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photo by Josh Theis

Kansas Farm Bureau to Recognize Tradition, Heritage of Family Farms

MANHATTAN — Kansas Farm Bureau is continuing in 2024 its recognition for "Sesquicentennial Farms" in conjunction with its annual "Century Farm" program. The Century Farm program honors Farm Bureau members who own farms of at least 80 acres within the same family for 100 years or more. The Sesquicentennial Farm recognition goes to farms in the same family for at least 150 years.

"Kansas farmers and ranchers have a lot to be proud of," Joe Newland, Kansas Farm Bureau president, says. "One thing we take pride in is our value in the traditions and strong family ties through generations of rural living. Kansas Farm Bureau is honored to celebrate those through the Century Farm

and Sesquicentennial Farms programs."

The deadline for consideration to be part of the 2024 programs is May 15. Kansas Farm Bureau has recognized 3,144 Century Farms and 112 Sesquicentennial Farms since their inception. Complete details for qualification and applications for both programs can be obtained at county Farm Bureau offices across Kansas or on the KFB website, www.kfb.org/centuryfarm.

Do You Live on a Century Farm?

Mission of the Century Farm and Sesquicentennial Farm program

Tradition and heritage play a big part in making agriculture such an attractive way of life for so many Kansans. The lifeblood of our existence, the farms and ranches in Kansas, provide food, fuel and fiber for the world.

The history of these farms and ranches is rich, with many stories to tell. In that spirit, Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's leading agriculture advocacy

organization, is launching the 2024 program to honor those family farms that have passed down this heritage for more than a century.

The Kansas Farm Bureau "Century Farm" program will recognize family farms whose current owner/operator is related to the owner/operator of the farm in 1924 or before. The applicant must be a Kansas Farm Bureau member and have ownership within the same family for 100 years or more by Dec. 31, 2023, with at least 80 acres of the original Kansas farmland. Qualifying farmers will receive a farm sign designating "Century Farm" status and recognition from Kansas Farm Bureau.

Kansas Farm Bureau will also recognize member families whose farms have been in the same family for 150 years. To qualify for the "Sesquicentennial Farms" recognition, the following criteria must be met:

Applicant must be a member of

Kansas Farm Bureau.

Ownership within the same family for 150 years or more by Dec. 31, 2024, with at least 80 acres of the original Kansas farmland.

Present owner must be related to original owner.

Application must be submitted to local county Farm Bureau office by deadline date, May 15, 2024.

Qualifying applicants will receive a farm sign and certificate designating "Century Farm" or "Sesquicentennial Farm" status.

Since the year 2000, Kansas Farm Bureau has recognized more than 3,200 family farms.



Governor Announces Grocery Shoppers Can Expect an Additional \$150M in Tax Relief in 2024

~~Kansans to See State Sales Tax Go Down on Food for Second Straight Year~~

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced that in 2024, consumers in the Sunflower State are projected to see an additional \$150 million in savings because of the "Axe the Food Tax" legislation she signed in 2022. According to projections from the Kansas Department of Revenue, the reduction of the state sales tax on groceries from 4% to 2% will save shoppers \$12.5 million per month in 2024.

"By taking a middle-of-the-road approach, we have been able to continue putting money back in the pockets of every Kansan," Governor Laura Kelly said. "This reduction is a step toward eliminating the state sales tax on groceries completely, which will happen

in 2025."

After working tirelessly to put the state on solid financial footing, in 2021 Governor Kelly called on the Kansas Legislature to eliminate the state sales tax on groceries as soon as possible. The legislature ultimately passed legislation that gradually reduced the state sales tax on groceries over three years.

In 2023, the state sales tax rate on groceries went down from 6.5% to 4%, saving consumers \$187.7 million per year. By the end of 2024, it is projected that shoppers will have saved more than half a billion dollars in sales tax on groceries over the two years the reduction has been in place.

The state sales tax reduction applies to food, food ingredients, and certain prepared foods. When looking at a receipt, shoppers will see two tax rates, one for qualifying purchases and one for all other items.

The reduction to the 2% state sales tax on qualifying items went into effect on January 1, 2024.

Kansas Tops Nation in Economic Growth Over Fall 2023

~~Kansas' Economic Growth Was #1 in the Nation in the 3rd Quarter of 2023, #2 in the Nation in the 2nd Quarter~~

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today celebrated that, according to data released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the Kansas economy grew by 9.7% in the 3rd quarter of 2023 -- the fastest rate in the nation. This improves on an already impressive record of economic growth; in the 2nd quarter of 2023, Kansas' economy grew at the second-fastest rate in the nation at 7.4%.

"This data shows that our efforts to support businesses, create a stable economy, and grow our workforce are paying off," Governor Laura Kelly said. "Now, Kansas is outstripping the entire nation in economic growth and attracting business investment. Last week, I announced Kansas surpassed

\$18 billion in business investment since I took office in 2019. It's clear we have the momentum to continue this trajectory of economic success into 2024 and beyond."

The Kelly Administration's work to support the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industries helped drive this economic growth. While those industries decreased nationally and in 33 other states, they were leading contributors to growth in Kansas.

Kansas also ranked third in the nation for growth in personal income, with personal income growing at 4.9% over the 3rd quarter of 2023. Farming, which decreased nationally and in 41 other states, was the leading contributor to the increased earnings in Kansas.

Kansas' economic growth is measured by the change in its real gross domestic product (GDP), or the market value of goods and services produced in the state. The second quarter of 2023 included April through June; the third quarter included July through September.



SOUTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MATCH DAY

SCCF First Match Day Raises Over \$360,000

South Central Community Foundation (SCCF) held their first Match Day on Tuesday, November 28th, a day globally known as Giving Tuesday. Due to an incredible grant from the Patterson Family Foundation,

SCCF had a Match Pool of up to \$70,000.

SCCF was excited to offer this opportunity to their seven county service area including Barber, Comanche, Kingman, Kiowa, Pratt, Rice, and Stafford County.

With 13 nonprofits participating, they raised \$365,249.58 and will receive the community donations back

to their organization in a grant by December 31st. The Matching donation from Patterson Family Foundation will be granted to their endowment fund at SCCF for long term needs.

Interested in learning more about SCCF, contact the Foundation at (620) 672.7929 or visit our website at scfks.org.

We need photos for the paper!!

The Most Common New Year's Resolution is "Better Health"

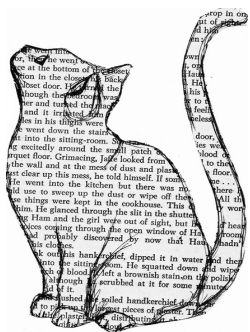
Are you looking to prioritize your health in the upcoming year? Don't go at it alone. Having your medical provider as part of your support system can make all the difference in achieving your goals. With their help, you can monitor your progress and strive towards success.



KHC Family Clinic: 620-532-0295



Cunningham Clinic: 620-298-2397



Meanderings

It is a SLOW news week! I cannot tell you how hard-pressed I was to come up with things to fill this paper! But fill it I did.

I'm not sure which is the lesser (or greater) of two evils. Having too much to put in the paper or not having enough. ... hmm. probably not having enough.

**

A couple of weeks ago I wrote that I would like to be buried in a 'tree pod' with a weeping willow tree to mark my 'grave'. Remember that column?

I have been asked "Why a willow tree?" I suspect (and most likely, wrongly so) that a few others have wanted to ask me the same question. Why not an oak or a maple tree? I figure this would be a good time to address the issue. So

meander with me, or not.

When I was a young reader, I remember reading a book about girl who belonged to a loud and rambunctious family. When she wanted to be alone and have some quiet time, she would take a book and hide under the willow tree in the back yard. Coming from a family of six kids, and being the only one who was addicted to reading as I was, I so longed for a weeping willow tree to have so I, too, could hide under it's draping leaves and branches. I wish I could remember the title of the book, but that part of my memory is gone.

When I was in my 20's, I visited friends in Colorado Springs. In the backyard of the house next door to said friends, was a massive weeping willow. That tree was probably hundreds of years old. It was gorgeous and covered the backyard completely. I thought of that little girl in the book I'd read. I imagine this tree wasn't just large enough to lay under with a blanket and a book, it was large enough to build a small library under its branches. I continued to admire

that tree on my visits to Colorado, until the time I arrived and found it completely gone. I can't remember the story of its demise. Lightning? Insects? Fungus? Maybe just that it became a problem in its massiveness. I do know it made me sad that something so old and so large was just gone.

I researched "weeping willows". I learned that they are often associated with mourning. But they are also a symbol of immortality and endurance, flexibility and adaptability, balance and stability. These trees are fast growing and do not live but 30 to 50 years, but their branches and new trees are easily re-rooted from the old one. The weeping willow is 'seen as a survivor'.

They may bend in the winds of Kansas, but bend they do, and they withstand those winds due to their flexibility and suppleness.

Willow bark and the leaves of the trees are often used for medicinal purposes, mostly used in treating joint ailments and arthritis. That would be great, wouldn't it, being planted with a tree that could cure my joint

pain after I'm dead! Ha!

And because I like to be different, I think a weeping willow would be the perfect 'different' for me. I wouldn't be like everyone else who would choose oaks and maples for the steadiness and their beauty. The weeping willow would be my own little private place to read when I'm six feet under.

**

I guess I'd best let you all know how the Social Security fiasco has turned out. It hasn't. This month's money was deposited this evening. I do have a bit more than I've had because of our Cost of Living increase. BUT I don't have the full amount. Siigh. So much for those "Murphy's Laws" working for me THIS TIME. I guess I'll call the office in Hutchinson tomorrow. See what I can learn. If anything. They will no doubt ask me how those non-existent dialysis treatments are going....

And while I'm complaining about government 'handouts' to people. I just do not understand why teachers and other state employees can't get a cost of liv-

ing adjustment in their KPERs payments. I believe 1992 was the last time one was given. The state officials keep talking about how great things in Kansas are going... lots of the money in the state coffers, yada yada, yada. But they can't seem to find money to fund the retirement benefits for those who have retired. Can you imagine getting the same amount of money now as you got in 1992? And trying to pay the same bills, which have only gone up? Very frustrating for those who have been retired for 20+ years. I guess while I'm hoping for my Social Security to get fixed, I can hope for a COLA in our KPERs.

