

The Cunningham Courier

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

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\$1.50

MERRY CHRISTMAS

photo by Alan Albers

December 18, 2025
Volume 35 Number 51



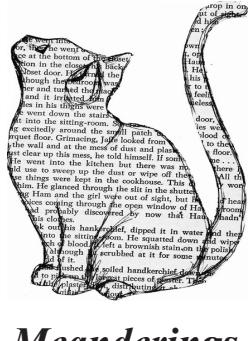
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Meanderings

I am letting Mr. Dean Cooley fill part of my spot

The History of Santa Claus Day

Written by Dean Cooley (late '70s or early '80s)

In the fall of 1886, William Miles Cooley arrived at the newly established community of Cunningham, Kansas from near Parkersburg, West Virginia. He then went to the home of his brother, Charles Cooley who had come to Cunningham in 1883.

About a week before Christmas, Mr. Bill Cooley began to inquire about what was planned for the children of the community for

for me. Rogene gave me this history a couple of weeks ago, and I meant to put it in last week's paper, but it slipped my mind. I made sure it was here this week, to accompany the photos I took of the parade. Nice little bit of history explaining the candy sack tradition, and the importance of keeping it. To this Cunningham-ite

Christmas. It was the custom in West Virginia for the community to provide treats for every child. He found nothing was planned so he went to all the businesses in the community and solicited enough money to buy candy. He personally sacked the candy and passed it out to every child. Thus Santa Claus Day in Cunningham was started.

This custom was continued until around the turn of the century. Various programs began to become the practice.

Some years platforms were built in the street and some years they were

those candy sacks after the parade are sacrosanct, and I know I am not the only one who holds this belief.

**

The masthead photo was sent in by Alan Albers along with this note: Monte Rose gifted the Museum a handmade Christmas greeting that once on Main Street in

not, it depended on the availability of materials.

William Cooley was the best extemporaneous speaker in the community and sometimes he was the program, other times there were guests after dinner speakers, candidates for public office and singing groups would perform. One year the program speaker was Mr. Fred Cloud, Kingman County's State Representative in Topeka, and later he was editorial writer for the Kingman Journal.

In the early 1920's a well-known farmer in the community decided to move into

years past. (I remember when it hung across Main Street.)

**

At the risk of sounding like a cranky old witch of a bah! humbug! Ebenezerina Scrooge: Did we not institute a parade policy that candy could not be thrown from moving vehicles? Parade entrants who walked in

Cunningham and build a new brick home. This was something new for Cunningham. It was the only brick home in Cunningham. (editor's note: I believe it is the home where Lois Becker lives). The farmer's name was Frank Doty, and he had much to do with Santa Claus Day in the coming years.

Soon after Mr. Doty move to Cunningham he was elected mayor. One of the first order of business Mr. Doty was involved in, was a motion to have the city provide money in the budget to buy candy for Santa Claus Day treats. The

parade could throw candy among the spectators, but it could not be thrown from the vehicles. I know at one time we did. After watching the shenanigans of the parade on Saturday, that policy needs to be permanently re-instated.

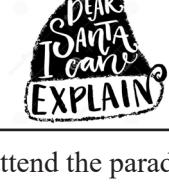
It seemed especially precarious when the candy tossers were little kids

who can't throw more than four feet, if that far.

**

Always reading, and currently reading, "Stuck"

by Michael Frederick, Roberta



to attend the parade.

In 1950 the Odd Fellows prepared a ham and bean dinner. This was repeated several years. About 1955 it was changed to Beef Stew, Chili and pie. In 1973 the American Legion Auxiliary took over the preparing of the dinner and have to this day.

Many people have served long hours on the various committees, too many to mention because someone would surely be left out.

It is a credit to the community of Cunningham for supporting this project for so many years.

