

The Cunningham Courier

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

Email: couriernews@yahoo.com
 Website: www.cunninghamcourier.news
 (620) 298-2659

\$1.50

MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 18, 2025
 Volume 35 Number 51

photo by Alan Albers



more parade photos
on page 6

DID YOU KNOW?

Kingman Healthcare Center offers Swing Bed - Skilled Nursing Services so you can heal, closer to home.

Call 620-553-4192 for more information.

YOU HAVE A CHOICE WHERE TO RECEIVE YOUR POST-HOSPITAL CARE

KINGMAN
 HEALTHCARE CENTER
750 West D Avenue • Kingman, KS 67068

Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, December 18

JH BB vs Central Christian at HOME

Friday, December 19

End first semester

11:30 a.m.

Early Dismissal

School resumes on January 6

HS BB at Chaparral

Friday, January 2

No School

HS BB at Canton-Galva

Monday January 5

No School

Professional Development and work day for Teachers

HS BB vs Kiowa County at HOME

Tuesday, Janury 6

It's time to go back to school

HS BB vs Macksville at HOME

Wednesday, January 7

6:30 p.m.

Shop Guild

Thursday, January 8

JH BB at Attica

Friday, January 9

HS BB at Kinsley

Saturday January 10

HS JV BB at HOME (B Team Tournament)

Monday, January 12

HS FV BB at HOME (B-Team Tournament)
**

JH Play Auditions

7:00 p.m.

BOE Meeting

Thursday, Januay 15

JH BB at South Barber

HS Scholars' Bowl at Burrton (HOPL)

Friday, January 16

HS BB vs South Barber at HOME

Saturday January 17

HS JV BB at HOME (B Team Tournament)

Monday, January 19

Boys 54 Classic at Skyline

Teacher Professional Development:
No School



The Ninnescah Valley Bank will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24th. It will be closed on December 25. Merry Christmas



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

Outdoor Christmas lighting contest for Cunningham will be Sunday, December 21st. Lights need to be on by 6:00 pm.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets in support of Oak Heart Foundation. Your generosity helps us continue spreading kindness and supporting families right here in our community. We truly couldn't do this without you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RAFFLE WINNERS:

Jessica Dítmer - Chicken N Pickle

Amanda Prim - Urban Air

Connor Hellman - Money Pad \$100

Cindy Houtwed - Exploration Place

Troyer Vierthaler - Top Golf



Alan Albers invited Ryan Gilbert to visit Cunningham on our Santa Claus Parade Day. Mr. Gilbert is a Democrat from Goddard, running for election in the 2026 election in Kansas' 4th Congressional District next November. The seat is currently held by Ron Estes.

Upcoming Auctions

Consignment Auction

Sat. December 20, 2025 – 9:30 AM

Hamm Auction Center

For more information and a complete list of auctions, see our website at

www.hammauction.com



107 NE State Road 61, Pratt, Kansas, 67124

620-672-6996

Kingman Historic Theatre

237 N. Main in Kingman

(620) 532-1253

http://www.kingmantheatre.org/

January 2 - 4

SpongeBob: The Search for SquarePants

Rated PG

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

South Central Community Foundation Announces 2025 Olive Bloom Outstanding Service Award Recipient



South Central Community Foundation (SCCF) is proud to announce Lance Dixon as the 2025 recipient of the Olive Bloom Outstanding Service Award, an honor recognizing exceptional volunteerism and community leadership across the region.

The Olive Bloom Outstanding Service Award was established in 2004 and named in honor of its first recipient, Mrs. Olive Bloom. The award celebrates individuals whose service goes “above and beyond” what is normally expected and who exemplify the highest standards of commitment, compassion, and generosity.

This year’s recipient, Lance Dixon, has demonstrated these qualities throughout his nine years of dedicated service to SCCF. He has contributed significantly as a board member, including two pivotal years as Board Chair during times of major organizational transition. His leadership provided stability, vision, and encouragement as SCCF navigated meaningful change.

Beyond his board service, Lance has generously shared his *time, talent, and treasure* to strengthen countless organizations across the region. As a grant writer and devoted community advocate, his work has helped secure vital resources and expand opportunities throughout south central Kansas. His contributions have left a lasting and positive impact on the communities SCCF serves.

“Lance embodies the very spirit of this award,” said Holly Launchbaugh, SCCF Executive Director. “His heart for service, steady leadership, and unwavering dedication have made a remarkable difference. We are honored to recognize his outstanding contributions to our region.”

About South Central Community Foundation

South Central Community Foundation serves seven counties in south central Kansas, connecting people who care with causes that matter. Through grants, scholarships, and community initiatives, SCCF works to strengthen and enrich the quality of life throughout our region.

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



Museum Winter Hours

Saturday:

Morning 10:00 - 12:00

Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00

For guided tours call

Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

Joe Sternreker 620-243-2534

Alan Albers 620-243-2553

We ALWAYS need photos for the paper!!

A Column
by
Dean Marple

The Searcher

A grinning Adrian punched Liam’s arm, but he didn’t notice. Wrinkling her nose to hold up her glasses, Elizabeth chatted away, but he paid no attention. Even the bump when the school bus crossed the train tracks didn’t register in his mind. Liam was one confused first grader.

The cause for his confusion happened about an hour ago, during the afternoon recess. Swinging on the playground, he got the news from Tommy, a fourth grader.

“Your mom and dad still trying to pull the old letter to Santa trick on you?”

Caught by surprise, Liam blurted, “What trick?”

“What are you? Some dumb little kid? There is no Santa, doofus. Your presents come from your mom and dad.”

Liam was stunned. Could it be? He doubted

it, but everyone knew that when a fourth grader spoke, it was the truth.

“Let me explain,” Tommy continued. “Do your folks have a hiding place, like where they hide your birthday presents?”

“Yes,” came the hesitant reply. “I’m not supposed to know, but I peeked once. They hide everything on the top closet shelf in the spare bedroom, way to the back.”

Shaking his head and taking pity on this poor, naive first grader, Tommy gave a condescending sigh and continued. “What did you ask Santa for?”

“I asked for a G.I. Joe action figure.”

“Well, look on the top shelf and I guarantee you a G.I. Joe will be there already. All that stuff about Santa coming Christmas Eve is just baloney.”

With a stunned look on his face, Liam sat on the swing as Tommy strolled away. Really? There was no Santa? Could it be? That was all Liam could think about on the bus ride home.