**

My cats are bored being inside so much. Only Dusty Bottoms enjoys going out during these cold days. The others stay inside and sleep or antagonize each other. My one-eyed-monster-ogre kitty, Peter, will occasionally find a toy to play with, bats it around a bit. Or he goes and looks for trouble. Usually that trouble is Ned Nederlander, the most annoying cat in the

world.

At least once a day I'll hear a noise in the kitchen. "Peter, whatever you are into, get out." "Meowrrr!" (I'm not into anything). But when I check, I find a cabinet or drawer open and things lying on the floor. "Stay out of my kitchen cabinets!" "Merrrow! Meow!" (Sure thing, lady, until the next time!)

Always reading, and currently reading, "Radio Girls"

by Sarah-Jane Stratford, Roberta

"Never try to outstubborn a cat," — Robert A. Heinlein

Advertise with this paper! Thanks!

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, The High School building I attended was torn down a few years ago and long before that, my H.S. English Teacher Ms. Fisher became Mrs. York. But two weeks ago when I unexpectedly ran into her, emotion gripped me. I urgently desired for her to know the impact she had on my life in general and express my gratitude for the role she played in my education.

OF COURSE, I hoped I would rise to the moment by expressing myself eloquently, perhaps even memorably. But any maturity or mental acuity I've acquired left me and I squealed (I fear incoherently) with the heartfelt histrionics teen Gaille was prone to spew. Perhaps it's best that I do not recall exactly WHAT I said. My hands chased the words bubbling out of me. I even hopped up and down trying to gather my wits but all I caught was the eye of a farmer slowing down on K-4 to pass through Healy.

For the next several days, I told ANYBODY who'd listen (or pretend politely to) about how lucky I felt to have seen Ms. Fisher, and that even if I made a bit of a spectacle of myself or didn't get the words "thank you" out, that I had been able to convey my appreciation. Then I began to feel more than a little bit silly that in 45 years I never took the time, I never exerted the effort, to let Ms. Fisher know how much I appreciated her. I could have done so plenty of times in a thoughtful, dignified manner and not

just for this teacher but all the other great instructors who've made such a difference in my life.

Then I started paying attention to how often educators come up in conversations with friends and colleagues, even strangers, and I realized I was not alone. Without hesitation we give them their due so to speak. We acknowledge their contributions to our lives yet we rarely let them know. Some ex-pupils are touched by their better angels of nature and DO directly appreciate their teachers,

not that those of us who don't unwilling, uncaring or too lazy to do so. I suspect it's more the nature of living life beyond the classroom. The best teachers DO prepare us to live it fully, to carry their lessons with us, tend the fires of our passions and aspire ever to meet the standards they etch in our brains.

I know a great many teachers, pre-K through elementary, and high school through college and post graduate educators. All of them are committed, highly competent professionals, yet

each one of them seems surprised when they learn they've had a positive effect. So I think we all should make more of an effort to tell them and not just acknowledge their influence to others in our lives. But teachers as you enjoy your winter holiday breaks and gird yourselves for the second half of the school year, know that you are not forgotten and you are often in our minds. Thank you, Ms. Fisher. Thank you, teachers everywhere.

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



The Glorious French Press — Good Coffee Every Morning

If disposed to label myself as a caffeinated human, I would use the term coffeehead. I am not a coffee snob (no judgement if you add cream and sugar to your brew or if your favorite caffeine dispensary is the Shell station down

the street). Nor am I a coffee geek or coffee nerd (no coffee tats or man bun or tape on my reading glasses). I think the term coffeehead best fits. As such, people ask me about coffee often. And perhaps the most frequently asked question is this — how do you brew your coffee? For good coffee every morning, my answer is always the same. My favorite brewing method involves the use of that glorious invention - the French press.

According to legend, the French Press was first created in France during the mid-19th century. The first patent for this design was issued in 1852 to two Frenchmen,

Mayer & Delforge. The first patent of a device that we would recognize today as a French press was issued to Italians Attilio Calimani and Giulio Moneta in 1929. More patents followed. The most popular design, created by the Swiss citizen Faliero Bondanini, was patented in 1958. It became known by the name Chambord, the location in France where it was manufactured. This cemented the coffee maker's French identity. The Danish company Bodum later bought the rights to the Chambord name. You can still buy the Bodum Chambord French Press today. I use one every morning.

So, how do you use a French press? First, begin with good tasting water. Bad water equals bad coffee, no matter how you brew it. Use filtered or bottled water, or well water (no tap water).

Next, if you are using whole bean coffee (and if not, you should be), grind your beans just prior to brewing. Coffee loses much of its flavor and aroma within minutes of grinding. For the best tasting coffee, grind right before you

brew. Grind size should be course for a French press. If grind size is too small, coffee is likely to be over-extracted and taste bitter. Also, smaller grind size usually results in grounds swimming in your cup. A course grind means fewer, or no, grounds in your coffee, and flavor should be good.

How much coffee to use? This will vary, and you need to experiment to find what you like. It is best to weigh your beans to be precise. Ballpark numbers will be approx. 60 to 70 (or even 80) grams per liter of water but use what you like. If you refuse to weigh your beans, the old kitchen table estimate is one heaping tablespoon of ground coffee per cup. Pour coffee grounds into the bottom of your French press.

Heat your water to between 195 – 205 degrees Fahrenheit. If you don't want to use a thermometer, just boil water and remove from heat. After about 45 seconds, water will stop bubbling. Pour then. Water should be about 200 degrees, or just right when it stops bubbling.

If your coffee is fresh,

grounds will bloom (rise and fall as they release carbon dioxide gas) when first hit with water. Pour just enough water to cover grounds well first (about 1/3 full is good), and gently stir. Allow grounds to degas for 25-30 seconds. Degassing your coffee for a few seconds will give you a slightly better brew flavor. Stir again gently, making sure all grounds are soaked, then set your timer for four minutes. Four-minute brew time is perfect for French press coffee. Once timer is set, I like to seat plunger and press down slightly so all grounds are underwater. Do not plunge all the way.

After four minutes, plunge gently and pour your coffee. Note — its best to not leave coffee in your French press. It will continue to brew. If you have coffee remaining after filling your cup, it is best to pour it into an insulated carafe or pot.

For the very best taste, let your coffee sit for five minutes. Flavor will be better if slightly cooled. Also, flavor is best if you drink coffee out of a ceramic mug (diner mug or ceramic

travel mug). Coffee flavor is affected by steel, plastic, and Styrofoam. A good ceramic mug will hold your coffee without tainting the taste.

After brewing, don't throw away your coffee grounds. Recycle them. They are high in nitrogen and make wonderful fertilizer for your lawn, trees, and plants.

One more tip. For those with heart issues or high cholesterol, it is sometimes recommended that they drink filtered coffee (ask your doctor about this). French press coffee is not filtered. It contains all of the oils and the full amount of antioxidants that we enjoy in coffee. If needed, you can filter your French press coffee after it is brewed. Simply pour brewed coffee through a paper filter into another container before filling your cup. This gives you a hybrid brew, still good tasting, but filtered if your doctor recommends it.

Happy brewing — enjoy your good coffee! © 2023 Jody Dyer

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Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, January 4 JH BB at South Barber	Saturday, January 13 HS BB B-Team Tournament at HOME
Friday, January 5 HS BB at Kinsley	Monday, January 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day **
Saturday, January 6 HS BB B-Team Tournament at HOME	No School for Teacher inservice ***
Monday, January 8 HS BB B-Team Tournament at HOME	USD 332 BOE Meeting
Thursday, January 11 JH BB vs. Argonia at HOME	Tuesday, January 16 Lions Club Meeting ***
Friday, January 12 HS BB vs South Barber at HOME	Thursday, January 18 JH BB vs Fairfield at HOME
	Friday, January 19 HS BB Boys 54 Classic at Skyline
	HS BB Boys 54 Classic at Skyline

K-STATE

Kingman County

Research and Extension

Intro to Quickbooks Workshop Offered

Join us on Thursday, January 25 from 5-8 p.m. at the Kingman County Extension Office (125 N Spruce, Kingman, KS 67068) for Intro to Quickbooks

Online. This workshop will cover Quickbooks Online and is for beginners to advanced users. At this workshop, we recommend bringing your own personal laptops, but we will have laptops available for you to be able to work step by step with us. We will start from the very

beginning of creating an account and entering financial transactions and ending with how to print end of the year reports.

Registration is \$10, which includes a manual and light meal. Please RSVP by January 17th by 5:00 p.m. at 620-532-5131

or email gschnei@ksu.edu. When registering, state if you will be bringing your own laptop or if you will need one provided. Space is limited to 10 participants. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Animation Exhibit Open Through January 15

Sterling College Art & Design is hosting an art exhibition featuring digital art and animation from the imagination of Thomas Giebler, art faculty member at Fort Hays State University. Entitled "In A Small Sea," the exhibit includes numerous characters Giebler created for various products – a video game series, a book series, and movies. The exhibit will be up until January 15.

"Unyun" is the main character in Giebler's video game, Treeson. Giebler said, "Unyun is nervous about the enormous task he didn't ask to be part of, but along the journey, he quickly realizes he is exactly the

one to get the job done. Quiet, not saying much, he relies on the help of others to become the best version of himself."

Another of his characters is "Archie" who is featured in the title sequence for a movie entitled RETURN. He is a highly advanced, humanoid robot. Giebler said, "He is tasked with very important things about very specific stuff. However, when things go wrong, he searches for a solution realizing that, sometimes, the best solution is the simplest solution."

Sterling College Arts Director Dennis Dutton said, "Thomas' show opened in November and it has a real appeal to anyone interested in digital art and animation as well as video games and movies." The Gallery is located in the



Sterling College Art & Media Center at 306 West Washington, Sterling. It is open from

8:00 am through 5:00 pm on weekdays. There is no admission charge for the exhibit.

