

The Cunningham Courier

December 4, 2025
Volume 35 Number 49

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

\$1.50

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

photo by Danny Gibbs

Another Claim to Fame: 2025 6-Man State Champions

USD 332 courtesy photo



More photos on page 7

Governor Kelly Announces \$5.9M for KDOT Cost Share Program Projects

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly and Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Secretary Calvin Reed today announced \$5.9 million in awards for 10 transportation construction projects through KDOT's fall 2025 Cost Share Program. This state investment will leverage nearly \$3.3 million in community matching funds, totaling more than \$9 million for infrastructure improvements that will enhance safety, support local economies, and improve connectivity across Kansas.

"KDOT'S Cost Share Program is a prime example of strategic government

investment that improves our communities and Kansans' lives," Governor Laura Kelly said. "This funding not only makes our economy more dynamic and competitive, but it also makes traveling throughout Kansas safer and smoother for both those who live here and those who are visiting."

The KDOT Cost Share Program plays a critical role in advancing both rural and urban transportation projects. The program focuses on improving safety, supporting job retention and growth, alleviating congestion, and enhancing access and mobility for Kansans. The program is a cornerstone of the Kelly Administration's 10-year, bipartisan Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE).

"Kansas communities have the clearest perspective on their local transportation priorities, and the Cost Share

Program unlocks the ability to fund those desired projects," said Kansas Department of Transportation Calvin Reed. "KDOT is invested in this shared vision with our partners, delivering localized infrastructure that keeps the state moving forward."

Since its inception in fall 2019, the Cost Share Program has awarded state funding exceeding \$163 million to Kansas communities. As one of KDOT's most popular initiatives, it has supported 207 projects statewide, attracting an additional \$131 million in local matching funds.

The Fall 2025 Cost Share recipients are:

City of Atchison – Unity Street Pedestrian Improvements

City of Canton – Main Street Access Improvements – Allen Street and McPherson Street

***City of Cunningham – Cunningham and Kingman County: Potholes to Progress

City of Ellis – West 2nd Street Project

City of Eureka – Jefferson Street Reconstruction

City of Lucas – Greeley Avenue Improvements

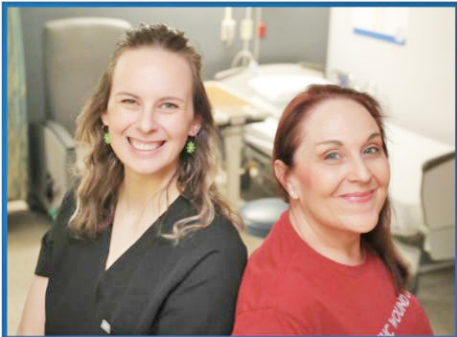
City of Ottawa – 11th Street Sidewalk – Main Street to Ash Street

City of Shawnee – 83rd Street and Monticello Terrace Improvements

Finney County – 2026 Finney County Hot Mix Asphalt Overlays

Saline County – Assaria Road Improvements

More information about KDOT's Cost Share Program as well as a map of projects are available on KDOT's Cost Share webpage.



KHC HAS EXPERT WOUND CARE, CLOSE TO HOME

Jody Berry, PA-C, a Certified Wound Care Specialist, has been healing wounds for 20+ years. Jody and her team provide you the greatest care and use the latest technology.

For an appointment, call 620-532-3147.

KINGMAN
HEALTHCARE CENTER
Exceptional Care. Every Time.

Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, December 4

JH BB vs Fairfield
at HOME

1:00 p.m.
NHS Blood Drive

Friday, December 5

HS BB at Minneola

Saturday, December 6

HS Scholars Bowl at
Central Christian

1:30 p.m. Zenda
Christmas Parade

Winter Formal

Monday, December 8

Falcon Classic
at Fairfield

Tuesday, December 9

BOE Meeting

Thursday, December 11

JH BB vs Stafford
at HOME

Falcon Classic at
Fairfield

Friday, December 12

Falcon Classic
at Fairfield

Saturday, December 13

Christmas Parade

Monday, December 15

Pre K - 12 Christmas
Concert

Tuesday, December 16

HS BB vs Argonia
at HOME

Wednesday,
December 17

6:00 Shop Guild

6:00 p.m. at Cozy's
Girls Night Out
Book Club

7:00 p.m.
Original Book
Club at Rogene's

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



- WANTED -

Old Photos from our communities

Call (620) 298-2659 or email to
couriernews@yahoo.com

Thank you for
Supporting
The Courier

Libraries

Cunningham Public Library

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

Zenda
Public Library

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

Kingman
Carnegie Library

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

Pratt Public Library

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

Hilltop Manor Holiday Quilt Basket Raffle

Hilltop Manor is having another raffle!
This time it is a basket raffle. Included in the basket are a queen-sized holiday quilt with a farm theme, a matching pillow, 2 country Christmas mugs, a Starbucks Cocoa and Marshmallows, a plug-in scented wax warmer, a Christmas bottle décor, and a set of 12 handmade Christmas Cards.
Tickets are \$5.00 each or 6 tickets for \$25.00. Cash, check and Venmo are accepted. Drawing will be live on December 22nd. All proceeds will benefit Hilltop Manor's Activity Fund.
Call Hilltop Manor and ask for James or Diana at (620) 298-2781 or Text Diana at (620) 450-7144.

SCCF Scholarship Cycle Open Now Until March 1st

South Central Community Foundation (SCCF) is pleased to announce that its annual scholarship cycle is officially open, with applications being accepted now through March 1st.
SCCF offers more than 60 scholarship opportunities for students across its seven-county service region and is proud to support local students as they pursue their educational goals.
Applicants will complete one universal scholarship application, which will then identify the specific scholarships they qualify for. Since some scholarships require additional materials after the universal application is submitted, SCCF strongly encourages students to apply before February 15th to ensure adequate time to complete all requirements.
SCCF is a nonprofit organization serving Barber, Comanche, Kingman, Kiowa, Pratt, Rice, and Stafford counties. In 2025, the foundation awarded more than \$140,000 in scholarships. For questions, please contact SCCF at (620) 672-7929 or email hannah@sccfks.org

We ALWAYS need
photos for the paper!!

School Board Will Meet for Regular Session on Tuesday

AGENDA
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
7:00 p.m.
104 W 4th St., Cunningham, KS
Call to Order
Approval of Agenda (AI)
Guest Recognition
Approval of the minutes of the November 11, 2025, regular meeting (AI)
Approval of financial reports and payment of bills. (AI)
Reports
Financial Audit Report- Randy Ford (AI)
Superintendent Report – Dr. Arnberger
Principal Report-Mr. Dunlap
Special Education Report –
Old business
Strategic plan retention discussion
Systems Audit Discussion
Executive Session- Non-elected personnel
New Business
Review Policy updates
Superintendent Contract extension
Adjournment

Upcoming Auctions

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

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

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

107 NE State Road 61,
Pratt, Kansas, 67124
620-672-6996

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

Cards by Roberta Kobbe

Handmade Greeting Cards for sale.