He thought about it

as he ate his supper. He thought about it as he did his homework. He mulled over the situation as he changed into his pajamas. He had to know.

Bedtime came with a story from Mom and a hug from Dad. As usual, his Spider-Man night-light shone red and blue, and his raggedy stuffed dog nestled at the foot of his bed. All this was a typical good night routine, typical except for the mini flashlight he had hid under his pillow and the alarm clock he had placed next to his head.

At one a.m., the softly vibrating alarm woke him. Peeking out his bedroom door, he thought the dark hallway looked a little scary, but he was willing to brave it. He had to know. Tiptoeing past Mom and Dad’s bedroom, he inched into the spare room and slowly started to open the closet door. With a little tug, a little squeak, and a little holding his breath, it slowly opened. He scanned the mini flashlight’s beam around the closet, looking for the three-step stool his mom kept in the closet.

Foot on the first step, he rose and accidentally stuck his head in his dad’s old suit. Foot on the second step, he came to the lower shelf and was not happy to see a scary old Halloween mask. Nervous but determined, he made himself climb that third step. Were all those stories about Santa wrong? He had to know.

Foot on the third step, his eyes rose to the top shelf, all the way to the back.

Nothing. There was nothing there! Tommy was wrong about his parents buying his Christmas present. Just like Mom and Dad had said, Santa brought his presents.

A very relieved and sleepy little boy climbed down that stool and toddled off to bed. Even after he fell asleep, the smile stayed on his face. The smile was very much like the one on his father’s face as he reached up to the top shelf and returned a G.I. Joe action figure. Daddies didn’t need three-step stools.



CUMC Open for Blue Christmas/Longest Night on December 21st

Any sampling of Christmas songs tells you that “It’s the most wonderful time of the year,” full of joy, happiness, and cheer. But, what if you’re not feeling it? For many, the season is one of pain, loss, and sadness. Perhaps you’re feeling something in between. Maybe you need some time to just “be.” While there will not be a Blue Christmas service this year, the Cunningham United Methodist Church will be open from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21st, the longest night of the year.

All are welcome to come spend time in quiet reflection and light a candle. If you would like someone to pray with you, listen to you, or just leave you alone, your wishes will be honored. Come as you are.

1 Peter 2:12 NIV For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

quote submitted by Alan Albers

Who Says?

By Linda German

The fascinating thing about getting older is how much history has marched right through my life and into books that no one wants to read. I am witness to “back then” and often stunned by “here and now.”

Trying to identify the genesis of trends is like attempting to pick up wiggly gelatin from the floor. The who seems to be an anonymous invisible influencer pulling

strings behind a mysterious curtain in a pretend green city far away, which probably is not in Kansas.

How do the traditions and beliefs of so many get ripped away and stomped upon to appease so few? Again, where are they who make decisions that desensitize our moral compasses and sensible thinking?

For example, my mother’s generation embraced the dictates of each season’s cur-

rent hemlines. Slowly, a few enlightened women probably had enough and threw hats, gloves, and girdles in the trash, but then, as if hypnotized, were helpless to resist the next fashion decree.

When did cultural, political, and religious radical ideologies sneak in and take our freedoms hostage? Like the constant but ignored drip of a faulty faucet, if no one notices in time, the overflow will wreak havoc that can’t be fixed.

That brings me to a recent chilly Saturday morning. I had no idea the heartbreaking reality I was about to witness as I settled in the recliner with a cuddly blanket to savor some delicious hot tea.

While waiting to get warm, I flipped on the TV in time to see our

local anchors all abuzz about the impending holiday custom many other communities would be involved in this month.

This town is not Hooterville-small nor New York-big. It’s like thousands of places in this country filled with industrious folks trying to make a living and feed their families.

I mused out loud to my naïve self, “At least the Christmas parade has stood the test of time.”

The excited announcers were regaling the viewers with promises of amazing floats and outstanding school bands. The line of eager participants seemed endless.

In rolled the obligatory shiny fire engine, police cars, and Miss Somebody (didn’t-catch-her-title) sitting on the back of a convertible, teeth chattering. She was followed by tons of trucks pulling small trailers filled with cute children wearing little antlers or red hats. Most of the floats were sparsely decorated with small plastic trees and inflatable snowmen and reindeer.

As usual, the intense music-playing marchers and twirlers were delightful, but the rest was a little confusing.

The job of the ones on the floats was to wave and sling candy to kids jumping off the curb to grab as much as possible. No one seemed to be enjoying the efforts the float makers had made to, uh...hmm. Now I wasn’t exactly sure!

Amid all the sugar-coated rain and cartoon-costumed grown-ups leaping down the street, I couldn’t see one thing that even hinted at the REASON for the season!

Oh, for a float with a choir or some carolers or a manger scene. Well into the next hour, yet another fire engine appeared with Santa on top. He too showered the kiddos with candy, but he didn’t look so happy. Probably ho-ho-hoed himself hoarse.

Other parades I had seen on the news showed belligerent-acting people screaming about First Amendment rights. Most of those displays were not anything a child should see, yet to deny the participants an in-your-face celebration of this or that political or cultural expression was considered any word that ends in -phobic.

My disappointment that Saturday at the un-

expected tepid display of empty gift boxes and so many sugar-coated treats, though not necessarily wrong, still made me a little angry.

I wanted to yell at every church in town, “Don’t you people remember that Christmas is about JESUS? At least bring your bus to the parade filled with CHRISTIANS singing carols. Where were you?”

My mother, who passed away last year, couldn’t understand why so many embrace the gore and ghostly glorification of Halloween.

She often asked, nearly in tears, “But why are we expected to keep quiet about that foolishness and have to tread so carefully when celebrating the birth of Jesus?”

Like the distracted frog blissfully lounging in a pot of cool water that becomes boiling hot before he can escape, maybe we need to jump out of our dangerous simmering mess while there’s still time and hop away!

We do not have to do what “they” command. My history book can prove it.

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.



Catholic Churches


Sacred Heart, Cunningham
Saturday 4:00 p.m.

St. John, Zenda
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

St. Leo
Sunday 8:30 p.m.

St. Peter Willowdale
Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627 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.