The Community Calendar is sponsored by

nvalleybank.com Member FDIC

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Cozy's Pizza
115 N. Main
Cunningham,
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Mon., Tues., & Thurs. - 11:00 to 8:00
Friday and Saturday - 11:00 to 9:00
Closed Wednesday and Sunday

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
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— Martin Luther King Jr.

"Money cannot buy health, but I'd settle for a diamond-studded wheelchair."
— Dorothy Parker

Kingman Historic Theatre

237 N. Main in Kingman
(620) 532-1253
<http://www.kingmantheatre.org/>
All Seats are \$3.00
(cash or local check only)

Showtimes:

Friday 7:30 p.m.
Saturday at 7:30pm
Sunday at 5:30pm.

January 5th - 7th

Wonka

Rated: PG

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

It Doesn't Get Much Better

By Beth LaBuff

Sunday
The morning sun shone lustrous
On a charming Cape Cod house,
Seated in the dining room,
The Mr. and his spouse.

He sipped his steaming Eight O'Clock.
His mouth sanctioned a grin.
He pondered both, retirement
And his years-of-service pin.

As he perused the Tribune sighed,
"It doesn't get much better."
They, arm in arm, took off for church
With Bibles and her sweater.

Monday
He broke the fast before the sun,
Though no alarm was set.
His brain still time-zoned, nine to five,
Some things—hard to forget.

His day stretched out before him,
He had an inspiration,

He'd help the Mrs. 'round the house
To show appreciation.

And in his fervor pointed out
Art, crooked on the wall,
A crystal glass with smudges, while
Dust bunnies roamed the hall.

He hovered while she vacuumed,
With cleanliness—obsessed.
He checked for dirt on window sills—
Employed the white-glove test.

Tuesday
The town library's many books
Would help him find a hobby.
He carried home a cookbook on
How to Prepare Kohlrabi.

And Tennis for the Seniors Set,
Ten steps to play guitar,
Gardening for Imbeciles,
and Maintenance for Your Car.

He knitted on her project
From two till three o'clock,
But read the pattern upside-down—
Knit sleeves into her sock!

Wednesday
A tennis outing with the boys.
She sighed in her relief.
A morning detached from her spouse,
Her respite would be brief.

The score was love to forty
When their game came to a halt.
He toppled o'er the base line,
A penalty—foot-fault.

The balance of the day he spent
Reclined upon his chair
While she applied an ice pack
To the bump 'neath his gray hair.

Thursday
He urged his spouse to take a break
Then lit the barbecue.
Their pergola went up in flames
Thus went his grill debut.

The bad news, with the flare-up,
The steaks were grilled pitch-black.
The good news for the novice chef,
His eyebrows would grow back.

Friday
A junket with the boys out to
The lake, with pole and bait.
To hook some walleye, perch, or pike,
To grace his dinner plate.

He brought the pungent stringer home
And cast it in the sink.
To have a go at cleaning fish
'Bout drove her to the brink.

Saturday
He changed the auto oil, but
It splattered o'er the lawn.
The next time that she drove the car
"Check engine" light flashed on.

Sunday
Their Cape Cod seemed to shrink that
week.
It bound her like a fetter.
She'd scream out if she heard again,
"It doesn't get much better."

He sipped his morning Eight O'Clock,
Pondered past week's enjoyment.
She snatched the Sunday Tribune ads
To contemplate employment.

A Column by Mike Johnson

Crown is Moving

By Mike Johnson
I love mom & pop grocery stores.
Yesterday I drove 75 miles just to walk fresh aisles. I'm on a perpetual search for Alpha-Bits cereal, Plochman mustard in the little squeeze barrels, and french burnt peanut candy.
Oh-for-three this visit. But I did find an odd brand of cocktail sauce.

"Crown." So I picked up two and walked to the checkout gal.
Ashley was chewing. She'd snuck in a bite after the last customer and darn if I didn't walk up at the worst possible time.
I have this annoying habit of trying to make cashiers laugh. So of course I said something that required a response, which she couldn't do.
"Hello! How are you doing today?" (Hurried chew, look of embarrassment, smile)
"Take your time. That's the way it always works, right?" (More chewing, another sheepish grin, tries to scan


items)
(Finally swallows and speaks quietly into her lapel microphone) "I need a price check on Crown cocktail sauce. The customer says it's a dollar but it won't scan."
"Do you protect Presidents in your spare time?" I ask. (She smiles) "\$2.00 please." (I love no sales tax when I visit Montana)
I pay, grab the bag and then pretend to speak into a wrist microphone.
"Crown is moving."
She laughs.
Mission accomplished.

Sticky Note

By Jan Ackerson
I awoke before the alarm went off. Bad Kitty was kneading her paws on my tummy, purring loudly. Time to fill my dish, please. See how cute I am? With a moan of protest, I glanced at the clock: 5:32 a.m. It was way too early to start the day, but I knew that my beloved tabby would never let me go back to sleep. I stepped into my slippers and shuffled to the kitchen, yawning while Bad Kitty wound around my legs and peeped.
"I hear you, kitty. Just hold on a second..." I filled her dish with kibble, then turned on the coffee maker and settled into the couch to wait for the coffee to brew.
All thoughts of recapturing sleep quickly fled as I eyed the living room, still displaying a few reminders of last night's memorable date with Bob. A single pink rose was starting to open in its bud vase. The end table held our empty popcorn bowls; I had been too drowsy to wash them after he left. Our Scrabble game was still on the table. We had laughed until our stomachs ached at Bob's attempt to play 'squoze' on a triple word space.
"It is too a word!" Bob feigned indignation. "It's the past perfect participle of 'squeeze!'"
"Bob, I was an English major. There's no such thing! Use it in a sentence."
"I squeeze my sweetie, I squoze my sweetie, I have squozen my sweetie. So there! That'll

be...let's see...75 points for 'squoze,' plus another... 27 points for adding the 's' to 'home'...102 points!" He pumped his fist in victory.
Remembering our mock-argument, I smiled. Lord, I love Bob so. We have such fun together—I'm just sure he's The One. Won't You give him just a little nudge for me?
We had been dating for almost a year—we had both committed to pray about our relationship—but still, Bob had never once brought up the possibility of a lifetime together. I was beginning to despair.
Just a poke, Lord, that's all I ask...
Bad Kitty wandered back into the living room, stopping to sniff at a scrap of paper on the carpet. She touched it with a tentative paw, then trotted off to her basket, satisfied that her world was not in danger. It was one of Bob's ever-present sticky notes. He was endearingly clumsy and absent-minded; his numerous notes to himself were the only way he managed to get everything done. Must have fallen from his jacket pocket. Feeling slightly like an eavesdropper, I read the note; it was simply a list of chores in Bob's nearly illegible scrawl:
1. Drop off movies
2. Buy herring
3. Call Tony E. about computer
4. Oil change
I drew a heart pierced by an arrow on the bright yellow note and stuck it to my refrigerator. He'd see it when he came for our weekly Pepper Pepper evening later to-

day (it was my turn to provide the pepperoni pizza and peppermint ice cream). With thoughts of Bob filling all of the empty spaces in my heart, I tidied the living room.
Several hours later, Bob arrived, looking even more flushed and anxious than usual. As he kissed my cheek, I saw his eyes flick over to the colorful note on the fridge. Strangely, he started, then smacked his forehead, looking stricken. "Oh, no! Sophie, I'm so sorry! I wanted it to be a surprise! Now it's all spoiled!" He tore the note from the door.
Puzzled, I mentally reviewed the contents of the list. What was he going to surprise me with? Fish?
"Bob, I don't..."
He interrupted me by taking my hand and dropping to one knee. My heart lurched—then he upset Bad Kitty's bowl. I watched, my pulse pounding, as he tried ineffectively to pick up every morsel. After a few moments, he gave up, straightened, and knelt amidst the remaining kibble. He fumbled in his pocket and produced a little square box.
"If you saw that list, you know that I bought you a ring yesterday. Sophie, I wanted to surprise you, but—will you be my wife?"
I was still trying to wrap my mind around this, when I burst out laughing—not, I think, the reaction that Bob had expected. Not "buy her ring!" Buy her ring!
What a huge, marvelous difference one little space makes!




Catholic Churches

Sacred Heart, Cunningham Saturdays 5:30 p.m.	St. John, Zenda Sundays 8:30 a.m.
St. Leo Sundays 10:00 a.m.	St. Peter Willowdale Saturdays 4:00 p.m.

Father Roger Lumbre
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.
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Pastor vacancy until further notice.

† † † † † † †



Church of Christ


Penalosa
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

† † † † † † †

First Christian Church

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

† † † † † † †



United Methodist Church

Penalosa Worship 9:15 a.m.	Cunningham Worship 10:45 a.m.
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Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki
620-298-2090

Zenda
Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School: Children 8:30 a.m. Adults 10:00 a.m.
Pastor J L Nichols
620-491-0680

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 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.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1929

January 11 - The old 52-pound rails, which have seen duty on the Santa Fe between Kingman and Pratt for many years will be replaced this spring with heavier steel. The new rails will be of 90-pound steel. Work on relaying the track will begin about March 1, according to R. E. Huffman, local Santa Fe agent.

1934

January 12- Practice has been started on the next Community Play, which is to be presented by the Cunningham Dramatic Club. The date of the production is Tuesday, January 16th. The players in the cast are: Ray Amick, Mildred Hellar, Roman Young, Annice Cooley, Velda Cannon, Wayne DeLair, Marie Finch, Dorothea Doty, Pete Morton, Martin Pelzl, Rex Shelman, H. Manahan, Felix Pelzl, and Iris Fitzsimmons. The play is a three-act comedy-drama entitled - "The Whole Town's Broke."

The Southern Kansas Stage Lines Bus threwed the Cunningham mail pouch off at the Penalosa corner six miles east of town Wednesday morning, making it necessary for Postmaster Gibbens to drive to Penalosa after the first-class mail sack. While the roads were plenty slick, Henry was able to complete the trip in "jig" with his "chevvie."

