

# The Cunningham Courier

\$1.00

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photo taken by Dan Frick

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Volume 29 Number 8

Thursday, February 21, 2019

## City Council met January 28<sup>th</sup>

submitted by Dave Steffen, City Clerk  
The Cunningham City Council met Monday, January 28, 2019 at City Hall, 119 N. Main. Present were Mayor Aaron Murphy, Council Members Karl Vierthaler, Matt Westerhaus, Jason Ruckle, and Bart Rieke; City Attorney Greg Graffman; City Superintendent Tim Strickland, and City Clerk David Steffen. Guests included Harold Stark and Alan Albers.

Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Council approved the agenda as written and approved the minutes of the December 26, 2018 meeting as written.

Alan Albers requested the City replace approximately thirty feet of side-

walk east of the 4C daycare center on the north side of east Third Street from the alley east. The Council approved the request.

Albers also asked the Council to consider closing Wisconsin Street east of First Street, which currently serves as his driveway. The Council took no action at this time.

Consensus of the Council was to deny a resident's request for the City to pay a sewer service line cleaning charge.

Harold Stark gave the Fire Department report. In January the Fire Department was called to a chimney fire southwest of Penalosa. Eight volunteers responded. Other activities in January included a safety meeting hosted by Skyland Grain. Progress continues on new fire truck with the bed painted

and the water tank ordered. Southern Pioneer will set a pole for a communications antenna. Truck 325, the 2010 Ford F350 brush truck, was in the shop for ignition coils and spark plugs. The 2019 ISO (Insurance Services Offices) Report was included in the council members' packets and is attached to the minutes. A copy of the ISO Report is available at City Hall or on the city website, [www.cunninghamks.net](http://www.cunninghamks.net) under the "Government" tab.

Water Well No. 3 – The engineer is working on the final plan for the water well and the chemical rooms to be added to the existing well houses.

Sewer Maintenance agreement – The City received two proposals, one from Utility Maintenance Contractors and one from Mayer Specialty Services. After review and discussion, the Council

approved a motion to accept Mayer's proposal for a two-year contract for sewer maintenance covering the years 2019 – 2020.

2018 Audit – The City received a proposal from ATC Accounting for the 2018 Audit of the city's financial records for the year ending December 31, 2018. The Council approved a motion to accept the proposal for the audit.

Streets – Discussion included Leiter Avenue and the need for a base of rock or crushed concrete for the road. Consensus of the Council was to obtain information to develop a Request for Proposals.

Following departmental reports and the financial report, the Council approved payment of bills and a motion to adjourn. Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

## City Council will meet Monday

submitted by Dave Steffen, City Clerk  
The Cunningham City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m., Monday, February 25, 2019 at City Hall, 119 N. Main in Cunningham.

Included on the agenda in addition to regular business, the Council will hear a Fire Department report, including progress on the construction of the new truck.

The Council will receive a progress report on Water Well No. 3.

Water rates and sewer rates will be discussed with a financial report on each utility to be included.

The governing body will discuss streets, including resealing of existing pavement, needed repairs and upgrades, as well as long range plans to be included in the discussion.

The Swimming Pool is on the agenda. Maintenance, repairs, staffing and personnel are included.

The Council will consider a GAAP Waiver resolution for 2019.

The Council will review and consider updating the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

An executive session for personnel matters is on the agenda, if needed.

Department reports will be followed by a financial report and consideration of the bills.

Cunningham City Council meetings are open to the public. For special needs considerations or more information, contact the City Clerk at (620) 298-3077 or email [clerk67035@gmail.com](mailto:clerk67035@gmail.com)



## The Future of Football in Cunningham Schools

All community members interested in discussing the future of the Cunningham football program are invited to join the discussion on March 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Lunch Room of the High School. All parents of boys ages Kindergarten-11th grade are encouraged to attend, as well as all community members interested in the future of Wildcat football. Topics to be discussed are:

-Continuing to consolidate with Kingman Football

-The future success of Cunningham students merging with Kingman

-Bringing the Cunningham football program back with modifications

-Discussions with current 6 man football programs



## Pets

There have been a couple of kitties who have disappeared in our town. From past experience, I think we need to check our out-buildings, sheds, and detached garages on occasion. Cats are curious creatures and a slightly open door is an opportunity to explore, and if you are a stranger, they probably won't tell you they are in there, they will just hide from you.

And, once again, I would ask owners to spay and neuter pets. It is better for them, you, and your neighbors.

I have had two male cats show up in my neck of the woods. They are marking my doors, my windows and my car. They are not mine, but they are someone's pets. And there are few odors worse than that of a tom cat who has marked his territory.

Spay and neuter, please. This is National Spay and Neuter Month and many vets give discounts for this service. (check out the ad on the back page).

## Breakfast Served at Sacred Heart Church



Aimee Ogg took some photos of the food, the cooks, and the diners at the church's breakfast gathering last week.



Above: Diana Wegerer, Todd Shelman, Bob and Margie Sterneker make scrambled eggs. Emily Ogg and Jeanne Theis are pictured in the background



Jeanne and Sam Theis cook up some fine looking scrambled eggs.

**CATHOLIC Masses**

**St. Leo**  
Saturday, February 23, 2019  
5:30 p.m.

**St. John's, Zenda**  
Saturday, February 23, 2019  
4:00 p.m.

**Sacred Heart, Cunningham**  
Sunday, February 24, 2019  
8:30 a.m.

**St. Peter's, Willowdale**  
Sunday, February 24, 2019  
10:00 p.m.

Fr. Roger Lumbre  
620-243-5451  
620-298-2601  
620-246-5370

**CHURCH OF CHRIST Penalosa**

Sunday Bible Class  
10:00 a.m.

Worship  
11:00 a.m.

Afternoon Worship  
1:30 at Penalosa Community Center

Mid-Week Bible Study  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
620-532-2684

**CHRISTIAN Cunningham**

Sunday School  
9:30 a.m.

Worship  
10:45 a.m.

Bible Study  
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Mike McGovney  
620-298-3201  
620-770-9507

**LUTHERAN St. John's Nashville**

Worship Service  
8:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Bible Class  
9:45 a.m.

**Trinity Medicine Lodge**  
Sunday School & Bible Class  
9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship  
10:30 a.m.  
620-656-7431

Pastor Dennis Fangmeyer  
620-246-5220  
Cell: 620-886-0911

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Penalosa**  
Worship  
9:15 a.m.

