

The Cunningham Courier

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

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

\$ 1 . 5 0

January 29, 2026
Volume 36 Number 5

photo by Joyce Depenbusch

Minutes from the December City Council Meeting

December 29, 2025

The Cunningham City Council met in a regular session on Monday, December 29, 2025, at City Hall, 119 N. Main St.

Present were Mayor, Aaron Murphy; Council Members: Craig Woodard, Tim Schultz, and Bart Ricke; City Attorney, Greg Graffman; City Superintendent, Mesa Sallee; and City Clerk, Molly Morgan.

Guests present: Jackie Ruckle, Property Officer.

Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Woodard, second by Ricke, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 3/0.

Motion by Schultz, second by

Woodard, to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2025, meeting as written. Motion carried, 3/0.

Motion by Woodard, second by Schultz, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2025, meeting as written. Motion carried, 3/0.

Budget Amendment Hearing – Motion by Schultz, second by Ricke, to open the budget amendment hearing. Motion carried, 3/0. Mayor Murphy opened the hearing at 6:32 p.m. There were no public comments. Motion by Ricke, second by Woodard, to adopt the 2025 Amended Budget. Motion carried, 3/0. Motion by Ricke, second by Schultz, to close the hearing. Mayor Murphy closed the hearing at 6:35 p.m.

No Public Comments.

City Limit Buffer Zone – Kingman County Planning & Zoning would like more information. Motion by Woodard, second by Ricke, to approve a special meeting on January 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall to review a resolu-

tion regarding a buffer zone. Motion carried, 3/0.

Engagement Letter for 2025 Audit – Motion by Ricke, second by Woodard, to approve the Mayor's signature on the engagement letter with Loyd Group for the 2025 audit. Motion carried, 3/0.

Maintenance Report – Mesa gave the report.

*Mayer Specialty Services conducted the sewer clean out on the north side of the City. The report noted that there were large amounts of sediment and sand in the sewer main down Third Street. The report is available to review. *Lagoon 2 was blocked (today.) Mayer Specialty Services came out and cleared the blockage.

*Christmas light snowflakes are becoming brittle and will need to be replaced or rewired soon.

*We were awarded the Cost Share Grant from KDOT to pave Leiter Avenue and Fourth Street. Work needs to begin on water and sewer lines for

homes that will be built in the Leiter Addition, so the lines are in place before work begins on the

Property Officer – Court on 1/26/26.

Clerk Report – The Clerk reviewed transfers as listed in the 2025 Budget. Motion by Woodard, second by Schultz, to have the Clerk make the transfers as listed in the 2025 Budget. Motion carried, 3/0.

Financial Report – Motion by Woodard, second by Schultz, to approve the financial report and pay the bills as presented. Motion carried, 3/0.

Mayor Murphy thanked Councilman Bart Ricke for his service to the City of Cunningham.

Adjournment – Motion by Ricke, second by Woodard, to adjourn. Motion carried, 3/0.

Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

CHS 2025

FOOTBALL TEAM FUNDRAISER

Soup supper

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

HS BASKETBALL HOMECOMING GAME

CHS CAFETERIA

SERVING SOUP & DESSERTS FROM 5:00 - 7:00 PM

FREE WILL DONATIONS!

Minutes from the County Commission Meeting

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. January 12, 2026 in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Jeff Young, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk-Absent Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Visitors: Dale Enyart; Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief; Sally Tatro; USI, Jen Elliott, USI and Dani Kirkendoll, USI

Online Visitors: AS; DH;

Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Tim Elliott, Deputy Treasurer; Tiffany Aumiller, Benefits Administrator; Sheriff Wood; Undersheriff Sowers; Amber Hartley, Appraiser and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

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

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was added.

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there was any public comment.

Dale Enyart wanted to remind the Commissioner's of Thursday's GOP meeting and speaker.

Commissioners let Mr. Enyart know they plan on attending.

Commissioners abatements.

Commissioners discussed Resolution 2026-R8 for Ninnescah Valley Bank.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch

moved to approve Resolution 2026-R8 for Ninnescah Valley Bank.

Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning submitted 2 permits from 2025 to the Commission.

Karen Pinochi for a garage in Section 15, Township 28, Range 06W.

Lee Duhon for a new home in Section 2, Township 28, Range 05W.

Ms. Stucky shared a report of total building permit values from 2025. Also, Ms. Stucky discussed the difference when NRP ended in May of 2025 from Residential/Commercial to only Commercial.

Ms. Stucky gave the Commissioners notice of a meeting on Wednesday with Cloud Permitting which is another company like iWorks,

Commissioner Thimesch mentioned that he did talk with iWorks about potential partnership in the future.

Ms. Stucky let the Commissioners know that the next Zoning hearing is January 26th at 7:00 p.m. and discussed with the Commissioners about a new housing development and there is an expectation that representatives of that development plan to be at the Zoning meeting in March.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to let the Commissioners know that Invenergy had paid the road damage payment of \$200,000.00. Ms. Stegman discussed where that money needs to go.

The Commissioners decided that it will be transferred so that the funds are unencumbered (capital improvement) because previous discussions indicated they did not need to work on the road yet.

continued on page 9

We are growing and looking for some awesome people to join our team.

- Rad Tech
- RNs

- MRI Tech
- CNAs

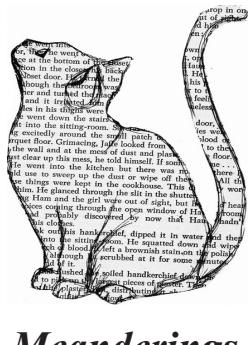
- OT
- Cook

Apply online at kingmanhc.com

KHC is an EOE

KINGMAN
HEALTHCARE CENTER

Exceptional Care. Every Time.



Meanderings

I am about to start the last book in a detective series by Bill Pronzini and his wife, Marcia Muller. (Recommended by my friend, Fred, a fellow reader of many books, who lives in Indiana)

The protagonists are John Quincannon and Sabina Carpenter, both former employees of the Pinkerton Agency. Together, these two people opened a detective

agency in San Francisco. The time era is late 1800's. The turn of the century is not far off.

Quincannon is a bit of a braggart ("There is no better detective in the Western states" he claims) and really rubs me the wrong way. Mrs. Carpenter, though, is a likeable sort. She's a widow, a quiet and thoughtful person. They don't generally solve cases together. He takes on some cases, she takes on others, but they do occasionally help each other out and sometimes their cases cross each other. It is all a fun read, and interesting and informative.

The authors really had to do their research of the time. They describe

the streets and districts of city, the clothing, the shops, the language -- so much information is included, it's hard not be really present in what is going on.

In this last book I read (#7) *The Stolen Gold Affair*, something made me laugh.

Come along while I meander off here for a bit.

I am not a gun owner. I have no need of one. I have nothing of value in my home that is worth shooting anyone over. If Joe Blow wants something and breaks in and takes it, he must need it worse than I do. He can have the books, the craft supplies, any food he can find, he can even take a cat or two or three... and

dog would probably just go with him, he wouldn't even need to 'take' silly ol' Quin. I have nothing that's worth anyone's life. Mine or theirs.

I don't know anything about guns. Like cars, many of them look alike and if I can't tell one car model from another, I certainly can't tell gun models from each other.

Back to my original journey:

John Quincannon was investigating gold theft from a mine. "Highgrading" they called it. The whole process was described and it was easy to understand what was going on.

Quincannon ends up getting bopped on the head in the mine, some-

one else gets shot with his gun, and he's carted off to jail.

The owner of the mine comes, vouches for him, he gets out of jail free to continue his investigation. However, his gun is kept for evidence and he needs a new one.

Mr. O'Hearn the superintendent of the mine arranges for him to have a loaner gun.

"The pistol O'Hearn had procured for him, which arrived by messenger wrapped in heavy paper, was not one he would have chosen for himself. A nickel-plated Sears, Roebuck .22-caliber Defender, it could be bought for sixty-eight cents new. At least it was a seven-shot weapon and

all the chambers were filled, though it would need to be fired at close quarters to do much in the way of defending."

I can't imagine any gun EVER costing only 68 cents, and from Sears and Roebuck? I found it highly amusing.

Mr. O'Hearn went on to solve the mystery of the stolen gold, arrested all the men involved and managed to stay alive for his wedding to Mrs. Carpenter.

Always reading, and currently reading, "The Paradise Affair" by Bill Pronzini, Roberta



Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

Everybody loves a mystery. And there is nothing more mysterious than cats. They live their lives in feigned appreciation of our care, devotion and servitude. We get rewarded for our efforts with the occasional purr and rub against the legs. I'm not going to get into the tall grass exploring their many eccentricities here. Let's just say if you

got cats you KNOW cats. Meaning you know very little about their private lives. My cats are country cats, indoor-outdoor cats, and though I can predict their behaviors while inside the house I haven't a clue as to what they get into when making their daily rounds. I inquire, of course. "So what have you been up to today?" And even if they could talk I doubt they would tell me.

But every now and then they appear in such a state of dishevelment one feels the need for an investigation. "Why are you missing half your ear?" "Why are you cov-

ered in motor oil?" "Why are you wrapped in the neighbor's Christmas lights?" What happened this morning is one of those things. And this column is as much a vehicle for catharsis for me as it is a mystery to be solved. Today I am Sherlock Pike (or perhaps more appropriately Agatha Pike) and I relate to you The Curious Case of the Frozen Cat.

When I went to feed the chickens this morning I heard a forlorn mewling coming from the pond. It was such a disturbing and foreign moan I wasn't at first sure what it was. But upon further inspection I

saw it was from my big yellow long-haired fellow, sitting on the dock and crying in despair. But when I called him he would not get up. Well, COULD not get up because he was literally frozen to the dock, which has a steel deck. He was shivering like Jell-O and his paws, stomach and tail were inexorably attached to that steel. I noticed a trail of water leading from the pond (which was frozen) down the dock to where he was glued. And this dock is a good three feet above pond level.

I deduced, using my detective skills in

Forensic Catalogy, that this cat somehow got onto the ice, fell through, managed to claw himself out (or levitated out of the water up onto the dock) where, exhausted, he squatted down on the steel deck for a little rest and promptly got stuck there and like the proverbial tongue on the flagpole.

Warm water released my Catecile's bonds. He was trundled in towels and hauled inside to the couch and a heating pad where after an eternity of uncontrollable shivering he finally regained his body-heat. And I am ecstatic to say fully re-

covered. However, he was not unaffected by his adventure. He curled up in the sun through the window and slept for 16 hours, closely monitored by Nurse Agatha.

Though all's well that ends well I have to say that had I gone to feed those chickens an hour later this story would not have so happy and ending. But it did. And as of this moment, to my chagrin, Mr. Eight Lives Left is out and about doing whatever it is he does, hopefully having learned to keep off the ice.

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

protect their Minneapolis neighbors. The government's story is that they were domestic terrorists but the videos that I've seen say they were victims of armed thugs that work for ICE. The right to protest is part of our First Amendment and that looks like they were killed doing that. This brings me to a video capture of a conversation between blogger Steve Meyer of Wichita and State Congressman Joe Siewert from the Pretty Prairie area.

Joe was a fellow classmate of mine at PCC in

the late 60s. In the conversation with Steve Meyer Rep. Siewert stated that he would be perfectly okay with the military on the streets of Wichita. I'm sure you can access the video by googling Steve Meyer's blog. You may have seen the picture of me with a sign in last week's Courier. The one said "She Could Have Been Your Child" now it should have been amended to say she and he could have been your children.