1939

January 13 - A disastrous fire wiped out a business section in Pratt, Monday night, destroying the Utz Booterie and Flower Shop, the Shrack Clothing and Jewelry Store, the Muecke-Ward clinic and Luke Mowbray's real estate office, and causing a loss estimated between \$60,000 to \$65,000.

Nearby buildings and offices which suffered from smoke and water damage were the offices of Dr. C. E. Phillips, Milne Drug Store, Igloo, The Barron Theatre, and the Glenn Day and Winston Watts Grocery and Meat Market.

Monday night's fire was the sixth major conflagration to hit Pratt since 1916.

1944

1944 - The publication of the Clipper suspended for the duration of the war.

1949

January 14 - Mr. and Mrs. Nick Theis were notified Saturday evening of the death of their son, Norbert, a corporal in the Army Air Force, in the crash of a United States C-54 transport plane fifteen miles northwest of Blackpool, England.

The crash occurred Friday, when the ship fell in swamp country, near Burtonwood, England, enroute from the Rhein-Main airport to Frankfurt, Germany.

Norbert was a radio operator on the transport, and the crew was engaged in flying the Berlin air-lift when the accident occurred. The plane was due to undergo inspection at the Burtonwood airport. He had been overseas about a year.

The plane had established radio contact with Burtonwood, asking clearance to land. No other word was received from the ship. Six airmen were aboard the ill-fated plane.

William M. Cooley, 85, a resident of this community for 64 years, and one of the county's most influential citizens, passed away at his home three miles northeast of town at one o'clock Wednesday morning, after being in ill health for several years.

Much could be written of Mr. Cooley's influence and interest in the life of the community, for he took an active interest in everything which stood for the advancement and promotion of good, serving several years as director of the high school board, and working faithfully in church activities, as well as serving in many capacities in community interests.

Grade School District No. 30 patrons turned down the additional \$25,000 bond issue Saturday by a vote of 173 to 118. A \$125,000 bond issue had already been approved but bids on the building exceeded the amount of money available. School officials announced Thursday that building plans were undergoing a revision to enable the new grade school to be built for the available \$125, 000.

1954

January 7- With this edition, the Clipper begins printing on Thursday.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Albert McGovney

on the birth of a son, Sunday, at the Pratt County Hospital. He weighed seven pounds and six and one-half ounces.

The Wildcats entertained the Arlington basketeers here Tuesday night and came out on top by a 64-55 count.

Billy DeWeese dumped in 22 points, 15 of them coming in the second half to pace the Wildcat scoring punch, followed by Ronnie Adelhardt and Wally Becker with 15 and 11 points respectively.

1959

January 8 - Wedding vows were solemnized at 2:30 o'clock, Sunday afternoon, December 28, for Earlene Faye David, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earle David of Pratt, and Jack Ray Vermillion, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Vermillion of Cunningham.

The community was shocked and saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of Mrs. Ray (Lola) Amick, Wednesday morning. She was a resident of the Cunningham community her entire life.

The Missouri Pacific Railroad Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc., have made application to the Kansas State Corporation Commission for the authority to discontinue their station and the employment of any agent at Penalosa except for two months during the harvest season.

Art Patton suffered a broken right arm last Saturday while cranking a tractor at Patton's Service Station. Dr. Ferd Burnett set the break.

A week ago Tuesday evening the Wildcats went to Greensburg where they dropped the first and second team games by scores of 67-38 and 64-27.

Cunningham was as cold as the weather in the Greensburg game, being behind 12-5, 27-16, and 49-28 at the quarter marks. Tony Hartle paced the Cunningham scoring with 14 points. Jack Baber counted 11 points.

1964

January 9, 1964 - Cunningham won its second game of the current season at Sharon, Tuesday night, as they edged out the Cardinals, 55 to 53.

Bernie Albers and Gerald Schnittker paced the Cunningham scoring with 15 points each. Bob Witt made double figures in the Cunningham scoring with 10 points.

Cunningham made it a clean sweep for the evening with the Wildcat seconds taking a 46-42 decision from the Sharon reserves. Larry Albers and Danny Meyers each scored nine points, and Gray Miller and Ronald Murphey got eight points each.

1969

January 9- Sherman Kincheloe, 68, a Cunningham business man for 39 years, died Monday at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita following a short illness.

Seven deer were shot by hunters in the Calista area during the December 13-19 open season.

According to Byron Walker, manager of the State Quail Farm at Calista, hunters and road accidents have accounted for 19 deer deaths since October.

Cunningham scored their third straight league victory last Friday night, doubling the score on Partridge, 60 to 30.

John McCune lead the Cunningham scoring with 19 points; Larry Lubbers had 13; Marvin Oller 6; Eddie Panek 9; Bill McGovney 5; and Tom Strohl 8.

The Nashville-Zenda Thunderbirds won a pair of league games during the past week, beating Alden 67-48 and Norwich 39-36.

Steve Adelhardt lead the N-Z scoring in the Alden game with 19 points; Kenneth Thieme had 16; Kent Price 14; Eddie Vierthaler 10; and Randy Goetz 8.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

1974

1974: Here's a 'teaser' for next week's coverage beginning in 1974;

Resumption of publication of the Cunningham Clipper as announced this week by Chuck Barnes, president of The Tribune Publishing Company, Pratt, successors from the Bradley family who suspended publication more than a year ago following the death of longtime Clipper publisher Bill Bradley.

This issue is the first since the suspension June 29, 1972, and will continue with the volume and number as is customary and will be published every Thursday.

"Contact was made with the parent firm" Barnes explained, by various business and community leaders of Cunningham, and it is because of their interest that the decision was made to resume publishing the Cunningham Clipper. "Announcement of various events wish are to take place in Cunningham and other parts of Kingman County along with valuable commercial messages will be again available for the people of Cunningham," he said.

Former subscribers of The Cunningham Clipper are being sent complimentary copies during January and are invited to send in their paid subscriptions so that the The Cunningham Clipper can continue publication. Support of Cunningham and other Kingman County merchants and business houses is also being sought to accomplish a news aper worthy of the Cunningham area community.

No editor for the publication has yet been named. Barnes explained and persons interested in being trained for the work are being sought in the Cunningham community, and the editor will be named at a later date.

The Tribune Publishing Company also prints and publishes the weekly newspaper, The St. John News, in Stafford County, along with The Pratt Tribune, a daily newspaper in Pratt, and operates the Printing Press, general job printers in Pratt.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Scott Newton Reporter: Florine Kampling

1979

January 11 - Mr. and Mrs. Mark Osner announce the birth of a baby boy. Jason Kenneth on Dec. 28. He weighed 7 lb. 9 oz. and was born at Kingman Community Hospital. Jason has two brothers and a sister. Grandmother is Mrs. Anna Detmer of Willowdale.

Cunningham Grade School basketball teams defeated the Zenda Mustangs last week with the girls winning 36-7 and the boys victorious by a score of 34-13, in the girls contest, the Wildcats jumped to an 18-2 half time lead and coasted in. Eight girls scored with Virginia Beat and Allison Meyers pacing the way with 9 and 8 points, respectively, while Mari Rohr and Karrie Osborn added 4 tallies each. Becky Kerschen and Brenda Crick scored a basket each, with Lisa Spade adding a free throw. Susan Rohlman scored 3 points for Zenda. The victory raised the girls' record to 3-2. - Lonnie Thiessen

HCC graduates receiving their x-ray certification include Connie Armstrong, Cunningham, Debora Crick, Cunningham, Jan Fischer, Nashville and Connie Simons, Kingman.

Persons interested in filing for city officials may file through the City Clerk, Dee Mills for a fee of \$5. Deadline is 12 noon January 30.

Anna Dafforn called Saturday to say that there was huge crow in her back yard who seemed to be enjoying a package of frozen steaks. Anna explained that the bird was too large for an ordinary blackbird and the meat appeared to be still in the package it had been purchased in.

1984

January 12-The school board evaluated the Superintendent of Schools. The superintendent's contract was extended for one year to June 30, 1986.

Sometime within the next two weeks the paneling will be installed in the new community building and with the exception of a few odds and ends, the building will be completed. This will mark the end of a community effort which began some eighteen months back.

To date 47,6000 has been donated, edging ever so close to the total cost of \$49,000.00.

In 1983 the building was used even more than was anticipated with total rental income of \$1, 769.00 Utilities and insurance for the year amounted \$1,325.00.\

Anyone wishing to rent the building should contact Helen Long, Committee Secretary, who does the booking for the center. Helen also has the rent charge rates which range from \$6.00 to \$50.00, depending upon the purpose for which the building is rented.

Royalty candidates for Homecoming Friday, January 20 are Susan Rohlman, Jeannette Fischer, Donna Adelhardt, Linda Sterneker, Shawn Lash, Alice Peterson, Dean Mauldin, Kyle Eck, LeRoy Hageman and Jim Holcomb.

Janet and Terry Schields, Pratt, announce the birth of their son Jan. 9 at Kingman Community Hospital. He weighed 7lb. 5 oz. and has been named Peter Joseph.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rohling, Cunningham and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schields, Greensburg. Great-grandmother is Anna Ebenkamp.

Want the personal touch in silk flowers for your wedding, anniversary, special occasions, Valentine's Day, etc? Making arrangements or corsages. Reta Alley



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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

We like winter fun: ice skating...  ...sledding and building snow bears.  Kids: color stuff in! 

Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Annimills LLC © 2024 V1

I should be hibernating, but Mom and Dad let me have one weekend in the snow! I love skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, rolling giant snowballs to make snow bears, and building snow forts and igloos. It's a beautiful winter wonderland out here!

I also want to eat "winter foods": thick, hot, potato or chicken noodle soups, beef stews, casseroles of bubbly, golden macaroni and cheese, chicken pot pies and, for dessert, bread pudding!

Winter Wonderland!



- Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with winter words:
1. how much colder the wind makes the air feel
 2. Santa rides in this
 3. fingered hand warmers
 4. warm chicken _____
 5. unique crystal
 6. make snow _____
 7. keep your hands extra warm
 8. packed, made to throw for fun
 9. keep your feet warm and dry
 10. pointy, frozen, hanging
 11. warmest winter clothing
 12. neck wrappings
 13. gliding on ice
 14. coal-eyed "person"
 15. wool _____
 16. head warmers
 17. snow _____, protection from snowballs
 18. hot _____ (warm drink)
 19. blustery snowstorm
 20. downhill sliding on tubes and toboggans

Words in the puzzle include: hats, socks, fort, wind chill, coats, gloves, soup, blizzard, sleigh, snowflake, snowman, chocolate, scarfes, skating, angels, icicle, mittens, sledging, snowball, boots, snowflake, chocolate, scarfes.

Penguin Party!

Did you know that the **biggest** penguins are the **Emperor Penguins**? They grow to about 3 1/2 feet tall and weigh about 80 pounds. The **smallest** penguins are the **Little Blue Penguins** in New Zealand. They grow to about 16 inches tall and weigh about 2 pounds.

Here are 2 fun puzzles about penguins to enjoy:

1. are all _____ even though they have wings
2. a large _____ of penguins is called a rookery
3. all live _____ of the equator (so you'll never see a penguin and a polar bear in the wild together)
4. Emperor Penguins are the _____ of all the penguins
5. eat krill, _____ and different shellfish
6. most females lay two _____, (Emperor/King penguins lay one)
7. if there is danger on the land, some penguins take _____ in the water
8. (some) spend as much as 75% of their lives in the _____
9. there are about _____ different kinds
10. their eyes see well underwater and in dim _____

Words in the puzzle include: eggs, light, heaviest, south, Zealand, seals, smallest, flightless, naps, fish, water, partner, chicks, caves, years, blue, partner, chicks, caves.

Little Blue Penguins

1. have only one _____ throughout their lifetimes
2. lay two eggs at a time, which hatch into _____
3. live in rock _____ for shelter
4. are the _____ penguins on Earth
5. are found in Australia and New _____
6. have an average lifespan of about 6 1/2 _____
7. are preyed upon by dogs, cats, foxes and fur _____
8. have white feathers on their bellies and _____ feathers on their backs

Winter Festivals

Does your area have a **Winter Festival** full of food and fun? Use the secret code to fill in the blanks to see events being held at Winter Festivals:

1. ♡ ◎ × ? ☒ • △ △ ? □ ☒ 7 □ ♡ × 7 △ ☒ ?
2. 7 ♡ ☒ ♡ • × ♡ 7 △ □ ♡ ◎ × ☒ ☒ ○ 7 ○ 7 ◎ △
3. 7 ♡ ☒ ▽ 7 ? ♡ 7 △ □ ♡ ◎ △ ○ ☒ ? ○
4. ? △ ◎ ☒ × ◎ □ 7 □ ☒ × • ♡ ☒ ?
5. □ 7 • △ ○ ? △ ◎ ☒ × •) ☒



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
•	□	♥	△	☒	▽	□	♥	7
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
◎	☒	□	×	△	◎	☒	☒	×
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
?	○	!	♥	☒	○	7)	

Secret Code

6. △ ◎ □ ? □ ☒ △ × • □ □ 7
7. ? △ ◎ ☒ ? ♡ ! □ ☒ ○ ! × ☒
8. ○ ◎ □ ◎ □ □ • △ ? □ 7 △ ☒



(Answers on page 10)

Lynne Hagmeier, Quilts

Where would you find an internationally known quilt designer?

Would you believe, in the middle of rural Kansas?

Lynne Hagmeier is too modest to describe herself in this way, but Hagmeier's world-class quilt design work has been recognized across the nation and beyond.

Lynne and Robert Hagmeier are the owners of Kansas Troubles Quilters shop in Bennington. Lynne became fascinated with sewing at an early age. "Mom taught me to sew, and my grandmother made Barbie doll clothes with me," Hagmeier said.

Quilting would come later.

She grew up in Bennington, married her high school sweetheart, joined the Air Force, and used the GI bill to earn a degree in social work. She was living in Texas with her family when

her husband was killed in an auto accident. Lynne and her four little kids returned to Kansas.

At a church picnic, she met Robert Hagmeier who was from Salina and had children the same age as hers. Lynne and Robert married and settled in Salina.

Hagmeier took a break from social work. She went into a local quilt shop and found she was fascinated with quilting. She and two friends started making little quilts. They decided to sell them at the Salina Riverfest.

"The Riverfest needed a name to put in the program," Hagmeier said. "We looked in the quilt encyclopedia, which has thousands of quilt blocks, and found a design from the Civil War called Kansas Troubles. One of our husbands called the three of us triple trouble, so it seemed like a fit."

Kansas Troubles Quilters was born. In 1994, after many requests for the patterns of their original creations, they published their patterns

for wholesale distribution to quilt shops. Hagmeier continued the business after her friends moved on. She especially liked the design work.

"I didn't want to make the same quilt over and over," Hagmeier said. "I liked designing new ones, and I wanted to sell my ideas rather than sell my labor."

She traveled around the state showing store owners her designs. One owner suggested she go to the International Quilt Market in Houston. She did so and connected with the Moda fabrics company, sometimes described as the Cadillac of fabric wholesalers. The people at Moda liked her work so much that they asked her to design a fabric line for them in 1999.

The Hagmeiers needed more space as the business grew. They bought and remodeled a vacant building in Lynne's hometown of Bennington where they eventually moved.

The Hagmeiers also enjoy collecting antiques.

They display many of those antiques in their store.

"Quilt retreats were becoming popular," Lynne said. The Hagmeiers made the upstairs into a place for quilt retreats and put her studio and a small retail space on the first floor. The space became booked solid for retreats. As demand grew, the retail space expanded to fill the entire first floor and the studio was moved into their home.

"We started getting requests to do training and demonstrations in other states," Hagmeier said. Then she began participating in something called a quilting cruise to places such as Alaska, Europe, and the Caribbean. Demand blossomed to the point that Robert left his job and joined the business.

Kansas Troubles quilts now hosts an annual fall KT & Friends quilting retreat which attracts 50-80 ladies from across the country. "I like to bring in a guest teach-

er each fall," Hagmeier said.

622 people. Now, that's rural.



Today, Kansas Troubles Quilters shop in Bennington is a destination stop for quilters from across the nation. Hagmeier has created hundreds of quilt designs and written two dozen books. As noted, she designed her first line in 1999. "I'm now working on my 78th line," she said.

It's an impressive business to be found in a rural community such as Bennington, population

For more information, see www.ktquilts.com.

Bennington, Kansas is where we can find this international quilt design expert. We salute Lynne and Robert Hagmeier for their expertise in quilting craftsmanship. For quilters across the country, they are making a world of difference.

by Pat Melgares

Building a Supply Chain for Local Foods

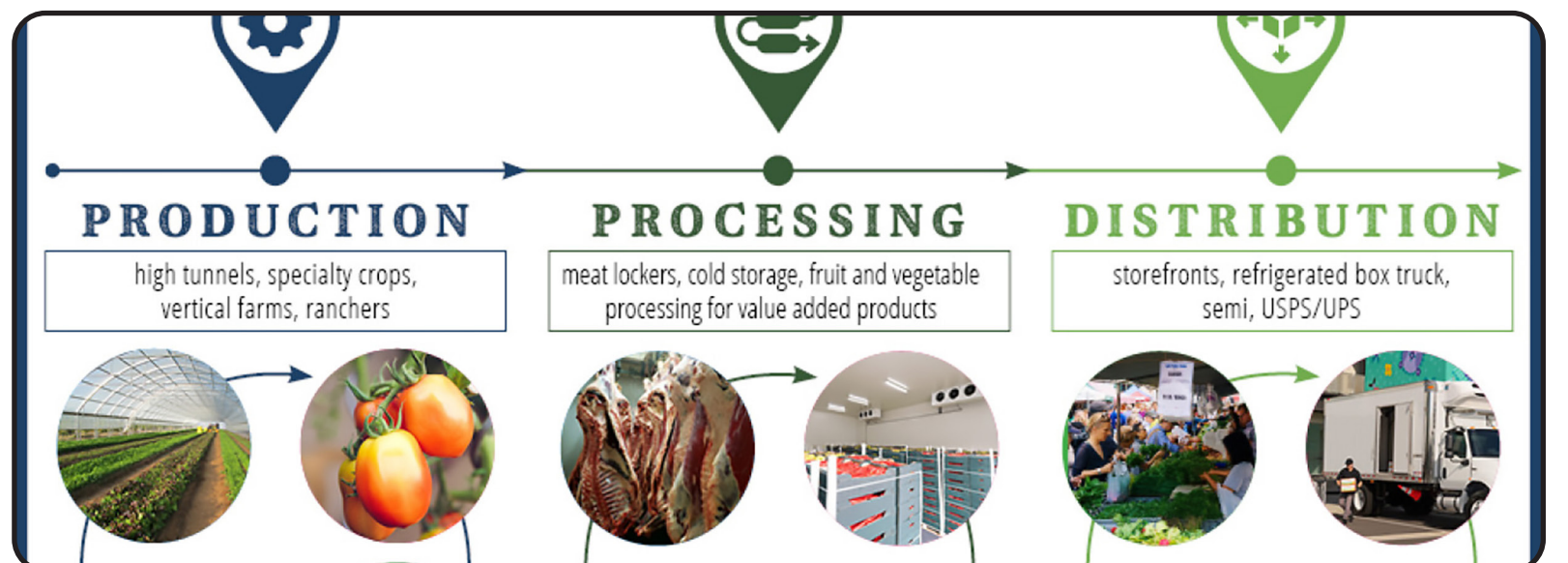
By Rick McNary

I have been fascinated by the direct-to-consumer model of selling products from the farm since 2011. I learned the concept after asking a person at an agricultural conference to explain the sign, "A Kansas farmer feeds 155 people plus you," since I had never purchased any food directly from a farm or ranch.