Shop for cards at N'Cahoots in Pratt,
Cleo's in Kingman, Ye Olde General
Store in Norwich, and
Treasures Three Fabrics in
Pratt or contact me.
Will mail or deliver.
Cards and stamps make
nice gifts for shut-ins.
620-298-2659

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast

"I've been re-assigned! This season
I'm a left turn signal!

A Column
by
Dean Marple

The Christmas Tree

I thought of 1974 as the year we got married, landed our first jobs, and bought a one-bedroom home. My wife remembered it as the year I started going crazy every December.

It took a few years, but over time our family developed a “Get The Tree Day” routine. First, to preserve her sanity, my wife, her mom and her sister all left for the day. Shopping was preferable to watching wallpaper being gouged while ta-

ble lamps were knocked over. Next, the tree stand had to be retrieved from the basement. Since no regular stand could hold a really large tree, a welder had constructed a custom stand that weighed 25 pounds empty and after filled with 6 gallons of water, could support a redwood.

With preparations ready inside the house, we drove to the Christmas tree farm where the kids made a beeline for the hot chocolate and caramel apples while I was busy turning up my nose at rows of 4, 6 and 8 foot precut trees. There would be no sissy little trees in our house. Grabbing a bow saw, off we tramped to the cut-your-own section of the farm. I eye-

ballled a tree, felt sure it would fit and started to saw away. The kids made sure I wasn’t distracted from my job by chasing away every squirrel and rabbit within one hundred feet. Later, with some huffing, puffing and the help of many little hands, we dragged the tree back to our truck. Looking at the tree, the cashier asked me how tall our ceiling was, and when I said ten feet, he just smiled. Tree secured, we hopped in the truck with caramel-coated fingers smearing the dashboard and little cocoa-filled bladders requiring frequent stops.

Home at last, I felt quite smug as I backed the truck up to the porch to unload the tree. Previous experiences

had taught me that a tree this size would not go through the porch door. Having learned from my past mistakes, and the look in my wife’s eyes when she saw the scratches on the door frame, I now knew to take the removable glass out of our picture window and slide the tree through that wide opening. All it took was me and two helpful neighbors.

Lift the tree up the porch steps, cross the porch, open the window, try not to step on a child, shove the tree through the window into the den, carry it through the den, slip through the French doors into the living room and tilt the small end up until the trunk slid down into the tree stand. At that

point, I noticed that I’d brought an 11-foot tree into a room with a 10-foot ceiling. Apparently, I said something that caught the attention of our youngest, because she reminded me that Mommy didn’t let them use words like that. I assured her we could take care of the problem.

Tilting the tree downward, I clipped off a foot, and we shoved it back upright. Perfect. It just barely touched the ceiling. Satisfied, the kids now jumped into action and carried many, many glasses of water from the kitchen faucet to fill the tree stand. I tightened the screws holding the tree in place, and the tree stood straight. We closed the porch window, picked up the loose needles that

had fallen to the floor and were just wrapping up when my wife came home. The kids made her close her eyes as they took her hands and tugged her into the living room. Seeing the smile on her face when she opened her eyes made for three happy little faces and one tired but content husband.



Saving Old Goose

By Melanie Kerr

“You know what? If’n it was me tellin’ you that Zachary Goose is plannin’ to kill his pa, I wouldn’t heed neither, but I heard ‘em plannin’ it. I didn’t see who Zachary was tellin’. He was a tall fella, all trussed up in a suit. But I sure heard ‘em, I sure did.”

His dog sat with his head on Jake’s knee, lifting an encouraging eyebrow as the young boy poured out his story.

“I gotta warn Old Goose. Sure he’s old an’ all, an’ hoverin’ over his grave anyways – but yer gotta do what yer thinks is right, an’ murderin yer pa jus’ ain’t right.”

The moon floated above the trees at the end of the field. The world was silver and grey. Jake

took down his coat from the hook on the back of the door. He was careful where he stepped on the staircase on his way to the back door.

Old Goose lived at the edge of town. A river bordered three sides of his property, like a moat around a castle. There was a muddle of buildings, including a large old barn. The brown stone house crept along the ground as each generation added another room. Old Goose planted a garden, not of vegetables like most of the townsfolk, but roses. Deep green leaves hid sharp thorns and the deep red and yellow blooms cast a heavy fragrance into the air.

Jake, with his dog at his heels, tumbled from one hiding place to another – once with his back straight against the

wall of the town store, next curled around a tree on the village square, then lying beside the water butt beside the post office. His eyes skimmed the moonlit path ahead.

Jake had never been out of the house that early. Places that were familiar took on a hostile and unfriendly air. Things fluttered and shuffled around him. Had his mission not been so urgent, Jake knew he would be too scared to go on. He was worried that he would be too late.

“Jus’ gotta get there ‘fore Zach does,” he whispered to the dog.

Goose Farm came into view. A light in one of the windows cast a dull yellow glow over the rose garden. The front door opened and Old Goose stepped out. A second man, Zachary, stepped out behind him.

“Shoot...we’re jus’ in time!”

He ducked and palmed up a stone, round and cold. Marshalling his strength he hurled the stone on Zachary’s direction. David couldn’t have done a better job felling Goliath. There was a muffled thud, a thin shriek and Zachary’s legs folded beneath him.

“You OK, mister?” Old Goose had turned around to witness his son fall backwards through the doorway. A small trail of blood wound its way along his forehead.

“Jake? Jake Henry? What in the blazers huv yer done?”

“Saved yer life... that’s what. Yer son was plannin’ to murder yer! I got wind of it’n’came ter warn yer.”

Jake ran through the events of the previous week. He had been col-

lecting snails from the gravestones that stood against the church wall. Jake waited just that little bit too long to make his presence known as Zachary and the tall stranger strolled along the path through the graveyard.

“So, young Zachary... you are going to bury your old man at last! It is going to be a truly wonderful day. The Lord will be smiling. Smiling!” The stranger spoke.

“Those were his exact words? Bury his old man?” Old Goose’s shoulders shook, and a tear escaped and slid down his lined face.

“It’s OK, mister, he ain’t gonna do nuffin. Not now. Yer safe!”

The dog slid between Jake’s legs as Old Goose let out a howl of laughter, wiping his eyes and his nose with the back of his

hand. His laughter, like waves on the sea shore, flooded and receded. Old Goose could barely stand shaking as violently as he was. He tried to pull his features into a more serious face.

“Jake, Zachary’s gettin’ baptised on Sunday. Stuff done t’him as a babbie seemingly ain’t good nuff. Buryin’ his old man? ‘S preacher talk. That old man? ‘S the bit o’ him that heeds the devil. That’s what he’s burying. S’posin’ yer ain’t killed him already.”