-Alan Albers

the late 60s. In the conversation with Steve Meyer Rep. Siewert stated that he would be perfectly okay with the military on the streets of Wichita. I'm sure you can access the video by googling Steve Meyer's blog. You may have seen the picture of me with a sign in last week's Courier. The one said "She Could Have Been Your Child" now it should have been amended to say she and he could have been your children.

A recent study out of Harvard tracked 50,000 female humans for 25 years. They found that drinking four cups of coffee a day resulted in a 20% reduced risk of depression compared to non-coffee drinkers. Read the study here: jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/1105943

Coffee supplies real and organic physical and mental comfort and stress relief. The healing comfort of coffee is real. Enjoy a warm mug every morning. Be happy and healthy. Drink coffee!

© 2025 Jody Dyer typewriterweekly.com

Minnesota

The first experience I had with Minnesota was as a 19-year-old. After my freshman year at Pratt Community College, I was able to travel to Ely, Minnesota for a 7 day canoe trip. Frank McClellan, Monte Rose and Frank's cousin, David Gillen, were part of a group to travel north. Dan Manwarren yearly took his family and a group of students to travel to the lakes of southern Canada on a canoe trip. For \$100 we were able to travel by station wag-

ons to first Minnesota then into the Canadian lakes. My first recollections of Minnesota were all the beautiful blond, blue-eyed girls working at McDonalds in Duluth. The Scandinavian influence was easy to pick up and for a 19-year-old very impressive. The differences between Kansas landscape and the Minnesota landscape was a shock to this Kansas farm boy.

In the nearly 60 years of experience and travel since then has only exposed how the geography and diversity of our coun-

try is awesome. I read a story lately from a writer who grew up in Texas but lived in Minnesota. She felt that the cold weather of Minnesota has molded the personalities of its people. What she viewed was how the cold weather has molded people into neighbors who look out for each other. She observed how they are people who offer help to their neighbors without even being asked to. I contend that the rural people of Kansas also have this look out for your neighbor's gift.

This brings me to what

is going on in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. I've read that as many as 50,000 people have been in the streets of Minnesota to oppose the invasion of their streets by masked ICE agents. Some of the observing/protesting individuals are ordained clergy. I've also read that over 100 of these clergy have been arrested or detained.

This brings me to the

execution of two young Minnesotans in the streets of Minneapolis. Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti were gunned down while trying to

protect their Minneapolis neighbors. The government's story is that they were domestic terrorists but the videos that I've seen say they were victims of armed thugs that work for ICE. The right to protest is part of our First Amendment and that looks like they were killed doing that. This brings me to a video capture of a conversation between blogger Steve Meyer of Wichita and State Congressman Joe Siewert from the Pretty Prairie area.

Joe was a fellow classmate of mine at PCC in

kitchen counter in the wee hours of the morning or stop by Starbucks (or your local Shell station) as you trundle off to work, savoring a cup can be the best part of your day. Coffee has become the anchor of sanity for much of the modern world.

We humans have been

enjoying coffee since at least the 16th century. Coffee went from being a native plant in Ethiopia, eventually spreading throughout the Middle East and then Europe and the Americas, to the glob-

ally exported agricultural product that it is today. Over two billion cups are consumed each day on planet Earth. Here in the U.S., over two-thirds of the population drink coffee daily. Coffee is a comfort. We need that comfort. And we are now learning that drinking coffee is not only comforting, but it is a stress reliever, good for our mental and physical health.

In the past, the health benefits of coffee were called into question. During the 1950s and 1960s, many doctors and medical researchers, with clipboards in hand and cigarettes dangling from their lips, questioned the safety of coffee consumption. Many experts at the time considered coffee a danger and serious risk factor for coronary heart disease, cancer, and various and sundry intestinal issues. As a small boy, I remember my mom, in a fit of guilt, switching from coffee to Postum, worried about

her health. If you don't know, Postum is a vomiting-inducing warm beverage made from molasses and various grain by-products that was celebrated as a healthy alternative to coffee in years past. Today we know better. Coffee is good for you, in every way.

Your steaming mug of coffee in the morning is chock full of health-boosting nutrients. As a pro-coffee guy (and part-time coffee roaster), I would argue that besides consistent and regular exercise each day (like walking), drinking coffee is perhaps the best thing you can do to fight disease and improve your health. Coffee is the number one source of antioxidants in the western diet. These include chlorogenic acid, caffeic acid, polyphenols, trigonelline, proanthocyanidins, lignans, and flavonoids. All have been linked to serious disease reduction, healing and health benefits.

Recent studies are al-

most too numerous to mention, but at the risk of being labeled a coffee nerd, I will mention some. A recent long-term study from Spain following 1,567 participants, comparing non-coffee drinkers to coffee drinkers, found consumption of one cup of coffee a day associated with a 27% reduction in all-cause mortality. Consumption of two to six and one-half cups of coffee a day was linked to a whopping 44% reduction in all-cause mortality! You can read the study online: pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8070495/

And there is more good news. Coffee consumption has been specifically linked to a reduced risk of depression and improved mental health and comfort. Oxidative stress and inflammation in the brain can contribute to memory loss, anxiety, and depression. The amazing compounds in coffee are anti-inflammatory and help calm stress. In addition, caffeine from

coffee boosts the production of serotonin in the body. This feel-good chemical regulates many brain tasks and promotes a sense of well-being. And the compounds in coffee support the growth of beneficial gut bacteria, which has also been linked to brain health.

A recent study out of Harvard tracked 50,000 female humans for 25 years. They found that drinking four cups of coffee a day resulted in a 20% reduced risk of depression compared to non-coffee drinkers. Read the study here: jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/1105943

Coffee supplies real and organic physical and mental comfort and stress relief. The healing comfort of coffee is real. Enjoy a warm mug every morning. Be happy and healthy. Drink coffee!

© 2025 Jody Dyer typewriterweekly.com



The Healing Comfort of Coffee

"There is always peace in a strong cup of coffee."

Gabriel Ba

Of all the simple pleasures in life, few compare to the continuing comfort of coffee. Whether you brew a pot at your cozy

320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, Kansas 67035
620-298-2659 © 2018
Periodicals Postage Paid at Cunningham, Kansas 67035
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Cunningham Courier
320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, KS 67035
Published Weekly
Robert L. Kobbe
Editor & Publisher
Subscription Rates: \$50.00 per year in Kansas
\$55.00 per year out of state
320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, Kansas 67035
E-Mail: couriernews@yahoo.com

The Cunningham Courier

(USPS 006-101)

320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, Kansas 67035

620-298-2659 © 2018

Periodicals Postage Paid at Cunningham, Kansas 67035

Postmaster: Send address changes to

The Cunningham Courier

320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, KS 67035

Published Weekly

Robert L. Kobbe

Editor & Publisher

Subscription Rates: \$50.00 per year in Kansas

\$55.00 per year out of state

320 Stadium Street, Cunningham, Kansas 67035

E-Mail: couriernews@yahoo.com

Community Bulletin Board

Thursday, January 29 JH BB at Norwich	Friday, February 6 2:30 p.m. 5th Grade Spelling Bee ***
Friday, January 30 HS BB vs. Attica at HOME ***	HS BB vs South Barber at HOME
HOOMEOMING *** JRs Coyote Calling Contest	Saturday February 7 JH BB Tournament at Attica
Saturday January 31 8:00 am: Virtual Powerlifting Meet at HOME	Monday, February 9 JH BB Tournament at Attica *** BOE Meeting
Coyote Calling Contest *** Homecoming Dance	Tuesday, February 10 9:00 a.m. Career Technical Education Advisory *** HS BB vs Central Christian at HOME
Monday, February 2 AMA kick-off for K-5 *** JH BB vs. Burron at HOME	Wednesday, February 11 6:00 Shop Guild
Tuesday, February 3 HS BB at Fairfield *** Lions Club Meeting	Thursday, February 12 KAY Unit Conference *** JH BB Tournament at Attica
Wednesday, February 4 6:00 Shop Guild	
Thursday, February 5 JH BB Tournament at Attica *** HS Regional Scholars Bowl at Bucklin *** HS Forensics at Medicine Lodge	

Thank you for
Supporting
The Courier

WANTED -
Old Photos from our communities
Call (620) 298-2659 or email to
couriernews@yahoo.com

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



Ambassador Chili Night Proceeds

On January 18, the Kingman County 4-H Ambassadors hosted their third annual Chili Feed and Bingo Night benefiting the Kingman County Humane Society at The Hangar. The event drew a full house, with many community members coming out to support the cause.

Proceeds from the evening totaled more than \$1,200, all of which will be donated to the Kingman County Humane Society.

The Kingman County 4-H Ambassadors extend their sincere thanks to Jack and Julie Lyon for the use of the building. Bingo prizes were generously donated by Cleo's Flower Shop, Floyd Auction and Real Estate, Jeri's Kitchen, Factory 233, Polished Coupe, Mollie's Attic, Hawk 4-H Club, Vinita 4-H Club, Whispering Willow 4-H Club, Cunningham 4-H Club, Norwich Boosters 4-H Club, and volunteers with the Humane Society.

Special thanks are also extended to the Kingman Knights of Columbus, St. John Catholic Church, and the Andrew Kostner family for the use of their bingo cards. The Ambassadors would also like to express a heartfelt thank-you to 4-H families and Humane Society members who contributed food for the event.

The Kingman County 4-H Ambassadors would also like to thank everyone who attended and supported the event. Your generosity and community spirit helped make the night such a tremendous success and will make a meaningful difference for the animals served by the Kingman County Humane Society.



**Save the Date
for the WKCEF
Scholarship Fundraiser
TRIVIA NIGHT**



Saturday, March 28

Watch for more info soon!

Health Clinics

Kingman County Health Department will be doing its monthly outreach clinics in February on the following dates:

Cunningham- Wednesday, February 4th

from 9:30am-12:00pm

Zenda- Wednesday, February 4th

from 1:30pm- 4:00pm

Norwich- Thursday, February 5th

from 1:30pm-4:00pm

We will be at the Kingman Senior Center on Wednesday, February 11th from 11:00am-12:00pm for free blood pressure checks.



DAYDRINKERS CAFE INC

Cunningham KS 67035

121 E. First Street

Cunningham, Kansas

Hours:

Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Closed Thursday and Sunday

(620) 589-0001

HOUSEPLANT REHAB



Let Casey Renner help you with
your indoor plant needs.

January 31st 10 am at the library.

Sew on a Button

New Date!

February 7th 10am

with Eileen Crick



Scrapbooking

Rescheduled due to sickness

February 16th 5pm

Bring 4-6 Christmas pictures



Led by Debbie Mills & Deana Bolen

We ALWAYS need

photos for the paper!!

Cozy's Pizza

115 N. Main

Cunningham,

KS 67035

620-298-7000

Hours:

Tues., Wed., & Thurs.

- 11:00 to 7:30

Friday and Saturday - 11:00 to 8:00

Closed Sunday and Monday

Upcoming Auctions

Consignment Auction:

Saturday, January 31, 2026 -

Hamm Auction Center, 9:30 AM

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

107 NE State Road 61,

Pratt, Kansas, 67124

620-672-6996



**A Column
by
Dean Marple**

The Things We Learn

On a late Friday afternoon, when all her associates had gone home, Christine unbuttoned her stylish jacket, removed it and undid the top button on her crisp blouse. Using her toes, she slipped off her expensive heels and leaned back as she closed her eyes, remembering a time before she sat in a corner office on the 14th floor of a major law firm. Before everyone deferred to her, the senior partner in the firm. A whimsical

smile played across her face. In her mind, she was eight again.

