The Cunningham Courier "The only newspaper in the world that December 12, 2024

cares about Cunningham, Kansas"

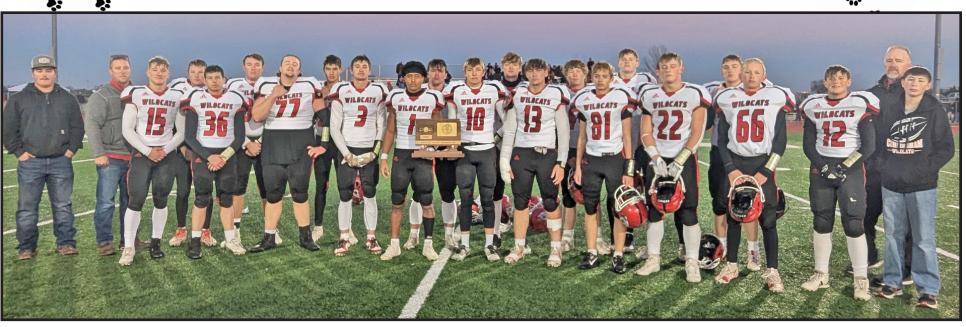
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December 12, 2024 Volume 34 Number 50

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Wildcats End Season at State Tournament





For 5 years in a row the Cunningham Wildcats have found a way to play the last game of the High School football season. They started with a consolation game in 2020, when it was the Wild West Bowl. They followed that with a Championship game appearance in 2021. Then in the first KSHSAA sanctioned season the Cats earned their first ever football State Title in 2022. Some felt like the Wildcats would not be able to keep that standard, but in 2023 the Cats made another title appearance. This year they made it again for the third time in the three years of KSHSAA 6-man.

The game did not start off quite like the Wildcats are used to. They have not been behind much. Despite two good Kickoff returns by Skyler, and Stephen and Skyler both getting some good receptions in the first two series, the Cats were down two scores to start the game. On the third drive the Cats found the endzone with a Will to Dagim pass for 25 yards which made the score 6-14. The Cat defense stepped up and forced a punt which was returned by Luke for

30 yards. The Cats put the momentum to use with big gains of 26 to Skyler, 14 to Stephen, and a 2 yd TD to Trent. Tied up 14-14. After two more Coyote scores it was 14-28. Dagim got a 14 yard return and a 14 yard reception, but the Coyotes scored after the Cats gave it up on downs. 14 to 36. Dagim returned another kickoff for 14 yards. Will scrambled and tossed a short pass that Skyler turned into a 21 yard reception. Too little too late as the half was over and the Cats were not able to continue the drive.

The second half was a little more what we are used to. The Wildcat defense held the Coyotes and forced a punt. Then the Cats scored in 3 plays with a 21 yard run by Skyler and a 3 yard TD pass from Will to Luke. 20-36. The Coyotes answered with a score, 20-43. The Cats answered with authority and in consecutive plays. Stephen returned the kick 20 yards. Will connected with Trent for 22 yards and then with Luke for 28 yards, capping the drive with a 3 at midfield. Will and Luke took over the next series. Will connected with Luke for completions of 10, 15, and a 3 yard TD. Dagim kicked the extra points kick 34 to 43. The Cats defense turned over the Coyotes on downs, and hearts were racing. The Cat offense spread the ball around when they got the chance. Will connected with Trent twice for 10 yards and 20 yards. Luke got a short reception. Skyler ran for a big 36 yard gain. Will finished the drive with a 14 yard TD pass to Dagim. 42-43. The defense held true again and turned the Coyotes over on downs in their own territory. Will completed a pass to Kendall for 19 yards and finished the drive with a 14 yard completion to Skyler. 48-44 Cats took the lead in the 4th quarter! Unfortunately, Wildcat defense faltered on the next possession and the Coyotes regained the lead 49-48. The Wildcat offense was short on time and ran out of downs.

This championship game was easily the best football game in Kansas 6-man state history regardless of KSHSAA sanctioned years or before. It was one of the best state games this year with 4 games being decided by single digits but only ours by 1. The Cats lost the turnover battle which is not good at any level. They had more penalties than their opponent. What people will remember, though, is how they responded to being down and coming back big in the second half. Six-man can be a game of runs. We have been on both sides of those runs. When teams are in a hole, most of the time the hole just gets deeper. With our team there was no doubt the entire game that we would respond. Every chance they got the boys just said "we got this" and they nearly did. -Coach McGuire



yd TD to Luke. 26-43. The defense held and forced a shanked punt to get the ball

Minutes from October City Council Meeting

The Cunningham City Council met in a regular session on Monday, October 28, 2024 at City Hall, 119 N. Main St.

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

Guests present: John Reimer, Viking Industrial Painting; Leslie Schrag, Teri Glenn, and Jared Glenn.

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

Motion by Ruckle, second by Newell, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried, 4/0.

Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2024 meeting as written. Motion carried, 4/0.

Public Comments – No public comment.

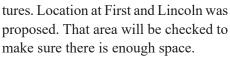
Sculpture Location – Leslie Schrag gave an update regarding the "Planes on the Plains" project. Leslie brought a plane sculpture and informed the Council that there would be two plane sculptures on a 12 by 12 concrete base. She requested that the Council come to a consensus on the location of the sculp-

Cunningham Santa Claus Day is December 14, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Craft Fair at Cunningham Gym 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa at Cunningham Gym 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Soup and Desserts at Community Center

12:30 p.m. Parade Registration at USD 332 Office Sidewalk 1:00 p.m. Parade Line-up on 4th Street in front of school 1:15 p.m. Parade Judging 1:15 p.m. Parade Begins





Review Contract for Sale of Lot – Motion by Ruckle, second by Schultz, to approve the real estate purchase contract with Daydrinkers Café, Inc. Motion carried, 4/0.

John Reimer, Viking Industrial Painting – John presented the contract. Council consensus was to discuss budget considerations with the City Accountant before committing to the contract.

Consideration of Leak Forgiveness -Motion by Woodard, second by Schultz, to return 401 N Lincoln water bill to average usage of 7,000 gallons. Motion carried, 4/0.

Maintenance Report - Mesa gave the maintenance report. *Most items on the KDHE list have been corrected. *A water leak was found in the driveway of Rouse Park near the restrooms. The water line was repaired between the restrooms and concession stand. *Broken manhole riser was replaced at Manhole #16 near Leiter and Wilmot. *Lead Service Line Inventory was submitted.

Executive Session – Motion by Ruckle, second by Schultz, for the governing body to meet in executive session with City Attorney, Greg Graffman and City Clerk, Molly Morgan to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the person(s) to be discussed, the justification being the non-elected personnel matter exception [K.S.A. 75-34319(b)(1)(a)], with the Council meeting to resume in open session in five (5) minutes. Motion carried, 4/0.

Molly Morgan photos

The above met in executive session from 7:06 p.m. to 7:11 p.m., at which time the meeting resumed in open session and Mayor Murphy stated that no action had been taken during the executive session.

Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to approve hiring Teralyn Arensdorf as Community Center custodian. Motion carried, 4/0.

Motion by Schultz, second by Newell, to approve hiring Jack Thimesch as a part time maintenance worker. Motion carried, 4/0.

Financial Report – Motion by Woodard, second by Newell, to accept the financial report and pay the bills as presented. Motion carried, 4/0.

Adjournment – Motion by Schultz, second by Ruckle, to adjourn. Motion carried, 4/0.

Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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Meanderings

I have decided to give myself a bit of a break. A two-page break. During the school's winter break, I am going to cut the paper back to 10 pages.... I've not done a lessthan-twelve-page-paper in about 3 years. I'm due.

A couple of weeks ago I mentioned in a col-

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

My youngest cat, Luca, demonstrates daily that she descends from African wild cat hunters. With her amber eyes, sleek body and black mane of long hair, she's a miniature cross between a jaguar and lion. She consistently stalks all prey before going for the jugular, whether she's after the tiniest of toads or

umn that I made some potato soup. My friend, Fred, in Indiana, asked how I made it, do I have a recipe I could share? Umm..I just make it.

Nothing is written down. I can sort of tell a person how I make it.

I think this is how I made it a couple of weeks ago: I boiled my potatoes, some celery, onions, and carrots in chicken broth. When they were tender, I make a roux from flour and broth, stirred, boiled. Added some milk. At least that's how I remember making it.