Later that day, Jake watched as Zachary Goose was baptised in the river, burying his old man under the water. He bore a small red wound on his forehead.



1 Peter 1:23 NIV

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate, when he suffered , he made no threats.

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.

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

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 donate 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.

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

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

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

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1960

Dec. 8, 1960 – Charles J. Fee, Cunningham’s senior business man, has decided to dispose of his Fee Hardware Company, and will hold a Public Auction at the store next Thursday and Friday, December 15 and 16, beginning at 10:00 o’clock each morning.

The sale will be conducted by the Banbury Auction Service of Haviland, and a complete list of items to be sold is printed elsewhere in this issue.

Mr. Fee has owned and operated the Fee Hardware in Cunningham for over 41 ½ years, having purchased the business in March 1919 from F. A. Ruth and the Farmers State Bank of Cunningham. Mr. Fee says he moved into the present building site the day it was ready for occupancy and stared putting merchandise up on the shelves, little realizing that he would spend the next 41 ½ years of his life putting up and taking down merchandise from those shelves.

Mr. Fee states that he and Mrs. Fee will remain in Cunningham, at least for the present time.

Cunningham High School’s basketeers took it “on the chin” twice in their opening two games of the current season, played here during the past week.

Last Friday evening, they bowed to Partridge, 49-30, and lost to Alden, Tuesday evening, by a 48-37 score.

Failure to hit, both from the field and foul line, kept Cunningham from keeping up with Partridge. Bobby Meyers scored 10 points to pace the Wildcat scoring. Too many fouls, 28 of them by the Wildcats, aided Alden in their game. Meyers scored 14 points.

The Cunningham Lions Club were hosts to members of the high school football team and their fathers at a banquet in the school lunchroom last Saturday evening.

About 80 guests enjoyed a fine meal prepared by the mothers and served by the cheerleaders. Guest speakers were Wichita Southeast High School Football Coaches Ed Vandever and Donald Lamb, a former Cunningham coach. Verne Stanley was the toastmaster.

Walter Becker, son of Mrs. Rosa Becker of Cunningham, who has been stationed in France for the past three years with an Air Force radio and radar unit, has been honorably discharged from the military service, and arrived home last Friday.

1965

Dec. 9, 1965 – The Alden Tigers tripped the Cunningham Wildcats in their first basketball outing of the current season here last Friday night, scoring a 10-point victory, 49-39.

The Wildcats suffered two “cold” quarters, the first and the third, when they produced only six and five points, respectively, apiece in each of those two periods. The score at half-time found Alden ahead, 22-19.

Ronald Murphey led the Cunningham scoring with 18 points.

Cunningham salvaged the “B” team game that was a thriller down to, and even after the final buzzer. With Cunningham ahead by two points, 34-32, an Alden player missed two free throws after time was out.

The Cunningham Wildcats won their first basketball game of the current season, Tuesday night, when they swamped an out-classed and out-manned Hazelton team, 94 to 57, in a game played at Hazelton.

The Wildcats zipped off to a 28-12 lead by the end of the first quarter, and were way out in front, 54 to 26, at half-time.

Dennis Theis racked up 28 points, 18 of them in the second quarter, to lead the Cunningham scoring, with Ronald Murphey chipping in 21.

1970

December 3, 1970 - A budget of \$400 has been set up for Cunningham’s Santa Claus Day, Saturday, Dec. 12, according to Co-chairmen Dean Cooley and Kent Williamson.

The money is used to purchase treats, and pay entry fees and prizes for the parade.

The float division has been put back in the parade this year because several organizations have expressed a desire to build floats for the parade.

The parade divisions are bicycles, tricycles, wagons, dolls and doll buggies, pets, horses, and floats. Prizes are the same as last year.

Extra special entries are the Wichita Horseless Carriage Club, the Wichita Model A Ford Club, and the Kingman Shrine Club Ringmasters, which proved to be a parade-stopper last year.

The Cunningham Lions Club is again sponsoring their horseshoe tournament. Players may sign up with Mr. Cooley or Mr. Williamson.

New hours for the Cunningham Youth Center, “The Wildcat Den,” were announced this week.

For all high school students, the youth center will be open Tuesday and Friday evenings after the home basketball games until 11:00 o’clock, and on Saturday evenings from 7:30 to 11:00 o’clock.

For all junior high school students, the youth center

will be open on Friday evenings at away basketball games from 7:30 to 10:30 o’clock, and after home basketball games on Thursday evenings until 10:00 o’clock.

For all grade school students, the youth center will be open on Saturday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 o’clock.

To discourage the running in and out the door, there will be a 10-cent admission charge.

Persons desiring to sponsor a session at the youth center should contact Mrs. Albert McGovney or Mrs. Edwin Steffen.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Rex Zimmerman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1975

December 4, 1975 - Mr. and Mrs. Dean Mantooth, Brad, Brooks and Cheri were Thanksgiving Day guests of Mr. and Ms. Ed Mantooth and Melody in Denver, Colorado. Cindy Mantooth visited her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edd Nichols at Zenda and other friends.

Hilltop: “Brownie Joe” Northrop, our bulldog, enjoyed a delicious turkey bone dinner Thursday noon. Steve Towns of Sawyer visited the home Wednesday afternoon and brought us eggs. Doctor T. L. Waylan of Nashville visited the home Friday afternoon. Several relatives of Lloyd Coleman visited him Thanksgiving Day.

Rings and promises of marriage were exchanged Saturday, November 8, by Miss Martha Osner and Ron Albers. Setting for the nuptial mass was St. Patrick’s Catholic Church and officiating for the 2 p.m. ceremony were Rev. Patrick Larkin of Kingman and Rev. James Spexarth of St. Leo.

Don Hellar and Martha Yancy from Chicago and Sue Hellar of Ottawa spent the Thanksgiving vacation at the home of Don and Sue’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Hellar.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wetherall, Peggy Cain and Kevin Halderson were Thanksgiving Day guests of Kevin’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Halderson of Glasco.

Judy Williams of Raleigh, North Carolina, spent from November 24 until December 4 visiting her parents and brothers, Mr. and Mrs. Delmer Huffman, John and Kevin.

Capt. And Mrs. Wm. Swick, Susan, Kristin, and Lauren left Friday for their new home in Omaha, Nebraska. Mrs. Swick and daughters have spent the past several months with her mother, Mrs. Pauline Leiter, while their home was being constructed.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Vickie Lohmann

Reporter: Florine Kampling

1980

December 4, 1980 – The sixth grade class from Cunningham came Monday for a program of Thanksgiving songs, “Over the River and Through the Woods” and “Swing the Shining Sickle” and singing games, “Oh, Johnny and Capt. Jenks.” They also danced two squares. Dawn Alley, Vickie Becker, Mike Fischer, Donice Kitson, Dana Murphy, Todd Rohr, Mark Thimesch, Larryssa Kasney, Kelly Clark, and Jeff Lash, their teacher, Mrs. Hartley, and their music teacher for a nice program. We will look forward to seeing them again next year when the students will be seventh graders.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Meyers and family of Hutchinson, hosted a family dinner Thanksgiving Day at their home. Present were Jerry Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Meyers and family, Cunningham; Mr. and Mrs. Danny Meyers and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Pina, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Meyers and family, all of Pratt; and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Plummer and family, Hutchinson.