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

I was late this year in setting up the Christmas tree but it's finally up. Traditionally (at least around my house) that usually goes up the day after Thanksgiving. That's because I refuse to participate in the Black Friday hoopla. This for two reasons. One—calling any day of the week "black," especially during the Holiday Season just never sat right with me. Two—since the in-

ception of this wholly manufactured "sale day" I have yet to see anything up for purchase on Black Friday I couldn't find at a dozen outlets for the same price (or cheaper) on the next day, and the day after that and the day after that. So Bah Humbug.

The Christmas tree comes down on January 6th, also known as "Little Christmas." Apparently that is when the Magi, those three wise guys, showed up in Bethlehem. That day is also known as the Feast of the Epiphany and is the Twelfth Day after Christmas. Now

here it gets a bit woolly because I was confused over whether not the Twelfth Day AFTER Christmas is part of the familiar Twelve Days OF Christmas. Well, it is. And all this time I thought those twelve days lead UP to Christmas rather than trail behind like an afterthought.

Late or not, once I retrieved those boxes from the shed the memories just erupted like a Santa Claus pinata in yuletide nostalgia. And trimming the tree was a joy, yet still a bit confusing to me. This is because when I hear "trim the tree" I

immediately think that means cutting the tree in some manner, paring it back and lopping off all those renegade branches that refused to take the shape of a Christmas tree. For many folks without this literal bias of mine "trimming the tree" means decorating it. But guess what? That's not quite correct, either. The word "trim" comes from Ye Olde English for "trymman." To "arrange, strengthen or make firm." I can handle the arrangement part of that triad but not the last two.

Decorating the tree, though a labor of love,

is enough work as it is. As I unpacked my decorations there is a real connection to the past. Some of my ornaments are only a year old but most are much older, in some cases going back decades. It's a mish-mash of trends and whimsy going back to the 1970s and representing every decade between then and now. And without diving into specifics there is a memory attached to each and every one of them. And I am sure it is the same for you.

Aside from the tree there's the wreath and the stockings and dozens of

other Christmas-themed tchotchkies to place strategically about the house. "Tchotchkies" is Yiddish for knick-knack or bau-ble. So we got the Rudolf spoon holder. The Frosty dish towel. The Norman Rockwell Santa's workshop. All to be dusted off, ceremoniously placed, treasured and then stuffed back in boxes on Little Christmas and hauled to the shed where they can hibernate like the Coca-Cola polar bear till next year.

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



Ranching with Reindeer – A Christmas Story

"And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name: 'Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!'"

Clement C. Moore

A Visit from St. Nicholas

Christmas is a joyful holiday for believers as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, rejoicing in the hope and promise of God's redemptive work

and victory over death through His Son Jesus Christ. We mark the holiday in many ways with many traditions, some old and some new. One is the practice of gift giving, a reflection of God's gift, a baby born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, delivered in a cattle stall into the most humble of circumstances.

Part of this holiday gift-giving remembrance and celebration is the eagerly awaited arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, bringing presents for all as he is towed through the air by his flying reindeer. This is a big event for those willing to join in the fun, watching and waiting for Santa and his team. He is even tracked through the sky every year by NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command). It seems those reindeer make pretty good time traversing the globe. Eager children every

where hope to see Santa and his reindeer. As so begins our story...

In 1945, Texas rancher Grady Carothers, inspired by his young son who wondered why there were no reindeer in Texas, decided to embark on an entrepreneurial adventure. His son's wish became the seed for an enterprise that spread Christmas joy for years. Grady Carothers decided we needed some reindeer in Texas.

Reindeer, of course, are not native to Texas. They are found in the Far North and are closely linked to caribou. They are the same species and share the same scientific name – *Rangifer tarandus*. But while caribou are wild, and native to Alaska, reindeer come from Eurasia and are typically domesticated and considered livestock. Reindeer were imported from Siberia to Alaska in the 1890s where they are still kept by the native population.

Pondering his son's question, and much to the chagrin of his slew-foot friends and neighbors, Carothers went to work in search of reindeer. With the help of his supportive wife and her trusty Royal typewriter, he began a letter writing campaign. Many letters were simply mailed general delivery to postmasters and other contacts in Alaska expressing a de-

sire to acquire some reindeer. After repeated attempts with no luck, one bloke suggested he contact the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).

