

The Cunningham Courier

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photo by Danny Gibbs

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\$1.50

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(620) 298-2659

January 8, 2026
Volume 36 Number 2

Minutes from the County Commission Meeting

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. December 29, 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: Dale Enyart; Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier

Online Visitors: AS; Lucy; Caller 01
Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Charles Arensdorf, Public

Works Director

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

No additions were requested.

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

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there was any public comment.

No comments made.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to go over the Pilot payments received

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to transfer the added windfarm funds of \$8400.00 into the Courthouse remodel fund. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Stegman reviewed the sales tax funds and the estimated income.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director looked at the estimated numbers that Ms. Stegman presented to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go forward for four miles on old 54 with an added option to add another 4 miles. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners discussed roads with Mr. Arensdorf.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted December 22, 2025, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve December 22, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Young seconded the mo-

tion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Sheriff Wood submitted a 90-day vacation extension for an employee to be approved.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve a 90-day vacation extension for an employee. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Sheriff left the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Commissioners signed abatement.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 9:47 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

BOE Meetings Scheduled for Monday

Cunningham USD #332
Board of Education Special Meeting
104 W 4th St., Cunningham, KS
67035
Monday, January 12, 2026
5:30 p.m.

Work Session Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda (AI)

Work Session with B & G Consultants

Adjournment

AGENDA

Regular Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026 7:00 p.m.
104 W 4th St., Cunningham, Kansas

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Amended Agenda (AI)
- III. Guest Recognition
- IV. Election of Officers
- V. Approval of the minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting. (AI)
- VI. Approval of financial reports and payment of bills. (AI)
- VII. Reports
 - a. Superintendent Report –Dr. Arnberger
 - b. Principal Report- Cody Dunlap
 - c. Special Education Report –
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. Strategic Plan update
 - b. System wide Audit Discussion
- IX. New Business
 - a. Executive Session – Personnel
 - b. Administrative Contracts
 - c. KASB Policy updates
- X. Adjournment



*"When you feel homesick,' he said, 'just look up.
Because the moon is the same wherever you go."
— Donna Tartt, The Goldfinch*

submitted by the guy who submits photos to our paper

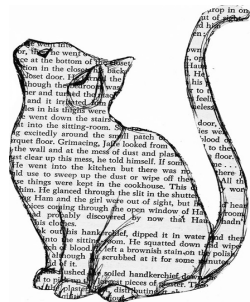
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Meanderings

My Quin is the HOA President for our neighborhood – Beast Division. He believes all beasts must have his permission to abide, roam, or meander through our neighborhood. He has his rules for what is normal, and he is not a dog to ease his ‘normal’ strict standards.

I was in my craft room one recent day, it was late afternoon, and I hear him growl. I ignored him. I hear him whine and growl. I ignore it. I hear him ‘woof’ in his inside whisper voice, whine and growl. I told him to be quiet.

He continues. After about 10 minutes, I was tired of hearing the growling and the whisper woofing and the whining. I went to the front room. He was in his chair by the window, looking to the north. I asked him, “What is wrong? What

do you see?” I looked out the window. “Oh, for heaven’s sake! Quin! Those are cows and they are a block away!”

I went back to work. The woofing, the growling, and the whining continued. After about ½ an hour, I decided to walk down to the pasture to show him that things were okay.

As soon as I left the house, and I mean AS SOON AS I CLOSED THE DOOR, he started the outdoor voice barking. I could hear it all the way down the block. So could the cows. One cow watched me approach. I apologized for bothering it. I turned to look back at my house, and I guess that is what the cow was watching as well. Quin is STILL barking. I stood there for a couple of minutes, waved at Quin, “See! Nothing bad!” then headed home, the cow watching me depart. Once I was part way home, Quin stopped the barking. But I STILL can’t convince him that the cows are a new normal. A temporary new normal. Now during the day, I can tell when the cows are closer to the fence/

road as Quin starts in with his noises. Once they move further north or west, he shuts it all down. So annoying. This weekend, yet another HOA issue, but much more growling, less woofing. A bit of whining, but a lot more growling. It continues for many, many minutes. I go to see what is bothering him. He is staring straight across the street at the Cricks’ yard. I, with my less- than-laser-sharp eyesight, can’t see anything. Nothing. I told him to quiet down. But he won’t. He is in great HOA President distress. After 20 minutes or so, I head across the street. This time, he did not bark as soon as I left the house.

I was about to the corner of the Cricks’ home, when a pretty red fox bolted out from the bushes along the fence, and headed west. THEN Quin set to his outside barking voice. He’d stopped his barking by the time I got back to the house. Another disaster averted by the HOA.

Then there was the night/morning this weekend. Quin woke me -- he HAD to go out. He just

HAD to. I looked at the clock. 1:00 a.m. “You just pottied a couple of hours ago... lay off the water, mister!” But I let him out.

Now, keep in mind, when I let him out at night I first turn on the porch light to warn any critters that maybe in the backyard, I then rap very loudly on the (glass) door, wait a few seconds and then open the pet door for him. Plenty of time and warnngs to get over the fence.

Out that little door he shot, and I waited. Waited some more and waited. Then the barking started. LOUD barking. I called, I whistled. He ignored me. And I am worried he will disturb the neighbors.

My flashlight was all the way in the kitchen. I pulled up my slippers so I wasn’t shuffling. Grabbed my robe, and off I went, Quin barking loudly this whole time, me cursing the dog the whole time.

I found the flashlight on the kitchen table where I keep it. (don’t judge me). I turned on the porch light. He’s in the corner of the yard, barking up at something in a tree in Annette’s yard. The tree

overhangs into my yard but it doesn’t matter. He IS the HOA President of Beasts Division.

I can’t see too clearly. The thing is brownish/tan and rather round. If I didn’t know better I’d say it’s that lazy, hefty-weight cat of mine, but I knew Lucky Day was in bed because I had to move him off me to let Quin outside. And I’m pretty sure if it was him, the branches in that tree would not be able to hold His Heftiness. I stepped down off the porch, and Quin comes running and grinning and panting and shoots into the house. I go in, shut the door, and think that maybe I should investigate whatever it is he has treed.

Back out I go. My flashlight is a very basic one. It’s not a searchlight, just a small flashlight that uses a couple of 9-volt batteries. I get about ½ way across the yard, and I am ready to strangle a dog, or at least adopt him out. I head on out the gate, and pull a tan plastic Dillons sack from the tree.

When I get inside, he’s in his chair, wag-

ging his tail, looking like he just had a great time doing something he shouldn’t have been doing. I showed him the sack. He just wagged his tail harder.

Now, ironically, there has been a gray plastic sack stuck in a tree in my backyard for the last couple of weeks. It’s too high for me to get to. I have noticed Quin will occasionally look up at and give a bit of jump, like he can get it 12 feet in the air, but he doesn’t bark at it. He is such a dork.

Always reading, except when Quin is in HOA mode, and currently reading, "The Dangerous Ladies Affair" by Bill Pronzini and Marcia Muller, Roberta

“Dogs bark at what they don’t understand.” — Heraclitus (and Quin, obviously, doesn’t understand very much)

“Only a foolish dog barks at a flying bird.” — Bob Marley (or a plastic sack in a tree)

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, Well, we’ve made it through yet another year. Another 365 rotations of our big blue marble. And it is time once again to assess and reassess the fruits and foibles of the past twelve months. We all do this in different ways. And some of us not at all. I myself really don’t dwell that much on the past because, heck, I can’t change it. Nobody can.

Though a day doesn’t go by when we wish we could. Still, I just do not see the virtue in percolating over a win-loss accounting of what went well and what did not go so well this past year. I suppose that’s why no matter how the year went we all look forward to a new one. That’s because THIS YEAR things are gonna’ change around here, by cracky.

My diet, my exercise regimen, my housekeeping, my financial management, my work ethic and a dozen other components of daily life will be examined, dissected

and upgraded. And my approach to this task will be admirably purposeful, determined and unwavering. Sound familiar? It should. “Admirably purposeful, determined and unwavering” is part of the Oxford English Dictionary definition for “Resolute.” Which is, of course, the root word for “Resolution.” See what I did there? I know...pretty lame.