Kurt Zrubek of Durango, Colo., spent from Thursday until Sunday visiting Mr. and Mrs. Leo Zrubek, Sr. visiting Mr. and Mrs. Leo Zrubek, Jr. and Scott Huhman. He returned to college Sunday evening.

Don’t forget, kids, Saturday, Dec. 13 is Santa Claus Day in Cunningham. Lots of monetary prizes will be awarded, so why not try for one of them. Each entrant receives \$1 just for entering the individual categories of horses, dolls and buggies, pets, bicycles, tricycles, wagons or costumes.

1985

December 5, 1985 – Mr. Milton Brooks, who has consented to head up the Christmas Parade to be held Saturday, Dec. 7, this year, state that all areas of the

parade are proceeding nicely and each helper and committee person is willingly doing their share of the responsibility.

Mr. and Mrs. John Luther, Pratt, and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy A. Kampling were Thanksgiving day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stillwell.

David and Betty Amick spent Thanksgiving Day at the home of Lynda Smith and Justin in Wichita. Other family members present were Bonnie Smith, Kevin Smith and Melanie Witt and Andrew of Wichita, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Smith, Kari and Lindsey of Oklahoma City and Mr. and Mrs. Craig Smith, Jeff and Mike of Manhattan.

The following letters are from the Cunningham third graders. I am sorry Travis Delaney is absent from school today, please remember him.

Santa, I would like a magic red pen to help me grade papers really fast. I wish you and all your helpers and friends a happy holiday season. Love, Mrs. Almond, 3rd grade teacher.

Dear Santa Claus, I want a Walk Man radio please. I hope you have a pleasant trip coming to Kansas. I want a cabbage patch please. I want a necklace please. How are you doing? I want a ring please. Love, Lisa Huffman

Dear Santa, I would like a transformer and a football. How is Mrs. Santa? Is Rudolph’s nose still red? I would like a computer and a synthesizer. I will leave you milk and cookies. Your friend, Neil Cambell.

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Santa? How is Rudolph and the other reindeer? For Christmas I would like you to bring me transformers, race truck, NFL football, stompers. Your friend, Aryn Raney.

Dear Santa, Please tell Toy Boy not to get tangled up in streamer. How is Rudolph and the eight reindeer? I hope they’re ok. I hope my family and I can go to the movie theater and see your movie. My birthday is only eight days after Christmas. Some of the things I want for Christmas was a Robatron RT2, lots of GoBots, and Octimus Prime transformer and a football uniform. Your friend, Jeremy Jarmer

Dear Santa Clause, For Christmas I would like a Jam Box and a Stereo. How is Mrs. Santa and everybody up at the North Pole? I hope you have a pleasant trip to Kansas. Your friend, Jackie Kerschen

Dear Santa, I hope you come on Christmas Eve! For Christmas I want a Thundercat. And I also want a Synthisizer. How is Mrs. Santa? How are the reindeer? I hope my mom and dad take me to your movie. I think I’ll like it! Santa, I have my Mom for a teacher, what should I get her? Love, Rodney Almond.

Dear Santa Claus, How’s Mrs. Clause? Please bring me cabbage patch kids premie twins, two boys or two girls. I’ll leave cookies and milk for you. Love, Erin Rae Huffman

Dear Santa Claus, For Christmas please bring me a care bear. How is Mrs. Santa Clause? How is Rudolph? I would like a cabbage patch kid for Christmas. I would like some clothes for Christmas too. Your friend, Heidi Steffen

Mr. and Mrs. David Steffen are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Laueie Elizabeth, November 18, 1985, at Kingman Community Hospital. She weighed eight pounds and 1 and a half ounces. She has a sister, Emilie Anna, almost four years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Albers announce the birth of Sara Ann, November 14, 1985, at Pratt Regional Medical Center. She weighed eight pounds and 12 ounces. Family at home include Gary, almost 14, Christie, 10, and Emily, almost 4.

On November 21, the library became a banquet room during the noon hour where teachers and other school personnel assembled to partake of the bounteous meal, cooked and served by the senior boys Home Economics class, under the supervision of their teacher Kathryn Zongker.

Chefs were Brett Deemer, Scott DeWeese, Dennis FitzSimmons, Dennis Hageman, Greg Hageman, Brian Henning, Rod Holcomb, Matt Oller, Kurt Robinson, Ryan Ruckle, and Chuck Thimesch.

The menu, served buffet style, included turkey, ham, stuffing, gravy, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, jello salad, tossed salad, pumpkin pie, French bread, tea and coffee.

Museum Winter Hours

Saturday:

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JH Wildcat Action



Alyssa Osner



Leah Rogers



Mackley Glenn

photos by Molly Morgan



Casyn Miller



Landon Green

photos by Kyra Morgan



Wheat Scoop: K-State Researchers Aim to Reduce Gluten Allergenicity in Wheat

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State University researchers and the state’s farmers are putting their collective support behind a project to reduce the allergenicity of gluten in wheat, while maintaining the grain’s ability for bread and other products. Eduard Akhunov, a University Distinguished Professor in K-State’s Department of Plant Pathology, said his team is identifying proteins in the wheat genome that trigger allergic reactions

in people with celiac disease. The autoimmune disorder causes the immune system to react abnormally to gluten, a protein found in wheat, rye and barley. Once they find the problematic proteins, the researchers will use a gene-editing technique known as CRISPR-Cas9 to target changes in the genome, which they hope will reduce or eliminate the allergic response in future varieties grown by U.S. wheat producers. According to the Celiac Disease Foundation, the disorder affects 1 in 100 people worldwide, including about 2 million Americans. The Foundation notes that when people with the disease eat gluten, their immune system attacks the small intestine, damaging the small, finger-like villi that help absorb

nutrients. “Our dilemma in doing this work,” Akhunov said, “is that in the past we have successfully reduced immunotoxicity in wheat by suppressing the expression of gluten-encoding genes. But, in most cases, this inevitably leads to the reduction of bread-making quality of that wheat.” “We are working to develop wheat varieties that have a lower abundance of gluten proteins that cause allergic reactions, while at the same time maintaining bread-making quality.” The three-year project began earlier this year and is funded by a \$990,000 grant from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research. Project partners include K-State, University of California-Davis, the California Wheat Commission, the Celiac

Disease Foundation and Kansas Wheat. “Globally, the world is now consuming more than 800 million metric tons of wheat, and the United States mills almost 1 billion bushels of wheat annually into flour that produces wheat products,” said Justin Gilpin, chief executive officer of Kansas Wheat, which is funded by Kansas farmers through a checkoff program. “I think it’s pretty exciting to see this work being done, especially with so much focus right now on wheat and health and consumers wanting to know more about their food.” Aaron Harries, Kansas Wheat’s vice president of research and operations, said the organization has been working for many years to identify proteins most reactive for those with celiac disease.

