

The Cunningham Courier

November 27, 2025
Volume 35 Number 48

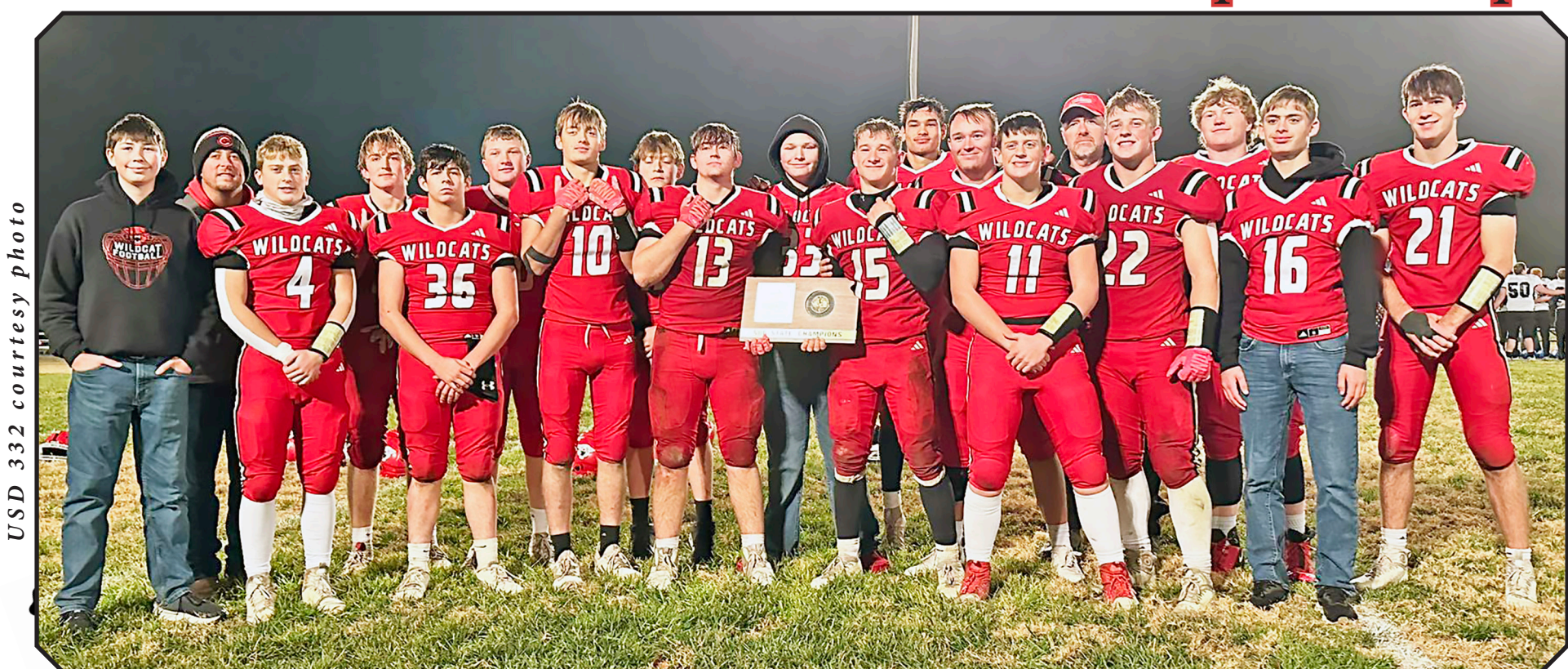
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photo by Cheri Theis

Wildcats Claim Sub-State Championship



The Wildcats hosted the Tescott Trojans for the right to play for the Six-Man state title after Thanksgiving. The two teams have met many times in the last few years, and when they get together we're usually treated to some good old fashioned physical football.

Skyler returned the opening kickoff 25 yards to start the game off the right way. With good field position, the Cats took 5 plays to score. Stephen had a 21-yard run and a 7-yard TD as the two most notable plays. Cats with an early 6-0 lead. After the defense forced a punt, the Wildcat offense had an "unscripted" play. Skyler took an errant snap and by 6 man rule could not run as he was the first player to possess the ball. He made a great decision by choosing to throw to Dylan who rumbled 37 yards for a

big play, much to the crowd's delight. Stephen scored on a 7 yard run later in the drive. Brody got the extra points kick for a 14-0 lead. Tescott had a long drive but the Cat defense refused the score with a goal line stand. The offense handed the ball to Skler 3 of the 4 plays it took to score. He rolled off a 12 yard run and later a 53 yard TD. Cats up 20-0. After stopping the Trojans on downs, the Cats settled into a grinding drive with multiple rushes of 5 to 9 yard runs. Stephen broke the mold on the drive with a 29-yard run. Liam had an 11 yard run and later finished the drive on a good read on the pitch from Logan for a 5 yard TD run. Cats up 26-0. With time running out in the half the Trojans tried to speed up the game, but Logan stepped in front of a pass attempt and

returned it 23 yards for an exciting Pick-Six. Cats up 32-0 at half.

After half Tescott tried a similar pass on Logan's side again with a similar result. He picked it off and ran it back 25 yards. Skyler made short work of the Trojans with a 10 yard run and a 20 yard TD, pushing the score to 38-0. On the next drive the Trojans worked their way down the field, but their drive was stopped with Brody's endzone interception. The Cats had their turn at a good march. Stephen and Skyler both had 11 yard runs, but the Cats ran out of downs so the Trojans took possession of the ball. The defense held again. On the next offensive possession, Skyler ran for 10 yards and Stephen ran for a 13. However, the Cats had to punt. The fourth quarter felt fast with few clock

stoppage plays. The Cat defense forced a punt in just four plays. Liam returned the punt 29 yards. The Cats did not do much with the ball and gave it up on downs. The defense stayed stubborn until the end and forced a punt in just four plays. Stephen pushed the blocker toward the punter and the punt bounced off of the Tescott player's back. Cat's ball deep in the visitor's end. Skyler got the 5 yard rushing TD. Cats up 44-0 and sealed with extra points. The time ran out on Tescott as they tried to score once more before the game ended.

Grab your cool weather layers and your Wildcat gear. We're going to state!
-Coach McGuire

KSHSAA 6-MAN STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



CUNNINGHAM WILDCATS VS WESKAN COYOTES



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 AT 3:00 PM

KIOWA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM, GREENSBURG, KS

Pep Rally at 11:15 am.

Send-off down Main Street at 11:45 am.

Pre-Game Tailgate

Cunningham fans are invited to tailgate from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in the parking lot west of the stadium (look for the red tents). It will be catered by Kook's Meat and sponsored by NextEra Energy. Drinks will be provided courtesy of Cozy's Pizza!

Thank you to our sponsors!

Cunningham (Home Team) will be on the west side of the stadium.

Admission:

Pre-K age children: Free
K-12 Students & Adults \$10

Tickets can be purchased onsite with cash or at <https://gofan.co/event/5434774>

KSHSAA Programs: \$4

BOE Will Meet Monday

Cunningham USD #332
Board of Education Special Meeting
104 W 4th St., Cunningham, KS 67035
Monday, December 1, 2025
5:30 p.m.