That’s why at the top of my list of resolutions will be to become a better columnist. And that shouldn’t take all that long because studies show 80% of resolution-

ists quit by February. A stalwart 9% might make it through the entire year. Those odds do not surprise me. New Year’s Resolutions are not like Lent, where one has a definitive amount of time to change their ways and then it’s over.

Keeping a New Year’s Resolution is pretty darn hard work. That is why (and this is so consistent with the “abandoning your resolution” percentages it’s amazing) 80% of the millions and millions of well-intentioned Americans who join gyms and health clubs in January won’t

make it past February, either. Yet hope springs eternal and the same people set the same unachievable goals year after year after year—with the EXCEPTION of that pesky 9% that actually succeed. Soooo-this year my resolution is to be in that 9%. And I figured out the perfect way. And that is to lower all expectation whatsoever.

I do therefore give unto my Dear Readers the Official Gaille Renee Pike Resolution List for 2026. And they are as follows. 1. I will not chew on tin foil. 2. I will not spend more time

making lists of “Things to Do” that I have no intention of completing. 3. I will go to bed at least 365 times in 2026. 4. I will wake up at least 365 times in 2026. 4. I will not plant pumpkins. 5. I will not destroy another kitchen appliance by storing it in the oven and forgetting it’s in there when I pre-heat the stove to make cookies. I may have set the bar too high on that last one. And I’ll let you all know if I make it past February.

Keep your eyes on the stars and your back to the wind.

The Strange World of Vintage Cake

“The most dangerous food is wedding cake.” James Thurber

There is a funny episode from the great TV series Seinfeld where Elaine, needing an afternoon sugar rush,

sneaks into her boss Mr. Peterman’s college boy mini fridge and nibbles on cake hidden within. This cake turns out to be a vintage slice from the 1937 wedding of King Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson worth \$29,000. After ingesting the cake, and learning the value of her afternoon snack, Elaine tries to replace it with a grocery store substitute from Entenmann’s but is caught on camera enjoying “the most romantic thing she’s ever eaten.” We are left to imagine the pain Elaine will endure passing the antique cake that has been “stored for six de-

CADES in a poorly ventilated English basement.”

This sitcom story is funny, but it couldn’t be true, right? No one has ever heard of vintage wedding cake, bought and sold for profit, passed around after 70-80 years, have they? Much to my astonishment vintage cake trading and collecting is a real thing. This story is strange, but true!

Evidently there is a common practice of decades-old wedding cake being bought and sold by collectors, with pieces sometimes fetching thousands of dollars. Slices of wedding cake, especially royal wedding cake, are often given as souvenirs. These sometimes come up for auction. Buyers with a taste for history often snatch them up. And lest you think we are talking about moldy chunks of dry plaster-like cake topped with rancid vanilla frosting, apparently royal wedding cakes are traditionally made of fruitcake. Fruitcakes are extremely shelf stable. And a piece from 1937 might be almost petrified.

In 2014 a piece of cake

from King Charles and Princess Diana’s 1981 wedding sold for \$7,500. Another Charles and Di slice sold for \$2,511 in 2021.

In 2015 a Beverly Hills auction house sold slices collected by a former chauffeur of Queen Elizabeth II. He had saved slices from the weddings of Princess Anne (1973), Prince Andrew (1986), Charles – both weddings (1981 & 2005), and Prince William (2011). In 2014 a separate auction house sold another slice from Prince William and Princess Kate’s wedding for \$7,500.

Recently, a slice of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip’s wedding cake from 1947 sold for \$3,669. It was purchased by Gerry Layton and is one of the last pieces of cake from this wedding in existence. Despite its rarity, Layton plans to eat it. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip’s confection was a nine-foot-tall elegant baked monster of a cake weighing over 500 pounds. It was cut into 2000 pieces. In 2013

another Queen Elizabeth slice sold for \$2,300, auctioned by Christie’s.

And just like in the Seinfeld episode, in 1998 a slice from Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson’s wedding sold for \$29,900. Initially valued at \$500-\$1000, the buyer, entrepreneur Benjamin Yin, explained he bought the cake for sentimental reasons. “It represents the epitome of a great romance – truly romantic and elegant,” he said.

With my curiosity piqued, I went online in search of vintage cake for sale. For the heady price of \$3,400 I found a royal wedding cake collection set. This consisted of three rare slices of official royal wedding cake, each from a “landmark royal marriage.” One slice was from the wedding of Charles and Diana. Another slice came from the wedding of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips. The third was from Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson’s wedding. All are fruitcake, with special cream cheese frosting on the Charles and Di slice. The

collection was offered for sale from the family of a former member of the Queen’s official bodyguard unit. Each piece comes wrapped in its original wax paper inside a monogrammed silver presentation box with a signed letter of authenticity. If you are a royalist, or maybe just have an online shopping addiction, this antique cake can be yours with the click of a mouse.

The strange world of vintage wedding cake collecting seems like the stuff of fiction. Who knew it was real!

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Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, January 8 JH BB at Attica	Monday, January 19 Federal Holiday: Marthin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Day *** Boys 54 Classic at Skyline *** Teacher Professional Development: No School
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	Tuesday, Janury 20 Girls 54 Classic BB tournament at HOME
Wednesday, January 14 4:00 p.m. eSports: Super Smash Bros Game w/ Burrton	Wednesday, January 21 6:00 Shop Guild
Thursday, Januay 15 JH BB at South Barber *** HS Scholars' Bowl at Burrton (HOPL)	Thursday, January 22 JH BB vs Skyline at HOME *** Boys 54 Classic BB Tournament at Skyline
Friday, January 16 HS BB vs South Barber at HOME	Friday, January 23 Girls 54 Classic BB Tournament at HOME
Saturday January 17 HS JV BB at HOME (B Team Tournament)	Saturday, January 24 Boys 54 Classic at Skyline *** Girls 54 Classic at HOME



4-H Club Met in
November and
December

November Meeting:
We had 21 kids attending the meeting. The achievement celebration was a hit, and we set our club budget for the year. We’re gearing up for the Zenda Christmas Parade on December 6, and the Cunningham one on December 13. Our next meeting is December 7, which will be our Christmas party where we’ll have a movie night.

We’re also tossing around different ideas for fundraising.

We are also looking to get new 4-H shirts for the club and are looking for potential sponsors for the new shirts.

December Meeting:
Twenty-one members came to the meeting. The Zenda parade had a great turn out and had lots of compliments on our walking float. We handed out the rest of the achievement pins and talked about how the club could earn more.

For the 2026 fair theme, we chose “Star Spangled Fair” to celebrate America’s 250th birthday also on December 20, we’re all going caroling together to spread some holiday cheer. We ended the meeting with a movie and snack and all watched the grinch then adjourned the meeting,

Thanks to everyone who supports our club. We’re already excited for next year!

William Halderson, Reporter

Kansas Farm Bureau to Honor
Tradition, Heritage on Family
Farms

Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) is continuing in 2026 its recognition for “Sesquicentennial Farms” in conjunction with its annual “Century Farm” program. The Century Farm program honors Farm Bureau members who own farms of at least 80 acres within the same family for 100 years or more. The Sesquicentennial Farm recognition goes to farms in the same family for at least 150 years.

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

The deadline for consideration to be part of the 2026 programs is May 15. Kansas Farm Bureau has recognized 3,265 Century Farms and 155 Sesquicentennial Farms since the inception of the honors.

Complete details for qualifications and applications for both programs can be obtained at county Farm Bureau offices across Kansas or by visiting www.kfb.org/centuryfarm, which also includes lists of past honorees.

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“January. It was all things. And it was one thing, like a solid door. Its cold sealed the city in a gray capsule. January was moments, and January was a year. January rained the moments down, and froze them in her memory: [...]Every human action seemed to yield a magic. January was a two-faced month, jangling like jester's bells, crackling like snow crust, pure as any beginning, grim as an old man, mysteriously familiar yet unknown, like a word one can almost but not quite define.”
— Patricia Highsmith, *The Price of Salt*

- WANTED -

Old Photos from our communities
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Mon., Wed., Fri.
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
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9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Closed for Holidays
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**Zenda
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Thursday:
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Saturday:
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
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Sat. : 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
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Pratt Public Library
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Upcoming Auctions

Consignment Auction
Saturday, January 10, 2026 – 9:30 AM

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

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Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast

“Think outside the box”, they said.