“I give tours of our Wheat Innovation Center (in Manhattan) to farmers who have kids with celiac disease,” Harries said. “So, they’re growing wheat for a living, but at the same time they can’t have it on their dinner table. I just feel like there’s an obligation to try to do something about this.” In 2023, K-State reported a breakthrough in developing wheat-based foods that contain lower amounts of gluten, while maintaining the quality of flour for baking. The current study will build on that work, further investigating the precise proteins that trigger gluten allergies. Akhunov said gluten likely will never be completely removed from wheat since it is important for bread-making. Gluten provides the texture, flavor and moisture

in such products as bread, bagels, pastries, noodles and more. “We all know the benefits that whole grains play in a balanced diet, and yet there is a segment of the population that is trying to avoid those due to risk of an allergic reaction,” Gilpin said. “This is research that addresses a specific consumer need. “It’s particularly positive for the wheat industry and, more specifically, wheat farmers. It’s exciting to have Kansas State as a partner on this project.”

Written by Pat Melgares for K-State Extension news service.



What You are Missing at the Cunningham Historical Museum -- Visit Soon!



photos by Alan Albers



Another Claim to Fame: 2025 6-Man State Champions



Enthusiastic fan

Brody Bock

photos by Molly Morgan



Coaches Lance McGuire and Eric Kerschen. (Yes, it was an extremely cold and windy day here on the plains.)



"A whole lot of Cats after a loose ball." -- Molly Morgan



Dylan Halderson on defense.



Working hard, at the bottom of this pile, holding the football just over the goal line, is Skyler Thimesch. His teammates celebrate.



Logan Kinsler

Kendall Rogers



Stephen Kerschen



Skylar Thimesch running for (and making) a touchdown.

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Kingman County Commission Minutes

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. November 24, 2025, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Jeff Young, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Visitors: Stephanie Jump, Kingman Leader-Courier; Dale Enyart.

Online Visitors: Caller 01; AS

Staff: Amanda Stucky, Zoning Director; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Mendy Frampton, Expo Center Director and Misty Jacobs, Public Works Office Administrator

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, Zoning Director was in to discuss the Olsson Contract and amending it to add Phase 200-Zoning Regulations update to not exceed \$15,000.00.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the amended agreement with Olsson to include the Phase 200-Zoning Regulations and to not exceed \$15,000.00. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 3-0 vote.

Ms. Stucky would like to hold a workshop meeting with the zoning board and asked for approval.

Commissioners agreed that it would be okay but Mr. Ritcha, County Counselor would look into open meetings regulations.

Commissioners signed County Vouchers and Road & Bridge Vouchers.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve November 17th, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Young moved to go into executive session at 8:49 a.m. with

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer and Brandon Ritcha, Counselor to discuss an individual employee’s evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 8:59 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.	
Commissioners returned to return to regular session at 8:59 a.m. with no action taken.	
Commissioner Thimesch discussed IT expenses for the Register of Deeds office.	
Commissioner Thimesch submitted a breakdown of NRP total Rebates per Year including all taxing entities.	
YEAR	AMOUNT
2010	237,813.97
2011	354,853.35
2012	422,230.59
2013	483,304.11
2014	560,745.56
2015	620,,384.45
2016	631,165.30
2017	659735.01
2018	787,143.67
2019	811,682.85
2020	725,621.09
2021	849,363.38
2022	809,,841.01
2023	692038.60
2024	666,485.16
2025	<u>625,050.20</u>
Total	<u>9,938,458.30</u>
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 9:09 a.m. with Mendy Frampton, Expo Center Director and Brandon Ritcha, Counselor to discuss an individual employee’s evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:19 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.	

Ms. Frampton let the Commissioners know that Oklahoma and Missouri have had some horse outbreaks.

Misty Jacobs, Public Works Office Administrator was in with the purchase agreement from Prairieland Partners for the purchase of the 2024 Tractor in the amount of \$127,700.00. The extended warranty is included in the purchase price.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the purchase of the 2024 Tractor in the amount of \$127,000.00 with the extended warranty included. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Young moved to go into executive session at 9:34 a.m. with Misty Jacobs, Public Works Office Administrator and Brandon Ritcha, Counselor to discuss an individual employee’s evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:39 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:39 a.m. with no action taken during executive session.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the wage adjustment for an employee pursuant to personnel policy 29.6. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed the NRP breakdown through the years and the tax dollars that get reimbursed. The reimbursements over the years have come to a total of \$9,937,458.30.

Commissioners reviewed information received from Council on Aging.

Commissioners signed additions; escaped tax and abatements:

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 Vote.

Pratt County Commission Minutes for November 17

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 17, 2025, at 2:00 pm in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director.

Economic Development Update -Heather Morgan

Northern Natural Gas State Assessed Utility Meeting

Heather reported that members from the Kingman and Pratt County Commission Board met to discuss the outcome related to Northern Natural Gas. Key focus areas included clarification on regulations, statutes, procedural requirement and checks and balances for movement of taxable assets between counties. for State Assessed Utilities. A follow up meeting is scheduled for the first week of December. Participants will review facts and determine any additional actions required.

Pratt Area Economic

Development Meeting Update

PAEDC finalized the housing and incentive application during their last meeting. The application is set to be released next month. Ashlee will be leaving her role as coordinator before December so continued discussion on succession planning and next steps will occur in upcoming meetings.

Sawyer Gasline Project

Jon Beverlin is being consulted and the City of Sawyer will hold a special meeting to adopt the contract.

Kansas Department of Commerce Incentive Program

Heather submitted the required incentive spreadsheet and Kansas has requested corrections including replacing PO addresses with physical addresses and including the date the agreement was executed. Heather will make the necessary corrections and submit promptly.

Public Comments

Amy Schrag, With Pratt Family Practice (PFP) attended to follow up on their inquiry regarding the possibility of acquiring the old PRRC building for Pratt Family Practice. The building’s proximity to the hospital makes it an attractive option, though significant renovations would be required. Tyson informed

Any commissioners are waiting to meet with legal counsel before making decisions. Amy indicated that sooner would be better and time is an issue due to new providers coming in the following years but understood the circumstances. Amy asked if Commissioners would be opposed to PFP obtaining construction quotes if they assumed all cost. Commissioners expressed no opposition to this approach. Commissioners thanked Pratt Family Practice for their service to the community and acknowledged growth concerns. Amy expressed appreciation for the Commissioners’ time and efforts.