Grinning from ear to ear, 8-year-old Chrissy waved as the tournament sponsor slipped the ribbon and medal over her neck. Standing there in a dirty softball uniform, she was a sweaty, happy mess. Her mom? Not so much.

"I hate these award ceremonies," growled Katie, her mom. "No one on Chrissy's team, including Chrissy, deserves any kind of medal. These participation medals are a joke. They didn't play that well and lost both games."

That comment drew a response from Sean, Chrissy's dad. "Ah, come

on, Hon. Chrissy got to play yesterday, swim in the motel pool last night, and then play again today. She had a great weekend."

And there it was, the ongoing debate between two people who loved each other and loved their curly haired little girl even more but still couldn't agree. Why was Chrissy playing ball? What would she learn?

To Mom, a former all-conference high school and college pitcher, it was very simple. By playing a sport, Chrissy would gain a work ethic along with an internal drive to succeed. She'd learn to spend hours practicing instead of wasting her time on video

games or texting her friends. Developing a desire to be the best, she'd beat any opponent. In Mom's eyes, that was a crucial trait for surviving in the adult world. There was only one level everyone should strive for—excellence.

On the other hand, Sean had no problem with excellence, as long as it took second place to friendships. Whereas Katie obsessed over softball and dominated the sport, Sean was a bench-warmer. He played football, basketball and baseball in high school and was always second string in the skills department, but no player had more friends. While Katie was spending three hours on

a Saturday afternoon refining her pitching with a private coach, Sean was hanging out with his buddies. Her time was productive while his was enjoyable.

A ringing phone jarred Christine's memories and brought her back to the present. At 6:15 on a Friday evening, she chose to let the call go to voicemail as she gathered her papers, laptop and briefcase. With a salary comfortably resting in the high six figures, she was retreating to a beautiful 4,000-square-foot house, which had everything except a spouse and children. The home was spotless thanks to a reliable cleaning service and the fact no one

ever came to visit. If anyone had come, they wouldn't have found her home anyway, given her lengthy hours in the office and her shopping excursions to Europe. The house was always quiet.

Briefcase in hand, she took the elevator down then slipped into her Mercedes and started to drive. The car quietly glided homeward until she noticed something that made her pull over and park. There, in the early evening's soft sunlight, was a group of young kids playing softball. The thought crossed her mind as she watched them. *What will softball teach them? What did I learn?*

Samaritan's Purse Celebrates 12.2 Million Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts

Samaritan's Purse is celebrating a successful season after collecting 12.2 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts in 2025, sharing the love of Jesus with children in need around the world.

The milestone reflects the generosity of millions of shoebox packers helping to fill shoebox gifts with toys, school supplies and personal care items. Across the U.S., the project collected 10.9 million shoebox gifts in 2025. Combined with those collected from partnering countries, the ministry is now sending over 12.2 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including those whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricane Melissa, a category 5 storm that recently struck Jamaica.

"Each shoebox gift is an opportunity to remind boys and girls around the world that God loves them," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "We are so thankful for the generosity of every person who packed a shoebox. These gifts are bringing joy and the hope of the Gospel to children in need."

For many children, a shoebox gift is the first gift they have ever received. Each one is a tangible expression of God's love, offering hope to children facing war, poverty, disease and disaster. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

While local drop-off locations are closed until National Collection Week, Nov. 16–23, 2026, anyone can participate year-round by packing a shoebox gift online at samaritanspurse.org/build

online. These shoebox gifts built online go to the hardest-to-reach areas in the world—whether deep jungles, city slums, or steep mountainsides.

Information about ways to get involved year-round can also be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.



Cunningham Hands of Hope, Inc.

Cunningham Community Hands of Hope has been dissolved and is no longer in operation.

The Board would like to thank the community and all those who donated to the food bank over the years.

Your generous support allowed this ministry to help many in our communities with assistance.

1 Peter 3:16 NIV

Keep a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

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

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

Trinity, Medicine Lodge

620-886-3397

Sunday School & Bible Class

8:45 a.m.

Worship Service

10 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.

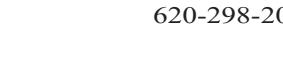
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

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

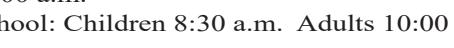


Zenda Methodist Church

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

1931

January 30, 1931 - Assistant Coach Roy Wetherall took eight high school basketball players to Zenda last Friday, where they dropped a close game by a 19-18 score. Coach Lloyd Williams and seven other players are laid up with the mumps and chicken pox. The high school girl's basketball team, and their coach, Mrs. Lloyd Wells, were unable to make the trip to Zenda due to the mumps and chicken pox epidemic, and had to forfeit their game.

Nothing much is doing at Cunningham's first oil well, No. 1 Miles, during the past week. The well was turned on one day and flowed 90 barrels of oil in an hour and a half, which is at the rate of a barrel a minute.

Cunningham's volley ball teams won two games from Pratt teams, representing Jett's Mercantile Company and Calbeck Furniture Company, Wednesday night. Members of the local squad are Ed Naanes, Rufus Leiter, Virgil Pugh, Roy Wetherall, Reed Price, Carlos Cannon, Wayne DeLair, Wiley, Bruce Askrens, Rex Shelman, Everett Hauser, Clyde Ratlief, and Charles Fee.

1936

January 31, 1936 - Cunningham will vote again on a City Waterworks System next Monday. The proposition carried by a large majority at a special bond election last summer, but due to a technicality the proposition will have to be voted on again. 45% of the total cost of \$36,000 will be paid by the WPA.

The Skelly oil company hosted company employees of the local gasoline plant, production and pipeline departments at the Pratt Country Club, Wednesday evening. Those attending from here included Superintendent C.P. Duvall of the gasoline plant, Superintendent Floyd Kent of the production department, District Field Clerk Paul Confer, D.D. Davis, Ray Amick, Merwyn Fargar, G.I. Harkrader, W.T. Southard, Bert Matthews, Fred Burnett, Edgar Robinson, Percy Scott, Frank Parker, L.W. Cook, Glen Pearson, Jake Keyes, and Lloyd Wells.

Cunningham's basketball town team won a game from Turon, Tuesday evening, by a 22-21 score. Members of the local team include George Crow, Wilbur Slattery, Victor Miles, Alferd Thorp, George and Lloyd McClellan, Richard Cozens, and Coach Waldo Shelman.

1941

January 31, 1941 ev. Albert Kienhoefer, pastor of St. Leo's Church of St. Leo, for the past 35 years, passed away, Tuesday.

The high school basketeers scored their fifth straight Kingman County League victory (without a defeat) at the expense of Zenda last Friday night. Undefeated Norwich plays here next Friday night in a game which will decide the county championship.

1971

February 4, 1971
The regular Cunningham 4-H Club meeting was held in the high school study hall, Monday evening, with the President, Mary Kampling, in charge, and Elaine Starr, acting as Secretary.

Roll call was answered by naming "My Favorite Person."

Mrs. Joe Pelzl gave a report on a recent council meeting, and a discussion followed on the Junior Leadership meeting to be held in Kingman, May 1. Suggestions for two booths were made and voted upon.

The club voted to take up donations for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation again this year.

The following program was presented: Piano solo, Melva Oller, "Home On the Range"; Demonstration on "How to Hold a Book," Randy Sterneker; Music Appreciation, "History of the Saxophone," Elaine Starr; Activity number, "Changes In Times," Mary Kampling, and a Parliamentary Number, "The First Parliamentary Rules," Elaine Starr.

Entries for Kingman County 4-H Club Days were given to Leaders Mr. and Mrs. Pelzl, to be sent to Kingman.

Those attending the 4-H Club Council meeting in Kingman, Thursday evening, Jan. 28, were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pelzl, and Suzanne Steffen.

St. Leo's Circle, Daughters of Isabella, met at St. Leo, Monday evening, Feb. 1. Regent Mrs. Helen Young called the meeting to order with 23 members present.

Mrs. Bertha Jarmer gave the history of St. Leo's Circle. It was started with 60 members. Total membership is now 101.

Mrs. Roselyn Thome gave a report on the Bloodmobile, and Mrs. Peggy Schnittker asked all members to donate to the March of Dimes.

A card party was planned for Sunday evening, Feb. 21, at the St. Leo Hall.

Mrs. Mary Jeulane Hageman and Mrs. Loretta Baker had charge of recreation, with Mrs. Rose Spade winning the high prize.

The hostesses, Mrs. Irene Schnittker, and Mrs. Dora Schnittker, Mrs. Fern Huhman, Mrs. Rosa Becker, and Mrs. Loretta Baker, served delicious refreshments at the close of the meeting. - Mrs. Loretta Baker, Scribe

YEARS AGO IN *The Cunningham Clipper*

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes
Editor: Nancy Briggeman
Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1976

January 29, 1976 - Peggy Lynn Cain and Kevin Roy Halderson were united in marriage December 20th, at 2:30 p.m. in the United Methodist Church in Cunningham. Reverend Harry Graves officiated the double ring ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Cain of Cunningham are the parents of the bride. Parents of the bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Halderson of Glasco, Kansas.

Hilltop: Mrs. Virginia Gray and Joseph Trimm made a business trip to Kingman Thursday afternoon.

Steve Towns of Sawyer visited the home Friday afternoon.

Your reporter can get around but he moves very slowly. "Brownie Joe", the bulldog, could outrun him badly.

There are only 4 left that were employed at the Hilltop House Care Home since January 26, 1962, when your reporter came there to make his home. There have been a lot of things happen since then.

Winter returned Sunday, January 25, with snow and colder weather.

The Cunningham Wildcats had an easy time with the Lewis Spartans here Friday night as they downed them 76-60. The contest was league action.

The Cats jumped out to an early 41-19 halftime lead and then maintained their lead in the final two periods to walk away the victor 76-60.

Wildcat Scott Elliot lead all scoring for his team with 30 points on the outing on 13 from the field and four from the line. He was assisted by teammates Greg Kitson and Ken Renner who had nine tallies each for the 'Cats. (editor's note: the article does say Ken Renner. Also in the player stats, "Ken Renner" was listed, as was Tom Renner. I don't remember a Ken Renner, but I do remember TIM Renner.)

The Kansas State Board of Education and State Attorney General have approved the formation of a new legal body to take on all powers and responsibilities of governing the South Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative District, which serves eight school districts in the areas of special education, media services, and in-service training.

School districts involved in the cooperative are USD 254, Medicine Lodge, USD 255 Kiowa; USD 331, Kingman; USD 332 Cunningham; USD 261 Anthony-Harper; USD 382, Pratt; USD 438, Skyline; and USD 511, Attica.

The cooperative will be governed by a board of directors consisting of one member from the board of education of each participating school district.

Dean Mantooth, Cunningham, has been named a s board president with Robert Lee, Skyline, as vice-president and Dorothea Giannangelo, Pratt as secretary.

Advertisements: '64' Chevy II 4 door Sedan, rebuilt 6 cyl and rebuilt 4 speed trans. Needs some body work but mech. In extra fine shape. Call Dan Theis at Cunningham.

Nice 2 bedroom home, fully carpeted, utility and garage, quiet neighborhood, edge of town. Gary Wegerer.

G.E. Range. Pushbutton, large oven, \$35.00

I am willing to babysit. Call Rhonda Rucke 298-3463

YEARS AGO IN *The Cunningham Clipper*

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Florine Kampling

1981

January 29, 1981 - Mr. and Mrs. Marlyn Vermillion, Wichita; Mrs. Joe Tate, Kingman; and Mr. and Mrs. John Vermillion brought ice cream and cake to the home of Bertha Vermillion Sunday evening and the group enjoyed visiting and the refreshments.