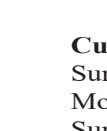
Trinity, Medicine Lodge
620- 886-3397
Sunday School & Bible Class
8:45 a.m.
Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

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

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1970

December 17, 1970 -Take a beautiful December day, add a fine parade and program, sack up a good treat of candy and peanuts, embellish with Santa Claus, and invite a large crowd of people, and you have one of the best Cunningham Santa Claus Days in its 42 year-old history.

That’s just what happened at Cunningham’s 42nd annual Santa Claus Day last Saturday.

We had a beautiful Day.

We had an outstanding parade program, featuring a large number of entries in six children’s divisions, the Cunningham School Band, the Boy Scout Troop, one antique automobile , the Cunningham American Legion color guard, and two nice floats.

We sacked up 825 treats of candy and peanuts.

We invited Santa Claus.

We invited the entire Cunningham community and surrounding areas, and they all came to town and everybody had a good time.

Tribute was accorded the community’s senior citizens, who were privileged with “front row seats” in cars along the parade route. The senior citizens included Mr. and Mrs. Emil Dostal, Alvia Johnson, Roy Blackwell, Mrs. Gladys Sheldon, Mrs. Mae O’Bryant, Alfred Thieme, Tony Panek, Mrs. Rose Willinger, Mrs. Ida Hilbert, Mrs. Mary Vermillion, Mrs. Amy McClellan, Mrs. Myrtle Peck, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bock, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cain.

Mrs. Irene Schnittker presented each senior citizen a bag of homemade cookies on behalf of the Homemakers EHU; Mrs. Rhoda O’Rourke and Mrs. Eva Cundiff presented carnations and a sack of treats, compliments of the Santa Claus Day Committee. Transportation was provided by Mrs. Frances Nossaman, Dan Cusenbary, Mrs. Alva Hellar, Mrs. Charles Ratcliff, and Mrs. Charles Lackey. Mr. Dostal, Mr. Thieme, and Mr. Bock drove their own cars. Waldo Graves assisted with the parking.

A special thanks from Parade Chairman Joe Pelzl and Program Chairman Dale Sheldon, goes to the Cunningham High School Band, under the direction of Calvin Buller, for their parade marching music, Christmas music, and the national anthem; to Cunningham American Legion Post No. 114, under the command of Ernie Bishop, for their marching color guard, and to the Cunningham Boy Scout Troop, under the command of Kirk Huhman, for raising the United States flag.

Members of the color guard were Dean Cooley, Jack Crick, Charles Lackey, Don Kitson, Mike Scripsick, and Rev. Henry Dutcher.

Members of the flag-raising squad were Kevin Rohr, Marvin Shelton, and Greg Kitson.

Drum Major Marsha Hansen led the band, followed by Twirlers Donna Schaller, Elaine Webster, and Cindy Mantooth.

Fr. Eugene Robl, pastor of the Sacred Heart Church, gave the invocation, and Rev. Raymond McDaniel, pastor of the First Christian Church, read the Christmas Story from the Bible.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Vickie Lohmann

Reporter: Florine Kampling

1975

December 18, 1975 – adv: Kittens to give away. 298-2155

Third grade students with perfect attendance for the second six weeks were Caroline Adamson, Janice Cornelius, Courtney Miller, Dean and Deanna FitzSimmons, Jimmy Harbert, Edwin Park, Robbie Sterneker, Sherrina Murphy, and Kevin Smith.

Home Ec II, III, and IV classes attended the holiday house tour on Friday December 12. The girls found a lot of new craft ideas for Christmas and thought each home was beautifully decorated. The homes they visited were: Kenny Kerschen, Jack Meyers, and Dean Dyche. The girls in these classes were: Home Ec II; Cheryl Freund, Cheri Mantooth, Darla Stucky, Yvonne Thimesch. Home Ec III Natasha Armstrong, LuAnn Jones, Janel Rohr, and Terri Simonson. Home Ec IV; Connie Armstrong, Tresea Deviney, Connie Heflin, Kathy Kampling, and Denise Watkins.

Hilltop: Our “thanks” to the family of Edna A. Ridge of rural Penalosa for the beautiful flowers that were sent to the home following the memorial services held Tuesday morning. “Thanks” for the cookies that were brought to the home Friday afternoon. Steve Towns of Sawyer visited the home Friday afternoon. Santa Claus jars of candy were sent to the home Saturday morning. Thanks a lot.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Rex Zimmerman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1980

December 18, 1980 – adv: Almost New Instamatic Camera.

The Cunningham Wildcats went to 4-0 on the season with a very important League victory over the Haviland Dragons on Dec. 12. The Wildcats had to overcome tremendous height disadvantage to gain the 60-52 victory. I was very pleased with the effort put out by the players, although we did not play particularly well. It is very difficult to put out the effort both physically and mentally two times in one week, as we had to this week. Tuesday’s game was very tough because of the pace and their size. Friday’s night game was even more demanding, because they were very tall and played very physically. We made many small mental mistakes, but our determined and steady effort paid off. -Coach Magnett

The Cunningham Wildcats continued their winning ways with a 47-25 victory over the Haviland Dragons in girls action last Friday night, Dec. 12. The game was actually much closer than the final score indicates, because the Wildcats only held an eight point lead going into the fourth quarter.

Mari Rohr and Shery Schnittker tallied 12 and 11 points, respectively, to pace the offensive effort. Donna Beat and Rhonda Ruckle added 6 apiece; Kim

House, 4; and Bonnie Fischer, Barbara Harbert, Becky Kerschen, and Debbie Beat rounded out the scoring with a basket each. Donna Beat also claimed 7 rebounds to lead us in that category. With the victory, the Wildcat girls record improved to 4-0.

The Cunningham boys basketball team placed four players in double figures in its 63-39 win over Spearville Tuesday night in the opening round of the Macksville Basketball tournament.

Cunningham, 2-0, had no trouble with Spearville as Greg Hageman led the Wildcats charge with 20 points. Matt Oller had 15 points, with nine of those coming from the free throw line. Oller last Friday in its win over Medicine Lodge had 27 points. Bill Murphy had 11 points and Tom Theis added 10.

The Cunningham High Schol football team has received an honor with the recent naming of Wade Ruckle as first team linebacker on the defensive team of the Wichita Eagle.

Naola Thimesch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thimesch, is the first student from Cunningham High School for the 1980-81 school year to receive a scholarship.