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January 9 - 11

Anaconda
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We ALWAYS need
photos for the paper!!

K-STATE
Research and Extension

K-State Ag Profitability
Conferences Aim to Help Farmers
Navigate Tough Economy

With Kansas farmers facing rising financial pressures, Kansas State University is hosting a series of Agricultural Profitability Conferences across the state, beginning in December and continuing through early February. The conferences, “Making ‘Cents’ of a Shifting Ag Economy, “ are organized by K-State’s Department of Agricultural Economics, offering insights into economic trends, farm policy, land values, and strategies to maintain profitability during challenging times. A conference will be held in Kingman on February 4, 2026, at the Kingman Expo Center (121 S. Main St., Kingman), starting at 8:30 a.m. with refreshments and concluding at 2:30 p.m. To register, contact the Kingman County Extension Office at 620-532-5131 or gschnei@ksu.edu. For more information on speakers or the conference agenda, please visit agmanager.info/profitability.

A Column
by
Dean Marple

Courage

“Am not.”
“Are too.”
“Am not.”
“Are too.”

Their weary mom glanced at the back seat situation through the rearview mirror. “Hey, you two, knock it off. Logan, you are going to the dentist, no ifs or buts. And, Isaac, you are going to stop teasing him. Nobody is a scaredy cat. Got it?”

Mom got some mumbled yeahs and the noise level toned down, but the argument wasn’t over. It just got quieter.

“I’ll bet you’ll cry as soon as we get to the dentist’s office,” whispered nine-year-old Isaac as he vigorously rubbed his eyes and pretended to cry.

“Yeah? Well, you’d be scared too if you were going to the dentist,” was six-year-old Logan’s response. Truth be told, the dentist and all his whiny drills did scare him, but he’d never admit that to Isaac.

Being the typical big brother, Isaac glanced up to make sure Mom wasn’t looking then strained against his seat belt, extended his arm and poked Logan in the cheek. “Right there, that’s where the dentist is going to stick you with his needle.”

“What needle?” came

Logan’s nervous response. “Dentists don’t have needles, they’re just for doctors.”

“Dummy, the dentist sticks you with the needle, and then he brings out the drills. That way he gets to hurt you twice.”

“I don’t believe you.”

“Just wait until we get there,” Isaac taunted. “A lady will come out and call your name, and then they’ll drag you back to this big old chair next to a bunch of drills. I’ll bet you’ll be so scared you jump down and hide under that chair. Yep, that’s what scaredy cats do, they hide under chairs.”

Logan was still thinking about chairs and drills when they arrived at the dentist’s office. Before he knew it, his mom did

something called checking in and then he was sitting quietly, nervously, when a lady came out and called his name.

When he heard his name called, the thought that Isaac might be telling the truth flashed through his mind. Following the lady, Logan dragged his feet in a doomed man’s walk down the hallway. They turned a corner, and there it was, a room with a big chair just like Isaac said. *I’m dead*, was the first thought that came to Logan’s mind.

But he didn’t die.

In fact, he started to enjoy it as the lady asked him questions about his pet dog and took pictures of his teeth with something called X-rays. She let him look at the pic-

tures and then explained what they told her.

Shining a light in his mouth, she touched different teeth all the while keeping up a conversation. “Logan, I don’t see any problems with your teeth. You really are a brave little guy letting me do all this prodding and poking without a whimper. Let me give you something, and then we’ll walk out to your mom.”

As they entered the waiting room, Logan’s mom first saw a great big grin on Logan’s face, then two stickers. On his right cheek was a sticker of Superman fighting a cavity while Batman took care of things on Logan’s left side.

“I see no problems

with Logan’s teeth,” the dentist explained cheerfully. “But I was thinking. Isaac’s exam is scheduled for next month, but I’ve had some cancellations. Why don’t I look at Isaac’s teeth right now? I was afraid, after his last exam, he might be developing some cavities. Where is Isaac?”

Little brother was more than happy to announce, “Oh, that’s him over in the corner. He’s crawling under the chair.”



After 974 Days In Foster Care, A Little Boy Finally Finds His Forever Family

January 6, 2026

After nearly three years in foster care, a little boy in Tennessee has finally found his forever home.

Khaza David Koon spent 974 days moving through the foster care system. On December 19, that long wait came to a joyful end when the two-year-old was officially adopted by Anna and Brenden Koon in a Hamilton County courtroom.

According to the original report, the Koons began fostering children nearly five years ago through the Chambliss

Center for Children. At the time, they didn’t have children of their own and often joked that they were the “fun aunt and uncle,” opening their home for short stays, holidays, and weekends. Their goal was always to support children temporarily while families worked toward reunification.

Everything changed in April 2023 when they received a message asking if they would consider another placement. The child in need was just 18 days old — Khaza.

The couple had fostered several children before, each eventually returning to their biological families or moving on to permanent homes. From the beginning, Anna and Brenden understood that reunification is the primary goal of foster

care and fully supported that process.

But as time passed, it became clear that Khaza’s situation might be different. Weeks turned into months, and by the time he had been with them for over a year, he had already become part of their everyday life and

family.

In October of last year, the state asked the Koons if they would be willing to adopt him.

On December 19, the couple officially welcomed Khaza into their family.



A Man With No Arms Asks To Ring The Steeple Bell

A priest is in his church, placing prayer books among the pews when a man with no arms walks inside.

The priest say, "Can I help you my son?"

The man says, "Father, it's been my life long dream to ring the steeple bell. I was wondering if you would allow me the honor."

The priest says, "Well, I don't mean to be indelicate, but you have no arms. How on God's Earth would you pull the rope?"

"Well I think I have that figured out", the man said, "if you would allow me to demonstrate."

"Very well." The priest said and he lead the man up the staircase to the steeple where the bell is. Without a word the man bends over at the waist and runs face first into the bell. It lurches forward with a loud BONG, but on the way back it hits the man and knocks him off the steeple and he falls all the way to the ground.

The priest in a panic runs down the stairs and out the church doors, where a small crowd was gathered. The priest looked at the man and he was clearly dead,

Just then a fellow from the town looks at the priest and says, "Father, did you know this man?"

The priest says, "I don't but his face rings a bell."

The next day a man walks in the church and says, "Father, it was my brother that fell from your steeple yesterday. All he ever wanted to do was ring that bell. I wonder, would you allow me to ring the bell in his honor?"

The priest notices that this man has both arms, so he agrees and leads him up to the steeple. Once they get up there, without a word, the man bends at the waist as his brother did, and runs face first into the bell. It goes BONG, and on the recoil, it hits the man and knocks him off the steeple to his death.

Once again the priest is mortified and runs down the stairs and out to the street to where the townsfolk are gathering around the body. Once again the same fellow looks at the priest and says, "Now I don't suppose you know who this man is father."

The priest said, "I don't, but he's a dead ringer for his brother."

1 Peter 3:12 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

Check the Blessing Box east of the Methodist Church.

Anyone can give or take from the Blessing Box at any time.

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.



Giving Opportunities in our Community

4C Day Care Leave a donation with the Methodist Church.

West Kingman County Education Foundation

Use your Dillon's Card! to donte contact Shawna Sterneker

Hands of Hope (contact any church)

Cunningham Alumni Scholarship Fund

(send checks to the West Kingman County Education Foundation)


Cunningham Community Center (leave donation at the bank)

Lions' Club

Cunningham Museum (to donate contact Alan Albers or Mike McGovney)

Cunningham Public Library (to donate, contact Debi Dunlap

Cunningham EMS (to donate, contact Monte Rose or Kathy Albers)



Catholic Churches

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


St. Leo
Sunday 8:30 p.m.

Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627

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

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

620-246-5370




Lutheran Churches

First Sunday of the month service is at St. John;
third Sunday of the month service is at Trinity

St. John, Nashville
620-246-5220
Sunday School & Bible Class
8:45 a.m.
Worship Service
10 a.m.