The senior girls of the 1981 Senior Home Economics class of Cunningham High School went to Pratt on a field trip to gather information about planning a wedding.

The first stop was the Flower Shoppe where they discussed the prices of bouquets, corsages, and arrangements. The next stop was the Rag Bag, where they looked at wedding gowns and tuxedos. There they each got to try on a gown to see what it is like to be dressed as a bride. Other stops included Ackley Florists, Owston's Jewel Box and Jett's.

This was an experience that all the senior girls would be able to use in the future. Girls making the trip were Debbie Mills, Gayla Golden, Bobbi Ross, Donna Beat, and Home Economics instructor Ellen Garten.

Winner in the District Knights of Columbus free throw contest held Sunday, Jan. 25 from Cunningham were Vicki Becker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Becker in the 12 year old girls division; and Rob Sterneker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sterneker, in the 13 year old boys division. The contest was held in Kingman on Feb. 15, they will compete in the Regionals at Hays.

1986

January 30, 1986 - Students of Cunningham High School selected Greg Hageman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hageman, and Michele Albers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Albers, to reign as king and queen in the crowning ceremony at the spring homecoming festivities.

The theme of the Homecoming was "That's What Friends are For." The stage was beautifully decorated with rainbows and balloons. Rainbows and clouds were evident in the lobby.

Other contenders for the crowns were Dennis Hageman, Scott DeWeese, Matt Oller, Ryan Rucke, Kris Hauser, Kathy Beat, Kerry House, and Kristy Rohr.

Announces Treva Westerman and Kurt Rohlman read the accomplishments of the candidates. Crown bearer was Patrick Lynch, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lynch. Flower girl was Ammy Piekler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Piekler.

George, Shirley, and Kyle Kampling hosted a surprise housewarming for Bob and Joy Kampling at their newly acquired home in Pratt, Saturday evening. The evening began with a pizza party, games and visiting and viewing the home.

Family members present were Mrs. Leroy Kampling, the hosts, the George Kampling family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Seiwert, Dana, Barbie and Toni. Pretty Prairie; Mr. and Mrs. Stan Parsons, Lindsay and Brent, Kingman; and the honorees, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kampling.

Lillian Rakestraw has been named librarian at the Cunningham Library. She succeeds Jean Washburn who moved out of the state.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hacker of Kingman are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Laura to Wade A. Rucke formerly of Cunningham, now residing in Wichita.

Laura is a 1984 graduate of the Kingman High School and is currently a student at Wichita State University majoring in Education.

Wade is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Rucke of Cunningham. He is a 1981 graduate of Cunningham High School and a 1985 graduate of Fort Hays State University.

He is employed with FDIC in Wichita as a Bank Examiner. Plas are being made for a June 14th wedding at the First Baptist Church in Kingman.

The seventh and eighth grade social studies classes were given a special first-hand look at the country of Haiti by Mrs. Doreen Ross as she presented a slide and picture show of her travels to that country. Mrs. Ross also had some artifacts from her trip ad some music to which we listened.

We appreciate her taking the time to show us about this country that we have studied in our geography. A student and teacher can only get so much from the text. First-hand knowledge is so much better. Again we thank Mrs. Ross for her time and effort.

Museum Winter Hours

Saturday:

Morning 10:00 - 12:00

Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00

For guided tours call

Mike McGovney 620-770-9507

Joe Sterneker 620-243-2534

Alan Albers 620-243-2553

GOALKEEPER LOST IN FOG

Bartram, Charlton goalkeeper, was still guarding his goal at Stamford Bridge on Christmas Day ten minutes after the Chelsea game had been abandoned owing to fog. A search party had to go out to bring him in.

JH Lady Wildcats Chalk Up Two More Victories

On Thursday, January 15, 2026, the Cunningham JH Lady Wildcats traveled south to take on the Tornadoes from South Barber in Heart of the Plains action and came away with a convincing 32-13 victory.

The Lady Cats left little doubt as they jumped out to a 14-1 first quarter lead and would lead 20-7 at the half before outscoring the Tornadoes 12-6 in the second half to seal the win. The win put the Lady Cats league record at 6-0 and their overall record at 10-0. Scoring for the Lady Cats at South Barber: Carly McGuire 4, Mackley Glenn 2, Alyssa Osner 2, Leah Rogers 20, Vaughn Preisser 4.

In the B-team game the Lady Cats fell behind early and were unable to recover, falling to South Barber 11-20. Scoring for the B-team: Parker Miller 2, Willow Preisser 1, AnnMarie Kerschen 4, Jalynn McGuire 4.

Wildcat Scorers

Leah Rogers	20
Carly McGuire	4
Vaughn Preisser	4
Mackley Glenn	2
Alyssa Osner	2

On Thursday, January 22, 2026 the Lady Wildcats were back home for another HOPL contest against their rivals from the west, the Skyline Thunderbirds.

Things got off to a bit of a slow start in this one for the Lady Cats as they were unable to make shot in the first quarter and led just 4-2 after one quarter. The Lady Cats heated up in the second quarter as they would outscore Skyline 13-1 for the period to lead 17-3 at the half.

The Cunningham JH girls would outscore Skyline 15-6 in the second half to come away with a 32-9 win. The win pushed the Lady Cats record to 11-0 on the season and 7-0 in the HOPL. Scoring vs. Skyline: Lux Thimesch 6, Carly McGuire 8, Mackley Glenn 2, Alyssa Osner 4, Leah Rogers 6, Vaughn Preisser 2, AnnMarie Kerschen 4. -Coach Ricke

Wildcat Scorers

Carly McGuire	8
Lux Thimesch	6
Leah Rogers	6
Alyssa Osner	2
Ann Marie Kerschen	4
Mackley Glenn	2
Vaughn Preisser	2

JH Wildcats Pluck Those Thunderbirds

The Junior High Wildcats faced off against the Skyline T-Birds on January the 22nd. Both teams had one loss coming into the game. Records typically don't matter when these two programs get together, though. The red vs the blue goes way back.

The Cats started off well securing a 5 point lead in the first quarter. In the second quarter, the T-Birds showed some life and their best player

got loose. The Cats as a group were equal in the second, so they kept their lead at half. It seemed like both teams got hot in the third and the game sped up, but in the 4th quarter the Cats showed they had saved their best for last on both offense and defense. The boys once again were making great passes shredding the defense. They are always fun to watch, but when they are "on" they level up.

Brody had a great all-around game. He led the team in rebounds with 9. Landen Hageman pulled down 7 and Landen Green had 6. The team had 9 TEAM offensive rebounds. Brody also led the team with 4 steals. Landen had 3. Cooper chipped in 3 assists.

-Coach McGuire

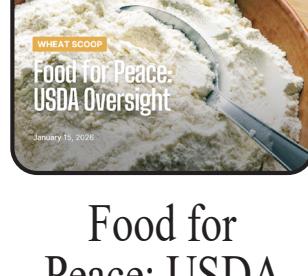


Wildcat Scorers

Landon Green	11
Cooper Neufeld	10
Brody Halderson	9
Landen Hageman	4
Grady Smyth	3



Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	7	6	11	13	37
Skyline	2	6	9	2	19



Food for Peace: USDA Oversight

A 50-pound bag of Kansas wheat stamped with an American flag may not look like foreign policy. But in a crisis zone, it is. It's a symbol of U.S. leadership, a lifeline for displaced populations, families and a direct connection between American farmers and global stability.

For more than 70 years, Food for Peace has proven a simple truth: the U.S. can fight hunger, strengthen peace and support its own producers at the same time. Kansas wheat farmers believe that mission is worth protecting and that

the program must stay true to its roots.

Food for Peace, also known as Public Law 480, was signed into law in 1954 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Kansas native. It was built on a simple Kansas idea: use America's agricultural abundance to fight hunger, promote peace and support U.S. farmers.

U.S.-grown wheat has remained an important commodity for humanitarian food assistance. Wheat is shelf-stable, nutritionally dense and culturally adaptable across regions, making wheat one of the most reliable ingredients in emergency food aid. Kansas farmers have long viewed the program as one of the strongest examples of how U.S. agriculture can serve both global needs and long-term market development.

That visibility matters. In agriculture, Food for Peace has often been described as "goodwill in a bag" because American food aid carries more than calories. It carries a symbol of generosity, reliability and leadership that can shape diplomatic relationships and demand.

For decades, the Food for Peace program has embodied the best of American leadership — delivering life-sustaining food around the world while supporting U.S. farmers at home," said Sam Kieffer, CEO of the National Association of Wheat Growers.

But in recent years, the volume of U.S.-grown wheat used in Food for Peace has declined. This isn't because U.S. farmers can't supply quality grain. It's because policy decisions have allowed purchases of non-U.S. commodities and increased local and regional procurement.

In some cases, U.S. tax-payer dollars are used to buy food from foreign competitors, which undermines American farmers and their strategic interests.

This month, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reached an interagency agreement, allowing USDA to operate the Food for Peace program.

This transition marks an important structural shift for U.S. international food assistance. The administration of Food for Peace is set to move from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to the USDA, bringing oversight closer to farmers, commodity supply chains and the infrastructure that makes in-kind food aid possible.

"Having USDA manage Food for Peace strengthens the program's stability, ensures continued market op-

portunities for American grown crops, and safeguards in-kind food aid for the people around the world who need it most," Kieffer said. "While this agreement provides near-term certainty, we call on Congress to pass H.R. 1207 and S. 525 to permanently transfer Food for Peace to USDA."

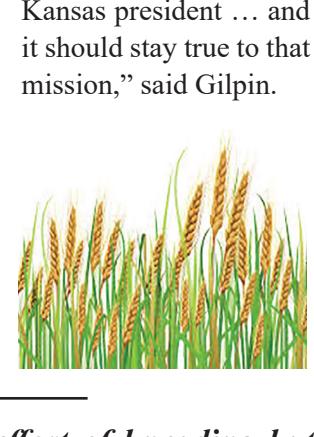
For Kansas wheat farmers, USDA's operational expertise makes it the natural home for Food for Peace. The program depends on commodities, transportation systems and reliable supply chains, and USDA is equipped to manage those responsibilities with accountability to the producers and rural communities that support the U.S. food system.

"Kansas wheat farmers have championed keeping the food in U.S. food aid and international market development programs since Food for Peace began," said Kansas Wheat CEO

Justin Gilpin. "This program expands efforts of trade promotion and U.S. wheat exports and positions the U.S. as a global leader to provide food assistance to address food security needs."

Food for Peace has remained one of the nation's most recognized food aid programs for more than 70 years. The program is strongest when it stays aligned with its original mission: using American crops to meet humanitarian needs, while strengthening U.S. agriculture, rural economies and America's leadership around the world.

"Food for Peace started in Kansas, with Kansas wheat, under a Kansas president ... and it should stay true to that mission," said Gilpin.



HOMETOWN smiles

BUY LOCAL FOR SIMPLY BETTER INTERNET

As your local internet provider, SCTelcom cares deeply about our community and the people who live, work, and play here. You deserve internet service you can count on to be fast and hassle-free, which is exactly what our network consistently delivers.

We want you to keep connected—and keep smiling—even on your busiest days. Our hometown team will help you feel at home with technology.

HAVE INTERNET QUESTIONS?
CALL US AT 877-723-6875.

"Bread takes the effort of kneading but also requires sitting quietly while the dough rises with a power all its own."