Naola has received word that she will be the recipient of the \$500 scholarship from the Keith Welch Scholarship Fund. Naola intends to enter the court reporting profession and plans to attend either Amarillo Community College, Amarillo, Texas, or a court reporting school in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ellen Colucci, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Colucci of Cunningham, has been informed that she is the recipient of a \$750 music scholarship from Baker University.

Miss Colucci, during a senior weekend at Baker, auditioned by playing the oboe. Her talented performance was the primary factor in her receiving the scholarship. Miss Colucci plans to major in music therapy and music education at the University.

Elizabeth Sheldon has returned to her home from St. Francis Hospital after a fall in her home last week. She is in a leg cast.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Stillwell were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stillwell, Sr.

1985

December 19, 1985 -Chris Mallatt is a new student in our class. We are glad to have him in our class and now have nine boys and three girls in sixth grade. The sixth grade earned a class party last week for passing a timed math test. We had popcorn, pop, and watched a Christmas program on TV. The science class is finishing a unit on the earth’s past. We made fossils in plaster, using both the mold and cast methods. Our fossil activity was very successful. Some very interesting examples were produced by every member of the class. – Mrs. Carmen Sowers

Friday night, December 20, the 1985-86 Mini Basketball Program makes its first appearance. There will be four games Friday night beginning at the half time of the 3:45 ball game.

There are 77 children participating in the program this year.



Members of the Kingman County girls Basketball Championshipo team in 1927 were Grace Sellon (Benningfield), Dorothy Krehbiel (Meyer), Edna Royse (Thom), Vera Dempsey (Watkins), Elsi Luce (Mosley), Dorothea Doty (Oursler), Dorothy Watkins (Pierce), Gertrude Crow (Mooney), Eugenia Crow (Hellar) and Bertha Peebler (Harp) coach.

JH Lady Wildcats Rally Past Stafford

On Thursday, December 11, 2025 the JH Lady Wildcats played host to the Stafford Lady Trojans in a battle of undefeated teams in the Heart of the Plains League. The Lady Trojans jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead that led to a Lady Cats timeout. After the timeout, the two teams would play even the remainder of the first quarter with each team scoring five points apiece for a

Stafford 12-5 lead after one. The Lady Wildcat defense stepped up in the second quarter and held the Lady Trojans to just two points all while scoring 11 points for themselves to take a 16-14 halftime lead. Stafford would score a quick basket to start the second half to tie the game at 16, but Cunningham would answer with a 10-4 run to finish the third quarter to extend their lead to 26-20 heading into the fourth. In the fourth quarter the Lady Wildcats would maintain their momentum and scored

ten more points, while they held Stafford to just three, resulting in a 36-23 victory. The win moved the Lady Cats to 3-0 in the HOPL and 7-0 overall. Scoring for the JH Lady Wildcats: Lux Thimesch 4, Carly McGuire 7, Mackley Glenn 4, Alyssa Osner 10, Leah Rogers 11. Earlier in the night the B-team Lady Cats would play in a wild, tale-of-two-halves game. The host Lady Cats played very well the first half, especially on the defensive end, holding Stafford to just one point, while scoring 13 for a 13-1

halftime lead. Stafford would go to a zone in the second half and held Cunningham to just four points in the second half, while scoring 15 point themselves, but the Stafford comeback would fall short by one point, with Cunningham coming away with a 17-16 victory. The B-team record now stands at 2-1 in league play and 4-2 overall. Scoring for the Lady Cats b-team vs. Stafford: Parker Miller 2, Willow Preisser 5, AnnMarie Kerschen 2, Jalynn McGuire 2, Elsie Ruckle 4. -Coach Bart Ricke



Lux Thimesch



JH Wildcats Take Down Trojans

The Junior High Wildcats hosted the Stafford Trojans on December 12th. The game started off with a few misses by the Cats: good shots that would not go down. As a result, the first quarter was pretty close and ended with the Cats up 9 to 4. However, the boys heated up and shot the ball very well the rest of the game. In the second quarter the boys put up 10 points vs 0 from the Trojans. The Cats came out a little flat in the 3rd and did not have a great start, but righted the ship and finished strong in the 4th quarter scoring 15 points for a 41-19 Wildcat victory. These boys are a delight for basketball enthusiasts as they pass and share the ball well. As they start to shoot the ball more accurately we'll all have even more fun. The boys are 7-0 on the season and 2-0 in league. Brody led the team in rebounds with 8 followed by Cooper with 6. Casyn, Landon, and Brody all had 2 steals, and for the second game in a row, we had more assists than turnovers! Cooper had 4 and Casyn had 3 to lead the pack.

Wildcat Scorers

Brody Halderson	15
Grady Smyth	8
Landon Green	8
Cooper Neufeld	6
Casyn Miller	6
Jace Oldham	2
Landen Hageman	2

Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	9	10	7	15	41
Stafford	4	0	8	7	19



Landon Green



Grady Smyth



Landen Hageman



Dear Santa,

My name is Edwin.

I am 5 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☒ nice ☐

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. jet

2. bus

3. fire truck

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, Edwin

Dear Santa,

My name is Maria

I am 5 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. Doll

2. Teddy Bear

3. Family Time

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, Maria

Dear Santa,

My name is George

I am 5 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. Paw Patrol Tower

2. Friend to stay @ my house

3. Remote Train

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, George

Dear Santa,

My name is Lynley

I am 6 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. Legos

2. Dinosaur

3. Monster truck

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, Lynley

Dear Santa,

My name is BROOX

I am 6 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. Cat Squishmallow

2. giftcard

3. heart Squishmallow

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, BROOX

Dear Santa,

My name is TYSON KRAFT

I am 6 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☒ nice ☐

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. Semi-truck

2. Cyber-truck

3. nerf gun

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, TYSON KRAFT

Dear Santa,

My name is Kriel

I am 5 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. minecraft

2. minecraft

3. Steve

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, Kriel

Dear Santa,

My name is JACKION

I am 5 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1.

2. K

3. N

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, JACKION

Dear Santa,

My name is Gray

I am 0 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. Creeper stuffed animal

2. Shark Squishmallow

3. Nintendo Switch

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, Grayson

Dear Santa,

My name is Oakley

I am 6 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. new cat

2. new kitten

3. cupcakes

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, Oakley

Dear Santa,

My name is Nazli

I am 6 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. Gym

2. 9seats

3. WINGS

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, Nazli

Dear Santa,

My name is Josie

I am 6 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. fav unicorn

2. Cookies

3. Barbie

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, Josie

Dear Santa,

My name is DONN

I am 5 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. Tow Truck

2. Coat

3. Legos

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, DONN

Dear Santa,

My name is DONALD

I am 0 years old.