Work Session Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of Agenda (AI)
- Work Session with B & G Consultants
- Adjournment

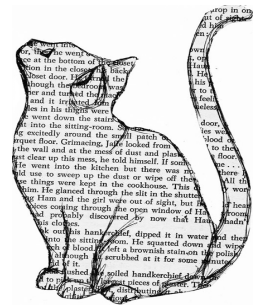
Reminder from the Kingman County Treasurer, 2025 tax statements have been mailed and the first due date is Monday, December 22nd. If you have questions or have not received your statements, please call the office at 620-532-3461.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

*Wishing everyone a cheerful and healthy Thanksgiving!
We are truly grateful for the trust our patients place in us and for our exceptional staff who bring comfort to all.*

 **Kingman Healthcare Center & Family Clinics**





Meanderings

One of the best ways to support small businesses is to head to arts and craft fairs. There are many gift ideas for the holidays and other occasions. And the food available is really varied and phenomenal. I do try and avoid the cinnamon rolls and other delectable baked goods, as I don't need to be wearing the pounds they put on. I always look for some-

one selling sand plum jelly, and I will buy a jar or two. I can honestly say I've never seen sand plum jelly in a grocery store. Never. Maybe I'm not shopping right, but I'm thinking it is something that Dillons doesn't sell in any of its stores. The vendors are friendly and accommodating because they want to make a sale or two or a hundred. Skip the notorious and infamous Black Friday sales at large corporate stores owned by billionaires and head to a craft fair and purchase from a local artisan or other vendor. It may cost a bit more, or may not, but the money you spend there will most likely stay in

the community or other small surrounding communities, not used by a CEO to buy another yacht. I will have my wares for sale at the Hot and Cold Market this Saturday (Small Business Saturday), and next Saturday at Kingman Elementary for the Kingman Parade Day. I will also be in Sharon at their parade day craft fair on the 7th. And in Norwich on the 14th. I will not have a booth at the Cunningham Craft Fair on the 13th. I am craft-fairing out, and am looking forward to some leisurely creative time and not frantically making cards to keep up with the demands of the craft

fairs. ** I am a fan of National Public Radio (KMUW 89.1), there is much to learn on that station. I began listening to it waaay back when I started driving from Wichita to work in Belle Plaine... mid 1980's. I really enjoy listening to the chefs, cookbook writers, and professional cooks describe their traditions around food and their tips for making dishes. Two interesting things I learned on National Public Radio in the last few months: The plastic bags used to bag salads is specifically designed for that purpose. It is called Film Plastic #7. These bags

help maintain moisture and protect salads from oxygen, preventing spoilage. This is what else I learned: It is not recyclable and should be disposed of in the garbage. The pre-shredded cheese you can buy in the grocery store should not be used to make sauces. It contains an anti-caking agent that makes a creamy sauce difficult. I usually just listen to the radio in the car when I'm driving, which makes it difficult to take notes about the recipes and such. I do try and remember to look for the program here on the computer to listen to again, and sometimes I remember, but most of the time I don't.

** On the back page of this edition is a photo of a gentleman I know from my life in Belle Plaine. Mark Fillmore is married to Darise Fillmore, a lovely lady who I taught with for five years in that fair city. Mark is currently the pastor for Kiowa United Methodist Church. It's good to see him in our paper. Always reading, and currently reading, (thanks to my friend, Fred in Indina who sent me the series) "The Bughouse Affair" by Marcia Muller & Bill Pronzini, Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, Well here we are once again, Thanksgiving time. By the time you read this you will probably already have selected your menu and your preparations are well underway. Your fridge, freezer, pantries and larders overfloweth, I'm sure. We all know what this holiday is supposed to represent and I will not wax eloquent on traditions, because though it is the most inclusive of

American Holidays we all do it a bit differently. Aside from the sameness of most tables (the turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberries, pumpkin pies, three bean salads, et. al.) I would bet there is ONE THING you dish up that nobody else does. And that is pretty cool, because we as American have always had a tendency to take from the past and add our own little spin to it. I myself have been adventurous over the years, and perhaps a bit sneaky, and added something unexpected to the cornucopia of dishes piled up on the dining room table

and sideboards. And not always with great success. The creamed onions did not go over big. Nor did my attempt at Scotch eggs. Whether this was due to my lack of culinary skill or the unsuspecting palates of my guests I will never know. Regardless there was always that big bird to fall back on. And why that big bird, you ask? Well, my exhaustive research revealed that turkey might not even have been served at that very First Thanksgiving feast in 1621. Though earliest accounts do mention "fowl." So our belief it

was the Pilgrim's main course is pure conjecture. More likely turkey has risen to the position of the main course of what is essentially one big American buffet is that it is huge and can feed a lot of people. A chicken or ham just won't cut it. Nor will a goose. And the fatted calf is too big. So turkey it is for almost all of us with the exception of those who do not eat meat and those vegetarian tables can be quite creative. How does lentil loaf, stuffed squash and tofurky with wild rice sound? Well, each to his own. But about 88% of

us will be carving up an estimated 46 million butterballs on Thursday. And that is a lot of leftovers. Turkey soup, turkey sandwiches, turkey salad, turkey jerky, turkey bolognaise and turkey lo mein. And crazily enough, almost half of these carnivores will do it all again less than a month later at Christmastime, popping another 22 million turkeys in the oven and basting till their forearms cramp. So here's to the turkey, that glorious gut-busting, belt loosening purveyor of dark and white meats, breasts,

wishbones, wings, thighs and drumsticks. And of course there is the added bonus of tryptophan, that sleep-inducing chemical that hits about the third quarter of the afternoon football game. I should point out that though indeed turkey contain tryptophan it doesn't really have any more than a chicken does and that sleepiness we all succumb to is more likely the result of stuffing ourselves silly. (No pun intended.) *Until next week-keep your eyes on the stars and your back to the wind.*

Short Poems by Tom Fobbe

History can help us more clearly understand just how we got to current spot, predicted or unplanned.

Seems we all love pizza, a favorite takeout food. Just need to know the right combo of toppings to include.

Glassy-eyed and goofy, a living anecdote. They make us laugh without a gaffe. Who doesn't love a goat!

School is so important. It's crucial that we learn the things that will help us fulfill a decent life, and earn.

Grown up gift exchanging, an obligation trap. Can we just stop this spendy swap, and need to buy more crap.

Healthy mind and body. Good job and free of debt. A place to live. Some love to give... No reason then to fret.

Chilly northern winters, or southern summer heat? Have "up nort" roots: coat, hat, gloves, boots. "Down sout": to shade retreat.

Those who grow up wealthy or upper middle class... grocery bill don't make you ill, nor does the price of gas.

Traffic flowing freely. You're moving right along. What's left unsaid: three miles ahead, congested, halted throng.

Poetry From Daily Life

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

Poetry from Daily Life: Say it with style and don't overstay your welcome

By Amos Bridges

My guest this week on "Poetry from Daily Life" is Amos Bridges, who lives in Springfield, Missouri. Amos is the editor-in-chief for the Springfield News-Leader who gave this column the green light two years ago. He says he's grateful for the teachers who raised him and those who encouraged him along the way, as well as the reporters who inspire him every day. A unique fact about Amos? His career at the News-Leader is now old enough to drink. ~ David L. Harrison

Dictionary definitions are funny things, using a pile of words to describe the work just one can do. But sometimes the group can weave a little more magic

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than just one flying solo. The word "pithy" is an example. On its own, it's not a word I tend to drop into casual conversation. But its definition is one of my favorites as a writer. Merriam-Webster defines "pithy" as "having substance and point : tersely cogent." Cambridge is sharper, defining a pithy statement as one "expressing an idea cleverly in a few words." For my money, the Oxford dictionary does just that with its definition: "Concise and forcefully expressive." That right there is the grail that writers of both journalistic and poetic persuasions spend a lifetime chasing. If someone carves "concise and forcefully expressive" on my tombstone, I reckon I'll have done alright. Plenty of other wordsmiths have written about saying a lot with a little. There's a Traveling Wilburys song where Tom Petty sings, "She wrote a long letter / on a short piece of paper." A similar sentiment gets attributed (wrongly or rightly) to Mark Twain: "I would have written a shorter letter, but did not have the time." Slinging words into sentences can be a slog but it's not so hard to get a point across. Being "concise and forcefully expressive" — finding the word or phrase that cuts like a scalpel — takes effort. I often think of it as chipping away at a rough idea to find the diamond inside. On a good day, you might stumble upon one or two glinting in the dirt. Other times you've got to work at it until your fingers bleed. It's a heck of a thing when you find one of those gems, twinkling facets hinting at hidden depths. It's why many writers, journalists included, take time to polish an opening line until it smacks the reader between the eyes and demands attention, presenting images and unanswered questions that they can spend the rest of the piece answering. A few of my favorite first lines include: "The man in black fled across the desert, and the gunslinger followed." - Stephen King, "The Gunslinger."