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

Pastor vacancy until further notice.




Church of Christ

Penalosa
Sunday 11:00 a.m.



First Christian Church


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



United Methodist Church

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

Cunningham
Worship 10:45 a.m.



Zenda Methodist Church

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

Pratt County Commission Minutes of December 29th

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 29, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director.

Economic Development Update – Heather Morgan

ARPA Funds Closeout

Heather reported that the county received the final email required to close out all ARPA funds.

Although the funds had already been closed out, federal requirements mandate a final closeout.

Sawyer Gas Project
The City of Sawyer held an emergency meeting the previous Monday and approved execution of a contract with Kansas Gas. KGS has indicated they will return a duly executed contract to the City. Once the KCC receives the executed contract the project will be able to move into the next phase, which will include determining financing for the project. Heather notes this was positive progress

Neighborhood Revitalization
Heather reported that Representative Hoffman is currently working on NRP legislation to clarify existing language. She also stated that the City of Pratt is planning a

meeting related to the NRP. Heather noted that she and Tyson have been invited to attend.

Special Equipment Resolution
Name and Details
Motion to approve Resolution 12-29-2025 Regarding Special Equipment Transfers in the following amounts. Fire/Rescue \$50,000, EMS \$75,000, Road \$400,000. Sheriff \$10,000, Appraiser \$10,000, Election \$5,000 made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones, motion carried 2-0.

Personnel Request Communications
Motion to approve a salary adjustment for Shaphan Staats for 6 months of employment from \$19/hr to \$19.50/hr. made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by

Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 2-0.

SECONDED BY-Commissioner Shriver
Personnel Request Sheriff
Motion to hire Allen Adams for a parttime deputy position at \$21.00/hr made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 2-0.

Public Defender Contracts
Motion to approve the contracts for Chay Howard and Mandy Stephenson for \$3,398.85 per month, made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 2-0.

Executive Session – Attorney-Client
Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss the Community Center Lease and Organizational meeting requirements for 30 minutes at 2:11 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 2-0.

County Counselor Rate Increase Request
Motion to approve Tyson Eisenauer’s County Counselor hourly rate of \$175/hr made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 2-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 2:40 pm with no action taken

County Counselor Rate Increase Request
Motion to approve Tyson Eisenauer’s County Counselor hourly rate of \$175/hr made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 2-0.

Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel
Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act with Jack

Galle, Morgan Trinkle by phone and David Prella Eron by phone to discuss PRMC Leases for 45 minutes at 2:47 p.m. made by Commissioner Jones; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 2-0.

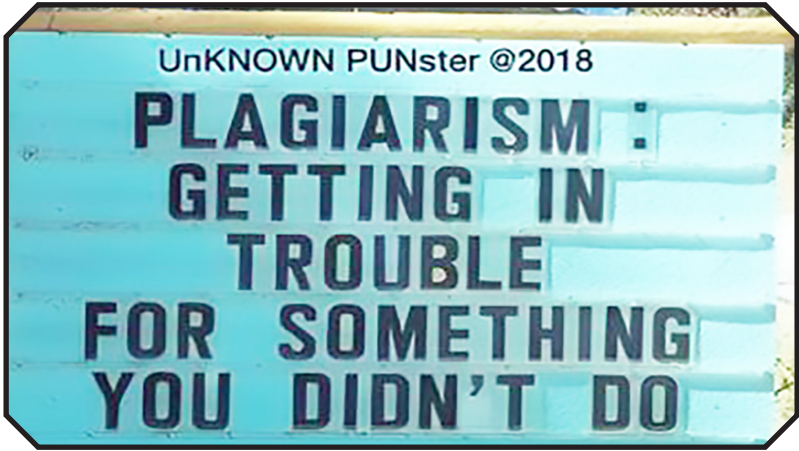
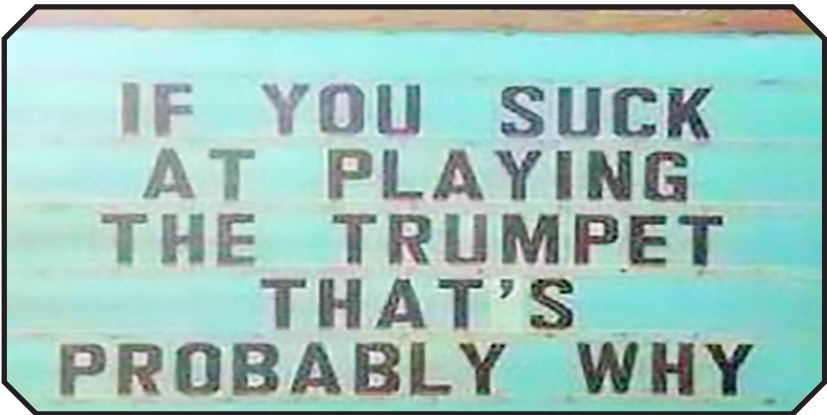
Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:28 p.m. with no action.

Commissioner Comments
Commissioner Shriver thanked all the County employees for all their hard work and expressed appreciation for their efforts.
Commissioner unanimously approved the minutes of December 22nd.
Meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, December 21	
Traffic Stops	4
Damage to Property	300 Blk S Somerset, Norwich
Miscellaneous	8000 Blk SW 90 St, Spivey
Fire / Structure	16000 Blk SE 50 Ave, Rago
Non-Injury Accident	1000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	E Hwy 42 & SE 90 Ave, Rago
Non-Injury Accident	3100 Blk NE 50 St, Pretty Prairie
Animal Complaint	W Hwy 42 & SW 170 Ave, Nashville
Traffic Complaint	N Main St & W D Ave, Kingman
Monday, December 22	
Traffic Stops	7
Civil Paper Service	6
Follow Up	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Motor Assist	13000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cunningham
Unlock Vehicle	600 Blk E B Ave, Kingman
Animal Complaint	SW 30 St & SW 20 Ave, Kingman
Warrant Service	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Court	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Transport Prisoner	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	1000 Blk SE 70 St, Kingman
Suspicious Activity	200 Blk E Avenue A, Zenda
Agency Assist / KMPD / Disturbance / Arrest	500 Blk E C Ave. Kingman
Tuesday, December 23	
Traffic Stops	4
Civil Paper Service	2
Non-Injury Accident	17000 Blk W Hwy 42, Nashville
Follow Up	5600 Blk SE 100 St, Kingman
Court	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	9500 Blk SW 80 Ave, Zenda
Follow Up	N Defonte St & E C Ave, Kingman
Follow Up	2100 Blk N Koch Industrial Rd, Kingman
Trespassing	600 Blk W A Ave, Kingman
Animal Complaint	300 Blk E E Ave, Kingman
Harassment	2000 Blk NE Waterloo Ave, Murdock
Alarm	1600 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Wednesday, December 24	
Traffic Stops	1
Damage to Property	NE 10 Ave & SE 20 St, Kingman
Follow Up	9600 Blk SW 90 St, Spivey
Follow Up	5600 Blk SE 100 St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	300 Blk S Somerset St, Norwich
Found Property	200 Blk E Don Lock Dr, Kingman
Recovered Property	300 Blk S Somerset St, Norwich
Thursday, December 25	
Merry Christmas Nothing to Report	
Friday, December 26	
Traffic Stops	5
Harassment	1600 Blk SW 150 Ave, Cunningham
Non-Injury Accident	5700 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Suspicious Activity	3300 Blk SE 150 St, Rago
Theft	800 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Follow Up	800 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Follow Up	400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Trespassing	200 Blk E Don Lock Dr, Kingman
Saturday, December 27	
Traffic Complaint	18000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Traffic Stop / Arrest	NE 110 Ave & NE 30 St, Murdock
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Damage to Property	SE 130 Aved & SE 150 St, Norwich
Trespassing	14000 Blk SW 50 St, Cunningham
Non-Injury Accident	SW 120 Ave & W Hwy 54, Cunningham