**Cunningham**  
Sunday School  
9:45 a.m.  
Worship 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Katelyn Zoglmann  
620-298-2090  
Office Hours:  
Tuesdays:  
9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Zenda**  
101 N. Main  
Sunday Worship  
9 a.m.  
Sunday School:  
Children 8:30 a.m.  
Adult 10:00 a.m.  
(3rd Sunday of each month breakfast fellowship at: 8:30 a.m.)  
(United Methodist Women meet the 1st Tues. monthly: 6:30 p.m.)  
Pastor Ken Keeling

**Community Bulletin Board**

Thursday, February 22nd  
HS Men's BB Regional Tournament

Tuesday, February 26th  
Novice Forensics at Greensburg

Saturday, February 23rd  
HS BB Regional Finals

Wednesday February 27th  
Book Club  
"Year of Wonders" by Geradine Brooks at Mary Oller's home

Monday, February 25th  
Academic Olympics

February 25th 6:30  
City Council meets

Thursday, February 28th  
HS Ladies' Sub-State Tournament begins

February 25th 10:00 a.m.  
Farmers' Spring Crop Update Meeting

Friday, March 1st,  
Men's Sub-State Tournament Begins

February 25th 12:30 p.m.  
Ross Janssen Presentation at Community Center Community Welcome

March 1st  
End of 3rd Quarter 1:30 school dismiss

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

**FEBRUARY 22ND - 24TH, 2019**

**HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD**  
RATED PG  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 7:30 P.M.  
SUNDAY 5:30 P.M.  
ALL SEATS \$6.00

**FEBRUARY 28TH**

**FREE THROWBACK THURSDAY MOVIE**  
**SIXTEEN CANDLES**  
RATED PG-13  
SHOWTIME 6:30; DOORS OPEN AT 5:30

SPONSORED BY CLEO'S

**The Ninnescah Valley Bank is currently accepting donations to help with medical expenses for Jerry Glenn.**

**Fundraisers and Charitable Contributions in our Community**

**Community Center** (leave donation at the bank)

**Cunningham Public Libaray**

**4C Day Care** smile.amazon.com  
(Kathy Albers 620-298-2725 or 620-388-0774)

**West Kingman County Education Foundation**  
Use your Dillon's Card! Shop smile.amazon.com  
(Janet DeWeese 620-298-2717)

**Hands of Hope** (contact Fitzsimmons Insurance or any church)

**Cunningham Schools** Box Tops for Education

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

**Thanks for recycling**  
**The Courier on February 25th March 11th March 25th**



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**Fitzsimmons INSURANCE**

**Attention Farmers:**

**Spring Crop Update Meeting**  
**Monday, February 25th**  
**Cunningham Community Center at 10:00 a.m.**

**Lunch Provided for farmers and spouses**

**Please call Fitzsimmons Insurance to r.s.v.p. 6202985291**

**YEARS AGO IN The Cunningham Clipper**  
W. A. BRADLEY, EDITOR

**Feb. 20, 1969**—Johnny Shelman, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Shelman, suffered the loss of the third and fourth fingers on his left hand in an accident at the grade school shortly after noon last Thursday.

Mrs. Peryl Dafforn, 82, mother of Francis Dafforn, and a resident of Cunningham for over 35 years, died early Wednesday morning.

A large and appreciative audience enjoyed the band concert in the school gym-auditorium last Sunday afternoon.

Charles Yingling, instrumental music instructor, presented his 46-piece high school band, the 27-piece grade school band, and the junior high combo in a program of varied music. He was assisted by Student Conductors Rogene Cooley and Kris Sheldon.

Accuracy from the free-throw line paid off for the Cunningham Wildcats here last Friday night as they downed Mullinville, 55 to 45, in a non-league game.

Mullinville outscored Cunningham in field goals, 18 to 15, but the Wildcats made 25 free throws to Mullinville's 9 to register the victory.

Marvin Oller paced the Cunningham scoring attack with 21 points, 11 of them free throws.

**Feb. 20, 1964** — The Wildcats won their last home game of the season last Friday night, turning back the Alden Tigers, 51 to 47, in a Ninnescah League game.

Cunningham used a balanced scoring attack — Gerald Schnittker's 13 points, Elmer Adelhardt's 12, and Jim Cain's 11 — to maintain a steady advantage throughout the game.

A young driver on his first trip "under the wheel," jack-knifed and over-turned a cattle truck on the Ninnescah River bridge, three miles east of Cunningham about 3:00 o'clock early last Thursday morning.

The driver, Willie Ashley, 21, of Canyon, Tex., escaped injury, but 15 head of cattle were killed in the accident.

Approximately three inches of wet snow fell in the Cunningham area last Saturday morning. The snow quickly vanished, but perhaps a half-inch of moisture could be realized from its fall.

The Kingman County Planning Board on School Unification has decided to present a two-district plan to school patrons for the June 2 election.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo W. Mertens of Cunningham, announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their

**Attention Community**  
Fitzsimmons Insurance Agency would like to invite you to hear KWCH Meteorologist, **Ross Janssen** on **February 25th** at 12:30 at the Cunningham Community Center

daughter, Helen Jane, to Robert Lynn Meyers, son of Mr. and Mrs. August E. Meyers, also of Cunningham. Both are graduates of Cunningham Rural High School. Miss Mertens is presently employed with the Kingman County ASCS Office, and Mr. Meyers is attending Pratt County College. A June wedding is planned by the couple.

**Feb. 19, 1959** — Members of the Cunningham 4-H Club participated in the annual Kingman County 4-H Club Day at Kingman last Saturday.

Debby Sheldon received a blue ribbon for her demonstration on packing a picnic basket, and Rollin Dillinger was awarded a red ribbon for his demonstration on squaring a board.

The club's girls trio, Debby Sheldon, Mary Cusenbary, and Norma Greenlee, received a top blue ribbon in the musical division and will be eligible to participate in the Regional 4-H Club Day at Pratt, Saturday, Feb. 28. Mrs. Bill Bradley accompanied the trio.

The Cunningham club also received a red ribbon for their rhythm game. Members of the group were Norma Greenlee, Debby Sheldon, Mary Cusenbary, Carolyn Witt, Sue Hellar, Kathy Bainum, Trudy Boswell,

*continued on page 3*

**Isabel American Legion to hold Pancake Supper**



Isabel's Lorraine American Legion Post 98 will be hosting a pancake supper on March 2nd. They will serve pancakes and other breakfast items from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. The address for the hall is 201 North Main Street.

Free will offerings will be accepted. All donations will go to benefit disabled veterans' programs.

**Museum Winter Hours**



The museum will NOT have regular hours in the winter.

If you wish to tour the facility, please contact **Donna Glenn** at **620-388-5602**

The Cunningham Courier  
PO Box 38  
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**YEARS AGO**

CONT' FROM PAGE 2

Gladys Voss, Sidney Boyd, Jerry Pelzl, Joel Pelzl, Randy Sheldon, Rollin Dillinger, Bobby Witt, Mike Hutchison, Monte Rose, and Ronald Murphey.

**Feb. 18, 1954** – Roy Ellis will open the Ellis Derby Station this Saturday. Mr. Ellis was formerly employed by the Skelly Oil Company at the local gasoline plant, but was laid off during the recent "bumping" action brought on by the closing of the Lyman, Okla. gasoline plant. We are glad to see the station re-open, and Cunningham wishes Mr. Ellis success in this venture.