"The moon blew up without warning and for no apparent reason." - Neal Stephenson, "Sevенеves." "We were somewhere around Barstow on the edge of the desert when the drugs began to take hold." - Hunter S. Thompson, "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas." Whether they leave you curious, dubious or inspired, each one tells you — concisely, forcefully — "there's a story here." I hope the "Poetry from Daily Life" series has evoked a similar reaction. As it reaches an end, almost two years and 100 columns later, I hope the weekly word count packed meaning into its paragraphs, sparked ideas and prompted readers to look at the world with a new perspective. I have looked forward to editing each entry, searching for those concentrated bits of wisdom and expressive turns of phrase. I am grateful to the writers who shared their ideas, making their points cleverly and without unnecessary padding. As I come to the end of my own column, the next to last in the series, I'll close with a poem I wrote as a senior in high school. It's appropriate on a few levels: It's a poem presented as a definition, it's short, and it was part of a collection of poems and essays that won me a writing scholarship — judged by David Harrison, among others. That encouragement eventually led me to the News-Leader and the editor's chair, where I found myself answering David's pitch for a column about poetry with an enthusiastic "yes." Pretty poetic, in the end. Here's my poem. I hope you've been inspired to find many more of your own. Virginity: A combination of bad luck and good judgment. Amos Bridges is editor-in-chief of the Springfield News-Leader.

Community Bulletin Board

Saturday, November 29 6-Man State Championship game	Monday December 8 Falcon Classic at Fairfield
Monday December 1 Art Field Trip to City Arts *** HS Scholars Bowl at St. John *** 5:30 p.m. BOE work session/meeting	Tuesday, December 9 BOE Meeting
Tuesday, December 2 5:00 p.m. School Site Council	Thursday, December 11 JH BB vs Stafford at HOME *** Falcon Classic at Fairfield
Wednesday, December 3 6:00 p.m. Shop Guild	Friday, December 12 Falcon Classic at Fairfield
Thursday, December 4 JH BB vs Fairfield at HOME *** 1:00 p.m. NHS Blood Drive	Saturday December 13 Christmas Parade
Friday, December 5 HS BB at Minneola	Monday, December 15 Pre K - 12 Christmas Concert
Saturday, December 6 HS Scholars Bowl at Central Christian *** 1:30 p.m. Zenda Christmas Parade *** Winter Formal	Tuesday, December 16 HS BB vs Argonia at HOME
	Wednesday, December 17 6:00 Shop Guild *** 6:00 p.m. at Cozy's Girls Night Out Book Club



Caroling at the Gazebo

Sunday after Thanksgiving

Are you tired of turkey? Stuffed with stuffing? Moping at the thought of more mashed potatoes? The remedy is clear! You need to put a little Christmas jingle in your step!

'Tis the season for the (mostly) annual Caroling at the Gazebo on Sunday, Nov. 30th, at 6:00 p.m. at Dafforn Park. Sponsored by PRIDE, this event is a fun kick-off to the Christmas season. All are invited to “don your gay apparel”, get your fa-la-la on, and join for a time of caroling, followed by refreshments at the Cunningham Public Library.

Support and Celebrate Small Businesses This Holiday Season

By Rhea Landholm, communications manager, Center for Rural Affairs

This holiday season, will you shop at one of the 33.2 million small businesses that make up 99% of all businesses in the U.S?

Up and down rural main streets in rural America, shopkeepers are readying their stores for the season. Business owners are stocking special gifts and rolls of wrapping paper to provide added value when you spend your money with a local retailer.

Independently owned businesses are what keep our rural communities thriving. They rely on our patronage during the crucial holiday season as well as year-round.

This year, more than ever, small businesses need our support. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index, 79% of independent business owners say this upcoming holiday season is important for their overall profit this year, up from 70% last year.

When you shop local, you support your community by paying sales tax. You are also helping out a small business owner who in turn might sponsor a school activity or host a community event, showing just how important main street businesses are as part of our life in rural America.



- WANTED -
Old Photos from our communities
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Thank you for
Supporting
The Courier

Libraries

Cunningham Public Library
Mon., Wed., Fri.
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Tues., Thurs., Sat.
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Closed for Holidays
298-3163



Zenda Public Library

Monday
8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
Thursday:
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday:
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
620-243-5791



Kingman Carnegie Library

Mon. & Tues. 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wed. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Fri. : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sat. : 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
620-532-3061



Pratt Public Library

Mon. - Thurs.
10:00 - 7:00
Friday: 10:00 - 6:00
Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00
Closed on Sundays
(620) 672-3041

Kingman Historic Theatre

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

November 26th
Zootopia
7:30 p.m.

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR
Kingman Historic Theatre.

Kingman Historic Theatre

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

November 28-29
Zootopia
7:30 p.m.

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR
Kingman Historic Theatre.

Kingman Historic Theatre

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

November 30
Wizards of Winter
(Live)
2:00 p.m.

Minutes from the October City Council Meeting

The Cunningham City Council met in a regular session on Monday, October 27, 2025, at City Hall, 119 N. Main St.

Present were Mayor, Aaron Murphy; Council Members: Craig Woodard, Tanner Newell and Jason Ruckle; City Attorney, Greg Graffman; City Superintendent, Mesa Sallee; and City Clerk, Molly Morgan.

Guests present: Jerry Henning; Roy Foster; Bill Foster; Grace Patton; Jackie Ruckle, Property Officer; and CHS students, Andrew Schultz, Blake Swope, Kendall Rogers, Dylan Halderson, and Emily Ogg.

Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Newell, second by Ruckle, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 3/0.

Motion by Woodard, second by Newell, to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2025, special meeting as written. Motion carried, 3/0.

Public Comments – Jerry Henning read a statement.

Grace Patton presented a Lion’s Club project for dog waste stations in Lion’s Park.

Motion by Ruckle, second by Newell, to approve the project for two dog waste stations in Lion’s Park. Motion carried, 3/0.

Fire Department Report – No report.

Discussion of Copier – It was the consensus of the Governing Body to advertise the Lanier copier and Kyocera printer for sale.

Maintenance Report – Mesa gave the report. The sewer inspection report has been received. *Duke’s Root Control will be treating lines. *Water leak coming up on Ohio Street near Leiter Avenue actually ended up being the service line for 421 S Ohio. The line was repaired and is operational. *It is time to winterize the irrigation system at the football field.

Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to hire CR Services to winterize the irrigation system for \$25 per zone. (There are nine zones.) Motion carried, 3/0.

Property Officer – One notice has been returned.

Planning & Zoning – New construction is to begin at 243 N. Main. Motion by Woodard, second by Ruckle, to approve permit 2025-10 at 243 N. Main for new construction with the stipulation that the south patio will have no permanent overhang. Motion carried, 3/0.

Motion by Ruckle, second by Woodard, to approve permit 2025-06 for a sign at 120 W. Third. Motion carried, 3/0.

Motion by Ruckle, second by Woodard, to adopt the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board on Case No. Z-25-1 and approve Ordinance No. 684. Motion carried, 3/0.

Financial Report – Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to approve the payment of the G.O. Bond in the amount of \$41,320.00 by ACH to the Kansas State Treasurer. Motion carried, 3/0.