— David Richo, *How to Be an Adult in Relationships: The Five Keys to Mindful Loving*

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



"I don't want naan."

CHS Tournament Action



Kyra Morgan placed 3rd in the free throw contest.



Sage Thimesch



Emily Ogg



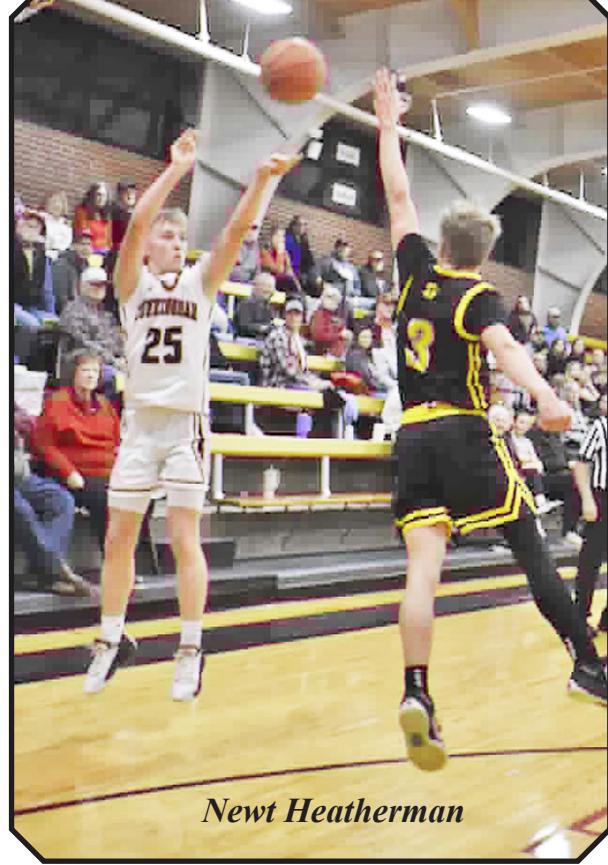
Gracie
Smyth



Rylee Miller



Morgan
Oldham



Newt Heatherman



Brody Bock



Kendall Rogers

What You are Missing When You Don't Visit the Cunningham Historical Museum



“...That's why we have the Museum, Matty, to remind us of how we came, and why: to start fresh, and begin a new place from what we had learned and carried from the old.”

— Lois Lowry, Messenger

photos by Molly Morgan

Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, January 18

Traffic Stops 2
Agency Assist / Medical 5000 Blk SE 140 Ave, Norwich
Non-Injury Accident NE 50 St & SE 70 Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist / KHP 6000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle 1300 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Agency Assist / KHP 4000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Traffic Complaint 2000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Agency Assist / Medical 5000 Blk SE 140 Ave, Norwich
Disabled Vehicle 10000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Disabled Vehicle SE 60 St & SE 140 Ave, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident 4700 Blk SE 160 Ave, Cheney
Miscellaneous SE Sugar St & SE Burns Ave, Belmont
Traffic Complaint 8600 Blk SE Burns Ave, Kingman

Monday, January 19

Traffic Stops 6
Abandoned Vehicle 9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Unlock Vehicle 600 Blk SE 50 St, Kingman
Check Welfare SW 100 Ave & W Hwy 42, Zenda
Suspicious Person 400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Accidental 911 Dial, Kingman E Bluff St & NE 20 Ave, Kingman
Debris in Roadway 6000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman

Tuesday, January 20

Civil Paper Service 1
Follow Up SW 10 St & SW 140 Ave, Cunningham
Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist / Medical 500 Blk N Lincoln St, Kingman

Follow Up

Agency Assist / KHP / Accident SE 110 Ave & SE 20 St, Murdock

Animal Complaint SE 20 St & 100 Ave, Murdock

Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Transport 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Wednesday, January 21

Traffic Stops 1
Civil Paper Service 1
Non-Injury Accident SE 60 St & SE 100 Ave, Murdock

Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Thursday, January 22

Traffic Stops 2
Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Warrant Service / Arrest 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist / KMPD 300 Blk E G Ave, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle 14000 Blk W Hay 54, Cunningham

Friday, January 23

Traffic Complaint 5000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Unlock Vehicle 100 Blk S Main St, Kingman
Unlock Vehicle 2500 Blk NE 10 St, Kingman
Miscellaneous 300 Blk E Avenue A, Zenda

Saturday, January 24

Traffic Stop 1
Traffic Control for Wrecker Service 1000 W Hwy 54, Kingman
Disturbance 400 Blk E Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous 300 Blk E G Ave, Kingman
Fire / House 200 Blk E 3rd Ave, Norwich
Miscellaneous 400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham



Sunsets and Sisal Twine

Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

Kansas was admitted to the United States on Jan. 29, 1861, after a tumultuous territorial existence as bloody as it was brief. Those early struggles likely informed the state's motto: "Ad Astra per Aspera" or "to the stars though difficulties."

In light of the Sunflower State's upcoming milestone, here are a few bits of random trivia gathered from mostly reputable books, websites and memories.

Its status as the nation's best state wasn't cemented until Frank Stoeber created the world's largest ball of twine in Cawker City. Certain sites on the internet qualify the claim of "world's largest" by noting it's the "largest ball of sisal twine built by a community." What those sites fail to disclose is that Stoeber had the

foresight to donate the ball to the city in 1961, which promptly built a gazebo over it to prevent it from rolling away.

Stoeber's sisal sphere continues to grow with annual "twine-a-thons" each August, and it has also served as the inspiration for some other comically large attractions around the state, like the world's largest easel in Goodland. Standing 80 feet tall, it holds a 32-by-24-foot replica of a Vincent van Gogh painting of sunflowers.

Wilson is home to the world's largest hand-painted Czech Egg, which clocks in at 20 feet high and 15 feet wide. Meanwhile, the northernmost stop on the Chisholm Trail was Abilene, and appropriately, since 2022, the city boasts the world's largest belt buckle.

Kansas is also home to some notable firsts like Atchison's Amelia Earhart who was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic. Independence hosted the first professional night baseball game in 1930. Today Wichita is known as the "Air Capital of the

World" for airplane manufacturing, but its culinary contributions include both the first White Castle and Pizza Hut.

In agriculture, Wichita also boasts the world's largest grain terminal, capable of holding 20 million bushels across 246 silos that stretch more than 2,600 feet.

Contrary to popular belief, Kansas isn't the flattest state. Florida holds that title with its highest point 345 feet above sea level. Kansas' elevation ranges from just less than 700 feet above sea level in the southeast corner, rising to more than 4,000 at the peak of Mount Sunflower in Wallace County.

Formerly the "Queen of the Cowtowns" and "Cowboy Capital of the World," Dodge City is perhaps better known as the United States' windiest city with an average breeze of about 15 mph, roughly 50 percent more than "Windy City" poser Chicago.

There's a long history of innovative and accomplished folks from Kansas who have shaped not just our state but the nation and world as well.

They were undoubtedly influenced by the same natural wonders we are today.

It's worth taking a moment or two on the day our state was born to acknowledge these accomplishments and note that in addition to hosting large objects and being first in many endeavors, Kansas and its vast sky are home to the best sunsets we get to share with some of the finest people.

There are certainly still difficulties to overcome before we reach the stars, but until we do, Kansas is a good place to call home.

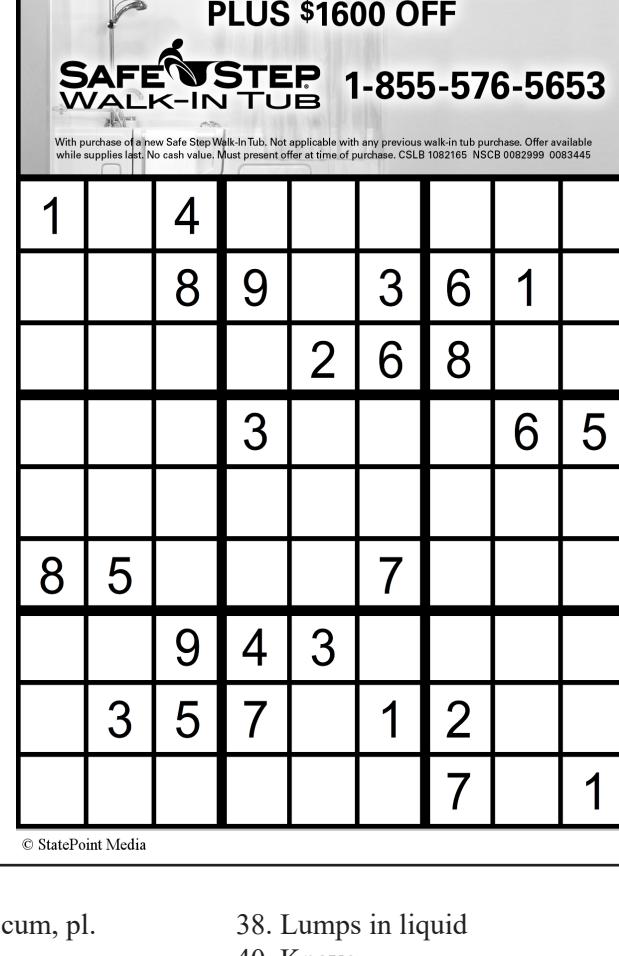
"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

Copyright © 2026 Kansas Farm Bureau, All rights reserved.

News from Kansas Farm Bureau

"If your heads were stuffed with straw, like mine, you would probably all live in the beautiful places, and then Kansas would have no people at all. It is fortunate for Kansas that you have brains."

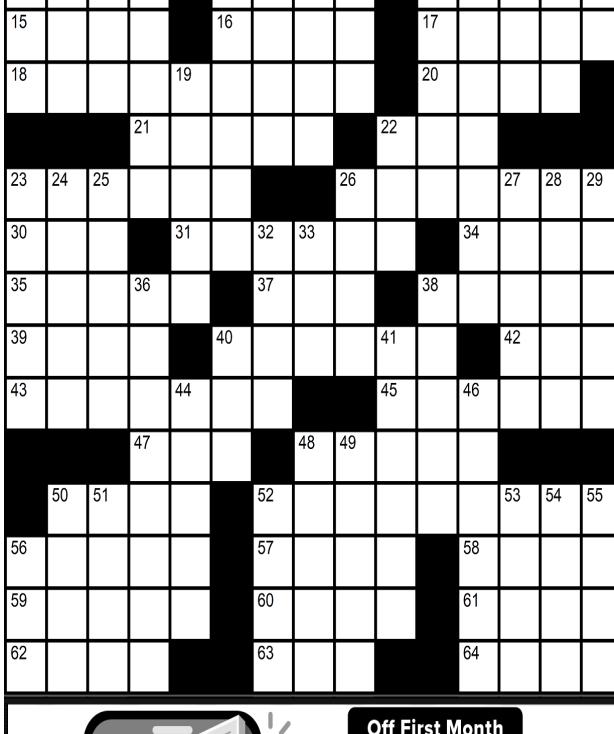
— L. Frank Baum, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*



© StatePoint Media

Statepoint Crossword

Theme: Love's in the Air



ACROSS

- Biology lab supply
- Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
- *Certain Courtney
- Tear violently
- Color of a bruise
- Al Roker's show
- Pupil control
- Any minute, to Shakespeare
- Sheep-like
- *H. P. of science fiction fame
- Hibernation stations
- Boat station
- Tennis shot
- Packed in container
- User-friendly interface, acr.
- Genetic info carrier, acr.
- *Love unquestioningly
- Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
- Not a minor
- Poem addressed to certain subject
- Hundred, in Italian
- Nothing
- Relating to clone
- Division, abbr.
- Sloughed off skin
- Fluffy dessert
- All good things come to this?
- Between Octs and Novs
- Verde National Park
- *B-52s' "little old place" (2 words)
- Singing femme fatale
- Deed hearing
- Reverberated sound