Sunday, December 28	
Traffic Stop	1
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Debris in Roadway	10000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	700 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	4000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	1000 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist / Reno Co	15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
Monday, December 29	
Non-Injury Accident	13000 Blk E Hwy 2, Norwich
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Accidental 911 Dial	400 Blk S Briarwood St, Norwich
Trespassing	1100 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist / Medical	400 Blk S Valley St, Cunningham
Miscellaneous	400 Blk E F Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	3200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Tuesady, December 30	
Traffic Stop	1
Miscellaneous	SW 90 Ave & SW 80 St, Zenda
Transport Prisoner	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Debris in Roadway	12000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Disturbance	2500 Blk SE Murdock Ave, Murdock
Abandoned Vehicle	SE 70 St & SE 50 Ave, Kingman
Follow Up	500 Blk S Briarwood St, Norwich
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Fraud	300 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Follow Up	300 Blk S Somerset St, Norwich
Wednesday, December 31	
Traffic Stop	1
Civil Paper Service	3
Non-Injury Accident	13000 Blk W Hwy 42, Nashville
Animal Complaint	W Hwy 54 & SW 70 Ave, Kingman
Check Welfare	16000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Suspicious Person	NE 10 St & NE 140 Ave, Cheney
Disabled Vehicle	1300 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	SE 20 St & SE 120 Ave, Murdock
Traffic Complaint	2000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Thursday, January 1	
Traffic Stops	2
Civil Paper Service	6
Agency Assist / Pratt Co	18000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Traffic Complaint	13000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Suspicious Person	SE 10 St & SE 140 Ave, Cheney
Theft	8600 Blk SW 2nd Ave, Kingman
Friday, January 2	
Traffic Stops	1
Civil Paper Service	4
Miscellaneous	400 Blk E F Ave, Kingman
Transport Inmate	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Person	6000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Follow Up	E 5th Ave & S Briarwood St, Norwich
Agency Assist / Kingman PD / Disturbance	600 Blk W A Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist / Kingman PD / Arrest	200 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Suspicious Person	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Animal Complaint	400 Blk S Wilmot St, Cunningham
Saturday, January3	
Civil Paper Service	4
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	8000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Citizens Assist	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist / Km PD/ Trespassing	100 Blk W A Ave, Kingman
Animal Complaint	SW 155 St & SW 90 Ave, Zenda



Wildcats are Back in Action



Molly Morgan photo





Little Lamb Preparations

Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

It seems as if we just wrapped up our fall harvest and now we have started a whole new year.

While we have officially entered the winter season on the farm where things slow down for us just a bit, there's still

plenty to do.

There are a few fields in our area that still need to be harvested, but the majority of the farms in our area have the grain out of the fields and cattle have been moved in to graze the remaining stalks for a few months this winter.

While I grew up helping feed cattle over the winter months, breaking ice and occasionally bringing a calf inside to warm up or feed it with a tube, my winters are now void of that.

A handful of years ago we transitioned to 100

percent fall calving. We no longer bundle up in multiple layers of clothing to conduct routine checks in the darkness of winter for newly born calves.

While I miss having my children experience that season, I'm thankful our cattle have a place to graze during the winter and get bred before they return to our location in late spring.

We may not be monitoring the arrival of newborn calves during the winter months any longer, but we are preparing for the arrival of our next

group of lambs.

The ewes are definitely showing signs that our winter lambing season is quickly approaching. And while we might not have calves warming up in the mud room any longer, there's always a chance a little lamb or two will be brought inside allowing my kids the opportunity to dry them off, warm them up or even bottle-feed a baby or two.

Before these little lambs start arriving, the goal is to have the maternity pens prepped and ready. The pens are inside

the barn and provide a warmer experience for everyone involved. The warming lamps also need to be tested and set. Hay and grain also need to be moved closer to where we'll be spending more time at for the next few months.

Who will lamb first? How many will she lamb? Will we have enough room for all the babies? What's the weather look like?

There are so many questions that my family is starting to ask. While we don't know the answers to any of the ques-

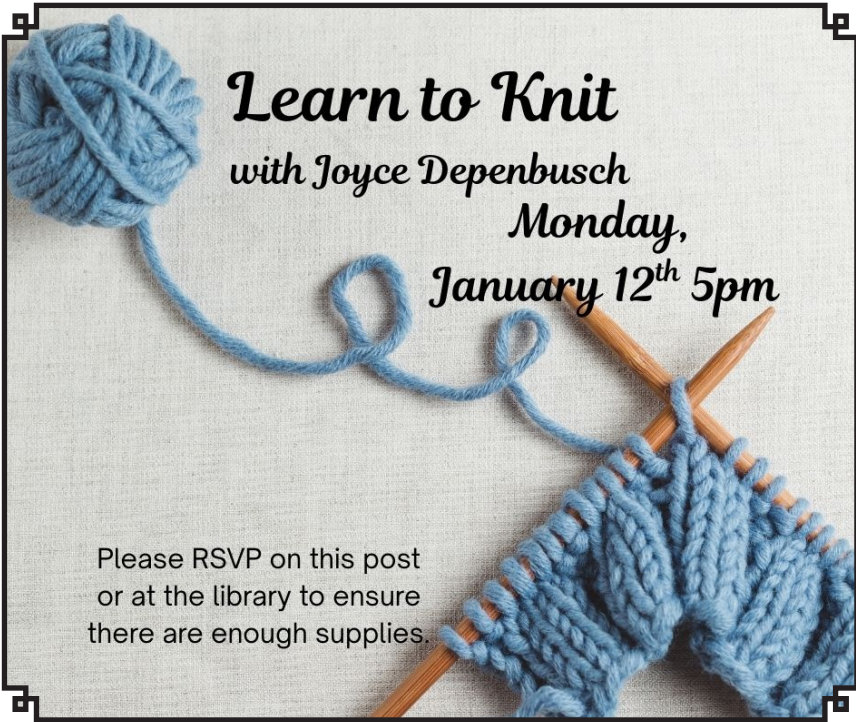
tions yet, we will surely know some of them soon.

It's always an exciting time as we prepare for and await the first arrivals of the winter lambing season.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau



Learn to Knit

with Joyce Depenbusch

Monday, January 12th 5pm

Please RSVP on this post or at the library to ensure there are enough supplies.

Beginners Cross Stitch Class

Saturday, January 17th 9:30 am



Led by Debi Dunlap



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RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL NEW INSTALLATIONS SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CHANGE-OUTS

PLUMBING

WATER HEATERS WATER WELL DRAIN CLEANING KITCHEN/BATH SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Public Notice						2025
Amended Certificate For Calendar Year 2025						
To the Clerk of Kingman County, State of Kansas We, the undersigned, duly elected, qualified, and acting officers of <u>City of Cunningham</u> certify that: (1) the hearing mentioned in the attached publication was held;(2) after the Budget Hearing this Budget was duly approved and adopted as the maximum expenditure for the various funds for the year.						
Table of Contents:		Page No.	2025 Amended Budget			
Fund	K.S.A.		Amount of 2024 Tax that was Levied	Adopted 2025 Expenditures	Proposed Amended 2025 Expenditures	
General	12-101a	2	168,485	527,414	702,791	
Employee Benefits	12-16,102	3	18,351	22,486	22,921	
Totals		xxxxxxxxxxx	186,836	549,900	725,712	
Summary of Amendments		4				

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1956

January 12, 1956 - Residents of the Cunningham community, Kingman County, and this area of Kansas were visited by a slight earthquake last Friday morning, but about all it did was provide a new topic of conversation. People who were awake at the time heard a rumbling sound, like a passing heavy truck, followed by a slight rattling of dishes and windows, such as might be caused by distant thunder. It lasted only a few seconds, and the time of occurrence has been officially set at 5:50 o'clock.

A local man reported the dish drainers in his dishwasher rattled a little, while another man reported he was rocked slightly while seated at a local café. Residents along the highway reported the quake as resembling a passing truck. The last earthquake (and some say the first) occurred in April of 1952, when a sizable earth tremor was felt in south central Kansas.

The current issue of Look Magazine (January 24, 1956) was pleasurably received at the Clipper office this week, containing a quote from this newspaper.

Needless to say we are "proud as peacocks" to attract the attention of a national magazine. The quote is on page 18 of the current issue, but our journalism code of ethics defies us to quote the "quote" here.