This year I have been:

naughty ☐ nice ☒

These are three things I am wishing for:

1. car

2. air balloon

3.

I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

From, DONALD



Kingman County Sheriff's Report



Sunday, December 7	
Civil Paper Service	5
Fire / Tree	15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist / KHP	N Coronado St & E D Ave, Kingman
Monday, December 8	
Traffic Stops	1
Civil Paper Service	4
Traffic Complaint	S Hwy 14 & SE 40 St, Kingman
Agency Assist / KMPD / Disturbance / Arrest	E B Ave & N Chariton St, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	SE 70 Ave & E Hwy 42, Rago
Non-Injury Accident	11000 Blk E Hwy 42, Norwich
Check Welfare	NE 10 St & E Hwy 54, Kingman
Tuesday, December 9	
Traffic Stops	4
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Harassment	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	W Hwy 42 & SW 70 Ave, Nashville
Follow Up	800 N Main St, Kingman
Accidental 911 Dial	2500 E Hwy 42, Rago
Disabled Vehicle	S Hwy 14 & SW 30 Ave, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	16000 Blk SE 60 St, Norwich
Wednesday, December 10	
Traffic Stops	6
Traffic Complaint	12000 Blk 160 Ave, Norwich
Fraud	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	13000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Suspicious Person	11000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Agency Assist / KHP	9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Agency Assist / KHP	11000 Blk S Hwy 14, Kingman
Miscellaneous	1200 Blk SW 150 Ave, Cunningham
Suspicious Person	N Main St & E 3rd St, Cunningham
Harassment	500 Blk N Main St, Spivey

Thursday, December 11	
Traffic Stops	3
Civil Paper Service	1
Agency Assist / Medical	1800 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Follow Up	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist / KMPD / Disturbance	400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist / KMPD / Disturbance	400 Blk N Coronado St, Kingman
Fire / Structure	5600 Blk SE 100 St, Kingman
Agency Assist / KW&P / Arrest	W 391 St & W Hwy 54, Cheney
Miscellaneous	300 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
Animal Complaint	700 Blk SW 40 St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	300 E H Ave, Kingman
Animal Complaint	5400 SW 70 St, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle	NE 10 Ave & NE 30 St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	400 Blk E F Ave, Kingman
Friday, December 12	
Traffic Stop	1
Civil Paper Service	5
Miscellaneous	4600 Blk NE 160 Ave, Cheney
Traffic Complaint	15000 Vlk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Non-Injury Accident	6000 Blk S Hwy 14, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	18000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Traffic Complaint	NE 20 Ave & E Hwy 54, Kingman
Violation of Protection Order	600 Blk W G Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	SE 30 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman
Saturday, December 13	
Suspicious Vehicle	100 Blk N Main St, Norwich
Miscellaneous	2400 Blk NE 30 Ave, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	NE 30 Ave & NE 20 St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	SW 20 Ave & W Hwy 54, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Accidental 911 Dial	400 Blk W 1st St, Norwich
Disabled Vehicle	8000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	1200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman



Celebrating Holidays and Family

Jackie Mundt, Pratt County farmer and rancher

An interesting fact about me is that I lived with a Jewish family in college. The woman I rented a bedroom from was a single mom in need of a little extra income. I had all the amenities of living with a family and the added bonus of learning about another culture.

The family was a bit like people who only attend church on Christmas and Easter or Chr-easters as I often call them. They didn’t practice their faith regularly but celebrated holidays and kindly included me in their holidays, which really broad-

ened my worldview.

I never had an opportunity to celebrate Hanukkah with them as I typically returned home for Christmas break before it began. By chance this year, I was visiting a museum that hosts educational activities for kids on the first day of Hanukkah. Museum staff knew our group was unfamiliar with traditions and practices of the holiday. They invited us to join in some of the fun children’s activities and we gladly accepted the chance to learn more about the culture.

There were several craft stations for the kids where you could decorate a dreidel, miniature menorah or lantern. They also had orange slices as a sweet snack for participants.

Our adult group decorated thin round disks with markers and stickers, then a helpful little boy showed us how to

slobber glue on a dowel to attach the disc so you can create the spinner. The lanterns were glass jars or plastic bottles decorated to be carried by the kids in a parade through the community later that night.

When it was time to light the menorah, all of the families joined in songs similar to Christmas carols. The songs were in Hebrew. I didn’t understand the words but they were sung with great excitement by the children. Plus, they were accompanied by an accordion which makes everything seem more festive.

The event felt just like a Christmas party at a small-town library or community center. Kids creating fun crafts to liven up the celebration, joyful songs sung with more enthusiasm than skill and sweet treats to wrap everything together.

The origins and sig-

nificance of Hanukkah is very different from Christmas but at this event it felt so familiar. The children were having fun with each other, parents were visiting and grandmothers were watching lovingly to make sure everyone had what they needed. Kids were sharing, kindness was flowing and the air was filled with an infectious kind of happiness that only holidays can bring.

This brief window into the traditions of Hanukkah wasn’t in-depth or life-changing, but it was the type of memorable experience I cherish. In a world full of hard days and complex problems, it is nice to be reminded of all the good that comes from celebrating holidays together. I love seeing families spending time together, people sharing faith and communities celebrating the traditions that make

them unique.

As you celebrate this holiday season, I wish you and your family peace, love and joy. May your family traditions bring you together for

many years to come.

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Statepoint Crossword
Theme: Year-in-Review

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- ACROSS
1. W.E.B Du Bois' org.

6. Rascal

9. Ho-hum

13. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer

14. Tropical constrictor

15. Forgo

16. Tequila source

17. + or - atom

18. Reason by deduction

19. *Trade war "weapon," pl.