The DOI, along with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Alaska Reindeer Service, were the governmental bodies tasked with managing reindeer herds near and above the Arctic Circle. After some resistance, they were finally given a permit and the okay to purchase several reindeer.

In the summer of 1946, Carothers and his oldest son traveled to Nome, Alaska, almost 3,000 miles from home. From there they continued farther east for another 70 miles to the tiny village of Golovin where they bought six reindeer steers for \$50 each.

Once back in the Lone Star State, Carothers broke the animals to harness, and after some serious work was ready to launch his business into the first Christmas season.

Carothers began contacting schools, shopping centers, parade organizers, and local chambers of commerce offering his services. He ferried his charges from town to town and state to state, sometimes doing as many as three shows a day. With red harnesses, his Texas reindeer pulled Santa and his sleigh from Thanksgiving through Christmas for almost 30

years. At one time he had as many as six teams on the road.

Along the way, they had more than a few misadventures. One episode, found in the pages of a Portales, New Mexico newspaper from November of 1951 recounted a real-life reindeer problem when a critter named "Blitzen" broke his halter rope and scampered around Portales for two hours before he was recaptured. The runaway reindeer was "nabbed in a field in southwest Portales where he was found grazing contentedly with some dairy cows."

Over the years, Carothers made an estimated 15 trips to Alaska, buying reindeer for replacements and breeding stock and transporting them to his ranch in Goldthwaite (Mills County, Texas). The reindeer were first flown by bush plane (typically two at a time) to Nome or Fairbanks, where they then flew home on a DC-3 cargo plane. After a time, it became more cost effective to trailer the animals home from Fairbanks, which in itself could be an adventure.

Carothers began contacting schools, shopping centers, parade organizers, and local chambers of commerce offering his services. He ferried his charges from town to town and state to state, sometimes doing as many as three shows a day. With red harnesses, his Texas reindeer pulled Santa and his sleigh from Thanksgiving through Christmas for almost 30

and traded melons for gas and groceries all the way up the Alcan Highway.

In later years Carothers moved to California where he continued to put on shows and exhibit his reindeer. For a time, they were the featured attraction at Santa's Village theme park in Lake Arrowhead. Later, after retiring from the reindeer business, Carothers drove the stagecoach at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park.

In an interview towards the end of his life Carothers said that "one of his fondest memories was when his reindeer pulled Santa Claus in a rose-covered sleigh in the 1955 Tournament of Roses Parade."

Grady Carothers was a good man. And his exploits are still remembered and talked about around ranch house kitchen tables and small-town lunch counters to this day. He passed from this earth on April 25, 2004, the day after his 98th birthday. His body was returned to his home state of Texas, and he was buried at Senterfitt Cemetery in Lometa. Grady Carothers and his reindeer gave all they met a wonderful Christmas gift for many years. Who'd have thought you could bring reindeer to Texas...

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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, January 6
It's time to go back to school ***
HS BB vs Macksville at HOME

Wednesday, January 7
6:30 p.m.
Shop Guild



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

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 Burtron (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

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 Ditmer - 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. Winkling 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.

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.

My disappointment that Saturday at the un-

Catholic Church Services for Christmas

Christmas Eve: 6:00 p.m. St. John
Christmas Eve: 11:30 p.m. St. Leo

Christmas Day: 8:30 a.m. St. Peter

Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m. Sacred Heart

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.



Sacred Heart, Cunningham

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

St. Leo

Sunday 8:30 p.m.

Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627

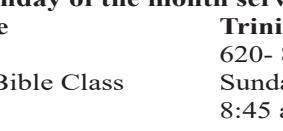
St. John, Zenda

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

St. Peter Willowdale

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

620-246-5370



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.

Pastor vacancy until further notice.