Officials of the newly-organized Reno Telephone Association, Inc., informed a large representative crowd of Cunningham and community attending at a meeting in the High School auditorium, Tuesday evening, that their company intends to purchase the franchise of the Western Light & Telephone Company, Inc. telephone exchange in Cunningham and will install a dial telephone system within the next two years.

A raging pasture fire, fanned by Sunday afternoon's high winds, swept across a two-mile stretch, two miles north of town, threatening several farm homes in that area. Volunteer firemen and neighbors gathered quickly and started backfires and plowing and finally extinguished the flames before any serious damage was done. The fire started in the Roy McNamee pasture, located on the two-mile section road north of Cunningham, and burned through about two miles of pasture land, almost reaching the George Gridley farm home on the four-mile section road.

Carl Poland moved a five-room house from the Pretty Prairie neighborhood to Cunningham, Wednesday. He located it on his property to the rear of Dr. D. E. Thompson's Dental Office.

**Feb. 18, 1949** – Wedding vows for Miss Florine Stillwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Stillwell of Cunningham, and Leroy Kampling, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kampling, also of Cunningham, were read Thursday morning at 10:30 o'clock, February 10, in the Sacred Heart church in Cunningham. Rev. Irvin F. Lampe, pastor of the church, officiated.

For the eighth consecutive year the Cunningham Wildcats have won the annual Kingman County League Tournament.

The eighth time came when the Wildcats defeated the Norwich Eagles, 26 to 23, in the finals of the tournament held in the Kingman high school gym.

Cunningham will have a new \$116,000 grade school.

Contracts were recently let for the six-room building.

The general contract went to N. F. English Construction Company of Hutchinson. Louis Guinn of Wichita received the heating and plumbing contract, and the wiring will be installed by the Butters Electrical Company of Wichita.

The building will be constructed of brick, with stone trimming, and will be erected west of the present school building.

**1944** – Publication suspended for the duration of the war.

**Feb. 17, 1939** – Cunningham was defeated by Zenda last Friday night on the local court by

a score of 25 to 21.

Offensive star for the Wildcatters was Donald Huhman who made ten points. Delbert Schwartz was next high for the locals with six points.

Smith was the Zenda quintet's shining light, almost half of his team's points were hung up by the red-haired gentleman. Twelve points were credited to him.

The Forest Service is trying to get all farmers having shelterbelts and all farmers who will have a belt planted this year to reduce the number of jack rabbits immediately. Research by the Biological Survey has disclosed that eight jack rabbits will eat as much as one sheep or 40 of the rabbits will consume as much as one cow.

The curtain has fallen on Cunningham's second debate season. The season was officially ended for us at the district tournament held in Pratt, Feb. 11. The squad this year was composed of the following people: Joan Anderson, Mrs. Victor Miles, Bill Evans, Elizabeth Wetherall, Phil Fee, Don Schreck, Bernice Harkrader, Jean Fee, Paul DeWeese, and Dale Sheldon.

**Feb. 23, 1934** – Messrs. Ball & Linn, field men for the Ford Motor Co. at Kansas City, Mo., were in town Wednesday and signed Mr. Dafforn up with the Ford agency at this point. The Dafforn Motor Co. will still retain their Zenda agency as a sub-dealer agency.

The Skelly Oil company have received the necessary brick and tile for their new "Super Station" which they are erecting here. Work on the foundation is going along fine. The large storage tanks have been placed beneath the ground and it will not be long before they will begin work on the erect-

ing of the building.

The fine showing on the No. 4 Miles well of the Skelly Oil company in Cunningham Pool, Western Kingman county, is evidence that plenty of crude oil is to be found in that area.

The well, near the center of the northeast quarter of section 30-27-10w, flowed 1,169 barrels in the second 24-hour test, after being given a treatment of acid.

The Skelly company has its 55,000-barrel oil storage tank completed and oil is pouring into it from this new well and others of the 14 in the field, all owned by the Skelly company.

**Feb. 22, 1929** – On Friday, Feb. 15, the Spivey high school basketball teams came up and divided a doubleheader, the girls winning and the boys losing.

The local girls started off with a bang and at half led 10-1. The Spivey girls came back in the second half with a rush and with some accurate goal shooting almost caught up with the Cunningham girls, the score ending 17 to 16.

The boys game was a romp for Spivey. As usual the locals started well, but at the half the visitors were leading 20-4. Cunningham improved some in the second half but the game ended 40 to 11. The C.H.S. boys were at a loss to hit the basket and were terribly weak on free throwing. The Spivey team is an experienced aggregation, most of the team having played together for two or three years.

The C.H.S. Senior class presents "The Red Lamp," a two-act play, and "The Ghost Walks," a one-act play, in the high school auditorium on Feb. 28. Admission is 15c, 25c, and 35c.

four deflections. Scott Huhman was the leading scorer with 16 points. Terry Elliot had 11, Berry Bortz, Wade Ruckle and Joe Strohl 8; Pat Hogan and Randy Hageman 6, Brian DeWeese and Tom Crawford 4; Mike Beat, Eric Meyers, and Troy Rohr all had 2. So all 12 players scored for the Wildcats. We have not regained our before Christmas rhythm as of yet and will have to continue to work hard. We will have to work hard to prepare ourselves for a fine Haviland team. They have an experienced ball team, as they did not lose a starter from last season; so it will be an important league contest for us. We will be at home again with a B contest 5:00.



**Meanderings**

This past Sunday, I drove to Newton to help a friend celebrate his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. This gentleman was the principal who hired me for my first teaching job--in Belle Plaine, Kansas. I probably hadn't seen Red Floyd in 20 or 25 years, but this was an occasion not to be missed.

As I entered the room, I waved at Mr. Floyd, and he waved at me, and greeted me, and asked me how I was doing and if I was still teaching. And I told him about retiring from teaching and buying a newspaper. He thought that was great.

Then I moved on, and found a chair to sit in and a piece of cake to eat, and I spent the time visiting with my former colleagues and it was so much fun.

Other teachers he'd hired were there to help him celebrate. Jane Yunker and Pam DePriest who taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade together for more than three decades. Pam was one of my supervising teachers when I did my student teaching. And Connie Huggins, who he hired to teach 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, but then moved down to kindergarten, and that's what she was doing when I met her, and she was my other supervising teacher during my student teaching stint. And, also the teacher I subbed for when I had to deal with the young "Bub" who hid his shoes after P.E.

Sue Dohrer was there, and our principal mentioned something about hiring her twice. And I am glad he did. I remember Sue was subbing in P.E. the first time I met her--either while I was doing my student teaching, or maybe my first year of teaching.

Kathy Stewart was there, all the way from Harper/Anthony. She and I were co-teachers in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for five years. She was fun to work with, and I missed her after I moved "up" to teach 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

We talked about the days when Mr. Floyd would swat kids. Everyone of us could remember him swatting one of our students. It has to be a pretty dire transgression: lying, cheating, fighting, etc.

And, of course, now.... oh, well.