I don't care for bacon in my soup, or cheese, for that matter. I just want a

annoying a grazing doe four times her size. Her older brother is a killer, too. Well, an occasional killer. He seems startled when he catches anything and is more likely to toy with, or sit upon, what he appears to hope will be his new friend. As for his "hunting style" I can only say that it's rather un-feline and difficult to describe. Of course, that same description fits everything my favorite big lug does. I don't know what he thinks he is, but he often doesn't seem to know he's a cat.

Although you'd

A Column by Dorothy Rosby

Don't Decorate and Other Ways to Eliminate Holiday Stress

My friend said she wished she could make

pounds of fudge and a pile of peanut brittle for gifts and holiday parties. I said, "Nobody has to make cookies. That's what bakeries are for." But she said her baking was better than any bakery and people would notice the difference. I told her to let me be the

very nice cream of potato soup. And sometimes it's better than other times, but it is always delicious on a cold winter day.

Sorry, Fred, that's the best I could do. I don't remember how many potatoes or how much celery or onions or carrots I tossed into the pot. I did use two cartons of Swanson's chicken broth. Don't remember how much milk I used, either. I just poured some in. If I think to buy halfand-half, I do use that instead of milk. Makes for a richer flavor.

I think I maybe heading to the store this weekend to buy some potatoes.... Again.

never guess it gauging from his size, my boy is FAST. He's no graceful gazelle but, just like Forest Gump, when my bubba DelaneyKat runs, he sprints like his life depends on it. What he's hunting one never knows. It does appear that sometimes he runs just for the heck of it, which is out of character because I know he doesn't like exercise. It's true he often joins me on my walks (and has done so since he was a little tyke) trotting alongside me as if he were a dog. Then like clockwork at the halfway

Last night at 3:00 (or this morning at 3:00) Quin insisted on going outside. I hate it when he has to go out in the middle of the night. Absolutely hate it. I had gone to bed late, probably 12:30, and he went out and peed before we went to bed. I tried to ignore him this time but he kept hitting the blinds. When the third smack came, I got up grumbling about dogs and having to go out to poop in the middle of the night, if he was a cat, I wouldn't have to get up and why do I have a dog....I opened the pet door, and out he went. I just laid down and the

point, he starts squeaking that I've forced him a Death March and therefore should carry him home. In our silly battle of wills (until I give in and throw him over my shoulder) he pretends he won't take another step and I say I'm gonna leave him to the coyotes.

DelaneyKat seems happiest when he's sitting or rolling in dirt and that pretty much sums up his approach to life, including hunting. Yet, he's the most likely of my cats to carry live birds and bunnies through the cat door. Sometimes he barking started. I HATE THAT!

This is why my dogs have always slept in the house, so the barking doesn't wake the neighbors. I waited a bit. No barking. Then the tone of the barking changed. I got up. The clock said 3:03. What kind of potty takes only 3 minutes? I went to the door. Quin was on the deck, barking. He was watching something, and scared of that something. I couldn't see what because of the fence. It wasn't a dog, he's never afraid of other dogs, he's always ready for a rumble when he sees other dogs.

manages to plop atop the rabbits but the birds always get away from him. He's not dim-witted but he's no help when it comes to removing a bird from the house. He sits wherever he drops his kidnapped new pal, staring at the carpet and patiently waiting for it to return and play with him. And he manages to lay right where we'll trip over him in the comedic pursuit which inevitably ensues.

While other folks woke Thanksgiving morning to baste their turkey or watch a parade,

It's not so magnificent. Do I let that make me feel inadequate? No, I do not. Anytime I want, I can look out my window and enjoy my neighbors' lights. I also get a kick out of watching them put them up and take them down.

And I don't let other people's Christmas letters make me feel dull. I just remind myself of some His bark was worrying and not extremely loud. I opened the pet door, and he SHOT into the house, practically knocking me over and hunkered down on the bed where I sleep.

I thought about going out to see what could possibly have worried him so, but it WAS the middle of the night. I crawled into bed, he snuggled against my knees, jerked up, growled twice, and finally laid down.

I decided with him on watch, I was safe.

Always reading, and currently, a large stack of picture books, Roberta

our household chased a sparrow, leaping over the cat-manchild love of my life sprawled in the hallway. DelaneyKat is no Lion King, nor is he a scheming Sylvester. If anything, he's more like a gun-less Elmer Fudd. I don't know how he catches birds (or anything at all) but one thing I do know for certain is that my big game hunter is a character.

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

nostalgia is just the sense that everything was better if it happened so long ago I can't remember it accurately.

For a happier holiday, I recommend lowering your expectations. Christmas is still Christmas if you serve cookies from a bakery and ham from a deli. It's still Christmas if you run out of ideas and buy

dozen cookies, three movie.

judge of that. Several women said or about their credit card bills and speeding tickets. Christmas letters are just the trailer, not the whole

I told my friends they're taking the fun out of the holidays by setting their expectations too high. I gave up on a perfect holiday long ago. Maybe it was the year my oven quit working right before I was set to box with my husband giving directions and me complaining about them. Then we had to reverse the process after Christmas, quashing any goodwill we might have developed during the holiday season.

Whatever the case, no one who spends Christmas at my house would accuse me of spoiling the holiday with overly high expectations. For one thing, we gave away our artificial tree because it was taking all the joy out of Christmas.

Christmas as glorious for her grandkids as it was when she was growing up. I told her of course Christmas was happier when she was a child. She wasn't doing all the cooking then.

We were discussing the holiday season with a group of women. One of the others complained that she has to make 12

that reading other people's holiday letters makes them feel inadequate. One said she never gets hers written until January and the other said everyone who sends her a letter seems to live a perfect life. I reminded her that no one writes about all the projects they started and didn't finish serve Christmas dinner to a dozen people. Or the year I didn't get my Christmas shopping done and wound up buying five gift cards and a talking trout on Christmas Eve.

Or maybe it was the many years we struggled to wrestle our giant artificial tree up two flights of stairs and out of its

We don't put Christmas lights on our house either. Some of my neighbors light up their homes like Las Vegas. It's magnificent. I hung a wreath on our door.

wise words I once heard: Compare and despair. And anyway, they're probably lying. I know that's what I'd do if I ever got around to writing a Christmas letter.

I have fond memories of childhood holidays too. But when I get nostalgic about Christmases past, I remind myself that socks for everyone on your gift list. And it's still Christmas if you forget to put stamps on your Christmas letters and they all come back postage due.

Be kind to yourself this holiday season. You'll need your strength for New Year's resolutions.

Poetry From Daily Life

edited by David L. Harrison, Missouri's Poet Laureate

Poetry from Daily Life: Watch your children and see what words they bring you

By Marcus Cafagña

This week's guest is Marcus Cafagña, who was born in Michigan and lived in Pennsylvania before moving to the Ozarks to teach poetry writing at Missouri State University. Marcus says he gave up playing the violin when he was 12 to become more serious about writing poems. He has written short stories and book reviews but always returned to poetry. A favorite book to write, "All the Rage in the Afterlife This Season," took 15 years in the making. Marcus is a film buff and sports fan

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and quite proud of his son, Diego, who is now a college student. ~ David L. Harrison

Writing poems about our children

Of all the gifts our children give us, such as their innocence and good nature, their curiosity about the world is one particularly worth cherishing. My wife Jenn and I often witnessed our son Diego's cheeks colored by his inquisitive nature, a child we had named after the famous Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. By the age of four, he was drawing his own lines and shapes upon the bare white walls of our home.

Every day, our little Diego would dig into his box of crayons and mark up the living room walls. We tried scolding him. We cleaned off the marks he'd made as best we could, but he wouldn't stop drawing. We even bought him an easel, but he found the roll of craft paper a poor substitute for the spacious canvas of plaster walls.

It wasn't until the time he had decorated the interior panels of our front door with red cloudlike shapes that I recalled a poetry reading where I heard Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Sharon Olds exclaim: "Our children just walk into a room and give us a poem." Standing in the living room that morning watching my little boy play at being an artist moved me to write the following poem.

Little Diego, the Muralist

We don't know what to make of his scribbling on the walls of our living room, on the walls of our kitchen, his bedroom, in red crayon. Diego will draw on any available surface,

ignore our pleas not to, ignore the easel we bought him. We're so far past the point of trying, my wife and I wonder if these random lines and circles are his protest against a grown-up world that says No! to the same artistic impulse as Rivera's. Just yesterday, on the front door, he drew what appears to be a series of storm clouds. With one red cloud each, he's adorned the nine white panels of the door. But this time, Jenn and I admire what he's drawn, as if, in molten wax, our little boy has blessed the scorched air of Mexico with clouds that might soon deliver the blessing of rain and miracle of the desert blooming green. He smiles with a knowing look when we say the old door never looked so beautifulfestooned as it is with red clouds and the promise they hold.