He explained how commodities like wheat are grown then often shipped out of state to be processed, then return to consumers on grocery store shelves as a loaf of bread. He then added there was rising interest from farmers in direct-to-consumer sales and consumers in purchasing local food.

Understanding how this direct-to-consumer local food model works is like putting a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle together with no picture to look at for reference. However, as I've studied, researched and learned how it works, I discover missing pieces that tie it all together and I recently discovered such a piece, oddly enough, at the Kansas Co-op Leadership Meeting.

A company from Iowa



shared its work on responding to consumer demand for knowing the origin of grains in the flour they used. As they explained those principles, I understood how those same principles apply to direct-to-consumer sales on a local and regional level.

They used the term identity preservation to explain the concept of people wanting to know where their food comes from, who grows it and how it is grown. In conjunction with identity preservation, the economic concept of inelastic demand comes into play. Inelastic demand means people will pay more for a product if there is a story and well-developed brand, such as a ten-dollar cup of coffee at Starbucks.

The most critical element for identity preservation and inelastic de-

mand to be successful is the control over the local supply chain.

There are many farmers, ranchers and growers who are already involved, or want to get involved, in selling food products but can't because the local supply chain is either lacking in capacity or missing altogether?

Since I started Shop Kansas Farms, I'm often approached by those interested in direct-to-consumer sales, but their greatest fear is the lack of control over the processing component. To sell beef they raise, direct-to-consumer, is a three-year process that depends, in the end, on open locker dates.

At that same conference in 2011, Dr. Curt Kastner, director of food science at K-State, also explained the concept of a local food system, or a local supply chain,

to me. He broke it down into three basic parts: production – the growing of a plant or animal until a maturation stage; processing – the work of taking the mature product and making it ready for human consumption; and distribution – all the elements required for that food to reach the table.

He served on a committee for the Department of Homeland Security that had great interest in establishing a local food system supply chain as resilient mechanisms in case of a terroristic threat to our global food supply system. That was long before the pandemic exposed the weaknesses of our global supply chain.

As I began engaging myself in research and application of a local food system supply chain model, I observed the opportunities that would make it work better. First,

for all three parts of a local system to function well, it needed a digital hub. Second, there was an opportunity to expand existing or create new local processing businesses both of meat and produce.

By the third day after I created Shop Kansas Farms during the pandemic in April of 2020, I realized I had inadvertently created that digital hub for a local and regional supply chain.

If direct-to-consumer sales are to be successful and sustainable, it is critical a local supply chain is rebuilt or built new so people who want to know where their food comes from and are often willing to pay more for it, can purchase it from a local farm and ranch.

I have just described the Shop Kansas Farms Harvest Hub model that is a local and region-

al food system supply chain. Our purpose is to help a community – however they define themselves regionally like the Rice County Harvest Hub or the Border Queen Harvest Hub in Caldwell - can engage all stakeholders in their community to build and support the local supply chain necessary to ensure the success and sustainability of direct-to-consumer sales.

Our Shop Kansas Farms Harvest Hubs gives local farmers, ranchers and growers the ability to control a local supply chain so those who seek identity preservation of their food and are often willing to pay more, can find them more easily.

If you'd like to learn more, contact us today!

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



"You go to Walter too? Isn't he the best?"

Pratt County Commission Minutes

The Pratt County commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 18, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the commissioner room, 1st floor of the courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Dwight Adams and Tyson Eisenhauer, county counselor, Lori Voss, county clerk and Mark Graber, IT director.

Heather Morgan, economic development/COVID consultant, Pratt Area Economic Development met and approved an incentive for a start up company coming to town. Group re-

viewed an application for the old Woody's location, that was tabled. Received an application from the childcare group in the amount of \$250,000 for the childcare facility going into the Christian Church. That was also tabled. There is currently a cap of \$100,000 allowed at this time. They discussed if it should be raised for the childcare.

Reviewed façade grants for Chapeau and the Uptown Café. The pledges for the theatre will now be available. She received a phone call from people in the know about how KDOT scores the projects. They take scores across the state and make a list. There is only so much money to go around so then they decide which

projects are funded. She reported some of the bypass will get funded, no notice what part will be approved.

BJ Hayes, emergency manager/zoning director, presented a letter for Greg Klein with SW Central Homeland Security appointing BJ to the Homeland Security Council. He needed signatures from commissioners and county clerk.

A contract was presented for signature from Osage for the purchase of the transport van.

Chairman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from December 11, 2023. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to adopt resolution 12-18-2023a

to transfer money from noxious weed \$25,000 and election \$25,000 to special equipment. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recess into executive session at 2:12 p.m. for ten minutes to discuss non-elected personnel concerning raises. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to return from executive session at 2:21 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recess into executive session at 2:22 p.m. for ten minutes for an attorney/cli-

ent matter concerning stop sign and tax foreclosure sale. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to return from executive session at 2:32 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Tyson read resolution 12-18-23b concerning a stop sign being installed at NE 50th Avenue and NE 10th Street. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to adopt resolution 12-18-23b. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to rehire Daniel Martin for the road department at \$18.00. Commissioner

Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver stated he had been asked to remind department heads if they use the PSB for meetings ect it is your responsibility to clean the room and areas used. An email will be sent out to all department heads as a reminder.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the payment vouchers for December 18, 2023. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to adjourn at 2:44 p.m. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.



The Future of Paper Calendars

Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

One of my annual routines to kick off a

new year is to replace our big family calendar that is posted in our mudroom and begin filling it out. Our local insurance agent provides the huge month-at-a-glance calendar every December, and it's one of the first things I give my attention to at the start of the year.

While my family keeps a shared digital

calendar we can edit and refer to on our phones, computers, watches and tablets, our big paper calendar posted on the wall also serves an important role.

My parents and grandparents always had multiple paper calendars on display in their homes. These calendars were never purchased but gifted prior to Christmas from some of the local businesses my family frequented.

It was always exciting to flip through the calendars provided to us by our feedstore, bank, local livestock sale barn and insurance agency to see either the landscapes of nature or funny farm and ranch cartoons that had been put together in a monthly sequence.

Every bathroom and bedroom wall had a calendar on display, and there was always at least one calendar posted in the garage. Our farm truck also had a small calendar stuck either to the dashboard or the driver's side sun visor annually. But the most important calendar was

always posted in the kitchen within reach of the wall-mounted landline telephone.

That kitchen calendar was half the size of my current behemoth of a month-at-a-glance calendar, but it was always able to clearly contain all of the important information added to it.

Birthdates, game schedules, meetings, 4-H and school events filled the pages of that kitchen calendar.

Aside from important upcoming dates to remember, notes would be added to that calendar throughout the year as well. Rain and snowfall totals were penciled in throughout the year. Additional notes of when the bulls were turned out with the cows, when a calf was born, when the cattle were moved to another pasture or when the first cutting of alfalfa was baled were also noted.

We always knew when we had planted our sweetcorn in our garden or when we had received our allotted irrigation water because it

was always written down on that kitchen calendar.

It was truly a historical document that captured so much information during a given year. Both my parents and grandparents would file those kitchen calendars at the end of every year in a place that was easily accessible so they could make quick references or previous year comparisons.

I think back and wonder if that's why, even in this digital age, I still keep a paper calendar in our house. While our calendar isn't utilized the same as it was when I was a kid, it is still present and referred to and edited throughout the year. However, at the end of each month, the page is removed and disposed of instead of kept and filed away.

I've caught myself referring to photos on my cellphone to identify the dates of previous popcorn harvests. Facebook memories help me remember the dates we started harvesting wheat in different years. An app we subscribe to quickly

provides rain and snowfall totals for us.

I often reflect on how the processes and procedures utilized by my parents and grandparents impact how I operate today. As I removed the final page of my 2023 calendar and replaced it with my 2024 calendar, I wondered if my children will eventually even utilize a displayed paper calendar in their homes based on how we utilize ours in this day and age.

"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.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Statepoint Crossword Theme: Winter Fun

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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71						72				73		

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ACROSS

1. Mulligatawny and gazpacho, e.g.
6. Half of NFL
9. "Oscar" of sports
13. Relating to sight
14. Sargasso ____
15. Dugout glider
16. Not fresh
17. First H in HRH
18. Face-to-face exams
19. *Ice fishing shelter
21. *Polar activity
23. *Type of Christmas tree
24. Diagonal
25. Tax return professional, acr.
28. Kind of cola
30. Diaphragm spasm
35. Scepters' partners
37. Of two minds
39. ____ Jean Baker
40. *Rabbit's winter one is white
41. Sheik's bevy?
43. Type of dam
44. Butcher's refuse
46. Etna's emission
47. Secret disclosure
48. Stellar
50. Chap or fella
52. Diabetic ketoacidosis, acr.
53. A or O, to blood
55. Unit of electrical resistance
57. *Finger warmers
60. *Certain sleigh ride
63. Courtroom excuse
64. Gobbled up
66. Train runners

68. Land of taekwondo
69. "Caroline in the City" Thompson
70. Relating to Scandinavia
71. Not home
72. *Last winter mo.
73. Klondike river

DOWN

1. Acronym in a bottle
2. Chooses
3. Colorado's neighbor
4. a.k.a. pilau
5. Like a longer route?
6. Grayish
7. ATM extra
8. Carpus, pl.
9. Bring home the bacon
10. Unforeseen obstacle
11. *Skier's aid
12. Da or oui
15. Jenny McCarthy to Melissa McCarthy
20. Engagement, archaic
22. ____-di-dah
24. Onslaught
25. *Warming drink
26. Faculty members, for short
27. Behind a stern
29. *Frosty's eyes
31. Type of hood
32. Apollo of "Rocky"
33. Inuit skin boat
34. *a.k.a. anorak
36. *Betelgeuse, e.g.
38. *Snow, in Italy
42. Lord's estate

45. Lithuania's neighbor
49. NaOH
51. Like a rosebush
54. Church song
56. Meow, alt. sp.
57. ____-in-the-dark
58. Milano moolah
59. Toe the line
60. Product of lacrimation
61. Michael Douglas' dad
62. "The Sun ____ Rises"
63. *What clues #4 and #34 Down have in common
65. High affair
67. Barack Obama, pre-pres.