We talked about the fun parties we gave and attended, and teachers who weren't there, and the students we had (there

are always those kids who every teacher knew and we will ALWAYS remember).

Sue and Connie and Kathy dragged their husbands along, bless their hearts. I did enjoy visiting with Dennis Huggins, we have a great deal to laugh about. He always gave me a hard time about my stint as a Girl Scout counselor at Camp Weidemann. (that's a story for another day)

As folks were getting ready to leave, Mr. Floyd pointed at me from across the room, and said, "Before you leave, I need to talk to you. DO NOT leave until we visit."

And because he was always my boss, I went to visit with him. He told me he didn't know who I was until he asked one of the other teachers.

He didn't recognize me! I could not believe it! I haven't changed! Just this past summer a couple I knew from 20 years ago, in Belle Plaine, came into Love's where I was working and they recognized me immediately. They said I hadn't changed a bit. I did tell them that I must have looked like an old lady 20 years ago if I haven't changed. Now, granted, since this summer, I've cut my hair pretty short, but even when it was long, I wore it tied back or up. I'm telling you, I have not changed.

But he had stories about me. He remembered the day my neighbor called the school to tell him my cat had died, and she asked him to head me off before I came home and found my Duck lying in the driveway. He let me sit in his office and cry while he went home, got a shovel and buried Duck for me. He said he still remembers where he buried my kitty.

He also reminded me he'd hitch a ride occasionally when he wanted to meet his wife in Wichita. I'd take him to her place of work and drop him off. I had totally forgotten about that. But then, there were flashes of memory: him sitting my car and we'd be laughing and talking about school.

The two hours had flown by, and as I was driving home, I thought about the many friends I'd made during my 16 years in Belle Plaine.

Some of these friends gather on a regular basis, and I try and attend these gatherings. I have known these fine folks for 37 years, and we all know what a blessing it is to have such wonderful, life-long friends to share our memories with.

Always reading, and currently reading, "The Wild Children" by Felice Holman, Roberta

**Wildcats Win Easy Battle over Attica**

Thurs. Jan. 11, 1979

by Coach Dale Magnett

The Cunningham Wildcats raised their record to 5-1 on the season and 3-0 in the League with an easy 77-44 victory over the Attica Bulldogs. The game never seemed in doubt as the Wildcats go on top early and never trailed. It was important for us to play a strong game early and to get our confidence back after the Sharon game. Attica is very big and strong inside, but was hurt by sickness in the contest, so we knew pressure should hurt them.

The press caused Attica problems as the

Wildcats got on top 20-10 at the end of the first quarter. Scott Huhman was the key as he hit for 10 points. I was pleased with our fast break, as we were able to do fairly well the defensive boards to get it started. In the second quarter our pressure helped us to increase our lead to 38-20 at half.

Scott Huhman and Terry Elliot led the scoring with 6 each. I was pleased to get on top early so that we were able to try different combinations, and our younger players had a chance to see varsity action. The final two quarters were much the same type as we used our pressure to counteract their superior strength inside. Our young all players were able to play most of the last half and id a

fine job. The Wildcats outscored Attica 17-11 in the third quarter, and 22-13 in the final quarter.

Our defense was the key to the game, as we forced several turnovers. We were also able to fast break off their boards, which led to several fine shots. We did shoot fairly well as we hit 33 of 71 shots for 46.5 percent. We had a super night at the free throw line hitting 11 of 13 for 84.6 percent. We had only 11 turnovers in the game, which was much improved over the 29 vs Sharon and just opposite that we stole 17 of their passes. Scott Huhman led the rebounders with 5 and four others followed with four. Joe Strohl and Berry Bortz both had three steals and Berry had

grandchildren and thereby increase the chances that the grandmother's genes will survive.

One set of studies was based on analysis of church records of births and deaths in Finland in the 1700s and 1800s. Results showed that maternal grandmothers who lived near their

(cont' on page 6)

**Education Frontlines**  
"Life is not a resting place."

**Why Grandmothers?**

A study of the biological importance of grandmothers may explain the biological puzzle of menopause as well as one

remaining gender inequity in China.

Two studies in the February 7 issue of the journal Current Biology are being lauded for confirming a theory about the value of young grand-

mothers. Nearly all animals reproduce until they die because natural selection would seem to favor having as many young as possible. So why would humans be an exception, with the female shutting off reproduction (menopause) by age 45-50? The "grandmother hypothesis" suggested that they may shift to caring for



Mrs. Floyd (Stan), Kathy Stewart, Jane Yunker, Mr. Floyd, Sue Dohrer, Pam DePriest, Connie Huggins, myself

## Lady Cats Overcome Slow Start

by Coach Eric Meyers

Over the course of a season, it's hard to be sharp every game, or even every quarter of any single game. This game was more like the runner-up in the 3rd grade art contest than the Mona Lisa. To Norwich's credit, they were quite physical in the paint, especially working hard to deny entry passes to the post where they evidently felt they were at a distinct disadvantage once we got the

ball in the low block area. We need to get better and holding off the low post defenders as well as jumping out to meet the incoming pass. And offensively, Norwich was intent on driving to the basket and putting pressure on our defense. The first quarter was muted by misfires from both teams and ended with our lead being 4-1 as we were just 1 of 7. The second quarter brought better offense for both teams and we took a 16-9 lead in to intermission. Our defense, obviously, was stubborn, and on

nigh't's like this one when the offense is dragging, good defense is critical. The third quarter created some separation as we scored 7 while holding Norwich to just 2 points. In the end, we overcame 14 turnovers and won by a 36-23 margin. We were outrebounded for the first time in four or five games. When we win the rebounding duel and limit turnovers, we tend to be hard to beat, so as post-season comes around already next week, those things need to be our focus.

For the game, we shot

38% from the field on 11-29, but we continue to struggle at the free throw line where we connected on just 53% of our 19 attempts. Morgan Meyers topped the scoring chart with 15. Lauren Murphy added 6, Maddison Panek 5, Hunter McGuire 4, Holly DeWeese 4, and Madie McGuire 2.

Maddison was good for 5 rebounds and Holly added 4 while Madie grabbed 3. Lauren led our team in steals with 5 as Morgan and Holly were credited with 4 and 3, respectively. Morgan dished out 5 assists.

## Wildcats Defeated by Eagles

by Coach Bob Stackhouse

Cunningham played host to the Norwich Eagles on February 12, 2019. The Eagles won the game 59 to 26.

The Wildcats began the game facing a Norwich full court press which had caused many turnovers the first time these teams met. Cunningham was much more patient and handled the press better and was able to get into their offense with more regularity. The first quarter ended with a score of 8 to 15 in favor of Norwich. Daylen Schnittker made four points with Erik Paris and Taner Hansen

adding two points each. The turnover bug struck the Cats in the second quarter as unforced turnovers converted to easy baskets for Norwich. Nathan Lohrke and Schnittker scored two points each. Norwich added 17 points and led at the half, 12 to 32.