Marcus Cafagña is the author of three books of poetry: "The Broken World," a National Poetry Series selection, "Roman Fever" and "All the Rage in the Afterlife This Season." Born and raised in Michigan, he made a home in the Ozarks 26 years ago. Currently, he serves as professor emeritus at Missouri State University. "Little Diego, the Muralist" is reprinted from "All the Rage in the Afterlife This Season" (Finishing Line Press, 2023).

Thursday,

December 19

JH BB at Stafford

Friday, December 20

End of 2nd

Quarter: School

dismiss at 11:30

HS Girls BB vs

Chaparral at HOME

Wednesday,

December 25

Merry Christmas

Wednesday, January 1

Happy New Year

Friday, January 3

No School: Teacher

Inservice

HS BB vs Canton-

Galva at HOME

Monday, January 6

Back to School

**

Community Bulletin Board

Serving Cunningham and **Surrounding Communities**

Thursday, December 12 HS BB - Falcon Classic *** JH BB vs Norwich at HOME

Friday, December 13 HS BB - Falcon Classic *** FFA Beef Expo *** Bank Open House

Monday, December 16 K-12 Health rescreenings ***

PK - 12 Christmas Music Program

Tuesday, December 17 HS BB at Argonia

> Wednesday, **December 18** NHS Blood Drive *** 6:00 332 Shop Guild



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K·STAT Kingman County **Research and Extension**

Upcoming Changes for Private Pesticide Applicator Certification

Do you want to obtain a private applicator license? Is your current certification expired or ready to expire? Upcoming changes from the Kansas Department of Agriculture might affect you. The Environmental Protection Agency has required each state to update their certification and training plans, which outline private and commercial pesticide certification in the state. In order to meet these objectives, the Kansas Department of Agriculture introduced house bill 2607, which was approved by the legislature making some changes to the private applicator certification.

Starting January 1, 2025, there will be three options to receive certification. These include: Closed Book examination (still offered at the Extension Office), attending and in-person training at a nearby host-site, or complete an online training module course. More information about testing options will be released after the first of the year.

If you need to update your certification or gain your certification, be sure to contact the Kingman County Extension Office at (620)-532-5131 before December 23 to schedule a time to take the test while OPEN Book Testing is still an option!

> will be held on Sunday, December 15th. Please have your lights on by 6:00 p.m. to be in the judging.

- MUST BE SINGLE RIDER ONLY (4-wheeler/dirt bike), UTV (gator, side-by-side, etc.) *******Category 5: Floats

***Category 6: Other: motorcycles, vintage cars, tractors, fire/EMS, large equipment

Category 7: Horses

advertising with **The Courier**

Libraries

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

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

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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

> 1 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

by 12:30 so the parade entries can line up.

of Main Street by 1:00 p.m.

Anyone can join the parade, however, ONLY decorated entries, age 18 and under in categories 1 through 4, as well as ANY entry in the float category will be eligible to be judged for prize money. There will be 3 placings per category. Participants can be any age but must include an under 18 youth riding to be judged.***

Parade Information for

December 14th

All vehicles must be removed from the 1st block

Remove cars off 4th street in front of the schools

Category 1: Battery Cars, Wagons, Tricycles Category 2: Costumes, Pets, Walking Entries Category 3: Wheels: scooters, skate/hover boards, rollerblades, bicycles

***Category 4: Motorized Vehicles: golf carts, ATV

***Drivers in categories 4, 5, and 6 must have a legally licensed driver AGE 15 or OLDER.

Candy may be tossed by any entry on foot or in line in front of the floats.

Prizes: Categories 1 - 4 Float Prize 1st Place \$10.00 1st Place \$75.00 2nd Place \$8.00 2nd Place \$50.00 3rd Place \$6.00 3rd Place \$25.00

For Parade Questions please contact Jerree Fitszimmons at 620-243-4176



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"The Herdmans moved from grade to grade through the Woodrow Wilson School like those South American fish that strip your bones clean in three minutes flat ... which was just about what they did to one teacher after another." book quote

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

I like Christmas movies (and books). There are few holiday traditions more enjoyable (after ingesting gluttonous portions of turkey, or ham,

with all the trimmings, including fudge), than plopping the family down on the couch (surrounded by dogs) and watching a good Christmas movie. I've written about Christmas movies before. Older movies are the best. Family favorites include the following: White Christmas (1954 - starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, & Vera Ellen - this is the classic Christmas movie), It's a Wonderful Life (1946 – starring Jimmy Stewart & Donna Reed – Frank Capra's gem - one of the greatest films of all time), A Christmas Story (2012 – with Peter Billingsly as nine-year-old BB gun loving Ralphie), Home Alone (1990 - withMacauly Culkin defending his suburban home from nincompoop burglars), Elf (2003 – featuring hilarious Will Ferrell

Hard (1988 – a wonderful Bruce Willis feel-good movie), and Christmas Vacation (1989 – with Chevy Chase leading the side-splitting fun). All of these movies I would include on my must-see holiday playlist.

This week I have a new movie to add to our list – The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. This film is the latest project from Dallas Jenkins, creator of The Chosen TV series. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever is based on the brilliantly written book of the same name by Barbara Robinson. I think this movie is destined to become a classic. Another movie was made in 1983 (same title), but this one (the 2024 version) is much better. It is playing in theaters now – go see it!

The Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever tells the gut-busting story of the Herdmans ("the

worst kids in the history of the world") and their involvement in their town's annual celebrated Christmas pageant.

The story is told through the narration of young Beth Bradley. Beth's mother Grace is drafted to direct the pageant after an unfortunate debilitating accident lands the busybody current director in the hospital with two broken legs. Grace has big shoes to fill, which is even more trying because this year's performance marks the much-anticipated pageant's 75th anniversary. Matters soon become complicated by the arrival of the dreaded Herdmans.

The Herdmans are feral children who are used to terrorizing the town. With absent parents, they roam the streets and schoolyard menacing all they meet. They lie and steal and talk dirty

and hit little kids and start fires. They are just so awful Beth says that "you could hardly believe they were real - six skinny, stringy-haired kids all alike except for being different sizes and having different black-and-blue places where they had clonked each other."

After a careless reference by Beth's younger brother Charlie about all of the delicious treats available at the church for free, the Herdmans drop in one Sunday to graze, searching for snacks. Coincidentally, their arrival corresponds with tryouts for the annual Christmas pageant. Imogene Herdman, the cigar-smoking oldest sister of the family, decides that she wants to play the part of Jesus' mother Mary, and the pageant slides downhill from there. "I've got the baby here," Imogene barks at the Wise Men. "Don't

touch him! I named him Jesus."

With meddling neighborhood moms stoking revolt behind the scenes, and the cantankerous Herdmans front and center, the story rolls on with hilarity.

The movie does a very good job of illuminating the true message of Christmas without being too "churchy." The Herdmans were absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world. And that's the whole point. As Grace tells Beth, "Jesus was born for the Herdmans as much as He was for us."

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever is a solidly entertaining movie that deserves a place in the holiday movie classics hall of fame. I recommend you drag your family out of the house and go see it. Merry Christmas!

© 2024 Jody Dyer

More Than a Yearly Journey

By Jenny Fulton

It was a yearly journey that foreshadowed our future.

With much excitement, the Christmas tree had been assembled and now it was time to arrange the destination. My older sister carefully removed the treasured ornament from its box and moved to place it in a very strategic location on the tree – a little above the cardboard table on which the tree stood and not so high that neither of us could reach it. Throughout this procedure, I would gaze in awe at the tiny girl swinging in a silver star.

as Buddy the Elf), Die

"Can I hold her a little?"

"No, Jenny. She goes right here."

I would sigh and turn away, then begin setting up the small nativity set. It, of course, belonged directly beneath the swinging girl, at the base of the tree.

After these placements met with our satisfaction, we would move downstairs where the main characters of our story lay waiting. We had a week before Christmas and they still had to meet and build their homes.

With eager purpose we took out our Legos and dumped the contents onto the floor (we never were the kind of girls who liked to play "House" with dolls). Soon, my sister had her Lego, Billy, the instructions for his house, and the necessary Legos sitting in organized piles before her. I had my Lego, umm... temporarily named Tom - it changed every year and a random assortment of Lego pieces.

Throughout that week, Billy and Tom built their houses on various geographical terrain, met and conversed with each oth-

a journey.