Abe Peters, Audience member, raised concerns of property taxes and how buildings are being assessed. Tyson, County Counselor, explained the process of assessment and how it’s statutory and guided by data, rates and the current housing market.

Law Enforcement Center Update

Jimmy White and Cameron Quick presented a quote of \$17,700 to replace the water softer at the Law Enforcement Center The current softener is outdated, and parts are no longer available, making replacement costly. Jimmy asked if

the water softer could be bypassed saving the cost of the expensive repair freeing up funds for other needed items. Commissioners agreed not to replace the softener at this time but to revisit the issue if replacement becomes needed.

Health Department Update

Darcy reported receiving 3 out of 4 community grants applied for, totaling \$774 for mosquito dumps, \$1,190 for female hygiene kits, and \$2,000 for safe sleep survivor kits and sleep sacks. Plans include hosting a community baby shower.

Health Tracker expressed interest in presenting their services to Health Department providers. They offer lab services and are currently used by urgent care facilities. They are not affiliated with KDHE and can test for a broader range of conditions than current capabilities. Dr. Zook and Dr. Vogt will be reviewing the proposal as well. The Health Department’s biller asked about handling billing internally to reduce costs and administrative challenges. Darcy will research this option and report back with findings.

Senior Services Grant Letter

Tara Pagenkopf presented the General information Certification

for KDOT. She also presented the match letter for a replacement bus.

Motion to sign the General Information Certification for KDOT made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Motion to sign KDOT letter of commitment for local matching funds for a replacement bus in the amount of \$65,181 made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Consideration of Greenback After Prom Donation

Motion to donate \$500 to the Greenback After Prom 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 for both Pratt County Board of Commissioners and Jack Galle, County Hospital Board Chairman to discuss all things legally related to PRMC for 30 minutes at 2:31 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:01 p.m. with no ac-

tion taken.

Executive Session -Attorney-Client

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act for both Pratt County Board of Commissioners and Jack Galle, County Hospital Board Chairman to discuss all things legally related to PRMC for 15 minutes at 3:03 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:18 p.m. with no action taken.

Consideration of Engagement Letter

Motion to sign an engagement letter for Legal Services for Prella Eron & Bailey, P.A. for Pratt County and Pratt County Hospital Board made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Trinkle; motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes for November 10, 2025.

Approval of Vouchers

Commissioners unanimously approved the vouchers for November 17, 2025

Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.



I recently received an envelope in the mail. Inside was a thumb drive from Danny Gibbs (a.k.a. Joanna Freund's son-in-law). He sent us photos that he has taken over the last several visits to the family farm. I grabbed a couple of them for the paper today, as well as the one on the masthead. More in the coming weeks. - the editor





Scar-Head Lois & Other Chickens I have Known

“It may be the cock that crows, but it is the hen that lays the eggs.”
Margaret Thatcher

I once had a little squat Barred Rock hen named *Scar- Head Lois*. She was so named because she had a gaping hole on the side of her head, the obvious result of some unknown farm-yard injury. Lois was a special little hen, so special in fact that I, in a fit of generosity, gifted her to my dear sister-in-law one Christmas. Scar-Head Lois would happily lay her eggs for anyone who fed and talked to her. Lois was fond of conversation. And she had a happy life out on the ranch until she met a ravenous racoon one night who breached the walls of her happy hen-house. One sad truth in life is that everyone, and everything, loves to eat chicken.

Remembering Scar-Head Lois, my mind has been on chickens this week. Since egg prices continue to skyrocket, and prime chicken raising springtime is upon us, I thought I might again visit the topic of poultry. So here goes...

We currently do not have a flock of hens, thanks to predators who visit from time to time. But I have a confession – I do love chickens, and eggs. If forced to live like *Robinson Crusoe* on some deserted Caribbean Island, all I would ask for is a small library of good

books, my typewriter along with an ample supply of paper, and a flock of chickens. With those three things, I would be happy.

If, like me, you are poultry friendly, and find yourself short of eggs, or are simply tired of spending each week on eggs money that would have paid for a small used car in 1968, then you may need some chickens. And maybe I can help.

In years past, much to my wife’s chagrin, I have made a habit of raising chickens in our home. This usually involved placing a large tub or box on our kitchen table, with attached heat lamp, filled with shavings, feed, water, and an assortment of baby chicks. Those days were fun, and I remember my girls well.

Fond of using vintage “old lady” names for my hens, here were some of my favorites: *Mavis, Phoebe, Vera, Fern, Ruby, Eunice, Phyllis, Sadie, Cora, Eleanor, Ida, Mabel, Opal, and Nellie*. I once had what I thought was a beautiful little hen that I named *Amelia*. With growth, my little hen turned out to be a rooster, so she/he then became *Amelio*. Amelio was sent as a Christmas present along with Scar-Head Lois and met her same fate.

Speaking of roosters, be warned. Roosters crow, long and early. If you have close neighbors you might want to stick with hens alone, in order to avoid conflict. If you have no close neighbors, then adding a rooster to your flock does give your girls some security. If you allow your chickens to wander in your pasture or yard (free-range eggs always taste better), then an irritable rooster can often discourage daytime predators. But roosters can be, and often are, rank, and may need to be dispatched if you find they will at-

tack you or other family members. And it helps to name them accordingly. We once had a rooster that clued me in early as to his temperament. Predicting that he would soon need to lose his head, we named him *John the Baptist*.

If buying chickens, it is best to purchase chicks and raise them yourself (my opinion) – if this is agreeable to other humans in your circle. If you are new to nurturing poultry, a visit to *YouTube* might be in order. You can learn all you want to about raising chickens quickly this way. And of course, breed selection is

most important.

I have always preferred the old standard dual-purpose breeds. They are typically good natured, and most lay brown eggs. Here are some of my favorites:

Barred Rocks (beautiful dark gray and white barred plumage) – the ideal farm or ranch chicken, Barred Rocks are steady and reliable. They always seem among the most intelligent hens in a flock.

Buff Orpingtons (golden colored feathers) – large quiet birds, they make good setters and mothers if you want to hatch more chicks later.

Rhode Island Reds (lovely red plumage) – popular breed and very good layers - they can be feisty and sometimes pick on other birds. If you have a mixed flock, good idea to limit their number for peace in the henhouse.

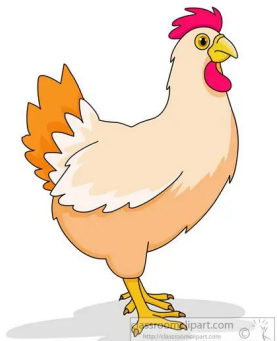
Black Australorp (all black feathers) – wonderful chickens, quiet and gentle, superior heat tolerance, and very good layers.