Taner Hansen found the basket in the third quarter, scoring all nine Cunningham points. Norwich added 14 to their total to go into the fourth quarter leading 21 to 46.

Hansen scored one more point in the fourth quarter and Schnittker put in four points. Norwich put in 13 more points and finished the game with a 59 to 26 victory.

## Cunningham Finishes Regular Season Against Burrton

by Coach Bob Stackhouse

The Cunningham Wildcats completed the 2018-19 regular season at home vs Burrton on February 15, 2019. The Chargers came away with a 69 to 38 victory.

After spotting the Burrton team eight points at the beginning of the game, Cunningham played the Chargers even for the remainder of the first quarter trailing 13 to 21. Misha Donskoy led the way with four points. Taner Hansen, Daylen Schnittker and Nathan Lohrke each scored three points.

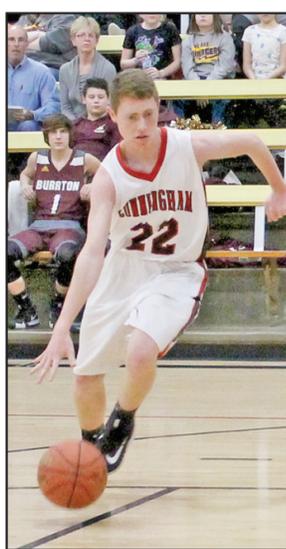
In the second quarter, Lohrke made his second three-point basket. Hansen scored four more points and Schnittker added seven points. Burrton scored 19 points to take a 13-point lead, 27 to 40 at the end of the first half. The Cats could have been closer, but three for

eight shooting from the free throw line cost the Cats valuable points.

Burrton began to pull away in the third quarter, scoring 18 more points and holding the Cats to seven points. Isaiah Reed made a free throw, Donskoy had a basket and Hansen added four points to his total. The third quarter ended with a score of 34 to 58.

Schnittker scored three points and Hansen finished the fourth quarter with one more point. Burrton added 11 more points to end the game with a score of 38 to 69.

Erik Paris had six rebounds, Hansen had five and Lohrke, Schnittker, and Donskoy each had four. Schnittker had four steals and Paris had three assists.



Clockwise from upper left:

Isaiah Reed takes the ball to the basket.

Erik Paris passes to a teammate.

Taner Hansen pushes past Burrton defense.

Misha Donskoy looks for an assist.

Daylen Schnittker jumps and shoots.

## Regular Season Ends with Lady Wildcat Win, League Title

by Coach Eric Meyers

The first season...the regular season, climaxed with a convincing win over an improving, but inferior Burrton squad. With the win, the Lady Cats put an impressive stamp on the regular season with an 18-2 mark, meaning the Lady Cats are 37-3 over the past two regular seasons!

Burrton opened the game ready to play and staked themselves to a 4-0 lead before we countered with points of our own, but the contest was tied at the end of the first quarter, 8-8. We managed to get untracked in the second quarter, triggered by full court pressure that proved to be a net gain. The third quarter began with a Cunningham lead of 22-14, and that's when we discovered the best strategy in our 1-3-1 defense that stymied the Lady Chargers while we dumped in 20 points to lead 42-20 after three quarters. In the end, we would win by a score of 55-25 and claim a share of the HOPL crown. The win wasn't without cost,

however, as Maddison Panek suffered an ankle injury, the severity of which is yet unknown.

The key stats in the game lie in turnovers – we had just 4 while the Chargers committed 23 – and rebounds. We cleaned the glass for 18 offensive rebounds to just 4 for Burrton and overall, outrebounded them 37-26.

For the game we didn't shoot particularly well, in fact just 17 of 57 for 30%. We actually shot better from the 3-point line (6 of 16, 38%). We finally did shoot well from the charity stripe, and we got there often. Our 68% success rate on 15 of 22 is quite acceptable. We had nine different players scratch the scoring column on this night, and that's perhaps a record for my teams in the 10 seasons I have coached. Some years I didn't even have nine players! Morgan Meyers led the way with 14 points, but Mackenzie Wright was extremely efficient in producing 11 points. Others scoring were Hunter McGuire with 9, Holly DeWeese with 7, Alayna McGuire and Madie McGuire with 4 points each, Lauren Murphy 3 points,

Maddison Panek 2 points, and Abby Hansen 1 point.

Holly was our leading rebounded with 10 but Madie McGuire in significantly fewer minutes grabbed 6 rebounds. Morgan was our leader in steals with 5 while Mackenzie Wright had 3. As for assists, it was Alayna pacing us with 4.

Post season play in next, and we get a quick turnaround as a #2 seed. We will host Ashland on Monday night, and a win will position us for a matchup with the Bucklin-Kiowa County winner on Thursday in Coldwater.



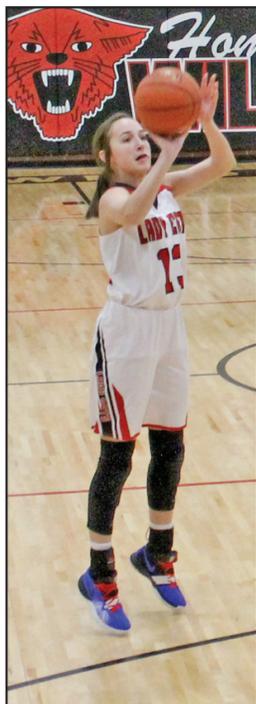
Left: Lauren Murphy takes the ball up for two.

Above: Hunter McGuire controls the ball.

Left: Alayna McGuire takes the ball to the basket.

Far left: Mackenzie Wright shoots for 3 points.

Below: Madi Panek shoots to score two points.



# Lady Cats Sizzle, Overwhelm Ashland

by Coach Eric Meyers

Post season play got off to a roaring start as the Lady Cats shot over 50% from the field and dominated the offensive glass enroute to a convincing first round win in Regional action. The game, much like our previous outing, was close through most of the first quarter, and in fact was tied at 8-8 at one point. But with a quick scoring flurry triggered by four 3-point baskets in the first quarter from Morgan Meyers, we began what would be an offensive outburst. Leading 16-8 after the first quarter, we notched 26 points in the second quarter and another 20 in the third frame to essentially bury the visiting Blue Jays. A 62-26 lead after three quarters meant the game clock would not stop in the final quarter yet we scored another dozen to win by a score of 74-30. I've said before how we strive to average scoring 1 point per possession (ppp) but tonight we surpassed that with a season best 1.24 ppp.

As a team, we shot 51% from the floor including 6 of 16 from long range. I have a team that genuinely likes each other and shares the ball as well

as any I have coached. I preach the value of taking good shots, and on many occasions I see players turning down good shots to make a pass to a teammate who is in position for a better shot. There's beauty in that! We shot 20 free throws and made 14, so I was happy with that 70% success rate. Lots of players got in the action in terms of scoring, four in double digits. Morgan set the pace with 21 points while Holly DeWeese dropped in 13, Lauren Murphy 12, and Mackenzie Wright another 11. Others scoring on the night included Hunter McGuire (9), Madie McGuire (4), Abby Hansen (2), and Annabelle Hansen (2).