While the land outside our house was surrounded by flat wheat fields, the land inside became raging rivers, impossible mountains, wide and dangerous oceans, and dry deserts. For no other reason than a feeling they should go, Billy and Tom would leave their comfortable homes and follow the unknown call. They faced and triumphed over all the obstacles to arrive, finally, at the tree where a girl sat swinging in a silver star. "Hello," they said in

deep, manly voices. "Hello," responded the girl sweetly.

"What are you doing up there?"

in front of them were cows, sheep, donkeys, a man and woman, and a little baby. They stared at the group for awhile and then turned back to the girl.

"Can we come up there with you?"

"Of course."

Billy and Tom carefully climbed the Christmas tree where they would spend the remainder of that Christmas morning – watching the little baby and listening to the Christmas Story.

Many years have passed since that story has been enacted. My sister and I have instead been living it out in our own lives. Following the call of the likewise now grown-up baby, we ``What are you have left our comfortablehome in the flatlands of the Midwest and traveled across rivers, mountains, and oceans. Not always sure why He has asked

us to go to these places, we have paid heed to the urge, and gone. Between the two of us, we have now spent time traveling and/or living in ten countries outside of the U.S.

This year, as Christmas draws approaches, we make plans to spend it together again - around the Christmas tree in that small Midwestern town. We will journey across rivers, mountains, oceans, and deserts, coming together in one place to celebrate the birth of the One who continually guides us in ways that surpass the limits of our imagination.

The yearly make-believe journey of two small girls around a Christmas tree has become a lifelong following of the One who lay as a baby at the base of that tree.

Free Groceries at the Conningham Methodist Church

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays

Holiday Hours: December 24: 1:00 - 3:00 December 31: 1:00 - 3:00 er and various other people they would happen to meet. On Christmas morning, they would then decide that something was telling them to make

"I'm watching." watching?"

"That baby. Do you see him there?"

The men looked, and sure enough, right there

<u>Cunningham Hands of</u> Hope, Inc.

Who: A Not-for-Profit (501c3) organization providing assistance through donations and volunteers.

Who we serve: Residents within the USD #332 school district

What: Food

When: First and Third Tuesday 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Where: 117 N Main (Old School Board Office)

Why: To provide food assistance to those in need.

How: Attend weekly distribution. Adult of household must be present.

Do you need assistance outside distribution hours?

Please call 620-491-0292 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. This institution is an equal opportunity provider



Catholic Churches Sacred Heart, Cunningham

St. John, Zenda Saturday 5:30 p.m.

St. Leo Saturday 4:00 p.m. .

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

St. Peter Willowdale Sunday 8:30 a.m.

316-706-1627 Father Daryl Befort 620-246-5370

* * * * * * *



Lutheran Churches

St. John, Nashville 620-246-5220 Sunday School & Bible Class 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Trinity, Medicine Lodge 620-886-3397 Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 8:30 a.m.

Pastor vacancy until further notice.

+ + + + + +



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

West Kingman County Education Foundation Use your Dillon's Card! (to donte contact Janet DeWeese 620-298-2717)

Giving Opportunities in our Community

Hands of Hope (contact any church)

Cunningham Alumni Scholarship Fund

(send checks to the West Kingman County Education Foundation)

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

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

First Christian Church

Cunningham Sunday School 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:45 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 Jr High Youth Group 4:00 pm Sunday Sr High Youth Group 7:30 pm Sunday Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 Pastor Mike McGovney 620-298-3201

+ + + + + +

United Methodist Church

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

+ + + + + +

Zenda Methodist Church Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: Children 8:30 a.m. Adults 10:00 a.m.

Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953



The Cunningham Courier Serving Cunningham and

Thursday, December 12, 2024 page 5

YEARS AGO IN The Cunningham Clipper W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1929

Dec. 6, 1929 - Nearly one hundred and fifty men and boys attended the annual Father and Son Banquet in the Methodist Church basement, Monday evening. Rev. J. P. Groom acted as Toastmaster, and appearing on the program were Frank Allbritten Jr., James Hoagland, Principal Virgil Pugh, Delmer Huffman, and William Cooley.

A new storage tank for Ethyl Gasoline was installed this week at the K-T Filling Station.

Frank and John Magee are on a deer-hunting expedition in New Mexico.

The recent upward trend in the wheat market is causing a lot of farmers to sell their grain during the past week. Several car-load shipments have been made, and local elevatormen were paying \$1.11 this (Thursday) morning.

Spivey defeated Cunningham by a 13-0 score in a football game played last Friday afternoon at Spivey. It was the last game of the season for both teams.

There is a move afoot to have a big public Christmas Tree in Cunningham this year. It is understood that all the churches and business houses will go together and have a big tree right out in the open

1934

Dec. 7, 1934 - One hundred and fifty new books were received by the High School Library this week, bringing the bookshelf total to four hundred and fiftyfour books.

The Dafforn Motor Company is now operating on a twenty-four-hour-a-day schedule, with Frank Mitte handling the night-time service.

Folger's Coffee is priced at 64 cents for a 2-pound can at Hauser's Cash Market.

Workmen are now drilling on three oil wells in the local field - Leisman No. 5, North Miles No. 5, and Miles No. 6.

The Junior Class will present the play, "Zippy," at the High School Auditorium next Friday evening. Members of the cast are Jessie Lee Lakin, Esther Naanes, Virginia Baker, Harriet Baber, Ruth Bainum, Velma Steffen, Dick Krug, Wayne Lash, Ralph Baber, Francis Wilson, and Norman DeLair.

Bob Stillwell of Cunningham.

Off the Record - If you don't learn anything from

your mistakes, there's no sense making them. You'll never get warm from the money you burn.

1959

Dec. 10, 1959 - Jane Youngers of Hutchinson, bride-elect of Jack Meyers of Cunningham, was honored with a pre-nuptial shower in the High School Recreation Room, Wednesday evening. The hostesses were Mrs. Elmer Steffen, Mrs. Bill Bradley, Mrs. Dean Dyche, Mrs. Joe Theis, Mrs. Donald Huhman, Mrs. Melvin Oller, Miss Isabel Epp, and Miss Pat Becker.

A short musical program was given with Nancy Steffen singing "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby," and Kandi Bradley singing "Oh You Beautiful Doll." Then both little girls sang "Side by Side." Mrs. Bradley was the accompanist.

The mothers of the members of the high school football squad honored their husbands and sons at a football banquet served in the high school library last Saturday evening.

Bill Bradley served as toastmaster. Following the invocation by Principal Will Seacat, the fathers and sons and guests enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings served by the cheerleaders, Sherry Baber, Loma Davidson, Karen Wilson, Mary Leiter, Helen Mertens, Elaine Sallee, LaDean Cooley, and Mary Zrubek.

1964

Dec. 10, 1964 - The Cunningham Wildcats won their second straight game of the current basketball season when they romped all over Hazelton by an 85-46 score here Tuesday night.

All five Cunningham starters scored in double figures, with Gerry Schnittker's 21 points leading the scoring. Danny Meyers came up with 15 points; Ronald Murphey had 13; and Jim Cain and Elmer Adelhardt each scored 12 points. Bob Witt got 8 of the remaining 12 points, and Tom Jarmer and Dennis Theis each scored 2.

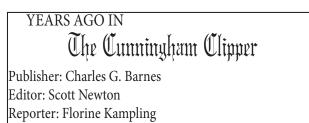
The Cunningham Lions Club has purchased and installed several Christmas decorations on Cunningham's business streets. The decorations were purchased from the City of Junction City, and the club has re-ordered a like amount but they have not arrived as yet.

1969

Dec. 11, 1969 - Wesley Hendricks, 56, Cunningham farmer and stockman for 28 years, died last Thursday from an accidental gunshot wound apparently received while crawling through a fence on his farm, five miles east of town.

The Hardtner Tornadoes came on like a whirlwind in the final quarter to blow down the Cunningham Wildcats in a game played at Hardtner last Friday

the community. The St. Leo girls cleaned the St. Leo church, and the Cunningham girls did other various things around town. On Thursday the Kayettes has "Daisy Day" and all the Kayettes wore a paper daisy which cost them a dime. As soon as they put their daisy on they could no longer talk to any boys all day long. If the boys could get the girls to talk to them, they took their daisy from them, and the girls had to go buy another daisy for a dime. This event went on all day long. On Friday the Kays wore K's and they could not talk to the girls today. The money made from this will go to CARE. Friday was also dress-up day.