Motion by Ruckle, second by Newell, to accept the financial report and pay the bills as presented. Motion carried, 3/0.

Adjournment – Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to adjourn. Motion carried, 3/0.

Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Senior Life Solutions at Kingman Healthcare Center Receives South Central Award of Merit

Jerika Francis, Program Director at Senior Life Solutions in Kingman, KS shared the program received a letter of merit and certificate from Governor Laura Kelly. The letter states that Senior Life Solutions is a South Central Award of Merit winner in the category of Healthcare/ Nonprofit for the 2025 To the Stars: Kansas Business Awards.

Governor Kelly and Lt. Governor David Toland wrote “Senior Life Solutions Kingman Healthcare Center was

nominated because you are creating job opportunities, products and services, innovating and diversifying the local marketplace, building community identity and so much more. You have made an impact in your community and that impact has been noticed.”

Senior Life Solutions offers group mental health therapy to people ages 65+. This valuable service has impacted and enhanced many lives in a very short time. Kingman Healthcare Center employs 150 fulltime staff and offers hundreds of services to the local area. KHC is a 25 bed, rural hospital with 24-hour emergency room, inpatient services, and two family practice clinic locations.

DAYDRINKERS CAFE INC

Cunningham KS 67035



121 E. First Street
Cunningham, Kansas

Hours:

Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Closed Thursday and Sunday
(620) 589-0001

A Column
by
Dean Marple

Grandma

Warm and fuzzy were not adjectives used to describe my grandmother. With two rocks in her apron pocket, she might have tipped the scales at one hundred pounds while she stood six feet minus eleven inches. A big woman she was not, but she made up for it with a sharp tongue that did a rattlesnake proud and a wagging finger that usually ended tucked under someone’s nose. Some people said my grandfather carefully pondered his words before speaking. Others just said he was scared.

But to my 9-year-old self, she was just grandma; the lady who taught me how to garden. A

smart gardener planted Kentucky Wonder bush beans instead of the Lazy Lady variety, because the time of summer that brought cold iced tea caught the Lady variety before it set a good crop. While others moaned about the damage cucumber beetles did to their cucumbers and melons, Grandma had few problems due to the trap crop of squash she planted around the garden edges about a week or two before she planted her cucumbers.

“But Grandma,” I’d say. “Why plant something the bugs are just going to eat?”

“Because mushed up squash tastes like crap, but a crunchy pickle is good eating,” she’d reply. Not being particularly fond of crap, I thought her answer made perfect sense.

But more than purple

beans or green cucumbers, Grandma’s pride and joy were her red tomatoes. By her side, I learned how to plant transplants deeply, how to prune indeterminate plants, and how accidentally stepping on a transplant resulted in Grandma’s use of the word damn in a whole new context. I previously thought it meant something beavers built.

Plant, hoe, sweat. It was dirty work, but for chin dribbling juice taste, well worth it. What variety! Little Tommy Toes that looked like toy tomatoes, big Mortgage Lifters with their story that saved a home, and Grandma’s favorite, the towering Brandywine tomatoes that she tied to eight-foot steel posts then enclosed in a cage of fencing wire. Those Brandywines were big, odd shaped, and heavy

for a 9-year-old picker.

“Grandma, I’m hot.”

“Quit complaining.”

“Grandma, I’m tired.”

“Keep picking.”

“Grandma, I’m thirsty.”

That last whine drew a death glare aimed in my direction, and I grew silent. However, I formed a plan born of desperation due to heat, bugs, and a lack of interest. Eating was not the only thing I could do with a tomato. Wicker basket by her side, Grandma had her back to me, bent over as she selected the tomatoes for canning. Shifting slightly in the afternoon breeze, the print pattern on her cotton dress made a tempting target. Unable to resist, I let fly with a small tomato.

The tomato sailed wide, and Grandma didn’t even know I threw it. Time to ramp up my game.

“Look out!” I yelled as I let fly with another red missile.

Hearing my shout, Grandma stood and turned just in time to introduce her forehead to one very juicy tomato. Pulp, seed, and juice trickled down her face, dripped off her nose, and covered the front of her dress. I thought I was dead. I could just feel a small blue-veined hand clamping down on one ear and marching me to the house where justice would be administered. Swiftly.

“You little bugger,” she sputtered, wiping tomato off her mouth. Then, to my amazement, she grinned, stooped down, grabbed a tomato, and fired it back at me.

“Yah, yah, you missed!” I taunted. “You throw like an old lady.”

“Old lady? You calling me an old lady? I’ll

show you how an old lady throws.” And she proceeded to bury a big, old Mortgage Lifter tomato in my right ear. It was on.

Younger and faster, I fired three cherry tomatoes to each one of the whoppers she was pitching. I threw; she hollered; she threw; I yelled. Soon we were pitching tomatoes as fast as we could and laughing with each toss. For a youngster, it was a chance to see a side of grandma I didn’t know existed. Love can be expressed in many different ways.

Little boys grow up and gardens grow over, but I still smile every time I pass the tomatoes in the market’s produce aisle. Maybe I duck a little, too.



Becoming Better People – Silent Manners

“Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others. If you have that awareness, you have good manners, no matter what fork you use.”

Emily Post

As humans, it can be said that we are a pretty sorry lot. Plagued by original sin, more often than not self-absorbed, and limited at times in our capacity to care for others, we can be rotten. In spite of our condition, can we become better people? Yes, we can. True and authentic

change can only come with divine intervention, but, in our own small ways, with our grubby little hands and tough leather hearts, we can improve. One way is through the cultivation of quiet habits and silent manners.

I’ve heard it said that you can judge the size of a person by the way they treat little people. I might revise this and say that you can judge the size of a person by the way they treat all people. In any case, the meaning here is this – you can easily evaluate the character of a person by how they treat those who can do nothing for them. Pondering character and the prospect of becoming a better person this week, here are some suggestions on how we can all become better people.

First off, it is assumed that we all know and practice the basics. We say please and thank you as appropriate. We chew our food with our mouths

closed. We avoid the use imperative sentences when possible - instead of “close that door” try “would you close the door?” But beyond these basics there is a plethora of actions to consider - silent manners we can employ. These are some of the most important...

Names – Use people’s names correctly and respectfully. Pay attention when you meet them. Listen to how they say their name. If you are unsure how to pronounce their name, ask. A person’s name is important to them. Considerate people get it right.

Eye Contact – While there are some cultures where eye contact is avoided, typically maintaining appropriate eye contact shows attentiveness and interest. Avoiding eye contact can show disinterest and disrespect. In casual situations, eye contact relates respect. In close personal and intimate relationships, eye contact fosters

emotional connection. In all situations, eye contact shows that you are present.

Smile – Mother Teresa once said, “Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.” The best people on this Earth smile often. It is one of the finest things you can do for others.

Greetings – When entering a room, or any social location, greet those you are meeting appropriately. This may require a verbal exchange and manly handshake. It may involve only visual recognition. The main point is to acknowledge others as a means of showing respect.

Talking – Our tongues sometimes cause the most conflict. Talking can be trouble, so consider your words before they spill from your mouth. Seek to be an active listener. Listen more than you talk. When speaking, don’t interrupt others.

Listen first and only enter conversations when there is room. Watch your tone of voice and facial expressions. And don’t be a loud talker. Strive to maintain a calm and easy conversational volume.

Phone Etiquette – If possible, minimize phone use anytime you are interacting with people in person. A focus on your phone when you are with others is rude and makes them feel unimportant. Be present. Put away your &@!\$*#%! phone.

Body Language - Pay attention to the nonverbal cues of those around you. Watch people’s eyes and body movement for communication clues. Give others ample room. Don’t invade their personal space.