The annual meeting of the Kingman County Soil Conservation District will be held in the Kingman High School Gym next Thursday evening at 8:00 o'clock. The purpose of the meeting is to sum up activities of the district during the past year and elect one supervisor.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Rex Zimmerman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1976

January 8, 1976 – Fourth graders began 1976 in their classrooms by doing division problems and reviewing rules for writing possessive nouns. An art project using charcoal and chalk to draw winter trees is planned for this week.

The Better Homes and Gardens Club met in the home of Mrs. Vernon FitzSimmons in December. The serving table and decorations were of the Christmas theme.

A special guest, Mrs. E. F. Giannangelo of Pratt, gave the program on each character of the nativity, which they brought home from Switzerland. A gift exchange was enjoyed by members and guests: Ms. Giannangelo, Mrs. Lynn FitzSimmons, Leann and Barbara, Mrs. Pearl Walker, Mrs. Iona Shafer, Mrs. Evan Thornhill, Mrs. Alva Hellar, Mrs. Orville Shelman, Mrs. Francis Dafforn, Mrs. R. H. Turner, and Mrs. O. R. Benningfield and Mrs. Alva Poland of Kingman and the hostess, Mrs. FitzSimmons.

The Cunningham Wildcats came back to defeat the Sharon Cardinals Tuesday night at Sharon in a non-league game. The final score was 49 to 40. Janel Rohr lead the Wildcats with 234 points, followed by Linda

Schwartz with 9, Ann Fischer with 7, Cheri Mantooth with 4, Deb Crick with 3, and Mary Vierthaler with 2.

Barbara Pankrantz of Hillsboro and Lonnie Thiessen of Cunningham exchanged wedding vows at 3:00 p.m. December 20, 1975, at the Hillsboro Mennonite Brethern Church. Paster Marvin Hein officiated at the ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Pankratz, Hillsboro, and Mr. and Mrs. Emil A. Theissen, Manhattan.

Zenda News: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Helm and sons, Spivey, brought supper to Mrs. Kenneth King and Mr. King to help her celebrate her birthday Wednesday evening.

Brad Mantooth, Cunningham, spent Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Nichols.

Mrs. Goldie Hensiek, Nashville, called on Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Morris Saturday afternoon.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor:Vickie Lohmann

Reporter: Florine Kampling

1981

January 8, 1981 – Kathy and Kirk Huhman, Pratt, are proud to announce the birth of a son, Ryan Michael. He was born Dec. 30 at 6:40 p.m., weighing lbs. 11 oz. He has two brothers, Brandon and Brent.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fischer, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Zrubek, Jr. and Don Huhman, all of Cunningham.

Great-grandmothers are Mrs. Anna Detmer, Spivey, and Mrs. Cretae Hamilton DeMotte, Ind.

Nancy Kerschen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerschen of Cunningham, has received word from Kansas Newman College in Wichita that she averaged a 3.824 grade point on the Dean's Honor Roll for the semester.

Cunningham High School is a busy place with the first semester ending on Friday, Jan. 9 and the basketball games with Mullinville here in the evening. Games begin at 5 p.m.

On Monday, Jan. 12 a mime artists Phil Joseph, will present a program in an all-school assembly at 1 p.m. in the auditorium. The public is invited to attend this presentation of a theatrical art which features mimicry or pantomime. Some famous mime artists were Chaplin, W.C. Fields, and the contemporary comedians Red Skelton, Jerry Lewis, and Flip Wilson.

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, there will be another all-school assembly at 8:30 a.m. to which the public is invited. Max Armstrong, master illusionist, will present a program of comedy, mystery and magic with audience participation. According to the brochure, there will be a temple of swords, a guillotine, a disembodied princess and a spirit séance act.

The Cunningham City Council met Monday, Dec. 29, 15 7:30 p.m. Meeting was opened by Mayor Larry Ruckle. Present were Larry Lubbers, Monte Rose, Mike Scripsick, and Todd Shelman, council members, Dee Mills, clerk; Ted Geisert, attorney, A.G. Ross, city employee, and Frank Albritten, visitor.

A review was made on the alley west from the Elmdale Motel. The rumble strips that were installed in October have been lowered to approximately 2 inches. Dr. Albritten felt that the speeding has in-

creased through the alley again and that there is a likelihood of accidents and informed the council of the hazard. Council is to look at the alley and discuss at the January meeting.

It was reported that the City has been informed that there will be no grant money available for the Sewer Plant for at least another year.

Preliminary information received from the Census Bureau sets the population of the city at 535 with 217 houses occupied.

1986

January 9, 1986 -The Cunningham Friendship Meals Committee met Jan. 7 at 9 a.m. at the Community Center to prepare for opening on Jan. 8 from 10 till 1.

Present were: Elsie Witt, president, Marguerite Murphey, vice president, Feix Pelzl, treasurer and Pauline Brown, secretary. County Board members present were Etta Mae Cooley and Rusty Baber, also present were Manager Wally Ford and Mrs. Ford.

The Lady Cats closed out the 1985 season on a winning note as they downed League foe Skyline with a close 42-39 victory.

The Ladys kept putting streaks together which would gain them a 5 or 7 point lead, but the thunderbirds would find a way to chip away he lead and keep the game close. Cunningham only trailed once in the game that being 32-33 late in the fourth quarter, but came back to score just enough to win.

We were out rebounded by the taller Skyline team but held our own. When we key rebound, we pulled it in.

The scoring was evenly distributed as almost all thep layers scored and kept Skyline honest on their defense.

The Becker Christmas dinner was held in the Sacred Heart Hall in Cunningham and was hosted by Lois, Don, Vickie, Cindy, Jennette, and Mark Becker of Cunningham and Pat and Bob Zrubek of San Jose, Ca., and Debbie Zrubek of Manhattan.

Dennis FitzSimmson, Dean FitzSimmons, Ryan Ruckle and Darren Fisher of Pratt spent several days at Winter Park, Colo., skiing during Christmas vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. William Osner announce the birth of their son Ryan William, December 26, 1985 at Kingman Community Hospital. He weighed 9 lbs. 6 oz. at birth. He has one sister Jamie at home.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Mark Osner, Cunningham, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hageman, Nashville.

Great Grandmother is Anna Detmer, Willowdale.