1979

December 13, 1979 - Recent additions to the Cunningham Clipper staff are Martha Hellar, photographer, and Vickie Lohmann, editor. They will join Florine Kampling in putting out the weekly editions of the paper. Martha has been interested in photography for some time and has submitted several pictures that have been used in the paper in the past. Vickie is the society editor for the Pratt Tribune and has recently taken over the position as Cunningham Clipper editor.

The Cunnigham High School Girls won their first game of the year by defeating the Nashville-Zenda Thunderbirds 42-28. Balanced scoring and solid defense wee the keys for the Wildcats. Rhonda Ruckle tallied 12, Donna Beat 10, and Nancy Kerschen 9 points to lead the way. Brenda Vierthaler and Sherry Schnittker added 4 each, Gayla Golden 2 and Kerry Welch 1 to round out the scoring. Kim House claimed 8 rebounds which were very important.

No questions will be asked if the party who took the bird feeder from north of the Special Ed building at Sacred Heart School will please return it. It was a gift for the children who enjoyed it very much.

Connie and Bud Oak, Penalosa, proudly announce the arrival of a son, Benjamin Eugene. He was born Dec. 8 at 5:13 p.m. weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz. He has one sister, Brandy Angela, 2.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Oak, Sr. and Mrs. And Mrs. Richard Molitor.

Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William Molitor, Sr. and Mrs. Katherine Patry, and Mrs. Viola Oak.

1984

December 13, 1984 – A letter to the editor: We would like to say a big "Thank You" to Deb Beat, Teri Werner, and all their helpers for an excellent parade Saturday. We appreciate young adults carrying on the old traditions. Thank you for a very entertaining and fun day for everything. Bob & Helen Long

1939

Dec. 8, 1939 - Honor Roll students at Cunningham Rural High School are Leroy Carter, John Fee, Ora Mae Heck, John Schnittker, Betty Amick, Charles Cooley, Marta Creamer, Geraldine Leith, Austin Luce, Betty Manahan, Margaret McNamee, Patricia Miles, Audrey Nossaman, Delbert Schwartz, and Bill Stanley.

The high school basketeers edged out Sharon High School in a game played here, Tuesday evening, by a score of 25-24.

This week's issue of the Clipper contained quite a list of local items of people celebrating Thanksgiving No. 2 last weekend. People of the United States are observing two Thanksgiving Days this year, as the third Thursday in November was proclaimed as Thanksgiving Day by President Franklin Roosevelt. His Thanksgiving Day has been affectionately called "Franksgiving Day."

1949

Dec. 9, 1949 - Cunningham Rural High School's basketeers, who dropped their season opener to Isabel, came up with victories over Nashville and Coats during the past week. Games will be played with Langdon and Adams next. Santa Claus will pay his official visit to Cunningham on Friday, Dec. 23.

1954

Dec. 9, 1954 - The regular meeting of the City Council was held Monday evening in the City Building, with all members present.... the council decided that certain holes in the streets should be filled with gravel, but that a general sanding of the principal streets would be unadvisable now due to the extreme drought. ...

The matter of extending South Main Street across the railroad right of way to the south side of town was discussed, and City Attorney John Kaster has contacted the Santa Fe Railroad officials in regard to the crossing.

With the new fire truck now fully equipped for any firefighting emergency, the council decided to put the old hose trailer up for sale.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stillwell of Penalosa, announce the birth of a son, Friday, December 3, at the Nashville Hospital. The baby weighed seven pounds, eleven ounces, and has been named Nathan Timothy.

Maternal grandmother is Mrs. Lizzie Brady of Penalosa, and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs.

night.

Marvin Oller paced the Wildcat scoring with 15 points; Eddie Panek had 3; Gene Albers and Mike Schrant, 4 each; Curtis Kitson 8, and Mike Cunningham, 2.

Skyline swamped Cunningham by a 63-33 score in a non-league basketball game played at Cunningham, Tuesday night.

Eddie Panek paced the Wildcat scoring with 13 points; Marvin Oller had 4; Gene Albers and Curtis Kitson, 5 each; and Steve Albers, Mike Cunningham, and Mike Schrant, 2 apiece.

The Cunningham youth center, appropriately named "The Wildcat Den," opened last Saturday, and was enthusiastically endorsed by the community's teenagers.

The building, given to the City of Cunningham by Mrs. Bess Hauser from the estate of her late husband, Everett (Dutch) Hauser, has been completely remodeled and presents a very attractive appearance. Most of the remodeling work was volunteer labor by the community's interested adults and teenagers.

The center is equipped with pool, ping pong, and card tables, music box, and pop machines.

YEARS AGO IN The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes Editor: Rex Zimmerman Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1974

December 12, 1974 - New owners of the St. Leo Store are Wallace and Josephine Ford, both lifelong resdients of the St. Leo area. In addition to the store, the Fords also manage the Back Room and a hardware section. The Fords took over the business from Tim Danahy Nov. 13 and are open from 9-5:30 weekdays and 9 - 12 on Saturday

The week of December 1 through December 7 was National Kay and Kayette Week. So on each day during that week the Cunningham Kays and Kayettes did something different.

On Sunday they put a carnation in each church that a Kay or Kayette attended. On Monday they did something for the school, but this hasn't been completed yet. They plan to make new pennants for the gym. On Tuesday they each did something for their family at home. On Wednesday they did something for

There will be a Cub Scout basketball practice Saturday from 4:30 till 5:30 p.m. at the gym.

A sum total of \$115.30 was collected toward the depot project. It needs to be moved, then renovated as a city museum for the centennial year of 1885. HELP!

The Cunningham Wildcats, led by Jon Meyers and Company, defeated the Attica Bullpups in Junior High action. The Wildcats used pressure defense and a fast break to take a 22-5 half-time lead, and they never looked back.

Zenda News: Mrs. Norbert Blasi and baby of Wichita attended the Dorcus Christmas program Sunday afternoon. Vocal music by Mrs. Betow, Virginia Lavertenz and Lleanna Westerman was enjoyed by everyone.



and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

or contact Angie Mertens at 620-532-4354 or Alan Albers at 620-298-2725 or Mike McGovney at 620-770-9503

(Volunteers Needed at the museum)

Molly Morgan photos

Jr. High Lady Cats Fall to Pretty Prairie

On Thursday, December 5, 2024, the Jr. High Lady Wildcats opened their HOPL season by hosting the Pretty Prairie Lady Bullpups and dropped a low-scoring game 17-19. The loss dropped the Lady Cats to 3-1 on the season 0-1 in the HOPL.

The Wildcats started out well by scoring the first six points of the

game and led 6-0 after the first quarter, but Pretty Prairie would answer with a 14-2 run in the second quarter to take a 14-8 halftime lead.

Both teams struggled to find the basket in the third. In the fourth, the home team Lady Cats would outscore Pretty Prairie 9-5, but came up short 17-19.

Scoring for the A-team Lady Cats: Katie Ogg 4, Carly McGuire 4, Sage Thimesch 2, Mackley 3, Leah Rogers 4.

In the B-team game, the Cunningham girls dug a deep hole and fought back to get within four points only to lose by eight 21-29.

Scoring for the B-team Lady Cats: Lux Thimesch 2, Vaughn Preisser 4, Mackley Glenn 4, Leah Rogers 4, Addy Huffman 3, AnnMarie Kerschen 4. Coach Bart Ricke



Katie Ogg







Carly McGuire

Lux Thimesch



CJH Wildcats Bite the Bullpups

The Junior High Basketball team opened up league play with a home game against the Pretty Prairie Bullpups on December 5. The Cats have a long memory, or maybe it's the coach. Less than a year ago the Bullpups had a quarter of basketball where everything they shot went in even though the Cats were the best defense in the league last year. There was NO looking past the Bullpups with that in our memory. The

Wildcats came out serious and ready for the game. They started at the tip and scored quickly, going up 14-2, making most of their shots and rebounding most of the misses. The game slowed a little in the 2nd and 3rd quarters, but the defense held firm with the Cats outscoring the Pups 20-3 combined in those quarters. The fourth quarter was low scoring, but the Cats still outscored the visiting team rounding out the win. Winning all four quarters is always a goal! The Cats were locked in and it showed.

The chemistry was good, they shared the ball, and these boys are fun to watch! The Cats pushed their record to 4-0 and will host Norwich next.