59. Blue-Green scum, pl.

- Misery cause
- Actress Perlman
- Scheme
- Right coast time
- Made by tailor

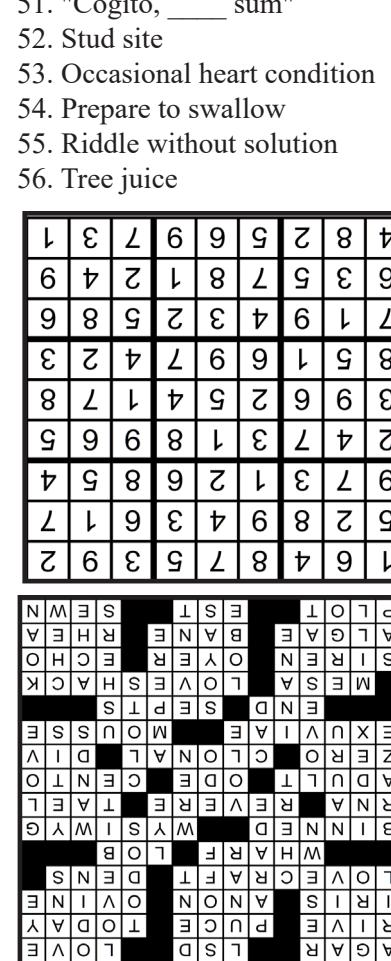
DOWN

- Seed cover
- Biking helmet manufacturer
- Tel ___, Israel
- #64 Across, redone
- Like 1969 landing
- Laugh with contempt
- Fender-bender damage
- *a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
- Norse deity
- "Off The Wall" shoe
- Needle hole
- Macy's Thanksgiving offering
- Commotions
- Silica variety
- NaOH
- Solder together
- Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative __
- Pleasant Island
- Small songbird
- Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
- Bigfoot's cousins
- *Hand cover, with love
- *Lemming relative, or anagram of love
- Tokyo, formerly
- *Couch for two

38. Lumps in liquid

- Knave
- Unit of electric current flow
- Absurd
- Theater guides
- Nutritious beans
- Black tie one
- Grain grinder
- "Cogito, ___ sum"
- Stud site
- Occasional heart condition
- Prepare to swallow
- Riddle without solution
- Tree juice

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082899 0083446



© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

Kingman County Commission Minutes

continued from front page

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the transfer of funds to the Capital Improvement Fund. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Minutes from the January 5, 2026, Commission meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the January 5, 2026, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Tiffany Aumiller, Benefits Administrator and Sally Tatro, Jen Elliott and Dani Kirkendoll, USI Representatives met with the County Commissioners to discuss the 2025-2026 Benefit Plan Year and the next meeting will be in 3 months.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed the stipend pay and if it should be continued. USI discussed that it is something they should look at because very few employers do that anymore. USI plans to do an analysis and bring information back to the Commission at the next meeting.

USI and the Commissioners discussed partnering with the local pharmacy directly.

USI also discussed

reminding the employees of the availability of telehealth options which are covered by the plan.

Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief gave an update on the meeting that was held with local fire chiefs and specifically making plans for Red Flag days.

Ms. Brooks gave an update on a reporting system called NERIS that is being implemented, old system is being deleted January 31, 2026 and working with the other chiefs to make sure data is preserved.

Ms. Brooks discussed the AFG Grant and that dispatch is working with Fire to make sure all the information is being sent for the grant.

Ms. Brooks gave an update on the Fire Marshall's Office and renewed emphasis on requiring vehicle inspection requirements.

Ms. Brooks let the Commissioners know that there will be a meeting in Topeka on February 4th with Legislators and the Fire Chief Association.

Ms. Brooks discussed Active911 program with the County Commissioners and that the program notifies Fire Department personnel directly on their phone. The quote for this program is \$1704.00 for 120 personnel. Commissioners tabled the discussion until the next board meeting.

Sheriff Brent Wood and Undersheriff Sowers were in to give a Sheriff Department update. Sheriff Wood explained a grant they received from the Attorney General's

Office and that they were able to obtain some refurbished firearms to replace outdated ones. Also, funding was obtained from Nextera to purchase evidence storage lockers.

Sheriff Wood and Undersheriff Sowers gave an update on the Emergency Director. There was a new computer purchased because the computer at the Courthouse is tied to the computer system so it could not be moved, they also purchased shelving. Interviews are coming up soon for the Emergency Director position. There were 15 applications received with 14 being submitted under the deadline.

Sheriff Wood and Undersheriff Sowers left the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Alan Albers member of the RedHills Water District Advisory Board gave a presentation about nitrates in water and that he has concerns about that issue in Kingman County. Mr. Albers had seen a presentation from a representative in Nebraska who discussed new research on health effects due to nitrates.

Mr. Albers wants to set up a project with the three schools (Norwich, Cunningham and Kingman) to get water testing done through school projects to cover the majority of the county. Mr. Albers isn't asking for any funding today, as he is going to try and find other funding sources but wants the Commissioners to think about the project and how they may be able to assist if needed.

Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the Engineering contract for the 7 bridge Annual inspection from

Commissioner Thimesch suggested there should be state funding to assist with this as well.

Amber Hartley, County Appraiser was in to answer tax questions per Commissioners request.

Commissioners discussed the old McDonald's building with Ms. Hartley. Ms. Hartley gave a description of how valuation was obtained. Ms. Hartley gave a description of the issues with the property that were brought up and that the issue is more about the actual tax than the valuation. There were also discussion about the restrictions on the property.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed that he would discuss incentives if a business would be put in the building.

Chairwoman Lyon commented that she had multiple conversations with the owner about the commercial viability of the property and what can be done to get it filled.

10:38 a.m. Charles Arendorf, Public Works Director was in with the Kirkham Michael Engineering Agreement for 7 bridges that require Annual inspection. This is required as part of the Federal Bridge Inspection program. Total for the bridges is \$2,595.00. 5 of the 7 bridges had previous inspection work done that helps in the cost.

Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the Engineering contract for the 7 bridge Annual inspection from

Kirkham Michael in the amount of \$2,595.00. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Arendorf gave an update on Cunningham Cost Share Project.

Mr. Arendorf mentioned that he is meeting with Schwab Eaton this afternoon as a final site inspection on Old 54 so they can get letting ready to go in February.

Mr. Arendorf and the Commissioners discussed Nextera and having some roadwork done on Neville Road concurrent with another project Kingman County is doing to save on costs.

Commissioners discussed the meeting for next week due to the holiday.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to not have a meeting the week of the 19th due to the holiday. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon commented that she had multiple conversations with the owner about the commercial viability of the property and what can be done to get it filled.

10:38 a.m. Charles Arendorf, Public Works Director was in with the Kirkham Michael Engineering Agreement for 7 bridges that require Annual inspection. This is required as part of the Federal Bridge Inspection program. Total for the bridges is \$2,595.00. 5 of the 7 bridges had previous inspection work done that helps in the cost.

Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the Engineering contract for the 7 bridge Annual inspection from

Kirkham Michael; Dale Enyart; Nextera-Mark Ashou; Eric DeWeese; Christopher Cantu; Chris Chumney, Billy Strong; La Dawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Shae Brooks, Fire Chief.

Discussion begins about the Road, specifically the Neville Road and other areas which totals \$240,360.00. It was mentioned that at this point they aren't going to do an entire re-power so they want to know what the County will ask of the STRP (Single turbine projects).

Commissioners discussed about just accepting a check for the value instead of Nextera hiring a contractor. The Commissioners agree that would be a good solution.

The Commissioners discussed getting everything fixed with that money and making sure we have open communication with the township and Neville about future work.

They discussed the Road Use Agreement and the concern with 10 days. They would rather do a day or two and pay a monthly stipend in exchange. Nextera is going to chat with their superiors and come back to the County about potentially negotiating the new provision.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to recess the Board of County Commissioners meeting until 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to reconvene the County Commissioner Board Meeting at 1:05 p.m. Chairwoman Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 2-0 vote.

Nextera Meeting was attended by the following: Tanner Yost,

and Tyson expressed that communications between county legal counsel and hospital legal counsel will continue and are expected to move the process toward some form of a resolution. The timeline and final outcome remain uncertain. Any resolution or action will occur in a public setting.

Executive Session

- Attorney-Client

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss PRMC Leases with David Prell Eron, Jack Galle and Lorin Haas for 45 minutes at 2:56 pm.

made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner came out of executive session at 3:42 pm with no action taken.

Executive Session

- Attorney-Client

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Neighborhood Revitalization and HB 2470 for 15 minutes at 3:44 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 2:49 pm with no action taken.

Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of January 12, 2026.

Commissioners unanimously approved the vouchers for January 20, 2026.

Commissioners unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 4:08.

Pratt County Commission Minutes for January 20

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 20, 2026 at 2:00 pm in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Gruber, IT Director

Economic Development Update - Heather Morgan

Heather reported that House Bill 2470 related to neighborhood revitalization was introduced. The bill pertains to counties with populations under 10,000 allowing such counties to designate the entire county as eligible for neighborhood revitalization. The bill is expected to receive a hearing in the House Tax Committee, though no timeline has been established. Two bills related to Northern Natural Gas have also been introduced. The intent of the legislation is to require the Property Valuation Division to conduct a study if the valuation of a

public utility increases or decreases by more than 5% compared to the prior year. No hearings have been scheduled.

Sawyer Gas Project Update

Heather confirmed that an invoice was submitted to the KCC for the grant amount awarded to the City of Sawyer. Heather also inquired about payment procedures related to ARPA funding, noting that the grant funds are technically ARPA funds.

Federal Update on Opportunity Zones

Heather provided an update regarding Federal Opportunity Zones, which encourage tax-advantaged investment in designated areas. Pratt County did not previously qualify due to being considered economically stable. Heather will monitor developments to see if changing regulations will allow Pratt to qualify.

PADEC Update

The group is moving forward with the housing revitalization grant program. There was discussion of hosting a lunch and learn or breakfast meeting to inform developers about PADP's housing development incentive application.

Pratt Family Practice

Amy Schrag and Dr.

Fowler, Pratt Family

Practice and Brian

Moore, legal counsel for

Pratt Family Practice presented an update on the engineering inspection of the PRRC building. No structural or engineering issues were identified that would prevent renovation. The practice expressed interest in the

building due to its proximity to the hospital, growth and space needs. Commissioners acknowledged the request, but a definitive timeline could not be provided at the moment. The County anticipated gaining greater clarity on hospital related issues as soon as possible and are working towards getting Pratt Family Practice an answer.

Health Department Grants

Darcie VanDer Vyver, Pratt County Health Department requested permission to serve as parent agency for the Family Planning grant for the coalition. Kiowa County currently serves as the parent agency for both the WIC and Family Planning Grants. Pratt County is the largest county and has the highest enrollment out of the counties in the coalition. This approach would reduce risk if staffing changes occur at Kiowa county and avoid the need to find a new parent agency for two grants simultaneously if changes were to occur. A new fund would be set up for

the money to come in and distribute out to all members in the coalition. This method was cleared through the county's accountant and auditor. A contract will be drawn up for Darcie's administration of the program and presented for approval at a later date.