Trinity, Medicine Lodge

620-886-3397

Sunday School & Bible Class

8:45 a.m.

Worship Service

10:00 a.m.



Church of Christ

Penalosa

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Cunningham

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Jr High Youth Group 4:00 p.m. Sunday

Sr High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Sunday

Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Mike McGovney 620-770-9507



First Christian Church

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.

Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki

620-298-2090



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 School 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 Championship team in 1927 were Grace Sellon (Benningfield), Dorothy Krehbiel (Meyer), Edna Royse (Thom), Vera Dempsey (Watkins), Elsie 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



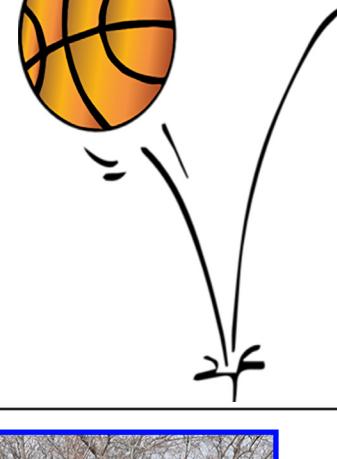
Lux Thimesch



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



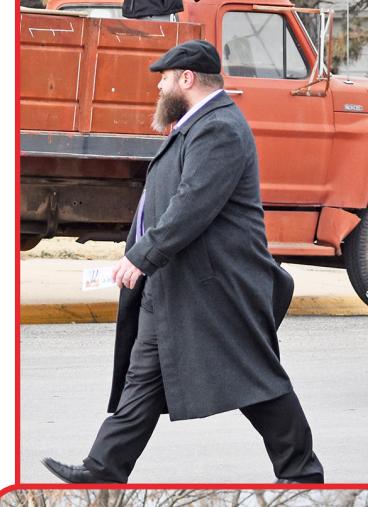
Landon Green



Grady Smyth



Landen Hageman



The Cunningham Courier

Serving Cunningham and Surrounding Communities

Thursday, December 18, 2025

page 7

<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Edwin</u>. I am <u>5</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nice <input type="checkbox"/> 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, <u>Edwin</u></p>	<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Maria</u>. I am <u>5</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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, <u>Maria</u></p>	<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>George</u>. I am <u>5</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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, <u>George</u></p>
<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Lynley</u>. I am <u>6</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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, <u>Lynley</u></p>	<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Broox</u>. I am <u>6</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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, <u>Broox</u></p>	<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Tyson Kraft</u>. I am <u>6</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nice <input type="checkbox"/> 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, <u>Tyson Kraft</u></p>
<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Kyle</u>. I am <u>5</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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, <u>Kyle</u></p>	<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Wekion</u>. I am <u>5</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> These are three things I am wishing for: 1. 2. 3. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. From, <u>Wekion</u></p>	<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Grayson</u>. I am <u>10</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> These are three things I am wishing for: 1. shark stuffed animal 2. shark squishmallow 3. Nintento Switch I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. From, <u>Grayson</u></p>
<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Oakley</u>. I am <u>6</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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, <u>Oakley</u></p>	<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Nazli</u>. I am <u>6</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> These are three things I am wishing for: 1. Gym 2. car 3. leaves I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. From, <u>Nazli</u></p>	<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Jade</u>. I am <u>6</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> These are three things I am wishing for: 1. Toy unicorn 2. Cookies 3. Barbie I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. From, <u>Jade</u></p>
<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Dohm</u>. I am <u>5</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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, <u>Dohm</u></p>		<p>Dear Santa, My name is <u>Dohm</u>. I am <u>6</u> years old. This year I have been: naughty <input type="checkbox"/> nice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> These are three things I am wishing for: 1. car 2. air balloon 3. kite I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. From, <u>Dohm</u></p>

Kingman County Sheriff's Report



Sunday, December 7

Civil Paper Service
Fire / Tree
Miscellaneous
Agency Assist / KHP

Monday, December 8

Traffic Stops
Civil Paper Service
Traffic Complaint
Agency Assist / KMPD / Disturbance / Arrest
Non-Injury Accident
Non-Injury Accident
Check Welfare