Casyn Miller and Liam McGuire led the team in rebounds with 5 each. JP Kerschen had 4. Liam had 3 steals followed by Landon and Landen who each had 2. Landon Green led in assists with 4 followed by Liam with 2.

| Score | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Final |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Cunningham | 14 | 8 | 12 | 4 | 38 |
| Pretty Prairie | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 |



Wildcat Scorers

-Coach McGuire

| Carson Strohl | 10 | |
|--------------------|----|--|
| Liam McGuire | 8 | |
| John Paul Kerschen | 6 | |
| Casyn Miller | 4 | |
| Wesley Preisser | 4 | |
| Jace Oldham | 2 | |
| Landon Green | 2 | |
| Colton Hageman | 2 | |
| | | |

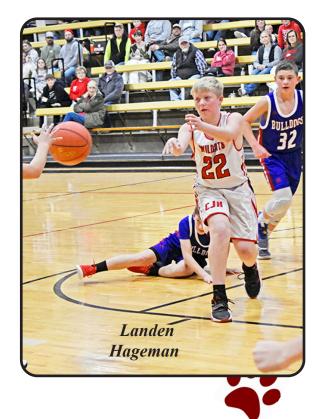








Landon Green



The Cunningham Courier Serving Cunningham and Surrounding Communities

Thursday, December 12, 2024 page 7

Cunningham Wildcats Begin Season at Home vs. Minneola







Luke Albers

Nate Sterneker







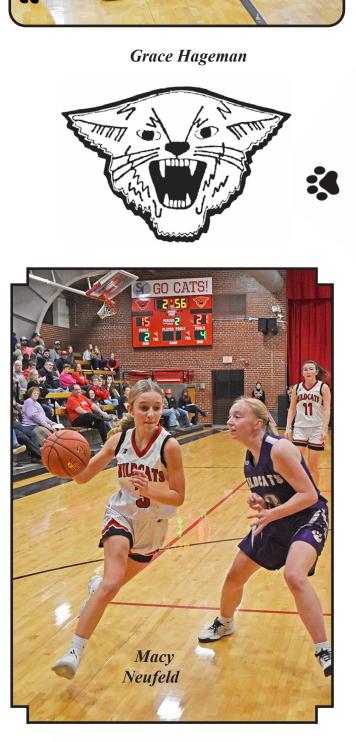




Ellie McGuire







5

Will Wegerer Kyra Morgan

2

Serving Cunningham and **Surrounding Communities**

Miscellaneous

600 Blk W Hwy 42, Spivey

Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Minutes from the Pratt County Commission

The Pratt County commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 2, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the commissioner room, 1st floor of the courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver,

Dwight Adams, Tyson Eisenhauer, county counselor, Lori Voss, county clerk and Mark Graber, IT director.

Heather morgan, economic development consultant, reported she received an email from the KCC needing additional information on the Sawyer gas project. She will respond to that email. The Kansas legislature met and representative Kyle Hoffman was

elected assistant majority leader.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes at 2:03 p.m. for an attorney/client matter concerning the appraiser's office. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Jones made a motion to return from executive session at 2:14 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve payment to Pratt After Prom in the amount of \$500. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of November 25, 2024. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the payment vouchers for December 2, 2024. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner



Adams made a motion to adjourn at 2:20 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The users of new calculators have begun to multiply.

News Breaks: One-liners by Charles Keller

The price of sugar doubled and people began to raise cane.

A new jigsaw puzzle came out recently and now the whole country is going to pieces.

The makers of boomerangs say that business is bad and they are trying for a comeback.

Many people tagged along today as new license plates were distributed.

A new diet drive-in restaurant was opened for people who want to curb their appetites.

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Statepoint Crossword Theme: Year-in-Review CROSSWORD 15 18 40 Off First Month of New Service! lonsumer 53. CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913 © 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

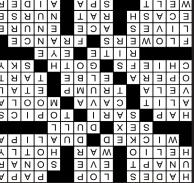
ACROSS 64. Cat's nine 1. Cerberus' domain 6. Chop 9. Mama's husband 13. Unsuitable 14. Adam's partner 15. Echo sounder 16. Sunny prefix 17. Armed conflict 18. In a heated manner 19. *Highest grossing movie based on Broadway musical 21. *Time's 100 World's Most Influential People cover model in 2024 (2 words) 23. " and the City" 24. Not exciting 25. Accident 28. Rani's dress 30. Talking points 35. Aflame 37. Spanish sparkling wine 39. Slang for money 40. Velum, pl. 41. *November 5th 2024 winner 43. Short for "and elsewhere" (2 words) 44. Met's offering 46. River in Bohemia 47. Queen of Hearts' pastry 48. *Super Bowl winners in 2024 50. Visi or Ostro 52. The Alan Parsons Project's "Eye in the " of passage 55. *Milton's center 57. *Miley Cyrus' Grammywinning Record of the Year in 2024 61. *2024 Summer Olympic Games host

65. Lowest or highest card 67. Accustom 69. E-wallet content 70. Backstabber 71. N in RN 72. Whipping mark 73. R&R spot 74. Support person DOWN 1. "Say what?" 2. All over again 3. *MV __, cause of 2024 Baltimore bridge collapse 4. Long stories 5. Tends a fire 6. Obscene 7. Spermatozoa counterpart 8. Lost, in Paris 9. *Olympic Gold winner Katie Ledecky's "court" 10. Dead against 11. Explore by touch 12. Maisie Williams' "Game of Thrones" character 15. Hello, in Haifa 20. Dead-on 22. Last month 24. Disclose 25. Wreaked state 26. Bet's predecessor 27. Pileus, pl. 29. Like steak order 31. Maya Angelou, e.g. 32. Itsy-bitsy bits 33. *Caitlin of college basketball 34. Gin and grapefruit juice cocktail, a.k.a. dog 36. Scarlet O'Hara's home 38. Speaking platform

42. Dinklage or Townshend, e.g. 45. Again but differently 49. Elton John's title 51. Shenzi of "The Lion King" 54. Russian rulers, pre-1917 56. Tedium 57. "One Over the Cuckoo's Nest" 58. Classroom pests 59. Elliptical 60. Sunset location 61. Sheep's milk cheese 62. Little Miss Muffet's morsel 63. Gaelic tongue 66. Upper limit

68. Poetic "always"

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Serving Cunningham and Surrounding Communities

Minutes from the Kingman County Commissioners Meeting

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. December 2, 2024, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Jerry Henning, Chairman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Pat Elpers, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Dale Enyart; Larry Landwehr; Julie Lyon and Shannon Wilson, Reach IT

Online Visitors: Caller 01; Oleg Alba; Shelby Ferguson, Olsson Studios; Adam Rankin, Olsson Studios.

Staff: Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director; Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director; Susan Hubbell, Register of Deeds and Mendy Frampton, Expo Center Director.

Chairman Henning asked if there were any additions to the agenda. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote 3-0.

Chairman Henning asked if there was any public comment.

Dale Enyart discussed that he had concerns that the Register of Deeds was knowledgeable but not sure it is in the IT field.

Larry Landwehr hoped everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director was in with Chemical costs and his inventory for the Commissioners to review and approve the purchase of new chemical.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch made a motion to go into executive session at 8:39 a.m. with Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board Meeting room at 8:44 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was passed upon the unanimous vote of 3-0. Commissioners returned to regular session at 8:44 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the Chemical purchase of \$20,747.16 for the next season of spraying. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was passed upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Amanda Stucky, Planning/Zoning and Stan Goetz, Planning/ Zoning Board member were in to discuss the comprehensive plan.

Shelby Ferguson & Adam Rankin Olsson Studios representatives entered the meeting online and discussed the comprehensive plan. Ms. Ferguson asked what the Commissioners are wanting to accomplish with an updated comprehensive plan.

Commissioners discussed that they would like to address "other" properties and renewable energies.

Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; Shannon



Hi Santa, Are the reindeer naughty?I went to my grandma's house.Please bring me a Barbie doll. May I have an LOL dollhouse?Please give me cooking toys.I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Love, Kaisleigh Johnson



Wilson, Reach IT and po Susan Hubbell, Register of Deeds were in to discuss the IT services. w

Chairman Henning let them know that he talked with Bryan from Integris IT and he said that his company is not standing in Reach IT's way or any of his employees.

Mr. Wilson discussed that he was willing to work harder with Ms. Hubbell, Register of Deeds.

Mr. Wilson discussed that there is a program that is used from CIC that has not been patched since 2012.

Chairman Henning wanted to know where was the employee from Integris IT and why has he not done patching for the program. The program not be updated is a security issue.

Susan Hubbell, Register of Deeds discussed that none of her programs have been hacked in 25 years.