5	4	6	8	2	1	3	7	9
7	1	3	5	9	6	2	8	4
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V	A	K	A	I	R	T	R	O	S	E	L	G	L	O
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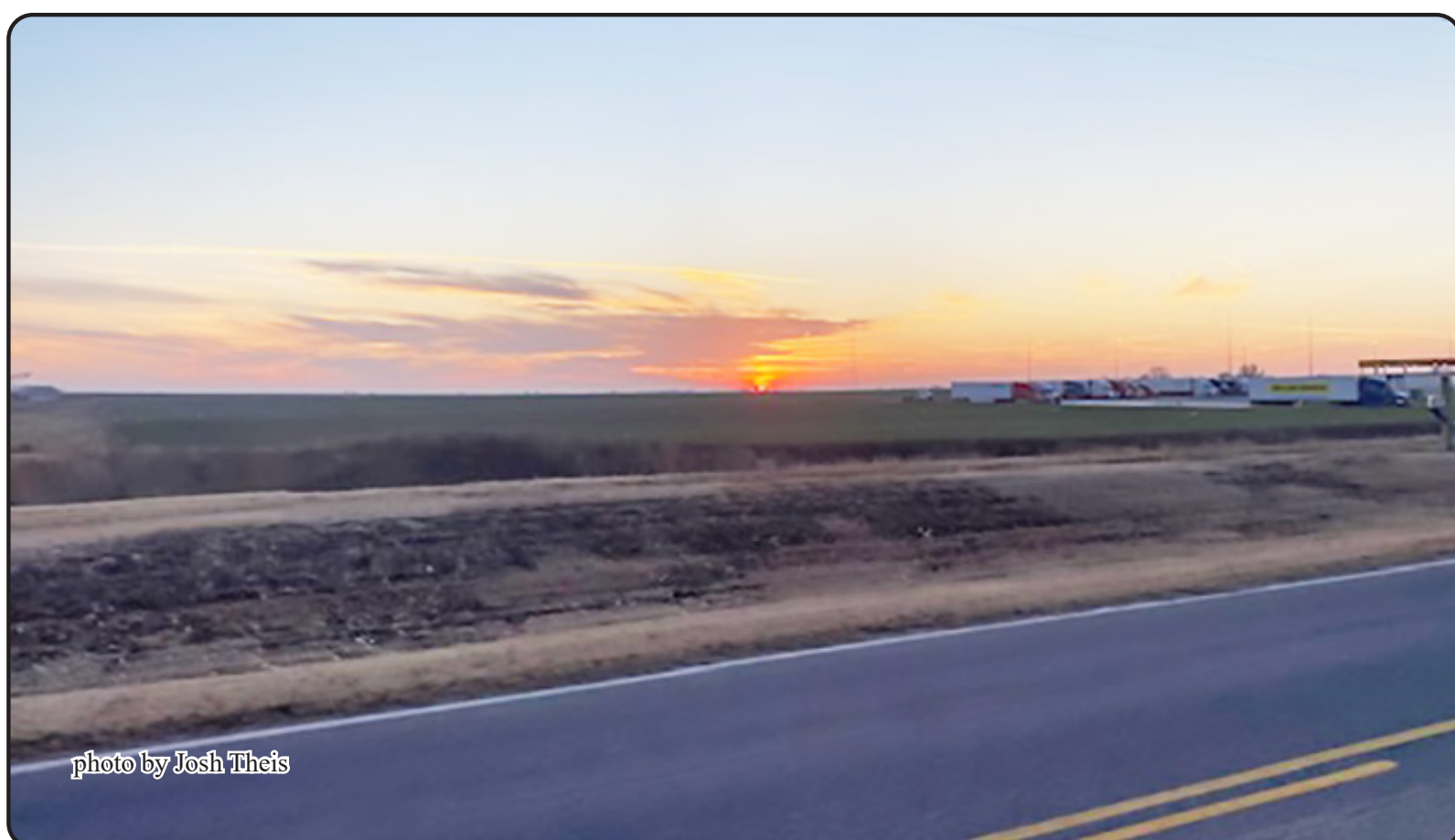


photo by Josh Theis

“The world has enough beautiful mountains and meadows, spectacular skies and serene lakes. It has enough lush forests, flowered fields and sandy beaches. It has plenty of stars and the promise of a new sunrise and sunset every day. What the world needs more of is people to appreciate and enjoy it.”
— Michael Josephson

Winter Woes! New Survey Finds Most Americans Dread Heating Bills

(StatePoint) From using a hairdryer to warm up their sheets to cuddling with their pet, Americans will do some crafty things to stay warm in the winter—especially if it means they can avoid turning up their thermostat.

A new survey conducted by Duck brand, which offers products that

provide simple, imaginative and helpful solutions for a variety of tasks around the home, finds out why people go to such lengths. According to the research, 61% of people dread receiving their heating bill in the winter.

While the average monthly heating bill hovers between \$100 to \$200, respondents say the highest bill they’ve received in recent years ranges from \$200 to \$300, and 76% of people say they have experienced an increase in their bill over the past five years.

“It may seem like the first thing people would do if they’re cold is to turn up their thermostat, but that’s not always the case,” says Randi Bujnovsky, product manager for Weatherization at Shurtape Technologies, LLC, the company that markets the Duck brand. “As it turns out, 80% of Americans say they have turned down their thermostat to save money in the winter.”

The chilly temperatures this time of year clearly have an impact on people’s daily habits and even their sleep. Sixty percent of Americans say

they have woken up in the middle of the night due to being cold in the winter. Respondents say they have tried everything, from wearing socks and a sweatshirt to bed to sleeping with three or more blankets and using a space heater, to cut costs on their bill.

However, there is a simple task that can help solve many of these woes: home weatherization. According to the research, more than half (51%) of Americans weatherize their home to prepare for the changing seasons, and 80% of people say they have noticed

a decrease in their heating bills by using weatherizing solutions, such as window insulation kits, weatherstrip seals and door draft seals that slide on the bottom of the door to block drafts.

Try Duck brand weatherization solutions to help keep the cold air out. From the Duck brand Max Strength Rolled Window Insulation Kit to the Heavy-Duty Weatherstrip Seals, there is a product for every room in the home.

“Creating a warm home during the cold weather months is easy, and yet nearly half of

Americans aren’t taking advantage of the benefits of this simple task,” Bujnovsky adds. “If weatherizing the entire home seems challenging, begin with one room at a time. The survey finds the living room is the draftiest part of the home, so that is a good place to start. Installing a window kit that will add a barrier between the outdoor air and your home’s interior or putting weatherstrips around your windows can make all the difference and will help minimize energy loss.”

Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, December 17

Traffic Stop	4
Agency Assist	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Trespassing	200 Blk S Elliott St, Cunningham
Traffic Complaint	SE 180 St & S Hwy 14, Harper
Miscellaneous	5000 Blk NE 10 Ave, Kingman
911 Accidental Dial	NE 10 St & NE 150 Ave, Cheney
Fire / Unfounded	700 Blk W Washington Ave, Kingman
Trespassing	500 Blk N Coronado St, Kingman

Monday, December 18

Traffic Stop	2
Civil Paper Process	2
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Transport Prisoner	130 N Spruce, Kingman
Fire / Grass	4000 Blk SE 160 Ave, Cheney
Disturbance	200 Blk E H Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	NE 30 St & N Hwy 14, Kingman

Tuesday, December 19

Traffic Stop	5
Civil Paper Process	9
Transport Prisoner From Pratt	Co Jail 303 S Oak St, Pratt
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Transport Prisoner to Court	130 N Spruce, Kingman
Found Property	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Follow Up	9000 Blk SE 90 St, Kingman
Follow Up	900 Blk N Milan, Attica
Follow Up	300 Blk W Sloan Ave, Spivey

Wednesday, December 20

Traffic Stop	1
Suspicious Activity	E Hwy 54 & N Hwy 14, Murdock
Traffic Complaint	S Hwy 14 & SE 150 St, Rago
Agency Assist	SE 20 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman
Investigate Gas Odor	12000 E Hwy 54, Cheney
Animal Complaint	SE 120 St & S Hwy 14, Rago
Transport Prisoners to Court	130 N Spruce, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	9000 E Hwy 54, Murdock
Traffic Complaint	NE 40 Ave & NE 10 St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Suspicious Person	3000 W Hwy 54, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	SW 170 Ave & SW 50 St, Cunningham

Thursday, December 21

Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Suspicious Person	1000 W Hwy 54, Kingman
Transport Prisoner Back To Pratt	303 S Oak St, Pratt
911 Accidental Dial	12000 Blk SE 110 St, Norwich
Miscellaneous	130 N Spruce, Kingman
Suspicious Persons	NE 50 St & NE 150 Ave, Cheney

Friday, December 21

Traffic Stop	2
Civil Paper Process	1
Suspicious Activity	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Transport Prisoner	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Found Property	700 Blk Kingman State Lake Rd, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle	11000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Disabled Vehicle	13000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Alarm	10000 Blk SE 70 Ave, Kingman
Damage to Property	2000 Blk SE Viney Ave, Murdock
Miscellaneous	SE 80 St & SE 30 Ave, Kingman
Injury Accident	E Hwy 42 & S Hwy 14, Rago

Saturday, December 23

Traffic Stop	3
Civil Paper Process	4
Alarm	200 Blk NW 20 Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	5000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman

Sunday, December 24

Traffic Stop	5
911 Accidental Dial	2000 Blk NE Waterloo Ave, Murdock
Warrant Service	17000 Blk SW 150 Ave, Nashville

Monday, December 25

Transport / Transient	NW 20 Ave & W Hwy 54, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	NW 30 Ave & W Hwy 54, Kingman
Animal Complaint	1600 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Disturbance	13000 Blk SW 80 St, Zenda
Traffic Complaint	1700 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Miscellaneous	2700 Blk SE Murdock Ave, Murdock
Fire / Vehicle	NW 50 Ave & W Hwy 54, Kingman