21. *2025 MLB World Series winners

23. ____-tzu

24. C&H crop

25. Dunce

28. Western necktie

30. Catch in a snare

35. Ginger cookie

37. Master of his castle

39. Use a razor

40. British slang for donkey

41. Arch and ball locations

43. Winglike

44. March celebrants

46. *Arthur Sze, 2025 ____ Laureate

47. Dam-like structure

48. *Beyoncé's "Cowboy ____," 2025 Grammy winner

50. King Kong and Curious George, e.g.

52. Like a fox

53. What Pinocchio did

55. *Florida Panthers won this org.'s '25 championship

57. *"Wicked: ____ ____"

61. *Late environmentalist and chimpanzee expert
65. German submarine destroyer

66. *2025 Ryder Cup loser

68. Manuscript sheet

69. Brazilian coins

70. Roll-your-own one, for short

71. To the left, on a boat

72. Orpheus' instrument

73. Geological time period

74. They are cut by Federal Reserve
- DOWN
1. At room temperature, bar order

2. Algae, sing.

3. Petri dish filler

4. Raise trivial objections

5. Ready to be assembled

6. Avian wader

7. Farm sound

8. China's goodwill " ____ diplomacy"

9. Collision, onomatopoeically speaking

10. *Taylor Swift's "The ____ of a Showgirl"

11. Affirm solemnly

12. Third-person possessive pronoun

15. Makes broader

20. Why do they fall in love?

22. *Aryna Sabalenka's seed

24. Auto contents

25. Pertaining to osmium

26. *2025 Academy Awards Best Picture winner

27. Faquir, alt.spelling

29. Pilot's stunt

31. Spring event

32. Pneumonia symptom, pl.

33. Be of use

34. *Blue Origin's 2025 singing passenger
36. Boll weevil, e.g.

38. * ____ Seek

42. Shorthand typist, for short

45. Serfs

49. 2016 Olympics host, for short

51. Ram's horn at a synagogue

54. Draw a conclusion

56. Parkinson's disease drug

57. Roll up

58. Heed

59. Lion sound

60. Dorothy's last name

61. *Lady of "The Mayhem Ball"

62. Tons (2 words)

63. Lira, pl.

64. Land parcels

67. *Gary Oldman received this honorific in 2025
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Santa Cycles in for Zenda Parade

Submitted by Beth Blasi

Zenda held their annual Santa Parade on Saturday, Dec 6, 2025. The weather cooperated with sunny skies, not too breezy, and temperature in the 50's. The library held a book sale and the Methodist ladies had a craft and bake sale. The Museum ladies sponsored the yummy chili

and chicken noodle soup lunch complete with cinnamon rolls and desserts. With Judy Jones announcing the participants, the parade began with local veteran, Norbert Blasi, carrying the United States flag, followed by one of the fire trucks. Mark and Joyce Westerman were the judges and awarded prizes to the participants in the parade that included the 4-H group, many bikes, trikes, animals, and motorized vehicles of all shapes and sizes.

The Grinch snuck into the parade on a yellow motorcycle (sorry, didn't get a picture) right before Santa himself rolled in on a cool-looking motorcycle. The line to talk to Santa and get a bag of treats was so long that my grandson, Dylan, fell asleep before he got there. Of course, he is 11 months old and didn't have much to tell Santa anyway.

A street-pole decorating contest was held again this year to continue to raise funds for

updated Christmas decorations. Rod and Jacque Blasi received first place with their "Hanging Santa". Katie Hellman's white gingerbread house received second place, and the Library's brown gingerbread house received third place.

Thanks to our many sponsors that made the parade and treat bags possible: Big Dog Outfitters, Blasi Service, Greenhead Consulting, Todd & Jana Green, Zenda Telephone Co, and White's Foodliner



(apologies if I missed anyone). And, also, a big shout out to all the volunteers that got this parade organized and made it

run smoothly. Ho, Ho, Ho – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Kingman County Commission Minutes

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. December 8, 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; Ms. Dye; Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief.

Online Visitors: Caller 01; AS; Caller 02

Staff: Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse.

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor gave the invocation.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/ Zoning Director was in with a resolution from Cunningham City for a mile and 1/2 border around the city that no solar

farms be placed.

Cody and Lacy Drosselmeyer requesting an extension on their NRP.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to approve the NRP extension for Cody and Lacy Drosselmeyer. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Stucky presented the following building permits:

Walter Gould for a shed in Section 24, Township 27, Range 05.

Drew Pelz for a storage shed in Section 8, Township 30, Range 05.

Dallas & Nicole Kenney for an Ag Building in Section 21, Township 30, Range 07.

Nick Kostner for a shed w/ living quarters in Section 12, Township 28, Range 06.

Justin Burkhart for an Ag Building in Section 29, Township 27, range 07.

Shaun McGovern for a new home in Section 12, Township 29, Range 05.

Jeffery Baird for a new home/shop in Section 33, Township 28, Range 07.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session for atty-client privilege at 8:48 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss the County's position on administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 8:58 a.m.

Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session for atty-client privilege at 8:58 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss the County's position on administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:03 a.m.

Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session for atty-client privilege at 9:03 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss the County's position on administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:08 a.m.

Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

County Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:08 a.m. with no action taken.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in with NRP Total Rebates per Year Participating Taxing Entities for the Commissioners review.

Ms. Stegman presented the Commissioners with the City/County EMS Fiscal Year 2025

totals through 3rd Qtr.

Ms. Stegman went over the PILOT Revenue by Year & Use of Funds.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Work Director and Tanner Yost, Kirkham Michael were in to close out the Construction Phase on Flat Ridge 4 & Flat Ridge 5.

Mr. Yost discussed damages to the missile base road and the conservative estimate they was \$282,673.00 and that Invenergy would agree to 71.4% payment of \$201,828.00 to pay for the repairs.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the offer from Invenergy to repair the missile base road SE150 St in the amount of \$201,828.00. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Arensdorf presented a permit from the following:

Phillips 66 Pipeline-Repair pipeline in Section 26, Township 30, Range 08 (Chikaskia).

Mr. Arensdorf discussed correspondence received on the road by Neville Welding.

Tiffany Aumiller, Benefits Administrator requested an executive session for non-elected personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Young moved to go into Executive Session at 10:27 a.m. with Tiffany Aumiller, Benefits Administrator and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor for non-elect-

ed personnel matters to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:34 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Young moved to go into Executive Session at 10:35 a.m. with Tiffany Aumiller, Benefits Administrator and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor for non-elected personnel matters to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:40 a.m.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:41 a.m. with no action taken.

Ms. Aumiller reviewed the longevity policy with the County Commissioners.

Ms. Aumiller reviewed the performance appraisal policy.

Christy Crew, Hometown Grants Administrator was in to let the Commissioners know that Cunningham City has won the Cost Share Grant.