Commissioners discussed that they are going to pass a policy that all offices will go with one IT company.

Ms. Hubbell disagrees with the change in Policy requiring the use of the same IT provider, and she expressed her willingness to go to court over the policy change.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with an update.

Commissioners talked with Mr. Arensdorf about Nextera requesting blade and height changes on the current windfarm.

Mr. Arensdorf asked if they have heard anything about 90th and if paving will be done.

Commissioners let Mr. Arensdorf know that they haven't heard anything to date.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session to discuss pending administrative proceedings with Charles Arensdorf Public Works Director and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:35 a.m. pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, and will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners returned to regular meeting at 10:50 a.m. with no decision made.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to discuss matching dollars for the Senior Center of \$75,318.00 that is required by statute.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed tax dollars that is waiting to be distributed to the South Central Coalition.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve a 5% COLA raise for all employees except for the County Commissioners and the County Counselor. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed the items he talked about at the last Kingman City meeting he attended.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

. .



Good Day Santa! Who is your favorite elf? Last Christmas I went to the Water Park in Oklahoma. May I get a Hatchimal play set, an LOL surprise doll, and a necklace that has my name on it? I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Love, Avery Beat

*



Letters from the

Second Graders.....

Hello Santa! Who is the nicest elf? My

mom got in a car accident. Could you

bring me a V-Bucks robux and an elf.I

wish you a Merry Christmas!

Love, Jenson McCoy

nristmas

Good day Santa!! What is your favorite cookie?I played on a flag football team. May I please get a John Deer combine and K-State and Chiefs tickets and a new hot wheels car? Merry Christmas to everyone at the North Pole.

Love, Jarrett Ford



Hi Santa. What is your favorite reindeer? I got a new dog a couple of months ago and his name is Tango. Can you please bring me an X box card? Can you get me a bouncy ball for my dog and a chain? Merry Christmas to you Santa.

Love, John Paul Hageman



Good Day Santa! Do you know how to get to the North Pole? I made a touchdown in flag football. Please bring me a farming set and a Chief's poster for my room and a K-State poster. Have a Merry Christmas.

Love, Nash Molitor



Good day Santa. How do you make a sleigh? I made up a new song in November. Please can I have a drone, skateboard, and an I pad? Merry Christmas to you Santa Claus.

Love, Casey Raney

Hi Santa! Do you have a favorite reindeer? My grandpa got a new doggy. Please give me a pair of sunglasses. Merry Christmas to you Santa and the reindeer.

Love, Weston Meireis



Hello there! Do you like to deliver presents? Last Christmas I sneezed on the cookies! May I get some new Pokemon action figures? I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Love, Dylan Tyler



Hi Santa, Who is your favorite elf? We got a new bike for Christmas.Please bring me new pajamas and a toy car. May I get a dog please?I wish you a Merry Christmas!

Love, Hailey Romine



Hi Santa, How did you get magic? Last Christmas I got to go to Arkansas and I celebrated you. Please can I have a treasure chest with fake gold and a new kitten and a toy kitten? Merry Christmas Santa.

Love, Evelyn Prim





HiSanta,

Who is your favorite elf? My uncle got in a car crash. May I get an Ipad and football tickets? May I get a Beagle? Merry Christmas to everybody at the North Pole including my elf.

Love, Connor Hellman



Good Day Santa. Does Rudolph ever not go deliver presents? I got a new baby cousin named Aurther. I would like a scooter. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas.

Love, Tabitha Dunlap



Hello Santa, Have you ever had a naughty elf?I went on vacation.Please bring me a toy unicorn that can glow in the dark with a princess. Merry Christmas Santa to you and your elves.

Love, Aubrey Willbanks



Good day Santa! Has Rudolph ever woke you up because he shined his nose? I went to the beach, more like Orange Beach, Alabama in August. May I get a VR headset, a dirt bike, and a security camera? Say Merry Christmas to the North Pole,

Love, Beckett Miller

Serving Cunningham and **Surrounding Communities**

Thursday, December 12, 2024 page 10

KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

Toulouse Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



This tired little fellow is Toulouse. He has been at the shelter since the end of August, and he is only about 5 months old now. He really needs a home to sleep at this Christmas. His adoption fee is \$85.00.

> Sebastian Sponsored by Baker Accounting



It's impossible for Sebastian to sit still. His little

KCHS Donation Wish List

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 flatsided 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



Please consider fostering or



The First Calf of the Season

Jackie Mundt, Pratt County farmer and rancher

This season's first calf arrived a little over four weeks early this year. For humans this may not seem that impossible, but calves born more than four weeks early rarely live past a day or two. The little guy weighed in at 35 pounds, half the size of a typical newborn.

Our mama cows have great instincts and we typically don't interfere unless they need help. Our premature calf was born to a heifer who was monitored more closely for her first delivery. Since the baby was tiny, it was a quick and uncomplicated birth.

The two most important things that need to happen after birth are getting the calf dry and making sure it gets the mom's first milk, called colostrum, within four hours of birth. This mama cow did a good job of getting the baby cleaned up but he was too small to stand on its own so the mom was hand milked and the calf was bottle fed.

When it became clear

that this calf would require a lot of intervention for survival, he and mama were moved to our calf shed. The calf shed is the closest thing on the farm to a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). The shed is a small three-sided building with a few private pens that can keep mama and baby together out of wind or rain.

The baby made it through the first night but it was a long way from going without assistance because he lacked size and strength. Over the next few days, twice a day the cow was moved into a stanchion so she could be hand-milked safely. While she was being milked, I often spent time trying to get the calf to stand and walk.

By the third day, the calf had defied the odds and was able to stand for a few minutes and even wobble-walked half the length of the shed. Those steps were small and insignificant to a normal calf, but I felt pride in the little guy's herculean efforts.

If you have read this far you probably think I am going to tell you that the premature calf defied odds and is thriving today. That is how the Hollywood happy ending should go. Unfortunately, his little body gave up on the morning of Day Five.

Anytime a calf dies, it is hard but when you invest so many hours and get invested it is completely crushing.

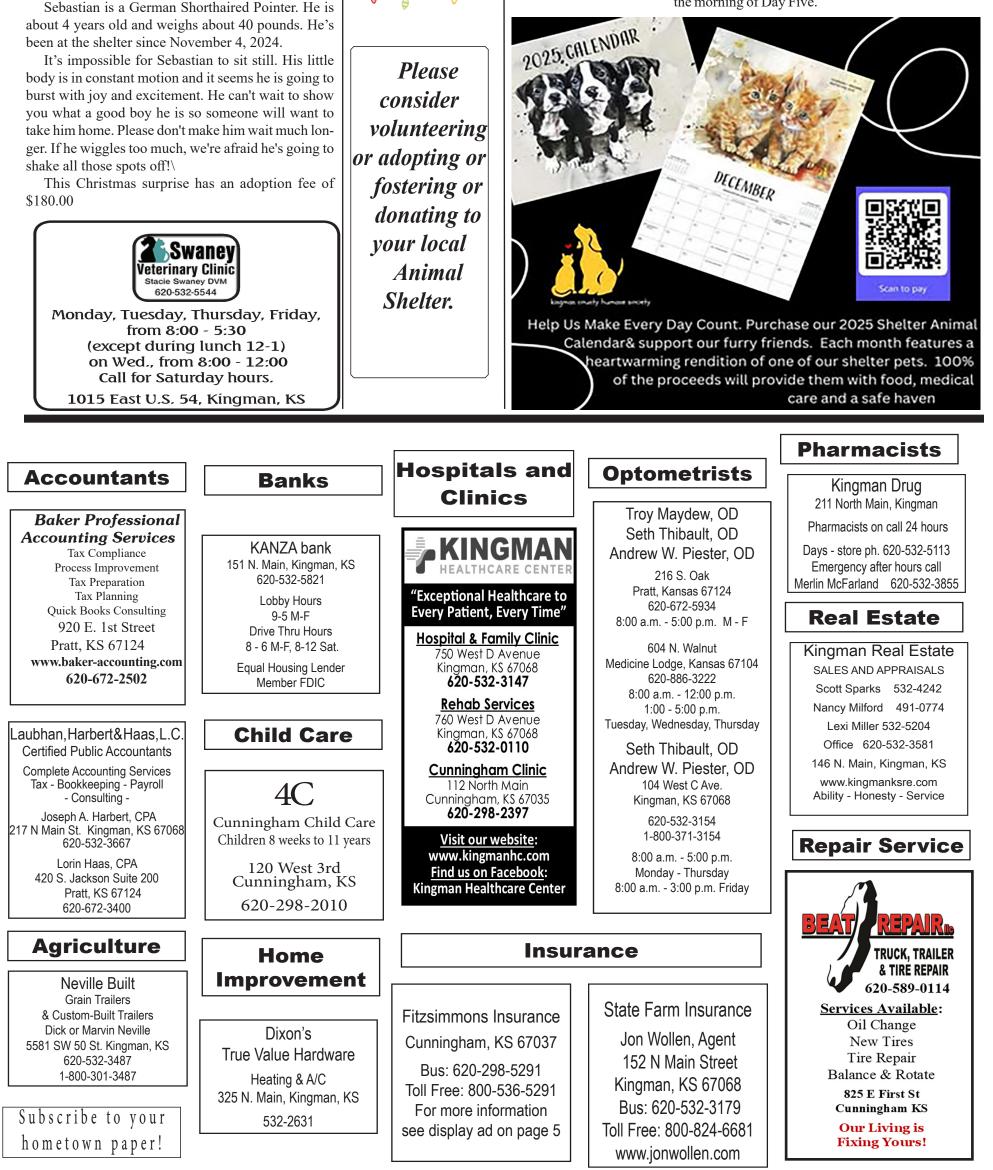
Farm life is full of miraculous and beautiful moments. It can also be devastating and heart wrenching. Calving season most vividly juxtaposes those two feelings in a rollercoaster of ups and downs that flow quickly through time.