Tuesday, December 9

Traffic Stops
Miscellaneous
Harassment
Non-Injury Accident
Follow Up
Accidental 911 Dial
Disabled Vehicle
Non-Injury Accident

Wednesday, December 10

Traffic Stops
Traffic Complaint
Fraud
Traffic Complaint
Suspicious Person
Agency Assist / KHP
Agency Assist / KHP
Miscellaneous
Suspicious Person
Harassment

5
15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
120 N Spruce St, Kingman
N Coronado St & E D Ave, Kingman

1
4
S Hwy 14 & SE 40 St, Kingman
SE 70 Ave & E Hwy 42, Rago
11000 Blk E Hwy 42, Norwich
NE 10 St & E Hwy 54, Kingman

4
120 N Spruce St, Kingman
120 N Spruce St, Kingman
W Hwy 42 & SW 70 Ave, Nashville
800 N Main St, Kingman
2500 E Hwy 42, Rago
S Hwy 14 & SW 30 Ave, Kingman
16000 Blk SE 60 St, Norwich

6
12000 Blk 160 Ave, Norwich
120 N Spruce St, Kingman
13000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
11000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
11000 Blk S Hwy 14, Kingman
1200 Blk SW 150 Ave, Cunningham
N Main St & E 3rd St, Cunningham
500 Blk N Main St, Spivey

Thursday, December 11

Traffic Stops
Civil Paper Service
Agency Assist / Medical
Follow Up
Agency Assist / KMPD / Disturbance / Arrest
Agency Assist / KMPD / Disturbance / Arrest
Fire / Structure
Agency Assist / KW&P / Arrest
Miscellaneous
Animal Complaint
Traffic Complaint
Animal Complaint
Suspicious Vehicle
Traffic Complaint

Friday, December 12

Traffic Stop
Civil Paper Service
Miscellaneous
Traffic Complaint
Non-Injury Accident
Traffic Complaint
Traffic Complaint
Violation of Protection Order
Miscellaneous

Saturday, December 13

Suspicious Vehicle
Miscellaneous
Disabled Vehicle
Miscellaneous
Disabled Vehicle
Miscellaneous
Accidental 911 Dial
Disabled Vehicle
Traffic Complaint

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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KANSAS FARM BUREAU

The Voice of Agriculture

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 Chreasters 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

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.