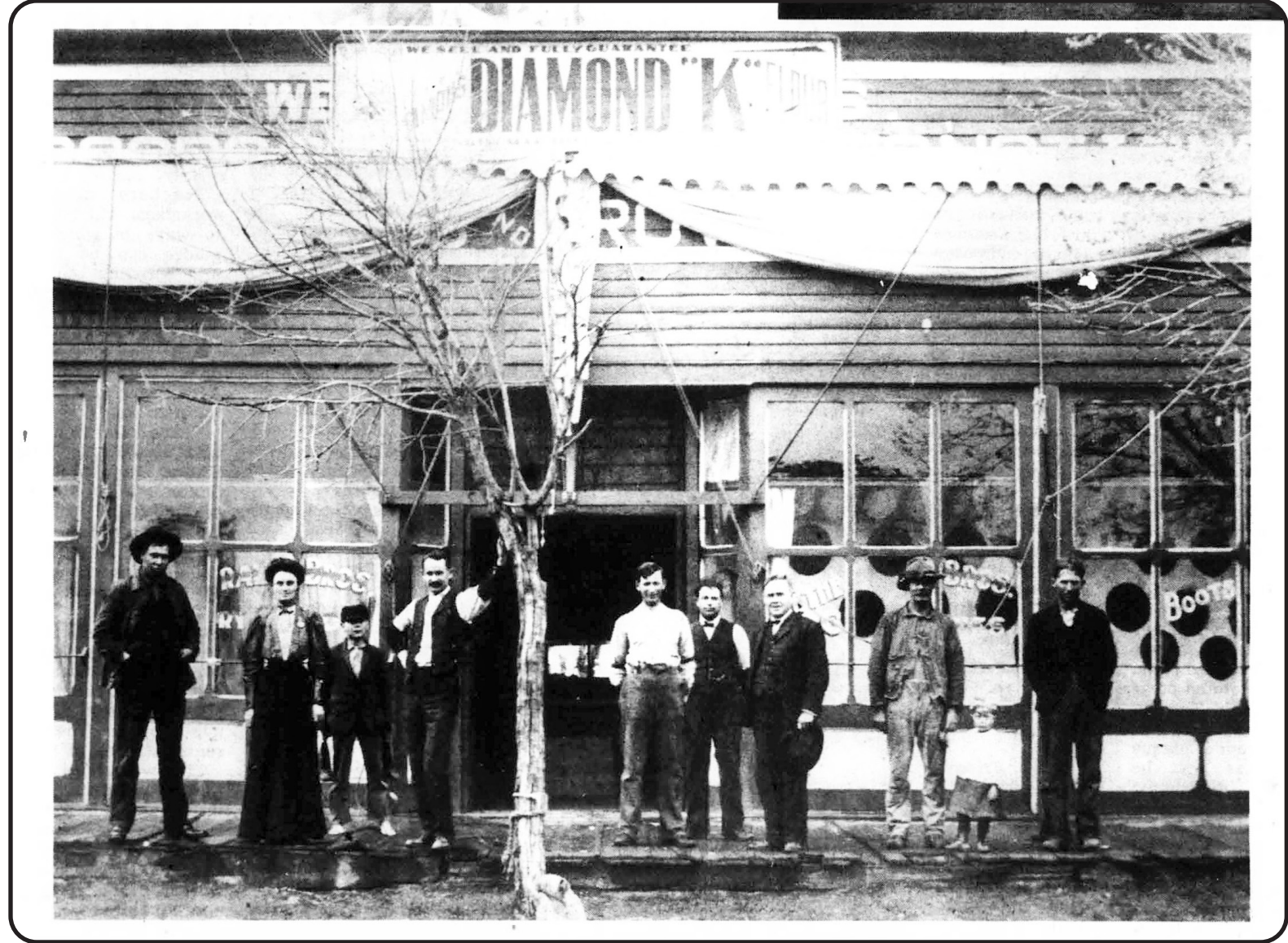
Mike and Rita Strohl, Cunningham are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Victoria Jo Strohl. She was born at 1:48 p.m. January 2, 1986, at Pratt Regional Medical Center and weighed 5 lbs. ¾ oz.

Welcoming her home are three brothers and a sister, Frank 11, Kevin 9, Cheri, 6, and Keith, 2.

Grandparents are Richard and Jo Strohl, Pratt and Victoria Weber.

Don and Martha Hellar are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Carin Lynne, December 27, 1985, at Kingman Community Hospital. She was born at 7:12 a.m. and weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. Family at home are Kevin, 6 and Sarah 3½.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alva Hellar, Cunningham, and Mrs. Florence Yancey, Libertyville, Ill.



The first Wetherall Brothers Mercantile and Grocery Store established in Cunningham shows family members and customers posing in front of the store.

Respect

As a young boy growing up on the farm by St. Leo I remember being very insecure about myself, maybe all children are. I saw everyone around me as being more talented and likeable. Basically, I didn’t like myself.

When you don’t like yourself it’s easy to think that no one else likes you. If everyone I didn’t know wouldn’t like me if they knew me they must all be bad people. So, all the unknown people of the world must be bad people.

For some reason the people of the East Coast were the ones I envisioned as being the worst. The worst, because they surely saw me as being inferior because of my humble farm background. After visiting with my parish priest, Fr. Mike Lies, who had a wider world view I decided that I would take a leap of faith and leave my safe home in Kansas.

Mike thought I had skills that would help others. So, Mike and I traveled north to Pine Ridge, South Dakota, where he knew a

person who was working at the Red Cloud Indian School. Mike was right! I had skills the school could use. I was mostly a PE teacher and coach at the school. This was the introduction to others that I most dreaded. People with neither rural or Midwest experience. These mostly East Coast people didn’t avoid me as I expected but seemed to be drawn to me because of my different-ness.

To my great amazement most people are good and insecurity kept me from seeing this. The people I met loved their families, friends and their God. After marrying Kathy, who belonged to one of the unknown Irish families, I could even see it better. Ok, that solved some of my East Coast insecurities.

Now how about my West Coast concerns? There was only one Californian at the mission, and he was less likeable than everyone else there. However, after Kathy’s sister and family lived in Norman, Oklahoma, they moved to Benicia, California. Now with family in California there was no escaping

the fact that I would need to travel to and meet Californians.

My first trip to California was over 30 years ago. Much to my surprise I’ve met some of the best people in my life. Many have totally different backgrounds and a few even had rural backgrounds that we could commiserate about. We just returned from a wedding celebration in Benicia, and it was great.

My point is people are people wherever they come from. It seems to me that some are pushing that you can’t trust people unless they are exactly like you. I say bull! Telling us we can’t trust and love people unless they are just like us is harming our America. It seems to me that it all comes back to respect. I once didn’t respect myself and didn’t think others would respect me either. Those others did respect me, and I have learned to respect them, even when there are differences. Mathew 22:39 “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

-Alan Albers

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Statepoint Crossword
Theme: The Grammys

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Inundated

6. Word before humbug

9. Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise

13. Rough, as in voice

14. Kimono sash

15. Misrepresent

16. Do like ivy

17. Go for the bronze?

18. Poem of lament

19. *Grammy nominee Bad Bunny's first language

21. *KPop Demon Hunters' nominated song

23. Sought at crime scene

24. Lord's worker

25. Rob Manfred's org.

28. Jab, in speech

30. *.com Arena

35. Rowboat engine, pl.

37. ____ gum, ingredient

39. Cowboy's cry of joy

40. Big attraction

41. Spring holiday honoree

43. Live bait

44. Daytime moth

46. Puerto follower

47. Finger move

48. Colonnade

50. Invitation letters

52. "Zip it!"

53. Trash bag brand

55. Polar helper

57. *Lady Gaga's nominated album

60. *Tyler of CHROMAKOPIA, with The

64. Prejudiced one

65. Busy one

67. Do penance

68. Approves

DOWN

1. Parentheses, e.g.

2. "Star Trek" speed

3. Away from port

4. Not be frugal

5. What TikTokers are often doing

6. This and that

7. Legal grp.

8. Door holder

9. Mix together

10. Away from wind

11. Leo or Libra, e.g.

12. *Wonder's "Songs in the ____ of Life," Album of Year (1977)

15. Where bats are?

20. Eurasian goat-like antelope

22. Middle-earth dweller

24. Pelican or albatross, e.g.

25. Person in an ad

26. One of Florida Keys

27. Health food pioneer of liquid aminos fame

29. *Nominated "Drop Dead Years" comedian Bill ____

31. Swerves

32. Sound units

33. Synagogue scroll

34. Zing or pizzazz

36. *Justin Bieber's nominated song

38. Fabled fliers

42. Red one, send somebody over!

45. Unalienable ones are in the Declaration of Independence

49. Draft pick

ACROSS

51. Give satisfaction

54. Spot for prehistoric fly

56. Doomed

57. *MCA, Ad-Rock and ____ D, Grammy-winning Beastie Boys

58. Culture-growing turf

59. Walk-the-dog toy

60. What concerning and discernable have in common

61. *Nine-time Grammy-nominated Amos

62. Fonzie's comeback: "Sit ____"

63. Whistle blowers

64. * ____ Iver of SABLE, fABLE fame

66. Historical period

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1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

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Public Notice

(First Published in The
Cunningham Courier on
Thursday, December 25, 2025)

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF
KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF:

VERNON HENNING,
Deceased.

Case No. KM-2025-PR-24
(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A.
Chapter 59)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE
STATE OF KANSAS

ss:

COUNTY OF KINGMAN
Matthew W. Ricke, of lawful age,
being first duly sworn, on oath,
states:

I am the attorney for the
Petitioner. I served a copy of
the following:

1. Notice pursuant to K.S.A. 59-2209 and 59-2211;
2. Petition for Final Settlement; by depositing the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, on the ____ day of December, 2025, and within

seven days after the first publication of notice, addressed to the following persons:

Name Address
Geneva Henning
9075 SW 100 Ave.
Spivey, KS 67142

Stanley Henning
426 West E Ave.
Kingman, KS 67068

Sharon R. Nowak
9418 SW 110th St.
Zenda, KS 67159

such persons being the heirs, devisees and legatees of Vernon Henning, deceased, all guardians and conservators thereof, and guardians ad litem, whose names and addresses are known to the Petitioners or to this affiant.