Situational Awareness – Pay attention to what is going on around you. Be considerate of others at every opportunity. Hold doors, wait your turn, offer a seat to others when you can. Don’t block pathways (think

clogged grocery store aisles with baskets parked in the way). Be a better person and let folks get around you.

Mistakes & Corrections – Overlook the mistakes of others when possible. Don’t react. Seek to be gracious in every circumstance. And don’t correct others in public, especially your spouse. Any corrections need to be handled with grace in private – if at all.

Gratitude – Express sincere gratitude at every opportunity. The thoughtful person recognizes what has been done for them and consistently offers thanks, in word, deed, and action.

Patience – Exercise patience always. Impatience is caustic and damages relationships. Patience is the epitome of silent manners.

Let’s endeavor to be better people and practice these silent manners.


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Cunningham Hands of Hope, Inc.
Who: A Not-for-Profit (501c3) organization providing assistance through donations and volunteers.
Who we serve: Residents within the USD #332 school district
What: Food
When: First Tuesday of the month
2:00-5:00 p.m.
Where: 117 N Main (Old School Board Office)
Why: To provide food assistance to those in need.
How: Attend weekly distribution. Adult of household must be present.
Do you need assistance outside distribution hours?
Please call 620-770-9507 for immediate food assistance needs This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Check the Blessing Box east of the Methodist Church.
Anyone can give or take from the Blessing Box at any time.

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







Catholic Churches
Sacred Heart, Cunningham
Saturday 4:00 p.m.
St. Leo
Sunday 8:30 p.m.
Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627

St. John, Zenda
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
St. Peter Willowdale
Saturday 5:30 p.m.

620-246-5370




Lutheran Churches
First Sunday of the month service is at St. John; third Sunday of the month service is at Trinity
St. John, Nashville
620-246-5220
Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Trinity, Medicine Lodge
620- 886-3397
Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Pastor vacancy until further notice.




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

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



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



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

First Grade Thankfulness



I am thankful for God, playing with cats,
and Mom and Dad.
-Amara Prim

I am thankful for friends, Dad, and Mom.
-Maverick Schultz

I am thankful for the army, and God, and
Jesus.
-Tobias Lowe

I am thankful for God, Jesus, and turkey.
-Hank Ford

I am thankful for the air force, the whole
army, and military.
-Kruze Panek

I am thankful for Mom, and Dad, and my
dog.
-Huntleigh Newell

I'm thankful for Mom, Dad, and God.
-Paxton Miller

I am thankful for God, family, and dogs.
- Quinton Knepp

I am thankful for my family, God, and
Jesus.
-Riley Rominel

I'm thankful for Mom and
Dad, and God is good.
- Asher Beat

I'm thankful for God, angels, and Jesus.
-Bentley Oak

I am thankful for God, Jesus, and family.
-Troyer Vierthaler

I'm thankful for family, God, and friends.
- Tessa Dunlap

I am thankful for Mom, Dad, and dogs.
-Oakleigh Laws

I am thankful for God, Jesus, and water.
-Dean Mack



How to Catch a Turkey by 2nd Grade

I need a turkey for my belly. I need
corn, ropes, and a cage to catch it. I am
going to tie the ropes and the cage to-
gether. Then I will put the corn below
the cage. Don't worry, the cage and
the rope are hanging below the tree.
Then the turkey comes and gets trapped
in the cage. Then I take the turkey to
grandma to cook it so we can eat!

Trey Albers

I am in charge of catching the turkey
for our Thanksgiving dinner. I am going
out with my brother Kevin. We are taking
a shovel, string, hammer and putting the
string around the tree. The plan is to dig a
hole with the shovel, put the string around
the tree with leaves on top covering the
string. He will put corn around the hole to
make the turkey fall in. We will take the
turkey to grandpa for him to cook.

Chevy Cluchey

I need to catch a turkey. I will need
to use a net and a rope. Step one, I will
tie the rope to the net. Step two, I'll
hang it from a tree branch. Whenever
the turkey gets under the net I'll drop
the net. Then I'll take it to my grandma
to cook.

Romina Aguayo

I am in charge of getting the turkey.
I will put a big net on the ground and
put leaves on the ground. Then I will
tie the string to a tree. I will take the
Thanksgiving turkey to Ingrid to cook.

Emma Ruckle

Mom and I will charge off to get the
turkey this Thanksgiving to eat it up.
We will catch it in a cage. I will go
back home and mom will bake it up!

Aspen Hildreth

I am in charge of getting a turkey for
Thanksgiving. I will dig a hole and put
duct tape over the hole. I will try to get
the turkey stuck in tape. If the tape does
not work, the turkey will get trapped in
the hole. I will grab him. Then I will
bring the turkey to my mom to cook.

Jett Preisser

My mom sent me to catch the turkey
this Thanksgiving. I am going to dig
a hole and use a rope, rock, and net.
I am going to tie the rock to the rope
and tie the net to the rope. I am going
to put the rope over a tree and the net
will fall when I drop the rock when I
see the turkey. Then I will bring it to
my mom to cook.

Max Kernohan

My mom says I am in charge of get-
ting a turkey this year. I am going to
use a trap for the turkey. I am going to
try to let it fall in the trap. I am going
to take it to my mom and my mom is
going to cook it.

Carsyn Johnson

I am in charge of my Thanksgiving
turkey. I am going to get a trip wire and
dig a hole for the turkey to fall into. I
will grab it with a net and carry it to
grandma's house. I will bring it to my
grandma to cook.

Mason Osner

My mom said I have to catch the
turkey for Thanksgiving. I will tape a
net into the tree and wait and wait and
wait for the turkey. I caught it in the
net! I will take it to my mom to cook.

Kate Thimesch

Mom told me to get the turkey this
year. I am going to dig a hole so the
turkey will fall down in the hole and
get trapped. Then I will get a net to
bring it to mom. Then mom will cook
it on the grill.

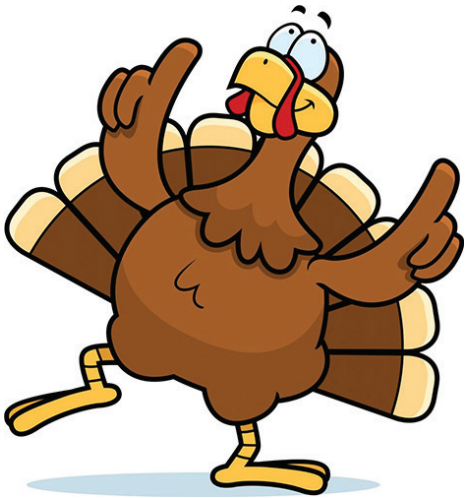
Breckyn Tyler

I am in charge of getting our turkey
for this year. I will dig a hole and wait
until it falls in. Then I am going to use
duct tape to cover its eyes and then grab
it and take it to my grandma to cook.

Tucker Henning

I am getting the turkey for
Thanksgiving dinner. I am going to
use a trap underground and wait for it
to fall in the trap. After that I will give
it to my mom. We will eat the turkey.

Kainen Barber



Junior High Cats Sizzle the Raiders

Argonia was the destination for the Junior High Wildcats on Monday, November 17. This was their 3rd game of the season already, and the Cats were hot! The Wildcats outscored the Raiders 16-4 in the opening quarter. They took high percentage shots, passed the ball well, played defense, and played the way we old folks believe the game should be played. By half, the result was pretty clear. The first quarter was not a fluke. We went into half time with a lead of 30-5. The Cats missed most of their shots in the 3rd but came back in the fourth with another big quarter to finish the game 49-15.

