. You have helped to make Cunningham the town that it is today -- an environment that most people look forward to being a part of. You deserve so much credit for making a newspaper yet larger with the kind of information printed fitting for Cunningham and surrounding communities.

But not to be forgotten is Dave and Kerri Steffen's efforts to make this paper, a large part of your community and surrounding areas for a long time also.

Roberta, your staff that helps put this paper out every week also needs to be commended. Without a dedicated staff producing a weekly newspaper would really be tough. Congratulations Roberta. You deserve a break and now you will get it.

We wish the new owner of the Cunningham paper a very successful future. Our best to you and your new future, Roberta.

You're the best.

Mark and Helen Schnitker

Thank you

The family of Ardith Hansen would like to thank Hilltop Manor and the Penalosa and Cunningham communities for the care she has been given through the years. It is clear the employees do not just do their jobs -- they care.
-Stan Hansen family-

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Sat. April 25, 2026 - 9:30 AM

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