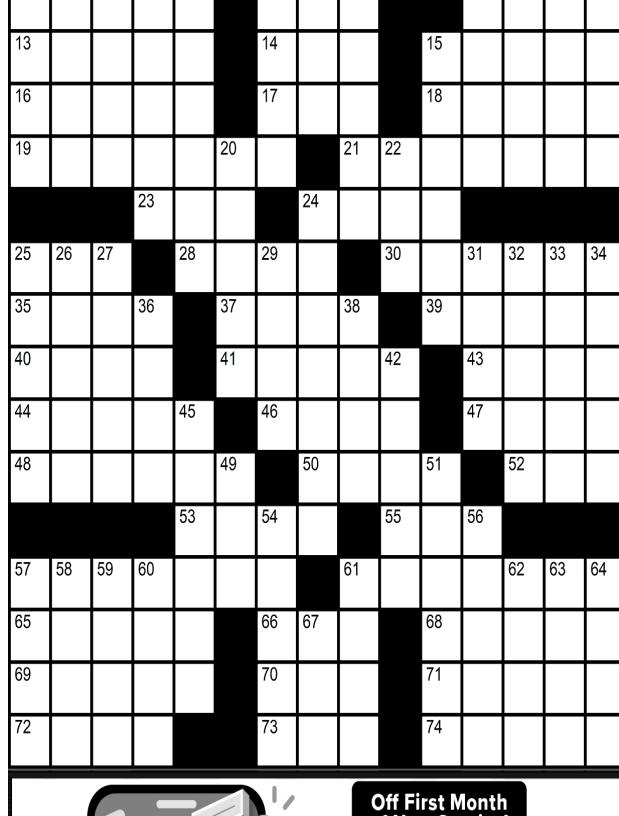
The origins and sig-

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

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: ___ ___
- 59. King Kong and Curious George, e.g.
- 60. King Kong and Curious George, e.g.
- 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
- 75. *Taylor Swift's "The ___ of a Showgirl"
- 76. Affirm solemnly
- 77. Third-person possessive pronoun
- 78. Makes broader
- 79. Why do they fall in love?
- 80. *Aryna Sabalenka's seed
- 81. Auto contents
- 82. Pertaining to osmium
- 83. *2025 Academy Awards Best Picture winner
- 84. Faquir, alt.spelling
- 85. Pilot's stunt
- 86. Spring event
- 87. Pneumonia symptom, pl.
- 88. Be of use
- 89. *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

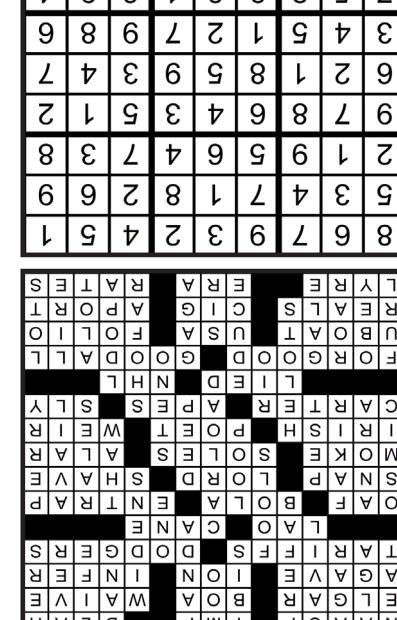
61. *Lady of "The Mayhem Ball"

62. Tons (2 words)

63. Lira, pl.

64. Land parcels

67. *Gary Oldman received this honorific in 2025



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

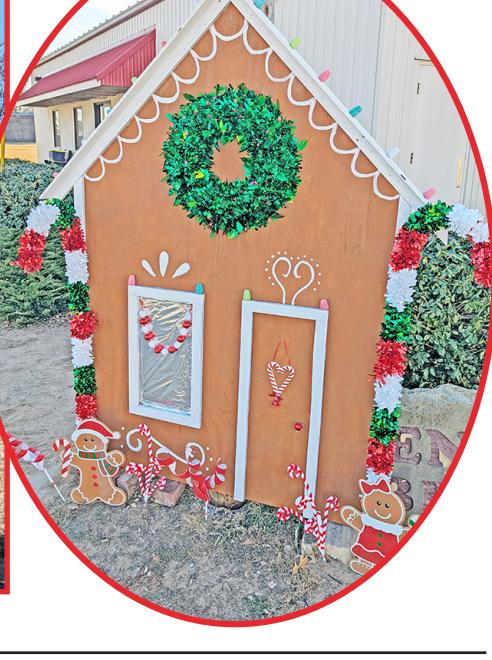
updated Christmas decorations. Rod and Jacque Blasi received first place with their "Hanging Santa". Katie Hellman's white gingerbread house received second place, and the Library's brown gingerbread house received third place.

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 Burkhardt 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 attorney-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 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

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

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session for attorney-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.

Mr. Arensdorf presented a permit from the following:

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

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-elected

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

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 (Chickashia).

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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.

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.

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.

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Commissioners approved abatements, additions and escape taxes.

(con't on page 10)

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 Gruber, 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 Dudrey 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.

Commissioners came out of executive session

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;

The Cunningham Courier

Serving Cunningham and Surrounding Communities

Thursday, December 18, 2025
page 10

Pratt County Commission Minutes for December 8

(con't from page 9)

motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff 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 Russel 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.

Commissioners

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 Prell 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.