Brody went beast mode on the boards with 11. Landon G followed with. Casyn and Landon each had 3 steals. Landon H led with 3 assists. -Coach McGuire

Wildcat Scorers	
Brody Halderson	12
Cooper Neufeld	8
Landon Hageman	8
Bryce Simon	6
Casyn Miller	6
Landon Green	5
Jax Thimesch	2
Gage Dunn	2

Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	16	14	5	14	49
Argonia	4	3	2	6	15



Wildcat Sub-State Highlights



Upcoming Auctions

Saturday, Dec 6, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.
10422 SW 10th Ave, Pratt, KS

Monday, Dec 8, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.
Trucking Co Auction,
201 Simpson Street, Pratt

For more information and a complete list of auctions, see our website at www.hammauction.com

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Pratt, Kansas, 67124
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Sunday, December 7th

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at the Sharon School

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3:00 CHRISTMAS PARADE
2:30 line up at Sharon Coop for judging
Prizes for: Vintage Ride, Fun & Festive,
and Most Creative

Immediately After the Parade
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WATER WELL
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KITCHEN/BATH
SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, November 16	
Agency Assist / Reno Co	700 Blk S Main St, Kingman
Agency Assist / KHP / Fatality Accident	15000 Blk SE 20 St, Cheney
Non-Injury Accident	1000 Blk N Hwy 11, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	11000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Agency Assist / KHP	14000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Monday, November 17	
Agency Assist / KMPD / Miscellaneous	700 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist / KMPD / Disturbance	400 Blk N Douglas St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	N Hwy 15 & NE 20 St, Murdock
Traffic Complaint	18000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Traffic Complaint	11000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Non-Injury Accident	7500 Blk SE 150 Ave, Norwich
Agency Assist / KHP / Disabled Vehicle E Hwy 54 & NE 70 Ave, Kingman	
Tuesday, November 18	
Disabled Vehicle	NE 20 St & NE Waterloo Ave, Murdock
Court / Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Animal Complaint	14000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Fire / Grass	SE 120 St & SE 10 Ave, Spivey
Miscellaneous	300 Blk S Briairwood St, Norwich
Traffic Complaint	E Hwy 42 & SE 170 Ave, Norwich
Motor Assist	E Hwy 54 & NE 20 Ave, Kingman
Wednesday, November 19	
Civil Paper Service	1
Suspicious Vehicle	S Hwy 14 & SE 40 St, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	14000 Blk SW 90 Ave, Zenda
Transport Inmate	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Check Welfare	SW 70 St & SW 30 Ave, Spivey
Agency Assist / Reno Co	15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
Court / Inmates	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint / Non-Injury Accident16000 Blk W Hwy 53, Cunningham	
Theft of Services	100 Blk W Smalley Ave, Spivey
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Person	SE 20 St & SE 120 Ave, Murdock
Non-Injury Accident	E Hwy 54 & N Hwy 14, Murdock
Non-Injury Accident	5000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman



Pilgrims, Pies and Potatoes

Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

As far as holidays go, Thanksgiving is near the top. It’s not quite Christmas (exchanging gifts) or the Fourth of July (exploding gifts), but a day focused on what we’re grateful for is a reminder we should be thankful the rest of the year as well. Plus, you know, all the food.

I’m fortunate to have all the usual appreciations for my family, friends and good health. The complaints I have are minor compared to the circumstances surrounding the first Thanksgiving.

The harvest feast of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Mass., in 1621 is regarded as the first celebra-

tion of Thanksgiving, though there’s as much myth about the event as fact. What most accounts agree on is there was a celebration with food sometime in the fall. There might have been turkey, but few of the other foods commonly found on tables today existed.

There were no potatoes to mash, the first one having arrived in the same year as the feast but it was several hundred miles away in Virginia. Flour, sugar and butter weren’t available either so pies were out. And football had yet to be invented so it’s impossible to say what they argued about after eating.

Strip away all of the grade-school folklore we learned about the first Thanksgiving and the story provides an even deeper reason to be grateful today. The Pilgrim’s celebration was for a good harvest after a bru-

tal first year. The abundant harvest meant the coming winter would be only slightly less harsh.

These are worries most of us can’t fathom today. There was little recourse for the Pilgrims if those first crops had failed. Today, access to food is something we can improve on, but it’s an issue of allocation rather than the existence of food.

We should all give thanks for all the ways the world has drastically changed — mostly for the better — in the last 400 years. By conservative estimates, it cost nearly \$4,000 per passenger in today’s dollars and the voyage across the Atlantic took 66 days.

Today anyone with \$500 and half a day to spare can make the same trip. Compared to the Pilgrims, we’re time travelers with everyday comforts and conveniences so opulent our ancestors

couldn’t have imagined.

No amount of money in 1621 could have purchased most of the luxuries we treat as commodities in our homes. We create light with the flip of a switch. We turn a dial and control the climate. We lift a lever, and hot water pours out of the faucet.

Despite our material magnificence, we still seem to find plenty of things to complain about both petty and serious. It’s worth considering that contrast when we sit down with family and friends, whether it’s celebrating Thanksgiving or just getting together to catch up.

I’m grateful for the quality of life we have today, especially compared to the standards of the Pilgrims. I also hope at some point in the next century or two, our descendants view our living standards with

both fascination and pity because today’s luxuries become tomorrow’s necessities. Just like adding pies and mashed potatoes to Thanksgiving made it that much better.

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Statepoint Crossword

Theme: Happy Holidays

CROSSWORD

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59					60				61		
62					63				64		

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- ACROSS
1. Shapeless form

5. Hot springs resort

8. Not square

11. Private theater box

12. Relating to ear

13. Rome's Colosseum, e.g.

15. I ____ you so!

16. *The opposite of a store the day before Christmas?

17. *"Auld Lang Syne" poet

18. *Partridge's perch (2 words)

20. Vegas numbers

21. New Zealand's indigenous people

22. Fuss

23. Tabby's favorite herb

26. More so than swell

30. Big-headedness

31. Resembling an ape

34. John Wayne Gacy's ____ the Clown

35. Photographer Dorothea of "Migrant Mother" fame

37. Type or kind

38. Like a sheep after a haircut

39. D'Artagnan's weapon of choice

40. Superlative of #33 Down

42. U.S. central bank

43. Wilma and Fred's hometown

45. *Latke's main ingredient

47. Word of possibility

48. Turning token taker

50. Exclamation of sorrow

52. *____ Odbody of "It's a Wonderful Life"

55. Raspberry drupelets
56. Saintly glow

57. Letter opener

59. Hunts for food

60. Banana leftover

61. Guesstimate phrase

62. *Color on a Kwanzaa flag

63. Not divisible by two

64. Scholarship criterion
- DOWN
1. Deli acronym

2. Chicago's central district, with The

3. Gawk at

4. Wish harm upon, arch.

5. One of The Beatles

6. Pileus, pl.

7. "The Road Runner" corporation

8. Group of cows

9. Bed-and-breakfast alternative, pl.

10. *"The Nutcracker" step

12. Certain cephalopod, pl.

13. It's sometimes humble

14. *Chuck Berry's "Run, ____, Run"