Lauren was our top rebounder with 9 but on her heels with 8 rebounds was Holly. Good contributions in this department also came from Alayna McGuire and Mackenzie with 4 apiece. Morgan and Holly each get credit for 5 steals while Morgan was our leader in assists with 8 followed by a season best 6 assists from Lauren.

We play again on Thursday of this week in Coldwater against Bucklin, a 34-29 winner over Kiowa County. The other semi final game pits Attica squaring off against host South Central.



Holly DeWeese scores 2



Above: Alayna McGuire shoots. Below: Morgan Meyers completes a lay-up.



Above: Madie McGuire shoots.



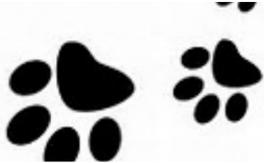
CHS Student section cheers during the regional tournament game against Ashland



photos by Molly Morgan

Maddie Dowsey leads the crowd in a tournament cheer.

## Seniors' Night



Shawn Snow with his sister, Molly Snow



photos by Molly Morgan

Zach Osner with parents, Megan and Jason Osner.



Taner Hansen with his parents, Branden and Kim Hansen



Lauren Murphy was presented this gift from her team mates.

## Citizens Bank of Kansas to Provide Eight Free Cosmosphere Aerospace Camp Scholarships

Citizens Bank of Kansas (CBK) will, for the fourth year in a row, award scholarships to area sixth graders to experience a Cosmosphere aerospace camp this summer! This year, the number of scholarships increases to eight following CBK's acquisition of Verus Bank earlier this year.

Scholarship winners will attend the Cosmosphere's Mars

Academy camp, a three-day overnight camp during which students build robotic sensor platforms to navigate a Martian landscape, construct a power grid, engineer and program robots, geocache to find their survival needs, and build a Martian habitat.

Available dates for the 2019 Mars Academy camp are June 7-9, June 21-23, June 28-30 (all girls camp), July 12-14, July 19-21, and July 26-28.

To be eligible, students must be entering sixth grade in the fall of 2019 and submit a 100 to 200 word original essay on "Why I want to attend Cosmosphere camp this

summer." Parental consent is required and essay entries are due April 26. Those interested should email: [essays@cbok.com](mailto:essays@cbok.com) to request a copy of the contest rules and an entry form.

"We love the opportunity that the Cosmosphere camps provide to kids in our area," said Jane Deterding, Chairman of the Board of Citizens Bank of Kansas. "Our family has several camp graduates. I can personally assure any parent that the stories they tell when they return home are priceless! It's a terrific opportunity and parents should encourage their child to participate in the essay contest."

## Researchers Study Precision Ag's Effect on USDA Forecasts

More information may boost accuracy, but challenges exist

MANHATTAN, Kan. — A flood of precision agriculture technology to America's farm fields over the past two decades has created an abundance of information, a mixed blessing for such agencies as the U.S. Department of Agriculture as it tracks the country's crop production.

The USDA publishes weekly and monthly reports on current prices, volume, quality and other market data related to crops grown in the United States. Because the agency's reports are considered the most reliable source of information on the status of U.S. crop production, they often drive the ebb and flow of markets for those products.

Kansas State University agricultural economist Jesse Tack says, however, that the volumes of information now available thanks to precision measurements of farm fields may be inadvertently creating confusion about total crop production in the U.S.

"In particular, there are questions about how accurate USDA crop production estimates are compared to private-sector estimates," Tack said.

Tack is the lead author on an article that was published recently in the journal, Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, indicating there are significant differences between collecting data with on-farm surveys — as done by the USDA — and aggregating large volumes of data available with such precision technology as yield monitors, drones and

global-position satellites.

The article is co-written by Robert Johansson, the chief economist at the USDA, and agricultural economists at Mississippi State University and the University of Kentucky.

Tack noted that information obtained on crops sometimes can be biased due to the agricultural strength in a given region, "and this bias persists in the presence of larger samples. Even when the focus is on major production regions, biases in the estimates and imprecision persist."

Tack said the paper also reports that sampling from large farms tends to introduce bias and imprecision into overall estimates of crop production.

"To the extent that large farms are the early adopters of precision technology, our results suggest that, if not corrected for bias, data from those farms could introduce inaccuracy relative to a representative national sample," he said.

For decades, the USDA has measured and forecast crop production with data collected from representative farms across the country. That system, while relied on heavily for decades, is now being challenged by machines that can literally measure information on every inch of farm land that it passes.

Some private companies are beginning to test the industry's openness to precision technology forecasts, typically aggregating large amounts of data from multiple sources. Some of those companies filled the void when the USDA was not able to produce its weekly reports during the recent partial shutdown of the U.S. government.

Further, the traditional ways of measuring and forecasting crop production takes more time and resources, includ-

ing money. On the other hand, farmers often can provide precision technology data at the push of a button.

But, Tack notes, precision technology is not a perfect answer, and the information it provides should be used with some caution.

"The new data is potentially not very representative because of who has the equipment and whether or not they decide to share it," Tack said. "The USDA works very hard to get representative samples. So there is a trade-off. The current approach is costly but reliable, while the new approach is cheap but potentially unreliable."

He adds: "Augmenting USDA data sources for estimating various crop production statistics using big data from machinery is possible and offers potential. While this article does not map out the path that is required to generate hybrid statistics, it does raise the potential and illustrate several means by which the limitations of the use of machine data can be corrected for."

The full research article is available online at <https://doi.org/10.1093/aep/ppy028>.

K-State Research and Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, a program designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the well-being of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county extension offices, experiment fields, area extension offices and regional research centers statewide. Its headquarters is on the K-State campus in Manhattan. For more information, visit [www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu)

## Opinion

### Dear Mom and Dad: Cool it

By Karissa Niehoff, Executive Director of the National Federation of State High School Associations and Bill Faflick, Executive Director of the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

If you are the mother or father of a high school athlete here in Kansas, this message is primarily for you.

When you attend an athletic event that involves your son or daughter, cheer to your heart's content, enjoy the camaraderie that high school sports offer and have fun. But when it comes to verbally criticizing game officials or coaches, cool it.

Make no mistake about it. Your passion is admired, and your support of the hometown team is needed. But so is your self-control. Yelling, screaming and berating the officials humiliates

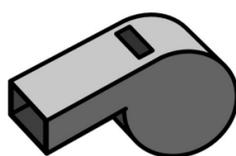
your child, annoys those sitting around you, embarrasses your child's school and is the primary reason Kansas has an alarming shortage of high school officials.

It's true. According to a recent survey by the National Association of Sports Officials, more than 75 percent of all high school officials say "adult behavior" is the primary reason they quit. And 80 percent of all young officials hang up their stripes after just two years of whistle blowing. Why? They don't need your abuse.