A proposal of Communication Regarding PRMC

Motion to approve Prell 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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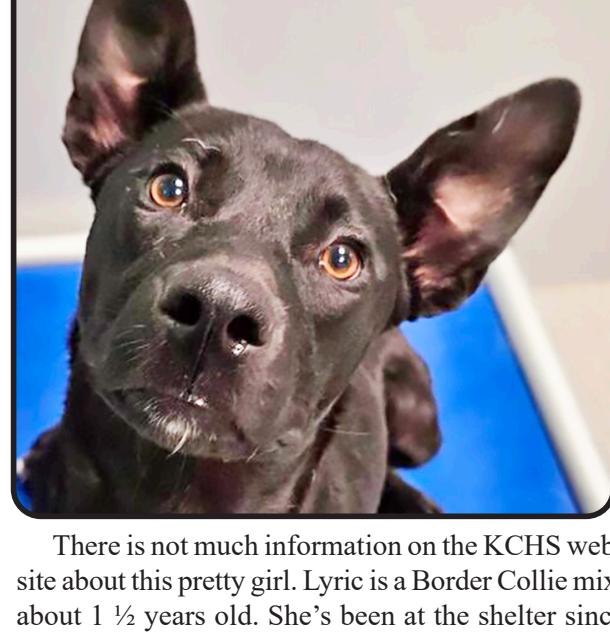


Twinkie looks like a total sweetheart, a perfect little Christmas present. She is an older 'present' at over 11 years of age. She's been at the shelter since November 10 and would love to spend the holidays with her new family around the Christmas tree. Her adoption fee is only \$40.00.

"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."

Lyric

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



There is not much information on the KCHS website about this pretty girl. Lyric is a Border Collie mix, about 1 1/2 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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Cunningham Clinic

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Cunningham, KS 67035
620-298-2397

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Kingman, KS 67068
Bus: 620-532-3179
Toll Free: 800-824-6681
www.jonwollen.com

Optometrists

Troy Maydew, OD
Seth Thibault, OD
Andrew W. Piester, OD

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

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

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Seth Thibault, OD
Andrew W. Piester, OD

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Kingman, KS 67068
620-532-3154
1-800-371-3154
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WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-586-6688. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-888-519-3376 You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider.

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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.

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 & Ritchie Law Office

349 N. Main, PO Box 113

Kingman, KS 67068

Attorney for Petitioner

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 & Ritchie Law Office

349 N. Main, PO Box 113

Kingman, KS 67068

Attorney for Petitioner

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Rhonda Mattal, Petitioner

Matthew W. Ricke

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Attorney for Petitioner

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Mark Dixon

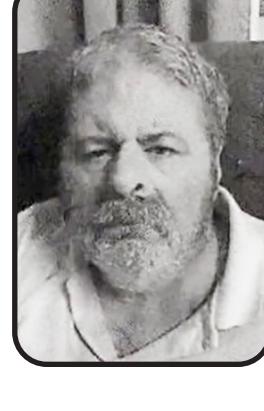
Markus Kent Dixon, 63, passed away Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Haviland Care Center. He was born on August 27, 1962, in Pratt to Larry Edward and Una Beth (Schneider) Dixon.

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 Jonathon 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.

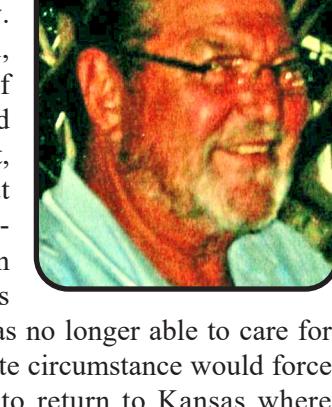
Pat was a member of Ninnescah Lodge #230 A.F. & A.M., the Scottish Rite Bodies and the Midian Shrine; he was a member of the Kingman Country Club; was a former Scout Master and also helped coach his boys' sports teams. Since Pat left quite early for work he was usually home before Joan & the boys returned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