Notice was served by depositing the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid.

Matthew W. Ricke #20995

Attorney at Law, LLC
349 NORTH MAIN,
P. O. BOX 113
KINGMAN, KANSAS 67068
(620) 532-3103



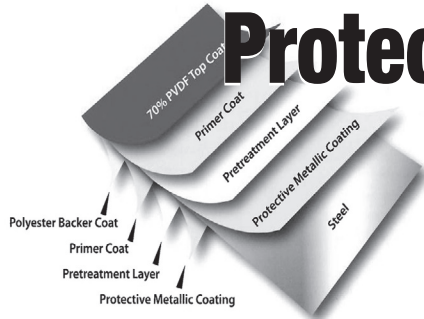
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Steve Graber

Steven G. “Steve” Graber, 79, died Dec. 27, 2029, in Wichita.

He was born Dec. 9, 1946, in Hutchinson the son of Walter E. and Martha Krehbiel Graber. Steve was given the nickname of “Short Stroke” from when he was young and ice skated and took short strokes. Therefore the nickname stuck but eventually everyone called him “Stroke”.

A resident of the Pretty Prairie community most of his life, he was a retired Store Services employee for Dillons. Also in the mid 1980’s he started a pole shed business under the name of Graber Buildings. He made these sheds all around the area doing a good job with the buildings made to last.

Steve was a member of the First Mennonite Church, Pretty Prairie; served in the Army National Guard and was veteran of the U.S. Army serving from 1966-1970.



Donna Ewing

Donna Lou Ewing, 88, passed away Thursday, January 1, 2026, at her home. She was born on March 23, 1937, in Herington to Henry and Mollie Brunner. Donna married Junior Ewing on August 31, 1958, in Herington. He preceded her in death on March 2, 2023.

Donna graduated from Herington High School in 1955. She worked as a medical assistant for Dr. Gilliland and Dr. Dozier. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church where she loved teaching religious education. She also taught at Herington prior to coming to Pratt. She is a former member of Bethany Guild, Pilot Club, and Red Hat Society. She volunteered at Pratt Regional Medical Center and Meals On Wheels. She enjoyed sewing and quilting, cross stitching, teaching, volunteering at the Hospital, walking at the park and her beloved pets.



She is survived by her children, Shawn (Tina) Ewing of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Shelley Ewing (Carol Brennan) of Fort Worth, Texas and Shannon (Mark) Wichman of Hutchinson; grandchildren, Whitney Ewing of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Derrick (Victoria) Ewing of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, John Brennan of Fort Worth, Texas, Joseph Brennan of Fort Worth, Texas, James Brennan of Fort Worth, Texas, Anthony (Erica) Wichman of Lenexa, Joshua (Michaela) Wichman of Manhattan and Molly (Matthew) Fortier of Kansas City, Missouri; great-grandchildren, Mason Fortier, Connor Fortier, Cody Fortier, Dawson Ewing, Violet Ewing, Colt Wichman, Scout Wichman and Ivy Wichman.

Donna is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Junior Ewing; and siblings, Freida Wentland, Leona Wentland, Loreen Walker, Edith Osborn, Norma Olsen, Bernita Hickey, Elmer Brunner, Maynard Brunner and Duane Brunner.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 22, 2026 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Preston with Pastor Michael Schotte presiding. Inurnment will follow at St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery, Preston.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church or Interim Hospice. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, meals, and helping hands—picking corn and catching cattle—during Jared’s heart surgery and recovery. The kindness and support shown by our friends and family has been truly overwhelming, and we are deeply grateful.

Love, The Glenn Family

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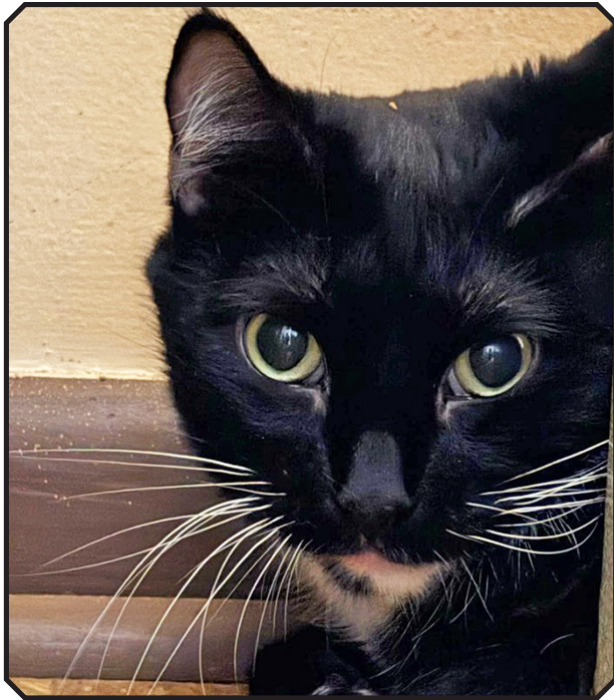
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Tippy

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Tippy & Lulu are sweet siblings and would like to stay together. Neither have been around dogs or young children and will probably do best in a quiet household.

They are both about 5 ½ years old and have been at the shelter since November 10. Tippy weighs about 11 pounds and Miss Lulu is 9 to 10 pounds in size.

The adoption fee is \$40.00 for each. Please consider adopting them and giving them a nice quiet, safe home.

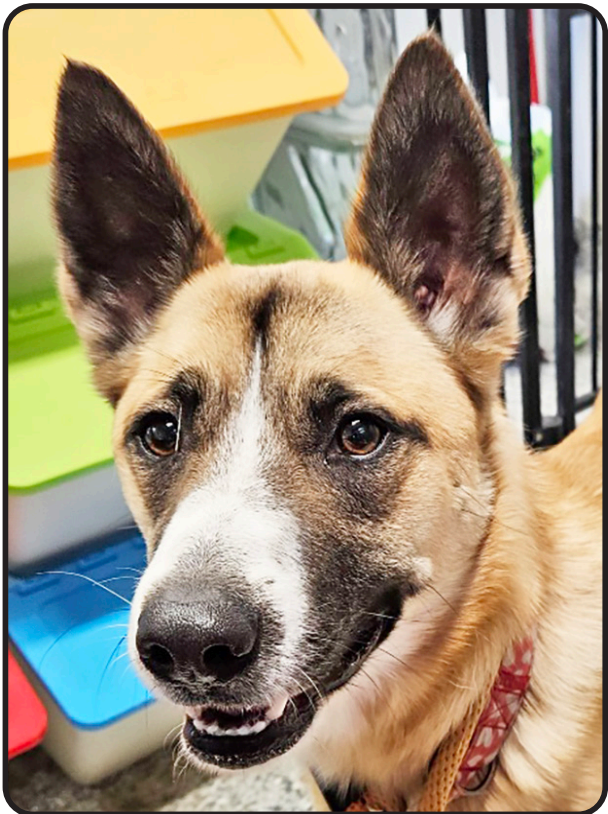
Lulu

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



Olive

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Olive is a Border Collie/Cattle Dog with lots of energy. She is a new shelter resident, only having been there since December 27. But one day is too long for dogs to be in shelters and not in homes with someone they know and love and trust.

Olive is about 1 ½ years old and weighs about 40 pounds. She gets along with other dogs, loves people and kids, and is available for the \$180.00 adoption fee.

“Cute, cute and more cute! Olive loves to play fetch and wrestle with her crinkle toys. She's house-trained and crate trained but loves to be outside. And wait until you hear her sing! Her "call of the wild" is her expression of her hope of finding a new forever home. How can you resist?

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, from 8:00 - 5:30 (except during lunch 12-1) on Wed., from 8:00 - 12:00 Call for Saturday hours. 1015 East U.S. 54, Kingman, KS