Skyline After Prom Donation

Motion to approve a \$500 donation to Skyline After Prom made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 3-0

Resolution 01-20-2026

Motion to approve Resolution 01-20-2026 to amend resolution 01-15-2026 that amends and sets the Sheriff Salary at \$88,982 made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 3-0.

Resolution 01-20-2026

Motion to approve Resolution 01-20-2026 to amend resolution 01-15-2026 that amends and sets the Sheriff Salary at \$88,982 made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver

Commissioner Shriver came out of executive session at 2:49 pm with no action taken.

Commissioner Shriver Resolution

01-20-2026B

Resolution 01-20-2026B was read and considered. The resolution establishes an alternative procedure or methodology for the sale or disposition of county owned property pursuant to KSA 19-211-B.

Motion to approve Resolution 01-20-2026B made by Commissioner Shriver; seconded by Commissioner Jones; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver Resolution

01-20-2026B

Commissioner Shriver came out of executive session at 3:59 pm with no action taken.

Commissioner Shriver Resolution

01-20-2026B

Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of January 12, 2026.

Commissioner Shriver Resolution

01-20-2026B

Commissioners unanimously approved the vouchers for January 20, 2026.

Commissioner Shriver Resolution

01-20-2026B

Commissioners unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 4:08.

Watchful Cat Saves Pennies From Thieving Youngsters

BROOKLINE, MASS.—Eddie Collins' watch cat saved the pennies that nearly morning newspaper customers slid under the door of his store.

Police caught two youngsters trying to fish out the money with a hooked wire. They said it had been easy before Collins put the cat to work. Now, they explained, the playful cat grabbed the hook.

Sgt. James Carroll tried it and the cat clawed the hook.



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

Items Needed at KCHS

The pets at Kingman County Humane Society are in need of the following items:

13-gal. kitchen trash bags
dry cat and kitten food
clumping cat litter
canned dog food
Purina Puppy Chow
long-lasting chews
stainless steel flat-sided water buckets
paper towels
bleach
liquid laundry detergent
poop bag rolls
disposable gloves (large)

The items can be brought to KCHS at 811 East C Avenue in Kingman

Monetary donations can be

sent to KCHS

P.O. Box 103

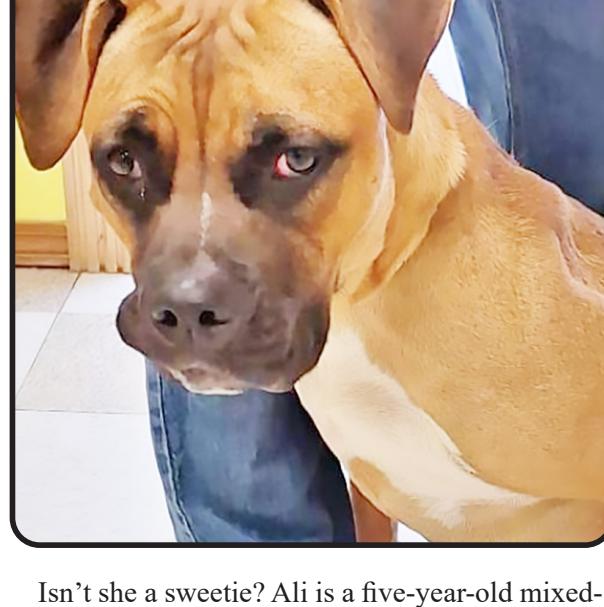
Kingman KS 67068



KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Ali

Sponsored by Kathy and Alan Albers



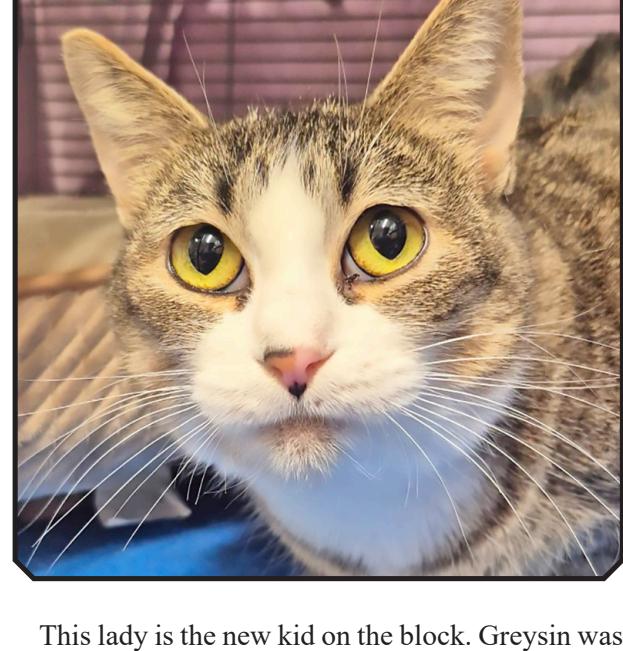
Isn't she a sweetie? Ali is a five-year-old mixed-breed boxer. She's been at the shelter for a year and a half; since September 2024. She needs to find a kind and loving person to be her Valentine for life.

She is people friendly but should be an only dog.

From KCHS website: "I'm a single female and want to come live with you. I'm fun, loyal, a little dramatic (I'm a Boxer) and wiggle like a happy noodle. At the end of a long day, I'll meet you with an enthusiastic greeting and a heart that is all yours. No dating apps required. Looking for a forever match? I'm ready and waiting!"

Greysin

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



This lady is the new kid on the block. Greysin was brought to the shelter on January 13 of this year. She does need to be an inside kitty only. No out-of-doors fun for her. She looks like she'd be a fine companion on cold winter days and nights. She's about 1 1/2 years old and can be adopted for \$40.00.

*"Cats can work out
mathematically the exact place to sit
that will cause most inconvenience."*

— Pam Brown

Accountants

Baker Professional Accounting Services

Tax Compliance
Process Improvement
Tax Preparation
Tax Planning
Quick Books Consulting
124 W. 3rd Street
Pratt, KS 67124
www.baker-accounting.com
620-672-2502

Banks

Peoples Bank and Trust

151 N Main, Kingman, KS
620-532-5821

Lobby Hours

9 to 5 Mon-Fri

8 to 12 Sat

Equal Housing Lender
Member FDIC

Drive-Thru ATM Hours

8 to 6 Mon-Fri

8 to 12 Sat

Hospitals and Clinics

KINGMAN HEALTHCARE CENTER

"Exceptional Healthcare to Every Patient, Every Time"

Hospital & Family Clinic

750 West D Avenue

Kingman, KS 67068

620-532-3147

Rehab Services

760 West D Avenue

Kingman, KS 67068

620-532-0110

Cunningham Clinic

112 North Main

Cunningham, KS 67035

620-298-2397

Visit our website:

www.kingmanhc.com

Find us on Facebook:

Kingman Healthcare Center

Optometrists

Troy Maydew, OD

Seth Thibault, OD

Andrew W. Piester, OD

216 S. Oak

Pratt, Kansas 67124

620-672-5934

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M-F

604 N. Walnut

Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104

620-886-3222

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Seth Thibault, OD

Andrew W. Piester, OD

104 West C Ave.

Kingman, KS 67068

620-532-3154

1-800-371-3154

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Friday

Real Estate

Kingman Real Estate

SALES AND APPRAISALS

Scott Sparks 532-4242

Nancy Milford 491-0774

Office 620-532-3581

146 N. Main, Kingman, KS

www.kingmanksre.com

Ability - Honesty - Service

Repair Service

BEAT REPAIR

TRUCK, TRAILER & TIRE REPAIR

620-589-0114

Services Available:

Oil Change

New Tires

Tire Repair

Balance & Rotate

825 E First St

Cunningham KS

Our Living is Fixing Yours!

Child Care

4C

Cunningham Child Care

Children 8 weeks to 11 years

120 West 3rd

Cunningham, KS

620-298-2010

Home Improvement

Dixon's

True Value Hardware

Heating & A/C

325 N. Main, Kingman, KS

532-2631

Insurance

State Farm Insurance

Jon Wollen, Agent

152 N Main Street

Kingman, KS 67068

Bus: 620-532-3179

Toll Free: 800-824-6681

www.jonwollen.com

Agriculture

Neville Built

Grain Trailers

& Custom-Built Trailers

Dick or Marvin Neville

5581 SW 50 St. Kingman, KS

620-532-3487

1-800-301-3487

Pharmacists

Kingman Drug

211 North Main, Kingman

Pharmacists on call 24 hours

Days - store ph: 620-532-5113

Emergency after hours call

Merlin McFarland 620-532-3855

Subscribe to your hometown paper!

Effective October 1, 2024: Ads are \$6.50 per column inch. Front page ads are \$11.00 per column inch. All ads are subject to approval of this paper, which reserves the right to edit, reject, or properly classify any ad. Note: The views and opinions expressed in advertisements in The Cunningham Courier do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Courier or staff. Errors will be corrected when brought to my attention.

Classified Ad Rates

\$6.00 minimum charge for one-week run.

DEADLINES: 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays

C-1 Construction

620-532-4195

Soil Conservation Practices,

Site Grading, Pond Dam Restoration

- SOIL EROSION MEASURES -

Building Pads

GREG CONRADRY

NISLY BROTHERS, INC.



(620) 662-6561

Serving Cunningham Since 1993

Miscellaneous

We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-913-365-1969

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-866-481-0668

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. All 50 States. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-877-560-5087

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$10,000's. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-888-920-1883

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-877-589-0093 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

NEED NEW WINDOWS? Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise reduction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer! Call for a consultation & FREE quote today. 1-866-766-5558 You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider.

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

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

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-866-481-0747

We Buy Vintage Guitars! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-877-560-1992

CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES. Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-866-481-0636.

Advertising Opportunity

Place your 25-word classified in this paper and 135 more for only \$300/ week. Find employees, sell your home or your car. Call the Kansas Press Association @ 785-271-5304 today!



Thanks for

recycling

The Courier on

February 2nd

The Cunningham Courier
is STILL for sale.
Contact Roberta.
620-298-2659

Thank You Note RATES
Use the Courier to say
"Thank You".
\$.10 per word
(\$6.00 minimum)

Help Wanted

The City of Turon is looking for a part time sub-clerk with options to add additional duties such as mowing, painting, cleaning needed with hours to be negotiated with option to add additional duties/ hours

Kingman Public Transportation

305 North Cedar, Kingman, Kan.

Phone (620) 532-5744



Service Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

First Come - First Served

Funded in Part by KDOT Public Transportation Program

*This advertising space
available for \$13.00*

WINTER SPECIAL!

30x40x12

w/ Lean-to for

\$39,120

Features:

(2) 10x10 Ins. Overhead Doors

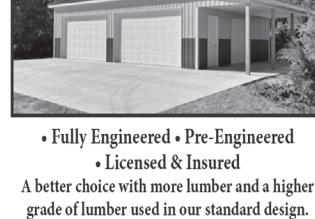
(1) Solid Entry Door

(1) 8x30 Open Lean-to

w/ Metal Ceiling

12' Boxed Overhangs, 4' Wainscot

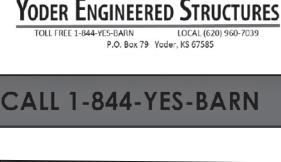
(Inside Concrete Optional: \$7,800)



• Fully Engineered • Pre-Engineered

• Licensed & Insured

A better choice with more lumber and a higher grade of lumber used in our standard design.

If you want the finest in post-frame structures,
JUST SAY Y.E.S.!

CALL 1-844-YES-BARN www.yoderstructures.com

Thank you to
our Advertisers!

Theis

Dozer Service, Inc.