Ameraucanas (plumage varies) – they lay blue and green eggs, so make a nice addition to any flock.

There are many other wonderful chicken breeds available. If you are

ready to become a poultry parent, here’s a great source for good chickens – *Murray McMurray Hatchery* (mcmurray-hatchery.com). Good luck!

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KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Pixie

Sponsored by *The Cunningham Courier*



Pixie isn’t a beautiful kitty. However, she would believe that anyone who adopts her from the shelter would be a beautiful person.

Pixie is about one year old and rather small for a kitty, weighing only about 5 pounds. She’s been at the shelter since the end of the August, and she can be adopted by her beautiful person for \$40.00.

Shadow

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Shadow is such a wanting-to-please pup. He is a mixed breed shepherd – about 10 months old, and he’s a quick learner.

His foster care person says this about him: He is completely house-trained, doggy-door trained, crate trained. Gets along with other dogs, loves being part of a family, even the kids. He walks on a leash, doesn’t chew on anything he isn’t supposed to chew on, even getting to roam the house when left alone. Car rides are calm and easy, he stays close to his person when not on a leash. “Just an all-around gentle, loyal, easy-going pup. Shadow has been an absolute joy, and he’s going to make someone incredibly lucky.”

Shadow has been with KAHS since the end of October. His adoption fee is \$180.00.



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Help Wanted

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

Public Notice

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

Public Notice

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

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
EUGENE A. HENNING, Deceased.
CASE NO. KM-2025-PR-53
(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
You are hereby notified that on November 25, 2025, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary was filed in this Court by Rhonda Mattal.
All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.
Rhonda Mattal, Petitioner
Matthew W. Ricke
Ricke & Ritcha Law Office
349 N. Main, PO Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
Attorney for Petitioner

B-29 Museum

is open on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Pratt Army Airfield – 82 Curran Road
Visit them on Facebook at www.prairie-bombers.org for more information. If you would like to visit the museum at another time call
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672-2444 or 620-797-2919 to schedule an appointment!



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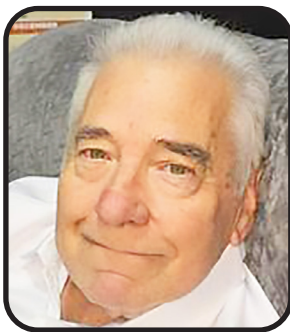
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Kirby Humphrey

Kirby Lynn Humphrey peacefully shuffled off his mortal coil to meet his maker November 26, 2025, at a Wichita Hospital after an intense 10-month battle with cancer. Kirby was born to John & Esther Humphrey June 7, 1948, in Shidler, Oklahoma. Kirby had one older brother Frank and two younger brothers Larry & James.



Kirby attended 2 years of grade school in Shidler Oklahoma before moving to Cunningham, Ks. for two years, then finally moving to Turon, Kansas to complete his primary education before graduating from Fairfield High School in 1966.

Kirby proudly served in the United States Navy aboard Aircraft Carriers USS Constellation & USS Enterprise during the Vietnam war 1967 to 1971 with and honorable discharge.

He was married to Della Roberts in the early 1970's. They had one son, Cain in 1973 and four step children Pam, Dorothy, Kelly & Chris.

Kirby was a jack of all trades early in life out of the Navy working with farmers, local businesses and raising a family.

In the late 1980's, Kirby was certified in water and waste water operations and served numerous municipalities and small communities in these roles keeping citizens safe with drinking water and in compliance with KDHE and environmental regulations. Kirby was the owner of Kansas Certified for over 15 years providing these services to communities, businesses and schools as well. Kirby maintained his certification until August of 2025 for over four decades of public health and safety.

Kirby married Judy Burgey in the late 1980's. Judy had one son, Kirby's step son Bill. Later Kirby was married to Lori Schiff in 2021.

Kirby was proud of his 36 plus years of sobriety and was an active member and leader in AA often receiving calls from newer members on the holidays struggling with addiction and he would always be there for them.

Preceded in death by parents John & Esther, first wife Della, second wife Judy and step daughter Kelly. He is survived by his only son Cain, and step children Pam, Dorothy, Chris, & Bill.

A loving, caring selfless person. A true humanitarian and Christian man, Kirby never knew a stranger or a soul he couldn't try to help. His life's mantra was "God's will be done." Kirby loved talking, fishing, talking, people and talking.

Funeral service will be 2:30 p.m., Sunday, November 30 at Minnis Chapel, Stafford. Burial will be at the Turon Cemetery, Turon, Kansas. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Saturday at Minnis Chapel, Stafford. Absolutely Flowers is in charge of the family floral arrangements.

Iona Westerman

Iona Anna Molly Westerman, 85, passed away Monday, December 1, 2025 at her home. She was born on August 10, 1940 in Alva, Oklahoma to Harold William Karl and Roberta Kathryn (Kurth) Busse. Iona married Earl Henry Walter Westerman on September 9, 1972, at Zion Lutheran Church in Alva. They were married for 53 years.



Iona graduated from Alva High School in 1958 and went on to attend Northwestern Oklahoma State University. She was one semester shy of earning her Bachelor Degree. She worked at the Woods County Abstract Office in Alva and then moved to Nashville and began working as a Senior Tax Analyst for H&R Block in Pratt. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Nashville Centennial Committee and was a very active 4-H Leader. She enjoyed scrap-booking, sewing, painting and doing ceramics, cooking for harvest, attending church and spending time with family, especially the grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Earl; sons, Robert Westerman of Nashville and Justin (Taunya) Westerman of Isabel; grandchildren, Haley Westerman, Brandon (Olivia) Westerman, Tanner (Danielle Jantz) Westerman and Peyton Westerman; great-grandchildren, Christopher and Messer with 2 more on the way; and sister, Wilda Busse of Alva.

Iona is preceded in death by her parents and brother, Garold (Mary Katherin) Busse.

Visitation will be Thursday, December 4, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. with family receiving friends from 5-7 at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 5, 2025 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Nashville with Pastor Michael Schotte presiding. Burial will follow at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Nashville.

Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church.

Jen Miller

Jennifer Lynn "Jen" Miller passed away peacefully on November 24, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer.



Jen was born to Leonard and Jean Anne Hageman on August 13, 1975 in Kingman Kansas. She graduated from Kingman High School in 1994 and continued on to receive her Business degree from WSU. After graduating college, Jen lived and worked in Fort Collins, Colorado for 11 years before moving back to Goddard, Kansas in 2012. She loved working in the financial world, and formed lifelong friendships among all of her colleagues.

On September 22, 2018, she married the love of her life, Tim, which blessed her with 3 amazing bonus kids, Abby, Lauren and Tanner. Jen didn't have any children of her own, but she loved them and her many nieces and nephews dearly! Plus, her Mini Aussie Ace was her baby and she loved that pup just as much.