19. Reason to strike

22. Grass bristle

23. Famous one, slangily

24. Open-mouthed

25. Like a well-defined muscle

26. Hot alcoholic beverage

27. Washing sponge

28. Type of heron

29. Rondeau, alt. sp.

32. *Santa's beverage of choice

33. Not well

36. *Original home of Christmas tannenbaum

38. Fur shawl

40. Extremely unfriendly

41. Plane trick

44. Reprieve in a desert

46. Muscle to bone connector

48. Skidded

49. Weighed

50. 4,840 square yards

51. Told an untruth

52. Head of family

53. Wrap in waxy cloth

54. Comfort

55. Financing acronym

58. Stewart of "Maggie May" fame

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<div>Kingman County Commission Minutes</div> <div>Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. November 17, 2025, 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: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader Courier; Dale Enyart; Christy Crews; Vanessa Gallego Online Visitors: Caller 01; AS Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; Amanda Stucky, Zoning Director; Amber Hartley, Appraiser and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works director</div>	<div>Chairwoman Lyon asked if there were any additions to the agenda. No additions to the agenda. MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote. Christy Crews gave a brief update to the Commissioners on grants. Jamie Smith, County Treasurer gave the Commissioners an update that the Tax Sale is set for December 3 @ 1:00 p.m. in the County Commission Room. Ms. Smith let the Commissioners know that the tax statements will be going out this week and the due date is normally on December 20th but this year it falls on a weekend so you will have until December 22nd, 2025, to pay the first half. Ms. Smith discussed that with the pennies ending production there may be a change at some point needed with a Resolution.</div>	<div>Ms. Smith asked if her employees could work overtime during the tax season if needed. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve overtime for the Treasurer’s office for tax season. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote. Ms. Smith let the Commissioners know that Chris Biel from Reach IT was in last week to go over what they have been doing and discussed plans for the future. Ms. Smith discussed INA alert and having training for the doors. Ms. Smith discussed that deposits not coded correctly will be rejected and returned to the departments. LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in with a renewal Contract for AdamsBrown, LLC for auditing services 2025 through 2027. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve using AdamsBrown, LLC for 2025,2026 & 2027 auditing services.</div>	<div>Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote. Ms. Stegman reviewed the October Financials with the County Commissioners. Ms. Stegman discussed the Pilot payments that will be coming in by the end of the year and the new Flat Ridge 4 and 5 partial payment this year. The partial payment will need to be decided where it will need to be placed once received. Amanda Stucky, Zoning Director was in with a Resolution 2025-R17 Change of zoning. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Resolution 2025-R17. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion approved with a 3-0 vote. Ms. Stucky had Ms. Keimig present a proposal for having a permit program for wastewater and zoning permits. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Young moved to go into executive session at 9:54</div>	<div>a.m. with Amber Hartley, Appraiser and Brandon Ritcha, Counselor to discuss an individual employee’s evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:04 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote. Commissioners returned to return to regular session at 10:04 a.m. with no action taken. Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with a right-a-way permit for the following: Cox Communications Underground Cable Crossing-Jewell Ave in Section 29, Township 27, Range 07 (White). Mr. Arensdorf submitted the October Financial Report for the Public Works Department for the Commissioners review. Mr. Arensdorf submitted the Lease Purchase Agreement for the 2024 John Deere 6130M Cab Tractor in the amount of</div>	<div>\$143,500.00. Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the minutes of the County Commissioners meeting on November 10, 2025, and the Board of County Canvassers Meeting minutes November 17, 2025. MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve minutes of the Board of County Canvassers meeting November 10, 2025. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote. MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the minutes of the Board of County Commissioner meeting as amended. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.</div>
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<div>Pratt County Commission Minutes for November 3</div> <div>The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 3, 2025 at 2:00 pm in the Commissioner Room, pt floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Tricia Clark, Deputy County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director. Economic Development Update -Heather Morgan State Incentive Transparency Program Heather stated she is waiting on the required information from the appraiser to get the incentive spreadsheet submitted by November 11th. Sawyer Gas Line Heather reported the KCC contacted her requesting a status update on the KGS contract for the City of Sawyer, which has not yet been received. Heather followed up with Representative Hoffman last week regarding the delay. Heather emphasized the urgency of finalizing the contract, as winter donation may</div>	<div>soon prevent construction from proceeding. Chamber of Commerce Update Heather announced Ashley Smith, Director of the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce, has resigned effective December 1st. Heather and Chase spoke regarding short term and long term plans following Smith’s departure. Pratt Area Economic Development Corporation (PAEDC) The meeting PAEDC meeting aims to approve a Pitchbook for Pratt and will provide information for potential business investors. Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) Funding Changes Heather informed the group of a proposed change by KDOC in how Community Corrections funding is allocated. The allocation process is likely on hold due to objections and further monitoring during the upcoming legislative session is needed. Pratt Regional Medical Center Update Fiscal Year End Report Tammy Smith and Tonya Powell presented the fiscal year end finance report. Final financials will be presented for approval at the November</div>	<div>24th Board Meeting, after which they will be sent to the County. Preliminary results of the Audit appear positive, aided by the Employee Retention Credit funds received. The Audit is expected to be complete by February or March. Pratt Family Practice Remodel Request Pratt Family Practice has requested a remodel of their leased space to create additional room for three new physician providers, The remodel will be entirely funded by Pratt Family Practice, not by taxpayers. Pratt Family Practice has requested a 99-year lease due to their investment. Further review is needed on the approval process and procedural order since the county owns the entire building footprint, including the east complex. Financial Recovery Assistance Request A prepared statement summarizing PRMC’s financial condition and options for recovery was presented. Financial recovery efforts have been ongoing for nearly one year and have made significant progress. Accounts Payable has been reduced by 33% in ninth months, operating margins are up by 9%</div>	<div>but additional financial measures are required to ensure the hospital’s ongoing viability. Proposed options include county-backed financing in the amount of \$15 million, a non-repayable donation of \$8 million, Sales Tax Assistance, Merger, acquisition, or management agreements with a larger health system and as a last resort bankruptcy would be considered. Expedited County action was requested due to the urgency of the financial situation. Commissioners acknowledged the severity of the issues but raised concerns. The county does not have sufficient funds for an \$8 million donation, Sales Tax would require voter approval, which is time-consuming and unlikely to provide sufficient funds and questions were raised about the legality and process for the County to guarantee a loan. The commissioners will consult the bond counsel to clarify what assets are tied to existing hospital bonds, look into the legal feasibility of the county providing backing or support for PRMC borrowing, look into forming a working group and potentially additional legal counsel for both parties and</div>	<div>will report back publicly once options are vetted. Commissioners expressed appreciation for PRMC’s transparency and acknowledged the difficulty of the situation. Council on Aging Personnel Request & Sign Certificates Tara Pagenkopf Motion to hire Dedra Koehn for part-time Bus Driver at \$10.40/hr made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Motion to sign certification assurances, letter of support for the 5311 Grant, and updated Title 6 Plan made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion passed 3-0. Kirkham Michael Change Order Doug Freund presented a change order for the overlay project which came in \$39,219.50 under budget for a revised amount of \$447,078.40. Motion to approve the change order for Kirkham Michael made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Bridge Right of way Update - Doug Freund Motion to make an offer of \$1,000.00</div>	<div>for right of way for a bridge project made by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0. Noxious Weed Personnel Request Motion to hire Cody Scherer Part-Time at \$14/hr made by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded 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, Bid Requirements for the Courthouse and to discuss the Presentation PRMC brought in for 30 minutes at 2:58 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:24 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of October 27, 2025. Commissioners unanimously approved vouchers for November 3, 2025. Meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.</div>
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<div>Pratt County Commission Minutes for November 10 Including Election Canvassing</div> <div>The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 10, 2025 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</div>	<div>Director. Economic Development Update -Heather Morgan Sawyer Gas Project Heather reported the contract from KGS was received on Friday afternoon. She recommended the City of Sawyer send the agreement to their council to review. The total estimated cost is \$1.4 million. There is approximately a \$426,000 shortfall of available funds that can be addressed by KGS negotiating with the KCC to recover fees, there is also a 33% contingency that may not be needed that would help as well. Kansas Department of Commerce Incentive Program</div>	<div>Heather received the necessary information from DJ to complete the form. The form is excessively complex and requires manual input. Heather recommended if future programs are approved, they should be much simpler. PAEDC Update The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, where they plan to discuss transitional details related to Ashley moving on. Insurance Renewal Scott Strong, Willie Jones and RJ Meyer presented the commissioners with renewal information. Scott will be retiring next year and would like the transition with RJ to go smooth. Due</div>	<div>to major storm losses across the US money is being spent leading insurance companies to raise rates and alter retention schedules. The courthouse building’s blanket policy is moving to a 1% of building value instead of a flat deductible rate. Travelers’ insurance will be meeting with the Sheriff’s Dept and Clerk’s off as well to help facilitate a quote. Recycle Center Personnel Request Motion to hire Carl Stremmel for \$17 /hr for the Recycling Center made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Road Department Update</div>	<div>Doug Freund presented final billing for the overlay project on the Ethanol Road. Motion to approve the final payment to Heft and Sons in the amount of \$447,778.44 made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Doug also informed the Board that Kirkham Michael’s contract had an overage because they were out more days than expected. That amount is \$2,560.53. Commissioners agreed to the overage and asked that the final invoice be submitted for approval. Appraiser Tech Request DJ McMurry present-</div>	<div>ed a quote for new field laptops. They no longer support Windows. Motion to approve DJ to spend up to \$3,000 for replacement field laptops made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0. Preston Building Concerns Ken Stanton, Preston City Mayor, presented an urgent water and property issue. Preston is losing about 8,000 gallons of water per day due to a difficult to locate leak from a vacant building. The property owner refused to grant the city access to the building. They</div>
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(con't on page 10)