Tuesday, December 26

Traffic Stop	4
Transport Prisoner to Kingman	141 W Elm St, Wichita
Traffic Complaint	16000 E Hwy 54, Cheney
Traffic Complaint	18000 W Hwy 54, Cunningham
911 Accidental Dial	13000 Blk NE 10 St, Cheney
Agency Assist	NE 50 St & N Berry Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	E Hwy 54 & NE 70 Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist	300 Blk E D Ave, Kingman

Wednesday, December 27

Civil Paper Process	1
Transport Civilian to Goddard	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Transport Prisoner	700 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	100 Blk W Burns Ave, Norwich
Theft	13000 Blk SE 20 St, Murdock
Traffic Complaint	6000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman

Thursday, December 21

Civil Paper Process	1
Animal Complaint	SW 50 Ave & W Hwy 54, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	6000 W Hwy 54, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	SW 160 Ave & W Hwy 42, Nashville
Check Welfare	13000 Blk SE Main Ave, Rago
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Fraud	2000 Blk NE Waterloo Ave, Murdock
Traffic Complaint	11000 E Burns Ave, Norwich

Friday, December 21

Traffic Stop	1
Non-Injury Accident	SE 30 St & SE 103 Ave, Murdock
Warrant Service	300 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Disturbance	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Check Welfare	13000 Blk SE Main Ave, Rago
Warrant Service	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	SW 150 St & SW 90 Ave, Zenda
Traffic Complaint	SW 190 Ave & W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Warrant Service	120 N Spruce, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle	E Hwy 42 & SE 100 Ave, Rago
Burglary	1600 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman

Saturday, December 23

Traffic Stop	7
Check Welfare	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Suspicious Activity	1700 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	400 Blk W Stanley Ave, Spivey
Trespassing	300 E D Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 North Spruce, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle	2500 Blk SW 20 St, Kingman

**Kingman County Humane Society
Pets Ready for Adoption**

McMuffin

Sponsored by Cunningham Courier



Male Domestic Shorthair
McMuffin is about 5 years old and weighs in at about 11 pounds
It costs \$25.00 to adopt his handsome guy.
He has been at the shelter since August 11.

Please consider volunteering or adopting or fostering or donating to your local Humane Society

Rosy
Sponsored by Cunningham Courier



Female Cattle Dog, Australian (Red Heeler) / Shepherd
About 40 pounds and about 1 year of age.
\$180.00 adoption fee
Roses are a symbol of love ...that's a perfect name for this girl.

Rosy and her littermates have been at the shelter since October 28, 2023
The memories of a neglect have already faded away. Rosy is friendly, active and playful and ready to find her new homes. But don't wait long...they grow up so fast and you don't want to miss that part.

KCHS Donation Wish List

The pets at Kingman County Humane Society are in need of the following items:

- liquid laundry detergent
- poop bag rolls
- disposable gloves (large)
- 13-gal. kitchen trash bags
- dry cat and kitten food
- clumping cat litter
- canned dog food
- Purina Puppy Chow
- long-lasting chews
- stainless steel flat-sided water buckets
- paper towels
- bleach

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

Winter Wonderland!

Little Blue Penguins
Annimills LLC © 2022

Winter Festivals

1. horse and sleigh rides
2. ice carving competition
3. ice fishing contest
4. snowmobile races
5. giant snow maze
6. dogsled rally
7. snow sculpture
8. toboggan slide

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

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8 - 6 M-F, 8-12 Sat.
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Kingman, KS 67068
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Pharmacists on call 24 hours
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Advertise Your Business in the Courier

Effective June 1, 2022: Ads are \$6.00 per column inch. Front page ads are \$10.00 per column inch. All ads are subject to approval of this paper, which reserves the right to edit, reject, or properly classify any ad. Note: The views and opinions expressed in advertisements in The Cunningham Courier do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Courier or staff. Errors will be corrected when brought to my attention.
Classified Ad Rates
\$5.00 minimum charge for one-week run.
DEADLINES: 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays

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Community Center,**
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murphylauren2001@gmail.com

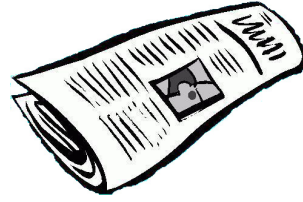
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Serving Cunningham Since 1993

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• Dump Trucks

*This advertising space
available for \$12.00*

Cunningham Liquor
OPEN — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. — Monday thru Thursday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m. — Friday & Saturday
12 noon to 8 p.m. — Sunday
"Cold Brew... Warm Spirits" 298-2033



Thank You Note RATES
Use the Courier to say
"Thank You".
\$.10 per word
(\$6.00 minimum)

Advertising Opportunity

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Thanks for recycling
The Courier on December 26th
Recycle - Reduce - Reuse - Repurpose

Limited Time Winter
SALES EVENT
GET A QUOTE NOW > Take \$2500 Off
30x40x10
Use code NP0124. Sign a contract by March 1st.
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Example building shown.
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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!

Time to Talk Trash

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!

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.

Courier Copies

*Do you need extra copies of The Courier, but can't catch me home, or don't want to drive clear to the edge of town?
You can purchase additional copies at Fitzsimmons Insurance there on Main Street.
(You can purchase a lovely card or two or three made by Louise Armstrong while you are there.)*



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Ken Hamilton

Kenneth Ray Hamilton, 79, was born on July 31, 1944 in Pratt Kansas. He entered into eternal peace on December 4, 2023 in Wichita, Kansas.
A graveside service will be held on January 13, 2024 at 1pm in Saint Leo Cemetery located at 8035 SW 160 Ave in St. Leo, Kansas. Friends and family will then gather at Spike's Place 8225 SW 160 Ave, St. Leo, KS.

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A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank my children and their spouses for coming to my home for Christmas, bringing gifts and singing beautiful songs. It was wonderful and made Christmas special.

-Clara Mae-

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with
The Courier**

Upcoming Auctions

For more information and a complete list of auctions, see our website at www.hammauction.com
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Cards by Roberta Kobbe
Handmade Greeting Cards for sale.
Shop for cards at Cleo's in Kingman and Cheney, Ye Olde General Store in Norwich and Market 54 on Main in Pratt or contact me.
Will mail or deliver.



Cards and stamps make nice gifts for shut-ins.
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December 4-H Happenings

The Cunningham 4-H Club met on December 3rd for our annual Christmas party. We met at the Cunningham Community Center at 5:30. During the party, we ate food and drank hot chocolate from the hot chocolate bar. Roll call was "What is your favorite Christmas song." After roll call, we sang two Christmas songs led by Wyatt Neywick. We also discussed ideas for a fair theme. There were many good ideas but we haven't settled on

one yet. We will submit an option to the extension office at the next meeting. We also made snowman out of toilet paper rolls and decorated them to put on our float. In addition to making the snowman, we also made snowflake decorations for Hilltop residents. After we had our meeting, we exchanged Christmas socks filled with goodies. We passed the socks around in a circle either left or right depending on what the story said. Whenever the story said left, we passed the socks "left". And whenever the story said "right", we passed them

right. When the story was over, we opened our socks and kept the gifts filled in the socks.
On December 2nd, members of our 4-H club marched in the Zenda parade and received first in their category. On December 9th, we helped serve at the soup supper held at the community center for the parade day. We helped clean up and carry food for community members that went to eat there. We also participated in the Cunningham Santa Day Parade by riding a float with the theme being, "Cunningham 4-H is Snow Much

Fun". We dressed up like snowmen and rode the float down Main Street. On December 10th, the Kingman 4-H Ambassadors hosted a chili/bingo night to raise money for the Kingman County Humane Society. It was a great turnout raising over \$1,100. We had members of the ambassador team make cinnamon rolls and chili. All the bingo prizes were donated by various county clubs and area businesses.
-- Kendall Rogers, reporter



Disability Part of the Equity Equation:

People with disabilities play an important role in a diverse and inclusive workforce. We would like to tell you about Amy and her path to financial independence through work.
Meet Amy
Amy has a developmental disability that af-

fects her speech, learning, and social interactions. When she was ready to find a path to financial independence through work, Amy turned to her State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency for help. Amy's VR counselor told her about Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) Program.

The Ticket Program supports career development for people with disabilities who want to work. Adults ages 18 through 64 who receive Social Security disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) qualify for this free and voluntary program. Through the Ticket Program, service providers offer free employment support services.

Amy had questions about how employment could affect her benefits. Her State VR counselor connected her with Full Circle Employment Solutions. Full Circle is an Employment Network (EN) with benefits counselors on staff who explained how working might affect her disability benefits.

Amy's benefits counselor also told her about Work Incentives. Work Incentives make it easier for adults with disabilities to enhance their job skills and gain work experience. They do so while receiving Medicaid or Medicare and Social Security benefits or SSI payments.

With a better understanding of these supports, Amy was ready to explore her employment options. She pursued an internship with Project SEARCH, a training program for young adults with developmental disabilities. Through Project SEARCH, Amy landed an internship that led to a permanent position with her local government.

Amy earned her way to financial independence and no longer receives SSI. Now, she's a union member, receives benefits through her job, and enjoys the security and stability that come with full-time employment. She's grateful for the support she received through the Ticket Program and looks forward to building the future she always hoped for.

"This job makes me feel needed and welcomed," she says. "I have learned about what motivates me and how to keep going, even when things get hard."

Learn More

To learn more about the Ticket Program, visit choosework.ssa.gov where you also can see a list of service providers. Or you can call the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET, and ask for a list of service providers.

You can also learn more by registering for a free, online Work Incentives Seminar Event webinar at choosework.ssa.gov/wise. Or you can text TICKET to 474747 to receive Ticket Program texts. Standard messaging rates may apply, and you can opt out at any time.

Please share this information with friends and family who may need it.

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Box east of the
Methodist Church.
Anyone can give or
take from the Blessing
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