Plus, there's a ripple effect. There are more officials over 60 than under 30 in many areas. And as older, experienced officials retire, there aren't enough younger ones to replace them. If there are no officials, there are no games. The shortage of licensed high school officials is severe enough in some areas that athletic events are being postponed or cancelled—especially at the freshman and junior varsity levels.

Research confirms that participation in high school sports and activities instills a sense of pride in school and community, teaches lifelong lessons like the value of teamwork and self-discipline and facilitates the physical and emotional development of those who participate. So, if the games go away because there aren't enough men and women to officiate them, the loss will be infinitely greater than just an "L" on the scoreboard. It will be putting a dent in your community's future.

If you would like to be a part of the solution to the shortage of high school officials, you can sign up to become a licensed official at [HighSchoolOfficials.com](http://HighSchoolOfficials.com). Otherwise, adult role models at high school athletic events here in Kansas are always welcome.



## Grandmothers

(cont' from page 3)

grandchildren so they could care for them, had grandchildren who survived the ages 2 to 5 at a rate a nearly one-third greater than those lacking grandmother care. But for a grandmother older than 75, the odds of the grandchild dying before age 2 increased.

Researchers not involved in the study indicated that this could indicate that a young grandmother adds considerable survivorship to grandchildren, but that the very elderly grandparent causes a strain on the middle generation that must divide resources to care for both the older grandparents and the grandchildren.

While grandparents-raising-a-grandchild remains the exception in the West, it is very common in China. The extended family tradition has existed for nearly three millennia. In one university where I stay, the 11-story post-doc apartment building is filled with families where the grandparents take daily care for their infants and toddlers while the young academic couple work 24/7 to succeed at their new job.

This may also explain the one gender-inequity that I have brought up with some Party Secretaries. The Civil War that ended in 1949 was fought for many reasons. But it included providing Chinese women with equal rights. In "Old China," a girl child was a temporary

member of her family, given in wedlock to the groom to live in her husband's family compound with a status of property more than person. Indeed, a substantial number of Red Army troops were women fighting for their liberation.

But in China's universities today, the retirement age for women professors is 55 while it is 60 for men! This also applies to other governmental and industrial positions. If a person is exceptional, they can be granted another 5 years before retiring. This still produces an unequal 60- and 65-year retirement cap. As I engage in discussions with colleagues in faculty lounges or across a coffee table, I point out that this shorter professional life means that the majority of the senior leadership across China is going to come from those last years, and it is going to primarily be men. That is the one remaining inequity in the modern Chinese system.

The reply I hear from female professor colleagues, is that yes, earlier retirement does prevent many women from entering the top leadership. But it also means that they now have time to be grandmothers, enjoying raising their grandchild or grandchildren! Not one has objected!

This joy of raising a grandchild is an obvious positive. But the lack of a grandparent can be devastating. In "Fragile Elite," a book of extensive interviews with students at China's top Tsinghua University, author Susanne Bregnbæk describes a graduating student who makes the decision to not have a child when she gets married. Her mother had died. There would be no grandmother to help her care for her child.

To calculate historical survivorship and generational investment is cold science. To understand it in today's China can be joyous, or heartbreaking.

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Effective November 6, 2014: Display ads are \$5.00 per column inch, \$5.50 for full-color ads. Front page box ads are \$8.00 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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-- Beverly Zrubek

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<p><b>Agriculture</b>  Pasture Clearing Custom Fence Building, Mowing &amp; Skid Steer Work 80" Brush Mower &amp; 36" Buzz Saw John Fischer (620) 770-9280</p>	<p><b>Home Improvement</b>  Dixon's True Value Hardware Heating &amp; A/C 325 N. Main, Kingman, KS 532-2631</p>	<p>Zenda Public Library Hours Monday &amp; Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Thursday 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 620-243-5791</p>	<p><b>Pharmacists</b>  Kingman Drug 211 North Main,, Kingman, Pharmacists on call 24 hours Days - store ph. 532-5113 Emergency after hours call Merlin McFarland 532-3855</p>	<p><b>Repair Service</b>   TRUCK &amp; TRAILER REPAIR GREG BEAT 620-491-0293 415 West Santa Fe, Cunningham OUR LIVING IS FIXING YOURS!</p>
<p>Neville Built Grain Trailers &amp; Custom-Built Trailers Dick or Marvin Neville 5581 SW 50 St. Kingman, KS 620-532-3487 1-800-301-3487</p>	<p><b>Insurance</b>  Fitzsimmons Insurance Cunningham, KS 67037 Bus: 620-298-5291 Toll Free: 800-536-5291  For more information see display ad on page 2</p>	<p>Kingman Carnegie Library 620-532-3061 Monday : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday : 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday : 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Pratt Public Library Mon. - Thurs. 10:00 - 7:00 Fri. - Sat. 10:00 - 6:00 Closed on Sundays</p>	<p><b>CRICK'S AUTOGLASS</b> Now in Pratt! 1224 W 3rd • Free Mobile Service • Auto - Truck - Farm Jason Crick 620-886-3274 "Family Owned &amp; Operated With Quality Service Since 1988"</p>
<p><b>Banks</b>  KANZA bank 151 N. Main, Kingman, KS 620-532-5821  Lobby Hours 9-5 M-F, 9-12 Sat. Drive Thru Hours 8 - 6 M-F, 8-12 Sat. Equal Housing Lender Member FDIC</p>	<p>State Farm Insurance Jon Wollen, Agent 152 N Main Street Kingman, KS 67068 Bus: 620-532-3179 Toll Free: 800-824-6681 www.jonwollen.com</p>			

"The noblest motive is the public good."

- Virgil

## Celebrations of Life

### Larry Ruckle

Larry G. Ruckle, 78, died February 14, 2019, at his home in Cunningham.

He was born March 20, 1940, the son of Everett and Elsie Foust Ruckle Hergert, and step-father G.L. "Bill" Hergert. A longtime resident of the Cunningham community, he retired from the U.S. Postal Service after thirty-six years of service.

Larry was a member of the United Methodist Church; the Pratt Lodge A.F.&A.M., the Scottish Rite Bodies, the Pratt Shrine Club, and the Midian Shrine, Wichita.

On February 3, 1962, he married Mary Ann Riddle at Belle Plaine. Other survivors include three sons, Wade and his wife Karen, Ryan and his wife Renee, and Jason and his wife Tricia; daughter Rhonda Ruckle; brothers Gary, Randy, Ronnie and Terry; sister Judy Ruckle; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held February 18 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Burial was in Maud Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Cunningham Community Center or the Cunningham Library, both in care of the funeral home.

### Eddie Tharp

Eddie Tharp "Thumper", 71, passed away Thursday, February 14, 2019 at Kansas Heart Hospital in Wichita. He was born August 14, 1947 to Raymond Lee and Doris Dovie (Smith) Tharp in Deport, Texas. On June 28, 1969, he married Jean Marie (Brady) Tharp. She survives.