Effective October 1, 2024: Ads are \$6.50 per column inch. Front page ads are \$11.00 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.

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JoAnn Rinke

JoAnn Elizabeth Rinke, 90, passed away Friday, November 21, 2025 at Hilltop Manor in Cunningham. She was born on August 30, 1935 in Nashville to Albert Francis and Mary Catherine (Gillen) Ricke. JoAnn married Charles Frank Rinke on July 8, 1953 in Sharon. He preceded her in death on August 27, 2021.



JoAnn graduated from Sharon High School in 1953. She was co-owner of Rinke Office Products. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pilot Club, Altar Society, Daughters of Isabella and was a part of a sewing circle. She enjoyed sewing, quilting, bowling, golfing and spending time with all the family. She is survived by her children, Teri (Larry) Crockett of Udall, Greg (Julie) Rinke of Lawrence, Linda (Mark) Kumberg of Pratt and Ann (Mark) Greathouse of Lee’s Summit, Missouri; siblings, Delmar (Bev) Ricke of Harper, Ken Ricke of Attica, Lou (Nancy) Ricke of Woodstock, Georgia, Steve Ricke of Wichita, Kathy (Joe) Hart of Amarillo, Texas, Ron (Sheila) Ricke of Sharon, Jan Feld of Garden City and Dorene Reeves of Pratt; sisters in-law, Theresa Ricke of Harper and Carol Ricke of Medicine Lodge; grandchildren, Tracy (Jon) Statton, Carla (Adam) Riopel, Stacy (Dick McCumber) Kumberg, Kirsten (Brycen) Byrd, Cole (Emily) Kumberg, Isaac (Stacey) Rinke, Grace (Luciano) Fasani, Kaitlynn (Joshua) Bailey and Helen Loeffelholz; and 15 great-grandchildren with another on the way.

JoAnn is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Charles Rinke; siblings, Phyllis Davis, Betty Lantzy, Carolyn Hrencher, Ruth Blick, Tom Ricke, Randy Ricke and Jerry Ricke.

Mass of Christian Burial was November 26, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pratt with Father Charles Atuah presiding. Burial followed at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Pilot Club or Pratt Food Bank.

Myrna Hensiek

Myrna Joyce Hensiek, 87, died Nov. 14, 2025, in Wichita.

She was born July 3, 1938, in Nashville, Kansas, the daughter of William and Goldie Laverentz Hensiek. A lifetime resident of the Nashville community, she was a former babysitter and house cleaner for twenty-seven years in Kingman.



Myrna was a member of the St. John Lutheran Church, Nashville.

She is survived by two brothers Delbert and Galen; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; and brothers Darrell and Duane.

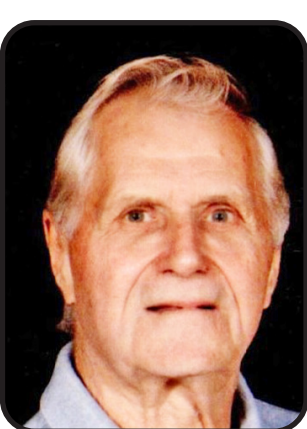
Funeral services were Monday, Nov. 24, 2025, at St. John Lutheran Church in Nashville. Burial was at the St. John Lutheran Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the St. John Lutheran Church.

(editor's note: Myrna's obituary is being run again, with a correction.)

Earl Knoblauch

Earl Paul Knoblauch of Kingman passed away peacefully on November 24, 2025, at the age of 85. He was born on May 13, 1940, to Marguerite and Henry Knoblauch in St. Mark, Kansas. Earl graduated from Andale High School, after which he served honorably in the United States Army. Following his discharge, he worked for various employers before settling at the Don Dye Company in Kingman, Kansas, where he eventually retired.



On May 21, 1966, he married Marilyn Winter in Schulte, Kansas. Other survivors include his sons Gary and Mark (Denise) and daughter Brenda (Tony) Gormley, along with nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers Leroy, Ronnie, and Wayne, and his sister Elaine Martin. He was preceded in death by an infant sister, Edna.

Earl was a devout Catholic and a member of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. He cherished his time outdoors, particularly during bowhunting season.

A Parish Rosary will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 1, at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Kingman, followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. The family will receive friends from 4:00–6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 30, 2025, at Livingston Funeral Home in Kingman. Graveside services will be at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 1, at St. Peter Cemetery in Schulte, Kansas.

Memorials may be made to St. Patrick’s Grade School in care of Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman, KS 67068.

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- South Barber Ministerial Alliance – The Food Bank
- Toys for Tots – Pratt Harper Ministerial Association – Harper Angel Tree
- Anthony Ministerial Association – Food Bank Cunningham – Hands of Hope
- Attica Angel Tree

“These organizations embody the true spirit of giving,” said SCTelcom Marketing Director Wendy Crenner. “We’re honored to stand alongside them and help spread kindness throughout our communities.”





Cassidy Brown of SCTelcom presenting a check to Tiffany Pettit of Nu Epsilon of Medicine Lodge Angel Tree.

Mark Fillmore with South Barber Ministerial Alliance

Jeri’s

I realize I’m giving Jeri’s in Kingman a free shout out but since one of the owners is a former grade school student of mine I’m OK with that.

There were two gatherings at Jeri’s last week I’d like to tell you about. The Kingman County Democrats hosted Democratic Governor Candidate Cindy Holscher on Wednesday evening the 19th. Cindy informed the 20 people present about her extensive experience in both the Kansas State House and the Kansas State Senate. She stated that Kansas will be having a State Primary as there are many candidates for all the State positions in the 2026 election. She also stated that she was the most experienced person running for the Governor

position.

Cindy was in Kingman for 1 hour as she was headed to Pratt to speak to a group there. She also mentioned that this was the 60th town hall or meeting that she has attended since announcing her run last July. This is the second visit to Kingman County as she was present at our Democracy Picnic in Cunningham in July.

A second gathering also happened at Jeri’s last Saturday morning.

A new group called Leading Kansas met Saturday morning at 9 a.m. The group formed last March and are an apolitical group, meaning they embrace no political party. Leading Kansas stresses accountability of our elected officials.

What is best for all Kansans was often discussed. A member of the Kingman City Council was present and Noah, the leader of the Leading Kansas group, quizzed him about what was needed in the City of Kingman. The Leading Kansas group having been formed only since last March already has more than 7,000 members. Their membership doesn’t choose to belong to any of the organized political parties but just encourages good governance from all elected officials and what is best for Kansans.

-Alan Albers-