416 W Stanley Ave

Spivey, KS 67142

(620) 532-3555

• Dozer • Excavator •

Road Grader • High Loader

• Dump Trucks

Conrardy Seeds

Custom Seed Cleaning

7681 SW 80 Ave Kingman, KS

(620) 532-5508

AgriPro Alfalfa Seeds

"Wheat is Our Specialty"

Cunningham Auto Service

Complete Auto Care

Call Tom or Matt

620-298-2029

cunninghamautoservice@gmail.com



Make a
HUGE SPLASH STATEWIDE

Or target your ad regionally for the most
cost effective media buy anywhere!

Statewide Ads
appear in 124
newspapers,
reaching more
than a million
readers each
and every week.

Display, Classified
& Online networks
available!

Need a more
targeted
campaign or
looking for
national
coverage?
Call us today
to customize
your plans.

Kansas Press
Association

785-271-5304
316-516-3016

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

To book the

Community Center

Call Molly at 620-298-3077

Signed rental agreement
and \$150 deposit required
at the time of key pick up.

Keys must be picked up
during regular office hours
at City Hall and returned
immediately following event.



Income Tax Preparation &

Bookkeeping

Melissa Tetrick

152 North Main - Kingman, KS

620-532-1477 / melissatetrick@gmail.com

Over 35 years' experience. Give me a call
for an appointment or just stop by.

Mon, Wed - Fri 9:00 - 5:00

Tue 9:00 - 3:30

Saturday appointments available.

Public Notice

(Published in The Cunningham Courier on January 29, 2026)

A map of this area is attached to this resolution; and

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

ARESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS, ENACT ZONING REGULATIONS THAT WOULD ALLOW THE CITY OF CUNNINGHAM TO HAVE DIRECT INPUT ON DEVELOPMENT WITHIN SPECIFIED DISTANCES FROM THE CITY LIMITS OF CUNNINGHAM, KANSAS

WHEREAS, the City of Cunningham is aware that Kingman County is currently considering zoning regulations for the development of solar energy collection sites; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cunningham is concerned that development of any type within close proximity to its borders could hinder its future development and diminish property values of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cunningham requests that Kingman County enact a zoning policy that would allow the City to have authority to approve or disapprove any proposed development within specified distances from its corporate city limits; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CUNNINGHAM, KANSAS that the City of Cunningham requests that Kingman County develop a zoning policy that gives the governing body of the City of Cunningham the ability to approve or disapprove development within the defined area outside of its corporate city limits as set forth in this resolution for the best interests of the residents of Cunningham and the governing body is ready and willing to work with Kingman County to bring this policy to fruition in whatever ways may be necessary.

Adopted this 21st day of January, 2026.

/s/ Aaron Murphy, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Molly Morgan, City Clerk

Cunningham Liquor

OPEN — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. — Monday thru Thursday

11 a.m. to 10 p.m. — Friday & Saturday

12 noon to 8 p.m. — Sunday

"Cold Brew... Warm Spirits" 298-2033

The Cunningham Courier

320 North Stadium Street

Cunningham, KS 67035

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ - _____

Subscription Rates:

In Kansas: \$50.00 per year / Out of State: \$55.00

Students: \$35.00 and \$40.00

Sandra Cutler

Sandra Kaye Cutler, 84, died Jan. 20, 2026 at her home in Kingman.

She was born Feb. 18, 1941, at Hutchinson, Kansas the daughter of Henry and Eunice Haberman. Growing up in Larned, Kansas, graduating from Larned High School in 1959, she later attended Ft. Hays State University where she met her future husband Robert Cutler.

She retired from the Kingman Community Hospital having several occupations including physical therapy and a certified X-ray technician.

Survivors include son Michael; daughter Chris; and a grandson Chance. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Graveside services will be announced at a later date.

Memorials may be with the Kingman Food Bank and the Kingman County Humane Society, both in care of the Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.



Patricia Kelcher

Patricia Lee Buckley Kelcher, a long-time resident of Dallas, Texas, passed away on January 13, 2026, at Pratt Regional Medical Center in Pratt, Kansas. Born in Dalhart, Texas to Louie and Euma Lee Buckley (Harrington), she was an only child. She was proud of her Texas heritage, the great granddaughter of J. B. Pigg, one of the earliest Texas pioneers to settle land in Parker County, Texas.

She spent early childhood in Dalhart and Wichita Falls during World War II, then spent the rest of her childhood in Sweetwater, Texas, graduating from Newman High School in 1958.

She attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas for two years and there met Laurence Bruce Kelcher. They married in Dallas, Texas on September 3, 1960.

He passed away March 10, 2020. They had two children who both survive her: Linda Loomis (Kelcher) (her spouse, Frederick S. "Ted" Loomis passed away in 2019) Iuka, Kansas; and Brian Kelcher and his spouse Angela Kelcher (Buckner) Dallas, Texas.

She is also survived by her grandchildren Dr. Joseph Loomis and his spouse Dr. Cara Loomis (Davis) Overland Park, Kansas; Matthew Loomis and his spouse Dr. Vanessa Loomis (Stelter) Iuka, Kansas;

James Kelcher, and Caroline Kelcher, Dallas, Texas. She has three great-grandchildren: Eloise Loomis, Daniel (Danny) Loomis, Overland Park, Kansas; and Theodore (Teddy) Loomis, Iuka, Kansas.



Bennett Schaffer

Bennett Andrew Schaffer was born sleeping on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 8:27 p.m. at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita.

While we grieve the loss of Bennett every moment of every day, the deepest ache is for his siblings, who lost their baby brother before they ever truly got the chance to know him. They lost the future they were already dreaming of, the sibling they were excited to love, the little brother they were waiting for with such open hearts.

He was loved every second of his life and will always be part of his family. We will have a hole in our hearts for the rest of our lives. Until we meet again, sweet, sweet boy.

He is survived by his parents, Joey and Melissa (Burnett) Schaffer; siblings, Mason, Callie and Colton Schaffer; and grandmother, Brenda Burnett.

Bennett is preceded in death by his great-grandmother, Carole Mae Schaffer; grandfather, Forrest Burnett; and great-grandparents, Donald and Phyllis Burnett.

Graveside service was held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt with John Hamm presiding.



Margaret and Marvin Thompson



Margaret Sue and Marvin Eugene Thompson, died Jan. 20, 2026 near their home in Murdock.

Margaret was born March 4, 1957, at Memphis, Texas the daughter of Jim and Shirley Pasley Colston with Marvin born Aug. 6, 1953 at Cleveland, Texas the son of William and Addie Davis Thompson. Residents of the Murdock community, she was a homemaker and Marvin was a retired auto parts delivery driver.

They were members of the Rolling Hills Community Church, Wichita.

On July 7, 1975, Margaret and Marvin married in Houston, Texas. Survivors include their children Marvin Jr. and wife Rommy, Robert and wife Terri; daughter Kara, and Jamie and husband Kameron; grandchildren Legna, Brayden, Adeline and Madison; and numerous nieces and nephews; Margaret's brother Charles Colston and sisters Earline Coston and Louise McConnell. Margaret was preceded in death by her parents; brothers James Fagen, Roger Colston; and sister Barbara O'Boyle; and her and Marvin's grandchild Gage Thompson. Marvin was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother Paul.

Services for Margaret and Marvin will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, Jan. 26, 2026 at the Rolling Hills Community Church, 8605 W Maple St. Wichita, KS 67209

Memorials may be made to the Rolling Hills Community Church or Out of the Darkness both sent in care of Livingston Funeral Home

Patricia was a gifted pianist, playing the organ at Luby's cafeteria in Lubbock to earn money at college. She became a stay-at-home mom for a few early years in her marriage and later worked as a secretary for various companies until 1983 when she returned to college. Studying at night school to earn her associate's degree in arts and science from Eastfield Community College, she then continued on to earning a Bachelor's Degree in Rehabilitation Sciences from the UT Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas in July 1990. She became a special education teacher until her retirement in 2005. She loved quilting, reading, genealogy, going to the Dallas opera, her cats, volunteering at the Dallas Public Library and visiting her grandkids. She lived near her daughter in Pratt, Kansas for the last four years of her life, enjoying her time on the championship-winning laundry basketball team at Parkwood Village.

Patricia is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Laurence "Larry" Kelcher.

Cremation has taken place. There will be a small, private Liturgy of the Word Funeral on Friday February 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pratt, Kansas. There will also be a celebration of life service TBA at Pratt Presbyterian Church, Pratt, Kansas. Finally, also at a later date, hopefully when the Texas bluebonnets are blooming, there will be a graveside service at Bethel United Methodist Church in Parker County, Texas where her cremains will be buried with her parents and Texan ancestors. Memorials may be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church or Pratt Public Library.

Sara de Leon de Ibarra, 100, passed away Sunday, January 25, 2026 at Pratt Health and Rehab. She was born on November 1, 1925 in Las Negras, Chihuahua, Mexico to Antonio and Gertrudes (Navarrete) de Leon. Sara married Miguel Ibarra Ramos in Las Negras. They were married for 70 years prior to Miguel passing.

Sara worked as a midwife and delivered about 200 babies. She attended Church of Christ. She enjoyed attending church and reading the Bible, crocheting, embroidery, gardening and taking care of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Gertrudes Ibarra de Sanchez of Wichita, Julio (Beatrice) Ibarra of Stafford, Miguel (Evodia) Ibarra of Pratt, Natividad (Susan) Ibarra of Pratt, Mucio (Ancelma) Ibarra of Cd. Juarez, Mexico, Anastacio (Delia) Ibarra of Pratt, Ramon (Ana) Ibarra of Cd. Juarez, Mexico, Librada (Luis Ortega) Ibarra of Cd. Juarez, Mexico and Rodolfo (Gladiz) Ibarra of Pratt; daughter in-laws, Aurelia Ibarra of Elkhart, Maria Ibarra of Pratt, and Catalina Ibarra of Coats; brother, Elias de Leon of Las Negras, Chihuahua; 76 grandchildren; 171 great-grandchildren; 87 great-great-grandchildren; and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

Sara is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Miguel Ibarra Ramos; children, Toribio Ibarra, Domingo Ibarra and Manuel Ibarra; infant daughter, Angelita Ibarra; siblings, Daniel de Leon, David de Leon, Cecilio de Leon and Rebecca de Leon; son in-law, Arturo Sanchez; and sister in-law, Maria de Jesus.

Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 with funeral service starting at 2:00 p.m., at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Larrison Mortuary for funeral services. Online condolences may be made at www.larrisonmortuary.com.



Sara de Leon de Ibarra



Thank you

I guess being handicapped isn't so bad after all. Another angel showed up and shoveled snow for me. I want them to know I appreciate it and want to send my thanks and love. Louise Armstrong

Advertise Your Business
in the
best local
paper
around --

The
Cunningham Courier

**Make your next
stop unique!**
Unique Boutique

**Tuesday - Friday 10-5
Saturday 10-2**

621 South Main Pratt, KS

(620) 388-0366



ELECTRICAL

FARM
GENERATOR
OILFIELD
RESIDENTIAL
INDUSTRIAL

HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING

RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
NEW INSTALLATIONS
SYSTEM MAINTENANCE
CHANGE-OUTS

ALL HOURS - 620.220.5701

EckSERVICESKS.COM

STAY CONNECTED

PLUMBING

WATER HEATERS
WATER WELL
DRAIN CLEANING
KITCHEN/BATH
SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Cleo's Flower Shop

**229 N. Main
in Kingman
kingmanksflorist.com**

(620) 532-3883



Sheila Jayne,

Owner/Operator



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75