Marc always tells me not to get attached to calves, but I can't help it when invest so much time in them. I want them to have the fairytale ending of defying odds and surviving. But this isn't a fairytale or Hollywood and happy endings are not guaranteed.

In farming you can't worry too far into the future. It's better to focus on the here and now, celebrating the small victories and being thankful for whatever little progress is made. This little calf made it four days when it wasn't likely to survive two. Four days isn't long, but for this one little calf it was a whole lifetime.

When a story reaches its end, we can find peace in knowing we tried even if we didn't succeed.

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The Cunningham Courier Our Lives Celebrated

Phyliss Wehling

Phyllis Jean Wehling, 82, died Dec. 2, 2024, in Wichita.

She was born May 30, 1942, Nashville, Kansas the daughter of Christy and Viola Nossaman Ford.

A resident of Kingman most of her life, she was a retired Independent Insurance Agent; and



church secretary at the Kingman Christian Church where she was also a member.

Survivors include son Chris Allen Wehling; grandson Josh Allen Wehling and his wife Megan; greatgrandson Jace Allen Wehling. She was preceded in death by her brother Jack Ford.

Funeral services were Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, at the Kingman Christian Church. Burial was in the Walnut Hill Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Kansas Cancer Center or Victory in the Valley, both in care of Livingston Funeral Home.



Susan Harris

Susan Kay Harris passed away December 6, 2024 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

She was born February 12, 1949 in Fowler, Kansas daughter of Velma Louise McCollom and Alfred Eugene Harris. She grew up in Meade, KS.

She married the love of her life, Ron Pulsifer, in 1999.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Jean Margaret Harris Graber of Pretty Prairie, Kansas.

Sue became a licensed acupuncturist and founded Whole Person Health in Stoughton, Massachusetts in the 1980's. It is still in operation. After moving to Kingman, Kansas in 2009, Sue founded Advanced Acupuncture. She was instrumental in getting the Kansas State Legislature to pass the bill for licensure for acupuncturists.

Sue graduated from K-State with a Bachelor of Science degree in pre-med. After eight years practicing Shiatsu in Massachusetts, Sue attended and received her certification from the New England School of Acupuncture in 1987. Sue then studied in China at the Traditional College of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine in Beijing. She completed a business certification from Harvard. She also completed a Masters Degree in Environmental Science from Washburn University.

Don Garrison

Donald Lee Garrison, 80, died Dec. 4, 2024 at his home in Kingman.

He was born Feb. 19, 1944, at Kingman the son of Norris and Ethel Locke Garrison. A lifetime resident of Kingman, he was a farmer and stockman.

Don was a member of the Kingman Christian Church; and was a U.S. Army veteran.

On Nov. 30, 1975, he married JoAnn Gustafson at McPherson; she survives. Other survivors include a daughter Kathy Garrison; a brother Ron; nephews Mike Garrison, Brent Garrison and Todd Garrison; nieces Erin McGlothlin and Charla Smith; and numerous great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; and an infant brother.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024 at the Kingman Christian Church. The family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday at the Livingston Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Walnut Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to the Kingman Christian Church or Kingman Health Services Oncology Unit both in care of Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman, KS 67068.

Terry Schaefer

Terry Lee Schaefer, 59 of Pratt, Kansas received his wings on December 3, 2024 at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. He was born on October 23, 1965 in Los Angeles, California to Clarence "Butch" and Betty (Picker) Schaefer. His family moved to Pratt, Kansas when Terry was five years old.

He enjoyed working



for Evergy Wind Farms of Nashville, Kansas for 10 years as a supervisor and manager. He was proud to have served 23 years in the Kansas Army National Guard reaching the rank of Staff Sergeant. His deployments included an 11-month tour in Bosnia and an 18-month tour in Iraq. He was a member of the Township 12 Fire Department serving as the Assistant Chief as well as a member of the VFW and BPOE (Elks Lodge).

Richard Hageman

Richard G. Hageman, 88, died December 4, 2024, at Wheatlands Health Care Center, Kingman, Kansas.

He was born on December 20, 1935, at Willowdale, Kansas, to Fred and Louise Schulte Hageman. He was a retired farmer and cattleman. He enjoyed traveling and touring museums.



He was a member of St. John Catholic Church, Zenda, Kansas. On August 10, 1954, he married Virginia Pomeroy at Zenda, Kansas; she survives. Other survivors include his two children, Richard (Lora) Hageman and Dianna (Mike) Woodard. Five grandchildren, Denise Hageman, Sharon (Marc) Pankratz, Darrel Hageman, Greg (Alicia) Woodard and Scott (Cheryl) Woodard, 15 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great grandchild, and a sister, Phyllis Lopez. He was preceded in death by a brother, Wilfred Hageman and sisters Rosemary Kennedy, Sister Louise Hageman, Leora Adelhardt, and Alice Demuth.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024 at Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman with a parish rosary being recited at 6:00 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at St. Peter Catholic Church, Willowdale, Kansas. Burial will follow at St. Peter Catholic Cemetery, Willowdale.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. John Catholic Church of Zenda, Wichita Adaptive Sports and Wheatlands Healthcare Center, all in care of the Livingston Funeral Home.



Upcoming Auctions

General Consignment Auction, Saturday, December 7, 9:30 a.m. at the Auction Center ***

Coin Auction, Saturday, December 14, 2024 -Hamm Auction Center 9:30am

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



Sue will be missed by all those whose lives she touched.

A celebration of Sue's life will be held, 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. A reception will follow in the Livingston Family Center following the service.

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

Holiday Hours: December 24: 1:00 - 3:00 December 31: 1:00 - 3:00

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403 S. Valley Street Cuningham, KS 67035 620-298-2781 www. americareusa.net hilltop@americareusa.net facebook.com/HilltopManorKS Terry never met a stranger that he could not turn into a friend. He was loved by his family, friends and co-workers. He was one of a kind. He is and always will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his father and step-mother, Clarence "Butch" and Debbie Schaefer of Perry, Oklahoma; sisters, Karen (Doug) Lukens of Pratt and Carla (Dennis) Horyna of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; sister-in-law, Cheryl Schaefer of Pratt, Kansas; stepbrothers, Cliff Crow of McCloud, Oklahoma and Richard (Nancy) Crow of Perry, Oklahoma; nieces and nephews, Skylar Nicole Schaefer, James (Alisha) Horyna, Devin Schaefer, Jacob Schaefer, Jayden (Jace) Felawalen, Ryan (Garam) Crow, Zac Crow, Alex (Kyleigh) Crow, Megan Crow and Cliffton Crow; great nieces, Alexsia Reilghlynn Horyna and Lenyn Falawalen and Ellie Opal Crow; great nephew, Benjamin Crow and many great friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Betty (Picker) Schaefer, brother, Dave Schaefer, grandparents, Stanley & Margaret Picker, Charles Schaefer and Virginia Boyce.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Terry's Life will be held at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt, Kansas on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., with John Hamm presiding. Inurnment with military honors will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery in Pratt, Kansas.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Township 12 Fire Department Benefit Fund in care of the mortuary. Online condolences may be left at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

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