Thumper served on Township 12 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department for more than 20 years. He was a member of Kilwinning Masonic Lodge #265. He was the owner/operator of Central Glass. He was an avid bowler for several years and served as an officer with the Bowling Association. He enjoyed watching sports, coaching youth activities and taught Hunter Safety.

He is survived by his wife, Jean; daughters, Stacie Tharp and Emily Pflughoft both of Pratt; sisters, Betty (Robert Stroeber) Holmes of Aurora, Colorado, Linda (Jim) Garrigus of Douglass and Cindy (Bruce) Warren of Attica; grandson, Preston Weaver-Tharp; and great grandsons, Preston and Matthew Weaver.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Cremation has taken place. Visitation will be Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. with family receiving friends from 6-8 p.m. at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Memorial Service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Pratt First United Methodist Church with Pastor Marvin Ewertt and John Hamm presiding. Inurnment will follow at a later time at Lerado Cemetery, Lerado.

Memorials may be made to Pratt Area Humane Society, Pratt Recreation Department or Circles of Hope in care of Larrison Mortuary. Condolences may be left at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com).

### Matthew James Becker

Matthew James Becker, 36, died Feb. 10, 2019, at his home in Albuquerque, NM.

He was born Oct. 10, 1982, at Los Angeles, California. A longtime resident of Albuquerque, he was a detention officer.

Matthew was a member of the Catholic Church. He is survived by his mother Lori Becker Godines; brothers Justin, Nicholas and his wife Christina, and Thomas and his wife Ingrid; grandmother Carolyn Becker; 1 niece and 1 nephew; and many, many aunts, cousins and uncles.

Parish rosary will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cunningham with Mass of Christian Burial following at 10:30 a.m. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Sacred Heart Cemetery Fund in care of the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman, Kansas.

### Birth Announcement

### Immaculee Sophia Kerschen



Kyle and Brianna (Rombach) Kerschen announce the birth of a daughter. Immaculee Sophia was born January 25th, 2019, at Freeman Hospital in Joplin, Missouri. She weighed 8 pounds and 15 ounces. The young lady joins brothers Ignatius, 2, and Fulton, 1. Maternal grandparents are Bill and Penny Rombach, Washington, Missouri. Paternal Grandparents are Greg and Colleen Kerschen of Cunningham.

Great-Grandparents are Bob and Jeanette Kershen of Cunningham, Steve and Helen Eck of Pratt, Frank and Juanita Rombach of Washington, Missouri, and Don and Jeanette Lawson of East Liverpool, Ohio.

### Gerald Bales

Walter "Gerald" Bales, 82, passed away Thursday, February 14, 2019 at Pratt Rehabilitation and Residence Center. He was born June 29, 1936 in rural Iuka to Walter Gaston and Ruth (Toland) Bales. He married Lula Joyce (Lambright) Bales on June 2, 1958 in Greenville, Illinois. She survives.



Gerald was a lifetime resident of rural Iuka. He attended the Free Methodist Church in Pratt. He was in the United States Navy. He was a lifetime farmer and loved working with the animals.

He is survived by his wife, Lula; son, Tom (Pam) Bales of Lee's Summit, Missouri; daughter, Melinda (Todd) Leed of Kansas City, Missouri; and four grandchildren, Eric (Aisha) Bales, Allison Bales, Molly Leed and Tyler (Emily) Leed.

Gerald is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Marvin Bales and Charles Bales; infant brother, Norman Dean Bales; and infant sister, Joyce Ann Bales.

Funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Larrison Mortuary. Burial with military honors will follow at Iuka Cemetery, Iuka.

Memorials may be made to Free Methodist Church or Kindred Hospice in care of Larrison Mortuary. Online condolences may be made at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com).



During the month of January the character word at Cunningham Schools was "patience". These young ladies earned their patience stars: Brianna Dittmer, Jessica Dittmer, Macy Neufeld, and Isabelle Wegerer.



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**DARREN PARKER**  
Filley First Friday  
"Lunch and Learn Series"  
March 1st, 2019 (12-1pm)

**Join us at The Filley** for Darren Parker's artist talk and demo for our "First Friday Lunch & Learn Series" which features artists represented in the Filley gift shop. Darren is a watercolor painter and Pratt area native; several of his pieces depict local iconic scenes.

Bring your lunch and your questions for this well known talented painter! Thank you for your interest and support of local and regional artists!

Darren Parker  
Art of Ahs

**About the Artist, Darren Parker**

My goal is to capture my chosen subject matter with incredible attention to detail. Sharing with the viewer the innate, sometimes invisible beauty that often gets overlooked during the daily hustle and bustle. I strive to capture magical moments, historical architecture and breathtaking landscapes which have caught my attention. Through my realistic paintings, I attempt to draw the viewer into the scene, and to stir forgotten memories of days gone by.

I was born in Pratt, Kansas, to parents who supported my passion for art unconditionally. My father shared with me his talent of illustration, while mother nourished my creativity. My mentor, Disney illustrator, Betty Crews, pushed me to be diligent, to work hard and to find my niche. After graduation from Kansas State University in 1985 I worked as a Graphic Designer for nearly a decade, releasing my first limited edition print in 1996 titled "Cathedral Reflection". Since then I have managed an art gallery, co-owned a gallery and worked in the hospitality industry, all while donating art to local charities, completing commissions and taking part in art exhibitions. Many of my most recent paintings depict rural America.

Whether it be a country church, an old windmill, abandoned granaries or elevators. My Mother's side of the family first homesteaded land in 1880 near Cunningham, KS, and we have had a significant presence in this area ever since. My parents currently reside on that 250-acre farm. Many of my paintings depict scenes from in and around Cunningham, Pratt and some of the surrounding communities. I have recently relocated back to Kansas, back to my roots, and have settled in the Wichita area. I am creating and painting full-time now while looking after my parents.

Currently I am represented by the Vernon Filley Art Museum in Pratt, Kansas. My thought provoking watercolor pencil, graphite and watercolor paintings have been published twice in US Art Magazine and are included in public and private collections around the world. I hope that my art has made you smile, invoked a memory or perhaps brightened your day. Thank you for supporting my passion and giving me an outlet for my God given talent.

**District 18**

**Wisdom to Know Alateen & Kiowa AFG**  
Mondays Alateen 6pm & AFG 7pm  
705 N 5th, Kiowa, KS 67070  
620-960-5154  
[kiowaafg@gmail.com](mailto:kiowaafg@gmail.com)

**Sharing Solutions AFG**  
Wednesdays 7pm  
Coldwater Library  
211 E Main, Coldwater, KS 67029  
620-450-7660

**Serenity Seekers AFG**  
Day1: Tuesday 7:00 PM  
Day2: Thursday 8:00 PM  
223 N Pearl, Pratt, KS 67124  
620-705-1545

**Keep it Simple Alateen**  
Monday 7 PM  
223 N Pearl, Pratt 67124  
620-862-5492

**New Hope Al-Anon**  
Thursday 7pm  
218 N Main, Pratt, KS 67124  
620-770-2135

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