Ms. Crew discussed grants that have been written and the ones waiting to be applied for.

Ms. Crew discussed a grant for Norwich that was original two different grants that can now be combined into one grant submission.

Ms. Crew discussed

air packs grant for all of the County and asked the Commissioners if they would be willing to provide match funds for this grant.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the matching funds for the SCBA/Cascade Grant not to exceed \$75,000.00 to pay out of the Rainy-Day fund. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted December 1, 2025, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve December 1, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon read correspondence received from the Kansas League of Municipalities for 2026 dues.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to decline membership with the Kansas League of Municipalities for 2026. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners approved abatements, additions and escape taxes.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:51 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Pratt County Commission Minutes for December 8

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 08, 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 Director.

Executive Sessions Non-Elected Personnel

Motion to move to executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to the

Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss HR for 15 minutes with Tishawna Dudley at 2:00 p.m. made by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 2:15 p.m. with no action taken.

Motion made to move to executive session un-

der the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss HR for 15 minutes with Sherry Wenrich at 2:16 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 2:31 pm with no action taken.

Motion to move to executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss HR for 15 minutes with DJ McMurry at 2:32 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session

at 2:43 pm with no action taken.

Noxious Weed Replacement Computer

Motion to approve the purchase of a replacement computer for Noxious Weed for \$1,098.29 made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle;

(con't on page 10)

Pratt County Commission Minutes for December 8

(con't from page 9)

motion carried 3-0.

Sherriff Personnel Request

Motion to hire Zane Martin at \$22.50/hr part time for the Sheriff Department made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Road Personnel Request

Motion to approve Ryan Russle at \$17/hr for the Road Department made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Courthouse Concrete Work

Motion to approve the quote from Terry Williamson for \$6,000 for courthouse concrete work made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners

Comments

Commissioner Trinkle gave an update on the Taxing Entity lunch he attended. Commissioner Shriver gave an update on the meeting he will be attending on the 18th to address the city flooding warning system.

Consideration of CMB License, Resolution 12-08-2025 & Fees

Motion to approve Resolution 12-08-2025 to issue a Cereal Malt Beverage to Leanah Bailey DBA Rick's Restaurant made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Motion to approve the standard on premise CMB Licenses fee for \$150.00 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 with Jack Galle and David PELLE Eron to discuss the PRMC lease for 45 minutes at 3:01 p.m. made by Commissioner Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:46 p.m. with no ac-

tion taken.

Approval of Communication

Regarding PRMC

Motion to approve PELLE Eron & Bailey to communicate with PRMC and Bond Council regarding business related to PRMC made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; 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 PRMC leases for 5 minutes at 3:56 p.m. made by Commissioner

Trinkle; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 4:00 p.m. with no action taken.

Approval of Minutes and Vouchers

Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes for both Joint and Regular Sessions of Dec 1st.

Commissioners unanimously approved the vouchers for December 8, 2025.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to adjourn at 4:01 p.m.

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KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Twinkie

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Lyric

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Twinkie looks like a total sweetheart, a perfect little Christmas present. She is an older ‘present’ at over 11 years of age. She’s been at the shelter since November 10 and would love to spend the holidays with her new family around the Christmas tree. Her adoption fee is only \$40.00.

“Twinkie is a little shy around strangers at first but will gradually allow her new owner to become part of her life. She has never been around dogs or children so will do best in a quiet household.”



There is not much information on the KCHS website about this pretty girl. Lyric is a Border Collie mix, about 1 ½ years old. She’s been at the shelter since November 25 and would love to spend Christmas with her new family. No matter her story, she deserved a new home for the holidays.

“Dogs are the leaders of the planet. If you see two life forms, one of them's making a poop, the other one's carrying it for him, who would you assume is in charge.” — Jerry Seinfeld



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Public Notice

(First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, December 18, 2025.)

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: PATRICIA E. KOON, Deceased.

Case No. KM 2025 PR 56

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Leslie D. Koon, an heir of Patricia E. Koon, deceased, praying:

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

Building at Spring Acres: Cabin #3 in the West Half of the Southeast Quarter (W/2 SE/4) of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Twenty-nine (29) South, Range Seven (7) West of the 6th P.M., Kingman County, Kansas.

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

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before January 20, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the city of Kingman, in Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

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

Help Wanted

The City of Turon is looking for a part-time sub-clerk, if interested please call 620-497-6443.

Public Notice

(First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, December 18, 2025.)

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: MARY KATHLEEN WHITMER, Deceased.

Case No. KM 2025 PR 26

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on December 15, 2025, a Petition was filed in this Court by Montie Wayne Whitmer, duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Estate of Mary Kathleen Whitmer, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Executor of the Estate of Mary Kathleen Whitmer, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before January 20, 2026, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Montie Wayne Whitmer, Executor
Matthew W. Ricke, #20995
ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC
349 North Main, P. O. Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
(620) 532-3103
Attorney for Petitioner

Public Notice

First published in The Cunningham Courier on Thursday, December 4, 2025.

James R James and or /Carolyn F George: You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Kingman County, Kansas, regarding an abandoned 1991 Chevy Classic with VIN #1G1BN53E7MW158488 contact Michael Fortune at (620) 491-0434.

Public Notice

First Published in The Cunningham Courier, Thursday, December 4, 2025.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: EUGENE A. HENNING, Deceased.

CASE NO. KM-2025-PR-53

(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on November 25, 2025, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary was filed in this Court by Rhonda Mattal.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Rhonda Mattal, Petitioner
Matthew W. Ricke
Ricke & Ritcha Law Office
349 N. Main, PO Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
Attorney for Petitioner

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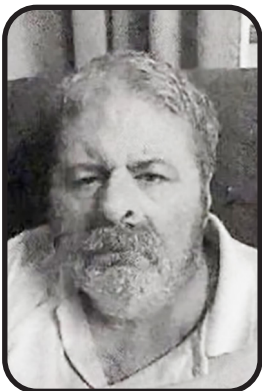
Markus Kent Dixon, 63, passed away Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Haviland Care Center. He was born on August 27, 1962, in Pratt to Larry Edward and Una Beth (Schneider) Dixon.

Mark graduated from Pratt High School in 1981. He previously attended Church of the Nazarene. He enjoyed all things Star Trek, nature and walking.