Jen is survived by her husband and bonus children; her parents; Sisters Katie (and Brett) Belden and Nancy (and Justin) Heldenbrand; Nieces and nephews Shelby (and Andrew) Marcotte, Morgan (and Aaron) Harsh, Dalton Schrag, Sophie and Logan Heldenbrand; great-nieces and nephews Nora, Otis and Dani Marcotte, and Crew Harsh; Mother-in-law Agnes Miller; Brothers-in-law Kevin Miller (and Jackie Austin) and Darrell Miller (and Michelle Patterson); nieces and nephews Maddie Miller (Kamron, Jaylen, Lexi and Kylie), Skyler (and Macy) Miller (Colter, Maverick and Luke), and Lexi Miller. Preceding her in death were her maternal grandparents, John and Marcie Parsons, paternal grandparents, Leo and Eleanor Hageman, and father-in-law Herman Miller.

All of her adult life, Jen was an avid fan of KU and WSU basketball, the Kansas City Chiefs, and Colorado Avalanche and Eagles hockey.

She loved taking pictures of everyone so much that she was often teased that she would run out of film. Those photos now tell the story of an amazing life that was full of love, laughter, family and friends.

Jen's warmth, loyalty, and joyful spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Her legacy of love, strength, and devotion to family will live on in the hearts of everyone she touched.

The family will receive friends on Friday, Dec. 5th from 5-7pm at Livingston Funeral Home. Service will be Saturday, Dec. 6th at 10am at Cornerstone Fellowship (1620 S Main St. Kingman) with burial following in the Walnut Hill Cemetery. The family asks that you wear your favorite KU, WSU, Chiefs, Avalanche or Eagles gear. Lunch will be served "Jen" style following burial, at The Armory in Kingman.

OUT OF STATE FRIENDS AND FAMILY ... Please note that Jen's body is being flown into Wichita on Tuesday Dec. 2nd. As with any flight, cancellations can happen. It is encouraged that you check Livingston Funeral Home's Facebook page Tuesday evening before booking your flight.



Martina Linda Duran, 79, passed away Monday, November 24, 2025 at her home. She was born on February 27, 1946 in San Francisco, California to Martin Steve and Vera (Montano) Duran.

Martina worked as an auto courier. She loved cats, dabbling in artwork and everything glitter.

She is survived by her children, Josette Duran, Dominic Goering, Cruz Duran and Rodvello Duran; sister, Beatrice Duran of Pratt and brother, David Riffel.

Martina is preceded in death by her parents; sons, Tony Hernandez and Marion Hernandez; and sister Shirley Mabry, Eleanor Duran and Maria Riffel.

A Graveside service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, December 4, 2025 at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to VFW or Pratt Area Humane Society.

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Randy Randall

Randy Abe Milton Randle, age 78, of Rolla, Kansas, passed away from this life the morning of November 26, 2025, at his home. He was born, February 5, 1947, on the farm in Rolla, the son of Glen and Thelma (Dixon) Randle.



Randy grew up in Rolla where he graduated from high school and first developed the work ethic and dedication that would guide him throughout his life. As a young man, he farmed and managed the Rolla Swimming Pool. Randy went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from Fort Hays State University. While at FHSU, he was a football letterman and member of the rodeo club. After college he taught and coached in Cunningham, Kansas, leading an 8-man football team. His commitment to his players and sport earned him the honor of Coach of the Year in 1975. In 1976 he was baptized at the UMC in Cunningham, Kansas.

Randy went to work at the Cimarron Insurance Company in 1977 and held summer football camps. He also worked for Blakely Crop Hail, Fireman's Fund and Farmer's Mutual. On December 19, 1987, Randy married Gonza L. Barnes, at Trinity Baptist Church in Hugoton, Kansas. He enjoyed roping, hunting, taking treasured trips with his wife, family and friends; and watching his longhorn cattle.

Randy is survived by his wife, Gonza Randle of Rolla; children, Sami J. Randle and fiancé, James V. Dreiling, of Hays, Kansas, Scott A. Randle and wife, Shelby, of Piedmont, Oklahoma, Danny Baker and wife, Frances, of Temple, Texas, and Gwendolyn Lorenz and husband, Danny, of Belton, Texas; sister, Annetta Dirks of WaKeeney, Kansas; grandchildren, Henry, Maggie, James, Devin Cain and husband Nathan, Dakota Lewallen and husband Seth, Darby, Megan, and Sydney; great-grandchildren, Bailey, Casen, Cole, Lindon, Logan and Landry; and brother-in-law, Jack Cooper.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son, Justin Hughes; sisters, Nina Henson and husband, Wayne, Glenetta Cooper, and Vivian Quimby and husband, Dennis; and brother-in-law, Tobias T. Dirks, Jr.

He never knew a stranger having had contacts and friends from all over. Good ride cowboy!

A celebration of life will be Monday, December 29, 2025, at 1:00 PM at St. Helen Catholic Church in Hugoton with Reverend Pascal Klein officiating. Memorial contributions may be given to Wounded Warrior Project in care of Garnand Funeral Home, 920 E. 11th St. Hugoton, KS 67951. Condolences may be posted at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.



Warren Seth

Warren Seth, 91, passed away Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at Grand Plains Skilled Nursing. He was born on May 26, 1934, in Cullison to Ernest Harvey and Jessie Vera (Hatfield) Seth. Warren married Wanda (Bishop) Seth on January 9, 1958 in Pratt. They were married for 67 years.



Warren graduated from Pratt High School. He joined the United States Army National Guard in 1958. He went on to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford and earned a certificate in watch making. He taught watch making for one year. Warren and Wanda owned Warren's Jewelry in St. John for 4 years until they had to sell the store and move back to Pratt to care for his mother after his dad passed. He worked at Woolwine's in the Parts & Service Department and later worked at Wal-Mart as a greeter. He attended Reach Church. He enjoyed all music and all things cars, attending races and concerts, cruising Pratt, a Sonic coke easy ice, his dogs and spending time with his family especially the kids.

He is survived by his wife, Wanda; daughters, Lisa (Brandon) Haynes of Meade and Deborah Seth of Wichita; grandchildren, Lezlee (Paul) James, Logan (Colton) Heinrich, Fallon Haynes, Tristan (Lizzy) Haynes, Greyson Haynes, Torren (Jenna) Haynes, Amber Lynn and Lyndsie (Austin) Vestering; and great-grandchildren, Raiya James, Suniyah James, Cambria Heinrich, Hosmer Heinrich, Hartley Haynes, Kieran Lynn, Ava Lynn, Charlie Webster, Liam Vestering, Charlie Sue Vestering and Allison Vestering.

Warren is preceded in death by his parents. A Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, December 1, 2025 at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt with Pastor JD Washington presiding. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Greenlawn Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.larrison-mortuary.com.