He is survived by his sisters, Le Etta (Kenneth) Scherban of Wichita, Karen (Russ) Markey of Wamego, Aleta Dixon of Pratt and Deann Dixon of Wichita.

Markus is preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister, Diann Dixon.

Cremation has taken place. Inurnment will be at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.



Don Bramwell

Donald Gene Bramwell, 85, passed away December 8, 2025, surrounded by family. He was born September 24, 1940, to Howard (Steve) and Francis Bramwell.

Don lived a bold, accomplished life—as a hunter, hot-rod enthusiast, DEA agent, and later a wildcatter who founded several drilling and petroleum companies. He was also a respected English Springer Spaniel trainer, earning numerous champions, including his beloved Miss American Pie, and was inducted with his wife Pat into the 2019 National Bird Dog Hall of Fame. Don was further honored with the 2025 English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association Lifetime Achievement.

He cherished time with his family, especially gathering for laughter, Trivial Pursuit, hunting and camping.

Don is survived by his wife of 42 years, Patricia; children Chris (Steve) Hanner, Donna Fletcher, Doug (Judy) Bramwell, and Jonathen Bramwell; five grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother David, and daughter Beverly.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Nichols Cemetery outside Zenda.

Memorials may be made to the Springer Spaniel Foundation and sent to the Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.



Joe Lusk

Josef Norris Lusk, 82, passed away Friday, December 12, 2025 at Grand Plains Skilled Nursing in Pratt. He was born on February 25, 1943 in Wellington to Marvin and Phyllis (Richards) Lusk. They had three children, Judy, Joe and Dick and lived in Wellington, Kansas until Marvin and Phyllis divorced. Later Phyllis married Don Campbell and Joe always considered him his dad. They became a family of eight after three more children, Bill, Renee and Scott were born. Joe remained in Wellington and graduated high school and married Dorlis Corbin. They had a son, Jeffrey. Joe later divorced and met Ruth Gibson and married her and they eventually moved to Pratt, Kansas with their daughter, Patsy where they lived until Ruth passed in 1991. Joe met Doris (Pinkston) Gould and married her, and they were together until she passed away in 2019.

Joe was a loving husband and brother. He was a wonderful dad to Jeff, Patricia, Terry and Ethel. A loving grandfather to Ethan, Saisha, Kale, Ashley and Olivia and great granddaughters Sidney and Embree. He was respected and well liked by everyone in the community.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin Lusk and Phyllis Campbell; his stepfather, Don Campbell; late wife, Doris Lusk; previous wife, Ruth Lusk; earlier wife, Dorlis Lusk; his sister, Judy Snyder; brothers, Richard Lusk and Bill Campbell; and daughter, Ethel Warren.

He is survived by a very dear friend, Betty Young of Pratt, Kansas; his son, Jeffrey Lusk and wife Linda of Wichita, Kansas; daughter, Patricia Eastes of Smith Center, Kansas; and son, Terry (Florie) Gould of Lufkin, Texas; his grandchildren, JD Lusk of Tucson, Arizona, Saisha Eastes of Oberlin, Kansas, Ethan Eastes of Junction City, Kansas, Kale Eastes of Smith Center, Kansas, Ashley Warren of Pratt, Kansas and Olivia Gould of Lufkin, Texas; his loving great-grandchildren, Sydney Eastes and Embree Brown; surviving sister, Renee DeLaurentis of Andover, Kansas; and brother, Scott Campbell of Wellington, Kansas.

A Graveside Service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at Greenlawn Cemetery, 1401 Stout, Pratt with John Hamm presiding.

Memorials may be made to Donor Choice.



Pat Goff

Patrick A. “Pat” Goff, 82, died Dec. 13, 2025, at his home.

He was born Nov. 6, 1943, in Richmond, California, the son of Dennis O. Gaunt and Dorothy Sanders Gaunt, both formerly of Great Bend, Ks. While working as a police officer in the shipyard, Dennis was stuck by lightning & was no longer able to care for a family. This unfortunate circumstance would force Dorothy and the boys to return to Kansas where Dorothy met, and later remarried, Charles L. Goff, a local farmer who became Pat’s adopted father. Shortly after graduation, Pat worked for Garvey Elevators & helped construct many of the elevators you still see around Kansas today. This was when he met a local elementary school teacher by the name of Joan Smerchek. It wasn’t long before they decided to start a family and not wanting to miss out on his boys’ childhoods, Pat took a job as a lease operator at what would become Oxydental Petroleum, a local oil & gas production company. Later, he joined and retired from the Kingman County Road & Bridge Department.

Pat was a member of Ninnescah Lodge #230 A.F. & A.M., the Scottish Rite Bodies and the Midian Shrine; he was a member of the Kingman Country Club; was a former Scout Master and also helped coach his boys’ sports teams. Since Pat left quite early for work he was usually home before Joan & the boys returned from school. Luckily for everyone involved, this helped turn Pat into one heck of a cook! From soup to nuts, he could do it all.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Joan Smerchek Goff, a former 5th grade teacher to whom he was married on October 6, 1967. Other survivors include two sons, Allen and his wife Denise, and Charles, “Chuck” and his wife Melissa; older brother Dennis Goff; and one grandchild Quintz Goff. He was preceded in death by his parents and infant son Trenton.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025, at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, at the funeral home.

Family burial services will be at a later date. We ask that any memorials or donations made, be with the Kingman “Share the Love” group and may be sent in care of the Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.



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KDOT Urges Drivers to Drive Sober this Holiday Season

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) urges sober driving this holiday season, one of the deadliest times on Kansas roads.

As part of the national safety campaign “Taking Down DUI,” which runs from Dec. 26 through Jan 2, drivers can expect increased law enforcement presence. Seventeen people died in traffic crashes between Dec. 18, 2024, and Jan. 1, 2025, with drugs or alcohol involved in 32 crashes that resulted in 26 injuries.

“Driving impaired is illegal and deadly,” said KDOT Behavioral Safety Manager Gary Herman. “Don’t risk hurting yourself or others. Drive Sober.”

If your celebration involves alcohol, planning ahead saves lives:

Plan a safe ride home. Call a ride-share, cab or a sober friend.

If you’re hosting, offer non-alcohol beverages.

If someone has been drinking, take their keys and arrange for a sober ride home.

If you see an impaired driver, contact law enforcement.

For more information on impaired driving, visit nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving.

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